

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA613407307

Submitted: 13 May 2024 14:57 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Adoption of Waste Strategy for Essex (2024-2054)

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Decision

Overview of policy / decision: Essex County Council (ECC) has a statutory responsibility to maintain a joint waste strategy with the 12 district, borough and city councils ("WCAs") for the management of local authority collected waste. The Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054 ("the strategy"), provides a strategic framework for how ECC manages waste to meet corporate ambitions to reduce the environmental impact of waste management and deliver high quality services. The strategy contains a combination of actions some of which will be directly owned and delivered by ECC and some of which are the responsibility of WCAs.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: The strategy sets a clear ambition and commitment to reduce the impact on our environment of dealing with the things we throw away. It is a 30-year strategy for the whole of Essex that has been jointly developed by the Borough, City and District Councils with Essex County Council. It provides a framework for waste management informing the future design of waste services and our joined-up approach to waste collection, treatment and disposal.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Mark Ash (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Cllr Peter Schwier (Climate Czar, Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: New policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: • This decision proposes the adoption of the high-level principles within the strategy.

- This decision does not identify specific service or waste management changes that will directly or immediately impact on service users, employees or wider communities.
- The council will create detailed action plans for how it will deliver the strategy ambitions that are owned by the county council. It is during the detailed action planning phase that potential impacts will be further understood, captured and will be subject to further governance and ECIA processes.
- The council will develop a monitoring approach to measure the impact of the strategy and will publish progress and performance updates.
- The strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- Waste performance is closely monitored strategically by ECC and nationally reported.
- The strategy has been designed and developed in close alignment with Everyone's Essex and our climate agenda.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?: Green growth

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment: Net zero, Minimise waste

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: All consultation responses were considered to inform the final version of the strategy.

Although it is too early to tell to confirm an impact on residents and service users with disability as a protected characteristic, ECC considers that the emphasis on provision of support and education and accessible services may result in a low positive impact for this group.

As the strategy does not define specific service or waste management changes, there are no impacts identified for residents and service users with the other protected characteristics.

The protected characteristics were monitored closely in our public consultation responses and responses taken into consideration in the final strategy content.

It should be noted that:

- In line with other council consultations, there was a higher proportion of response from those aged over 65
- Marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, and sexual orientation was not recorded in consultation responses.

Throughout the consultation period, response rates from each territory and demographic group were closely monitored and a dynamic communication approach was deployed to target seldom heard from communities to promote an informed consultation response.

It should also be noted, that although it is too early to tell to confirm an impact on residents and service users of different ages group, ECC considers that younger age groups are more likely to be living in flats/apartments or similar housing of which is most likely to see changes in service due to 'Simpler Recycling' legislation coming from central government. This age group, formed a lower response than others within the public consultation but we should highlight that they are those likely to see a positive impact in the future.

Furthermore, all householders are likely to see positive service changes in coming years, ECC commits to ensure a robust and comprehensive communication plan to ensure we reach all demographic groups equally to support them and update them on any relevant service changes. ECC undertook a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) to analysis the environmental impact of the Waste Strategy for Essex, for more detail and to read this assessment in full please follow this link: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>.

The SEA highlighted the changes Essex Residents face, in terms of multi-generational living. It is stated that an increasing number of smaller properties and flats, with limited space and facilities for recycling will require us to consider the future design of waste collection services. Multi-generational living and an ageing population may also impact both waste collection and the types of waste we need to manage. Overall, the population in Essex is forecast to grow by 6% from around 1.5 million to 1.6 million. Higher population levels equal greater amounts of waste produced and disposed of in the county. With this in mind the partnership commits to continuously consider these changes in future action plan, and ensure service changes fit that changing landscape for residents of Essex.

Finally, it is too early to tell to confirm an impact on residents and service users of different races. It should be noted that 15% of Essex residents are non white British, with only 3% of responses of the consultation received were from non white British residents. The action planning phase of this strategy will ensure suitable measures and interventions are in place to support residents whose first language is not English. ECC commits to ensure a robust and comprehensive communication plan to ensure we reach all demographic groups and broad cross section of residents equally to support them and update them on any relevant service changes. ECC will also work closely with WCAs in locations where support to these residents is needed.

