

Cabinet

Briefing Note: Waste Policy – Place Overview and Scrutiny Comments and Recommendations

Purpose of the briefing note: To inform Cabinet of the discussions and recommendations agreed by the Place Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee in relation to the Waste Policy.

- 1.1 This report was considered by the Place O&S Committee at their meeting on 3rd December 2024. The following comments and questions were raised:
 - 1.1.1 Members acknowledged that the rollout of the food waste recycling had been successful.
 - 1.1.2 Members questioned if the Council were monitoring the tonnage of recycling and had there been any increase or decrease in recycling since the collection had changed to fortnightly.
 - a. It was advised that there are annual league tables that are published based on data that all Local Authorities had to report on. It was advised, Thurrock do not do very well in those league tables, however, it was noted that progress was being made and improvements were being seen.
 - 1.1.3 Members were asked to note the recycling rates had improved when measured per kilo per head and were above the national average.
 - 1.1.4 Members noted from July to October 2024 the residual waste that had been collected was 1748 tonnes, less than was collected in the same period last year. Recycling collected for the period July to October 2024 had increased to 354.83 tonnes, more than the same period last year and food waste collected had increased by 700 tonnes more. Members further noted these improving figures showed a budget saving of around £264,000.
 - 1.1.5 Members noted in some parts of the borough residents needed further education and encouragement to use the three bins, in particular, food waste. Members were advised a recycling officer had been recruited and was currently looking at increased contamination using a heat map and identified areas would be targeted by the recycling officer.
 - 1.1.6 Members noted that the government recommended kerbside collections which had not been successful in the past. It was questioned what would be done to achieve this.

- a. Simpler Recycling would standardise collections from March 2026 across the country. This would consist of 4 bins being collected – general waste, recycling, paper and card, and food waste, and these collections would be compulsory. Garden waste would still be optional.
- 1.1.7 Members questioned the process for contaminated waste in flats.
- 1.1.8 Members questioned if fortnightly collections impede improvements in recycling.
- 1.1.9 Members asked if part of educating residents on recycling, could residents be advised that big supermarkets not take plastic bags and promote this approach.
- 1.1.10 Members asked if there would be an income from paper and card waste in future.
- 1.1.11 Members noted an improvement in the waste service generally.
- 1.1.12 Members asked for clarification on why bins provided to new build properties and replacement bins would now be smaller.
- 1.1.13 Members questioned the communication when the refuse collector find contamination and how the system worked.
- 1.1.14 Members suggested when educating residents this should also include school aged children.
- 1.2 The Place O&S Committee agreed the recommendations:

1. Members considered the Waste and Recycling Policy, commented upon the content, and were satisfied to recommend that it be included in Thurrock Council's Policy Framework.

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

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