

REPORT OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

Foreword by Councillor Ward, Chair of the Panel

“The Waste Management Scrutiny Panel was established in 2021, its scope to look at ways in which Charnwood Borough Council could improve its recycling rates, and also reduce the volume of waste entering the residual waste stream, particularly in light of the Council’s own climate strategy and anticipated changes to legislation brought about by the Environment Bill. Members have been fortunate to have been supplied with a wealth of information by both officers and external stakeholders around which to formulate recommendations, which we hope Cabinet will seriously consider implementing. The Panel also submitted a response to the draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-2050, which can be read at appendix 3. Thank you to all who contributed to the Panel’s work”.

1. Background

Following a decision of the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 11th October 2021, a Waste Management Scrutiny Panel has undertaken scrutiny in accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Scope Document attached as **Appendix 1** (updated to reflect position at end of Panel’s work).

2. Panel Membership

Councillors Ward (Chair), Boldrin, Forrest, Howe, Needham and Parton.

3. Panel Meetings and Matters Considered

9th November 2021

Considered:

- the Scrutiny Scope Document agreed by the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 11th October 2021, updated to list Panel membership and meeting dates;
- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, a breakdown and analysis of the Council’s waste and recycling data, benchmarked against similar local authorities, via a presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces;
- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, the proposals in the Environment Bill regarding waste management and the changes this would necessitate, via a presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces and reading for members of the Panel in advance of the meeting (DEFRA – Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England May 2021).

Added to key tasks in Scrutiny Scope Document:

- consideration of the draft Leicestershire Waste and Recycling Strategy.

2nd February 2022

Considered:

- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, investigate other local authorities considered to be leaders in waste management and look at ways to apply to Charnwood, taking into account demographics, via a presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces (commenced);
- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, investigate new research, technology and methods that could help improve our recycling rates, via submitted suggestions from members of the Panel (commenced).

31st March 2022

Considered:

- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, investigate other local authorities considered to be leaders in waste management and look at ways to apply to Charnwood, taking into account demographics, via a further presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces (completed);
- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, investigate new research, technology and methods that could help improve our recycling rates, via report back on investigations/enquiries agreed at previous Panel meetings (completed);
- Draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy, via a presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces also sent to members of the Panel in advance of meeting. Resulting Panel response to the Strategy consultation is attached as **Appendix 3**.

11th May 2022

Considered:

- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, identify barriers and look at ways to overcome them, via input from J. McGovern (Serco, Council's waste collection contractor) and a presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces (commenced).

27th July 2022

Considered:

- key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document, identify barriers and look at ways to overcome them, via input from J. Ardley (Community Warden,

Loughborough University), Council tenants (written submission), a further presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces and reading for members of the Panel in advance of the meeting (HMOs: Barriers to Improving Recycling Oct 2019, WRAP and Guide to Improving Waste Management in Domestic Rented Sector, Resource London LEDNET) (completed).

27th September 2022

Considered:

- the Panel's report, agreed.

The information considered by the Panel at its meetings and as background reading is available on the Council's website, here:

[Browse meetings - Waste Management Scrutiny Panel - Charnwood Borough Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](http://modern.gov.co.uk)

Minutes detail the Panel's discussions at each meeting and are available via the above link, also attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.

4. Visit to Casepak Materials Recycling Facility

The above was listed as a key task in the Scrutiny Scope Document. Efforts to arrange this with the facility have to date been unsuccessful.

5. Other Attendees

Others attended meetings of the Panel and assisted with its scrutiny as follows:

The Cabinet Lead Member for Community Support
The Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
J. McGovern (Serco, Council's Waste Collection Contractor)
J. Ardley (Community Warden, Loughborough University)

6. Recommendations of the Panel

The Panel wishes to make the following recommendations in respect of its scrutiny of Waste Management:

1. REPRESENTATION TO MPs

A written submission be sent to Jane Hunt and Ed Argar, MPs setting out the Panel's concerns regarding the Environment Bill, particularly the cost implications for the Council, and also that the way the Government is asking the Council to present its waste collection data (i.e. not including brown

bins) skews its figures negatively. Considered by the Panel on 9th November 2021, Minute 6.

2. CHARNWOOD SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

Charnwood Borough Council establish a 'Charnwood Sustainability Fair'. This would be an annual event, possibly in the marketplace or the Town Hall, that pulls together local organisations working in the areas of sustainability under one roof, allowing them the opportunity to raise awareness around their activities, services or products. Examples of groups who could participate include Transitions Loughborough (Repair Cafes), Exaireo Paint Reuse scheme, the Zero Waste Refill Shop, LCC Master Composters, etc.