Full details of the demographic of consultation respondents is available with in the Executive Summary of the consultation report. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: Waste services are long established and are governed by regulation and statutory responsibilities that ensure equal access to services. For example,

- At Recycling Centres for Household Waste (“recycling centres”) individuals with a disability are provided with additional support to access services

Alongside the online booking service ECC provides an alternative route to book via the ECC Contact centre for anyone with an access need. Full details of ECC’s evaluation and decision (including ECIA) to retain a booking process is published online.

- At kerbside, WCAs offer specialist collections for clinical waste
- At kerbside, WCAs offer support for those residents who require assistance to present recycling and waste for collection

To encourage a broad response to the public consultation on proposals, the consultation included Easy Read version of the consultation proposal and survey, and communications promoting the consultation activities were distributed to a range of community and faith groups. A dynamic multi channel communications programme was deployed across all areas and levelling up areas. The communication toolkits promoting the consultation were sent out for onward distribution (e.g. 74 libraries received paper versions of the consultation documents with guidance).

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

The strategy provides a framework for future waste management in Essex. Detailed action planning to deliver the priorities and commitments within the strategy will be subject to further decision governance. ECC will review analyse the impacts on the above protected characteristics and explore opportunities to maximise positive impacts.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Working families

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Harlow

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Harwich

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: All consultation responses were considered to inform the final version of the strategy.

Locational impact will be worked through with the corresponding Waste Collection Authority and will be carefully monitored through the action planning stage of the Waste Strategy for Essex.

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Locational impact will be worked through with the corresponding Waste Collection Authority and will be carefully monitored through the action planning stage of the Waste Strategy for Essex.

It is too early to tell to confirm an impact on residents and service users in levelling up cohorts. The action planning process will seek to ensure maximum benefits are delivered through any future service changes.

Although it is too early to tell the level of impact, ECC considers that the emphasis on provision of support and education and extending the range of accessible services may result in a positive impact for residents living in levelling-up areas. It should be noted that service changes may be delivered county-wide and the strategy commits to ensure all residents have access to recycling services, in all areas of Essex.

Consultation responses were monitored closely and responses from different territories were taken into consideration in the final strategy content.

It should be noted that:

In the full survey, the majority of respondents in each district, city and borough agreed with the different parts of the strategy and feelings that the targets and ambitions were about right were most common for all areas.

However, there were some differences by location which are noted below:

- Analysis shows that Basildon was an outlier, with residents more likely than those in the other areas to disagree with the vision statement, the priorities, the ways in which the collaborate and innovate priority can be achieved and the approach to research, planning and performance monitoring.
- There were also many comments in the survey that related to Energy from Waste, in particular related to incineration, particularly from residents in Basildon.
- Residents in Brentwood were also more likely than residents in some other areas to disagree with the ways in which the collaboration and innovate priority can be achieved and to disagree with the educate and engage priority.
- There was also some difference by location in comments related to waste services, which is likely to reflect variable kerbside waste services in each area. For example, concerns about accessing recycling centres were particularly common in Uttlesford and comments related to not charging for garden waste collections were common in Braintree.

- It should be noted that the concurrent consultation on retaining a booking process at recycling centres in Essex may have influenced this outcome, and recent service changes introducing a charge for garden waste services in Braintree are likely to have impacted on resident feedback in this location.
- In the comments about the vision, the most common theme for Tendring residents was a desire for more materials to be collected or recycled.

Throughout the consultation period, response rates from each territory were closely monitored and a dynamic communication approach was deployed to target responses from communities where a lower response rate was observed when compared with the proportion of residents residing in the area.

Full details of the demographic of consultation respondents is Executive Summary of the consultation report.
<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Victims of modern slavery

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children / care leavers

Nature of impact: None

The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Sex workers

Nature of impact: None

Ethnic minorities

Nature of impact: None

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities

Nature of impact: None

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The above cohorts were not segmented within the consultation responses, although it is likely that the consultation includes response from respondents within these groups. Where available and statistically significant, ethnicity of consultation respondents was segmented and can be found in the Executive Summary of the consultation report. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>

We have determined that the strategy will not result in an impact on residents within the Inclusion Health Groups and Other Priority Groups because waste services are long established and are governed by regulation and statutory responsibilities that ensure equal access to services. The strategy makes commitments to extend the range of recycling and waste services available to all households which it is anticipated will positively impact on all residents. Services are already provided at kerbside for residents with specific needs for example under the statutory duty of a WCA to provide collection services for clinical waste.

A small number of respondents particularly in the Basildon area raised concerns, via the consultation, regarding pollution or emissions from waste treatment facilities and the location of any new waste facilities required to deliver the strategy, (full details can be found in the consultation report). The strategy sets a framework for waste management including a preference for energy recovery, but does not identify whether new waste facilities are required or where they may be located. In line with the legal waste management framework, the Waste Hierarchy, the strategy commits to stopping using landfill by 2030, because it is recognised that landfill is environmentally the worst approach to dealing with Essex's waste.

Following the waste hierarchy, the strategy proposes to recover energy and materials from waste that can't be recycled. The strategy recognises that strict limits on greenhouse gas emissions from waste treatment processes such as Energy from Waste (EfW) will require action, for example exploring capturing carbon dioxide, so it is not released into the atmosphere. If any new facilities are required these would be subject to comprehensive impact assessments, separate engagement and consultation processes, planning permission and require a permit from the Environment Agency. Direct emissions from energy generation from waste are tightly controlled by law. This includes both anaerobic digestion and energy from waste facilities. The emissions to air from these processes are controlled by Environmental Permits that are issued and enforced by the Environment Agency as the waste industry regulator, whose role is to protect and improve the environment. Vehicle traffic associated with the transport of waste to waste facilities may impact local air quality. Any air quality impacts are assessed as part of the land-use planning process. This assessment happens prior to all planning permissions being granted for any given waste development. Essex County Council is committed to reduce air quality impacts as much as possible from all our operations, including waste.

The strategy commits to:

- Ambitious targets to reduce waste and increase the proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted thereby minimising the amount of residual waste that requires treatment
- A target to 'Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to achieving net zero by 2050'
- use a technology called Energy from Waste (EfW) that recovers energy and materials from the treatment of residual waste
- aim to capture and use heat from EfW facilities to improve the efficiency of residual waste treatment

The strategy does not identify specific service changes and makes no assessment of whether new waste facilities are required or where such facilities might be located. As these issues fall outside the remit of the strategy no change has been made to reflect this consultation feedback. If new facilities are required in the future, the siting of such facilities will be subject to comprehensive impact assessment and separate engagement and consultation process.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: Waste services are long established and are governed by regulation and statutory responsibilities that ensure equal access to services. For example,

- ECC provides a network of 21 Recycling Centres for Household Waste (“recycling centres”) throughout the county available to all residents. Blue Badge holders are not required to make a booking in advance to access recycling centres.

Alongside the online booking service ECC provides an alternative route to book via the ECC Contact centre for anyone with an access need. Full details of ECC’s evaluation and decision (including ECIA) to retain a booking process is published online.

- At kerbside, WCAs offer specialist collections for clinical waste

To encourage a broad response to the public consultation on proposals, the consultation included Easy Read version of the consultation proposal and survey, and communications promoting the consultation activities were distributed to groups with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. A dynamic multi channel communications programme was deployed across all areas and levelling up areas. The communication toolkits promoting the consultation were sent out for onward distribution (e.g. 74 libraries received paper versions of the consultation documents with guidance).

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

The Waste Strategy for Essex provides a framework for future waste management in Essex, further action planning to deliver the priorities and commitments within the strategy will be subject to further decision governance. The EWP commitment to review detailed action planning and analyse the impacts on the above protected characteristics. Locational factors will be reviewed carefully with each Waste Collection Authority throughout the action planning phase.