3. BIN LABELLING

Charnwood Borough Council consider labels for bins (domestic and street bins), listing the materials that can be recycled – using visual symbols and braille, so that residents with visual impairments, with limited literacy or with English as a second language are also able to clearly understand. This is something that residents are consistently unclear on and could help reduce the number of contaminate loads.

4. TARGETED EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

Charnwood Borough Council target education campaigns, starting with those collection round areas that SERCO has identified as being the poorest performers in terms of contaminated loads, etc. (Rounds 1,5,6). Messaging needs to be continuous, not sporadic. Also, consider what happens with the bins of 'repeat' offenders. Is there any kind of greater level of enforcement that can take place? Could we secure communal bin stores or install CCTV, to discourage fly-tipping in these areas?

5. PROMOTE PARTNER AGENCIES/LOCAL GROUPS, BUSINESS AND ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO REDUCE WASTE

There are lots of initiatives in and around the Borough of Charnwood working to reduce or eliminate waste (Repair Cafés, Zero Waste and Refill Shops, Exaireo Paint Reuse, SOFA, Leicestershire Master Composters, Too Good To Go, Freegle, Freecycle, etc.). Charnwood could play a key role in helping to raise awareness of their existence and of their activities.

6. COMMS CAMPAIGN – CHARNWOOD WASTE CHAMPION CHALLENGE, WHAT CAN GO IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN, ETC.

Set up a challenge for residents and schools (and councillors and council staff!) to reduce their waste, have a stall on the market to show people what can and can't go in the recycling bin, videos of councillors going through their own recycling bin to check, talks in schools, etc.

7. LIAISE WITH LCC OVER INTRODUCING TERRACYCLE COLLECTION POINTS AT REFUSE SITES FOR HARDER TO RECYCLE ITEMS, TIP

OPENING TIMES, AND OFFERING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY ITEMS THAT ARE STILL IN GOOD WORKING ORDER

The Panel also discussed reintroducing the collection of other items to the recycling collection, such as batteries, some electrical items, textiles, etc., but these items are now collected either in most shops (batteries), at the waste site (electrical items) or via textiles banks.

8. USE DECALS ON THE SIDE OF BIN LORRIES TO PROMOTE REUSABLE NAPPIES, HOME COMPOSTING SCHEMES, GARDEN WASTE SCHEME, ETC.

9. SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCRAPSTORE/LIBRARY OF THINGS/OTHER SIMILAR INITIATIVES

A Scrapstore would repurpose for craft projects, etc. scrap materials otherwise destined for the residual waste stream, both from domestic properties but also donated by local businesses. A library of things would allow residents to borrow tools and equipment without having to purchase them.

10. DISCUSS CREATING A PAINT COLLECTION POINT AT ONE OF THE CHARNWOOD WASTE SITES WITH LCC

The Panel was informed that this has been suggested previously to the County Council, but it could be suggested again.

11. INTRODUCE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR INTERESTED LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Panel was informed that some investigatory work around this had already begun, and that Charnwood already collects recycling from businesses in the BID area. Whilst the waste collected may not contribute towards the Council's recycling figures, it would still potentially make a positive impact on the amount of waste diverted from the residual waste stream.

12. WORK CLOSELY WITH LBORO UNIVERSITY PARTNERS ON END OF TERM CLEAR OUTS

The Panel was informed that this has started happening this year and panel members noted that the end of term clear outs seemed better than in previous years, but that greater collaboration was needed between the Council and the University to make sure the dates chosen for the collections were appropriate, etc.

13. INTRODUCE FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS, POSSIBLY ALONGSIDE A FOOD WASTE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Panel members understand that it is potentially a financially onerous undertaking, and that it would be preferable to await the detail of the Environment Bill around whether or not mandatory food waste collections

are to be introduced, but it was felt that this is inevitable and also the action most likely to increase our recycling rates and reduce residual waste.

7. Background Papers

Information considered by the Panel at its meetings and as background reading is available on the Council's website, here:

[Browse meetings - Waste Management Scrutiny Panel - Charnwood Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/leicestershire/council/scrutiny/panels/waste-management)

8. Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) may be required to assist any decision to implement the Panel's recommendations.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Scope Document

Appendix 2 – Minutes of Panel Meetings

Appendix 3 – Panel response to consultation on Draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-2050

September 2022