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in urban areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The strategy includes proposals which

may have a beneficial impact on some people living in the identified geographical groups. For example:

- The majority of households in Essex receive a range of collection services for both waste and recycling at kerbside. However the strategy proposes to extend the full range of accessible collection services to all properties which we consider will have a low positive impact on:
 - residents living in areas of high deprivation which are likely to include a greater proportion of flats, apartments and maisonettes which have historically not received a full range of recycling services
 - people living in rural or isolated areas where some households have not received a full range of recycling services
 - people living in urban areas which are likely to include a greater proportion of flats, apartments and maisonettes which have historically not received a full range of recycling services

Although we can estimate the number of households likely to be impacted by this change, the pace of service change will be impacted by a range of factors.

- Addition of reuse services at recycling centres may benefit people living in areas of high deprivation by providing access to items at low cost.

ECC undertook a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) to analysis the environmental impact of the Waste Strategy for Essex, for more detail and to read this assessment in full please follow this link:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>.

The SEA highlighted the changes Essex Residents face, in terms of multi-generational living. It is stated that an increasing number of smaller properties and flats, with limited space and facilities for recycling will require us to consider the future design of waste collection services. Multi-generational living and an ageing population may also impact both waste collection and the types of waste we need to manage. Overall, the population in Essex is forecast to grow by 6% from around 1.5 million to 1.6 million. Higher population levels equal greater amounts of waste produced and disposed of in the county. With this in mind the partnership commits to continuously consider these changes in future action plan, and ensure service changes fit that changing landscape for residents of Essex.

The consultation survey did not gather data that allows for segmentation of responses by the identified geographical groups. Location of consultation respondents can be found in the Executive Summary of the consultation report. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation/>

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: To encourage a broad response to the public consultation on proposals, the consultation included Easy Read version of the consultation proposal and survey, and communications promoting the consultation activities were distributed to groups with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. A dynamic multi channel communications programme was deployed across all areas and levelling up areas. The communication toolkits promoting the consultation were sent out for onward distribution (e.g. 74 libraries received paper versions of the consultation documents with guidance).

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: The Waste Strategy for Essex provides a framework for future waste management in Essex, further action planning to deliver the priorities and commitments within the strategy will be subject to further decision governance. The EWP commitment to review detailed action planning and analyse the impacts on the above protected characteristics. Locational factors will be reviewed carefully with each Waste Collection Authority throughout the action planning phase.

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: None

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The above cohorts were not segmented within the consultation responses, although it is likely that the consultation includes response from respondents within these groups.

ECC considers that the strategy does not have any specific impacts on Family cohorts as identified above. Detailed action planning will take place after adoption of the strategy and will include assessment of impacts as part of decisions about future service provision.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: To encourage a broad response to the public consultation on proposals, the consultation included Easy Read version of the consultation proposal and survey, and communications promoting the consultation activities were distributed to groups with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. A dynamic multi channel communications programme was deployed across all areas and levelling up areas. The communication toolkits promoting the consultation were sent out for onward distribution (e.g. 74 libraries received paper versions of the consultation documents with guidance).

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

The Waste Strategy for Essex provides a framework for future waste management in Essex, further action planning to deliver the priorities and commitments within the strategy will be subject to further decision governance. The EWP commitment to review detailed action planning and analyse the impacts on the above groups.

Crime & Disorder

Crime and disorder

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

Nature of impact: None

Re-offending

Nature of impact: None

Serious violence

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:

The Strategy commits to reduce litter and incidents of fly tipping. Following adoption of the strategy, the council will work in partnership with WCAs to identify actions to reduce litter and incidents of fly tipping. The strategy commits to publishing action plans, progress and performance.

The council considers that the strategy has no impact on other crime and disorder groups.

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

With regard to reducing litter:

- In 2021, a litter reduction campaign focused on litter in parks and public spaces. The joint communications campaign was supported by the provision of litter picking kits to residents and community groups to facilitate local action.
- In 2022, the local authorities worked in partnership with KFC and McDonalds restaurants to continue the battle against litter with a focus on takeaway packaging and littering on the highways.

With regard to fly tipping, ECC works closely with district, borough and city councils to monitor reported incidents of fly tipping and is investing in a pilot activity that seeks to evidence approaches that reduce fly tipping and create a replicable model for WCAs to consider following.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

Action planning to highlight any service change needed to achieve commitment of reducing litter and incidents of fly tipping.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit): Yes

Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?: The strategy does not have an impact on users or staff travel. However, ECC considers that at the action planning stage, there may be positive impacts on emissions arising from plant and vehicles used in the management of waste. For example:

- The strategy commits the council to continue to work in partnership with WCAs to optimise route and network of waste facilities
- The strategy commits the council to work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment

The impact of these changes will be assessed as part of future service design and governance decisions.

If car travel is unavoidable, are you specifying electric cars and vehicles?: No

What is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?: The strategy does not have an impact on users or staff travel. However, ECC considers that at the action planning stage, there may be positive impacts on emissions arising from plant and vehicles used in the management of waste. For example:

- The strategy commits the council to continue to work in partnership with WCAs to optimise route and network of waste facilities
- The strategy commits the council to work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment

The impact of these changes will be assessed as part of future service design and governance decisions.

Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?: No

Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?: No

Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated

by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new: No

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: None

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Positive

Waste: None

Extent of impact

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The strategy does not have an impact on users or staff travel. However, ECC considers that at the action planning stage, there may be positive impacts on emissions arising from plant and vehicles used in the management of waste. For example:

- The strategy commits the council to continue to work in partnership with WCAs to optimise route and network of waste facilities
- The strategy commits the council to work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment

The impact of these changes will be comprehensively assessed including greenhouse gas emissions as part of future service design and governance decisions, however, transition from diesel fuel to alternative fuels for plant and vehicles is expected to deliver a medium positive impact on emissions from the council's waste service.

A small number of respondents particularly in the Basildon area raised concerns, via the consultation, regarding pollution or emissions from waste treatment facilities and the location of any new waste facilities required to deliver the strategy (full details can be found in the consultation report). The strategy sets a framework for waste management including a preference for energy recovery, but does not identify whether new waste facilities are required or where they maybe located. In line with the legal waste management framework, the Waste Hierarchy, the strategy commits to stopping using landfill by 2030 because it is recognised that landfill is environmentally the worst approach to dealing with Essex's waste.

Following the waste hierarchy, the strategy proposes to recover energy and materials from waste that can't be recycled. The strategy recognises that strict limits on greenhouse gas emissions from waste treatment processes such as Energy from Waste (EfW) will require action, for example exploring capturing carbon dioxide so it is not released into the atmosphere. If any new facilities are required these will be subject to comprehensive impact assessment, separate engagement and consultation process, planning permission and a permit from the Environment Agency. As these issues fall outside the remit of the strategy no change has been made to reflect this consultation feedback.

The strategy commits to:

- Ambitious targets to reduce waste and increase the proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted thereby minimising the amount of residual waste that requires treatment
- A target to 'Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to achieving net zero by 2050'
- use a technology called Energy from Waste (EfW) that recovers energy and materials from the treatment of residual waste
- aim to capture and use heat from EfW facilities to improve the efficiency of residual waste treatment
- investigate how best to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from EfW processes by reducing plastic waste in general rubbish and using carbon capture, utilisation and storage
- explore ways to offset the impact of unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: The council is working in partnership with WCAs to reduce the volume of waste and increase the proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted. These activities reduce the transport, processing and disposal impacts of managing Essex's waste.

The council has invested in interventions targeting materials that have the highest environmental impact when disposed of. For example, through supporting residents to increase the proportion of food waste recycled thereby reducing the generation of methane when food is disposed in landfill. And through campaign work to increase the proportion of fossil fuel based plastics to save resources.

The council uses technologies to capture methane from closed landfill sites for the generation of energy and to reduce the climate impact of emissions.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 13/05/2024

Name of person completing the ECIA: Lorraine Savill

Email address of person completing the ECIA: lorraine.savill@essex.gov.uk

Your function: People and Transformation

Your service area: Transformation Delivery & Support

Your team: TDS

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: Yes

Function: Climate, Environment and Customer Services

Service area:

Team:

Email address of Head of Service: Jason.Searles@essex.gov.uk