

TITLE: RECAP WASTE STRATEGY

Committee: Operational Services Committee

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1. The report seeks the Committee's approval of the RECAP Waste Strategy; a joint document produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Committee approve the draft RECAP Waste Strategy 2026, as appended to the report.
- 2.2. Delegate to the Director Operations any final drafting amendments to finalise the strategy.

3.0 Background/Options

Partnership

- 3.1. Members will be aware of the RECAP (Recycling for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) Waste Partnership, which has successfully promoted collaborative working across all of our waste services since 2008.

Each member council appoints an elected councillor to the RECAP Board, which oversees strategic matters, with various officer groups working to effect that collaborative approach between the councils.

Importantly, the Partnership does not alter any council's decision making ability but, on the basis that most of the services are driven by legislation and or national policy, most councils are providing those services in broadly the same way so there are benefits in procurement and mutual learning, etc.

The Strategy

- 3.2. The RECAP Waste Strategy was originally due for renewal in early-2025 but this was delayed, due to wider discussions affecting waste services arising from new waste legislation, future waste infrastructure requirements and local government reorganisation (LGR).

In addition, the draft RECAP design guidance for developers, which sits alongside the Strategy, has had to go out for public consultation, because it will form part of

the County Council's Minerals and Waste Planning guidance, with the consultation not closing until late January 2026.

- 3.3. The Waste Strategy has been developed with input from partners and has been discussed and approved by the RECAP Board in autumn 2025. It now needs to be accepted by all the partner councils, hence this report coming forward.
- 3.4. The strategy centres around eight themes. The themes are listed below (in italics), each with an example of how or why they are important for the Council, in order to take its services forward.

- 1. *Embedding the waste management hierarchy and circular economy*

Designing services that prioritise waste reduction, followed by reuse and high-quality recycling before disposal should always be considered. This includes providing clear, accessible recycling and food-waste collections, supporting local reuse and repair initiatives, and delivering effective communication that helps residents minimise waste and avoid contamination.

- 2. *Effective waste communications*

Critical to maintain residents support and continue to improve waste behaviours. Something which ECDC does very well and could easily be built upon in the future.

- 3. *Legislation, Contracts and Procurement*

A clear example here is the ongoing project to change our collection services, which are required by legislation and require good contracts and procurement to deliver those improved services.

- 4. *Waste Management Infrastructure*

There are opportunities to work in partnership to improve waste processing, transporting facilities in the region. The lack of a Materials Recycling Facility within a reasonable distance sees the Council having to send its dry mixed recycling for processing 80 miles away, this has both financial and environmental impacts.

- 5. *Carbon and Emissions Reduction*

This is again something which the Council has responded to well, with all waste collection vehicles now able to run on HVO fuel, with greatly reduced carbon emissions.

- 6. *Commercial Opportunities and Innovations*

The strategy identifies waste as a commercial asset and cost. How we manage domestic or commercial waste can provide further opportunities to add value to our primary statutory responsibilities.

- 7. *Data Capture, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting*

Having the correct data enables us to make good service decisions. Importantly, waste data will increasingly drive government's extended producer responsibility payments to councils.

- 8. *Strategy Application, Review and Governance*

The waste strategy affects all of our residents to some extent and the wider environment significantly. It is essential that we continue to identify and implement improvements to all waste management activities and maintain robust governance over them.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

4.1. In the short term waste and recycling services are going through significant changes to fully enact legislation. In the medium and longer term, the principles of the strategy will inform:

- a) potential impacts of LGR
- b) implementation of emerging legislation
- c) longer term waste infrastructure requirements,
- d) wider issues impacting the waste industry, often driven by global commodities.

4.2. To support future work relating to the above, an action plan will be developed by the partnership.

4.3. Whilst representative members on the RECAP Board have agreed the current wording of the appended draft, there may still be a need for minor amendments, as all the councils within the partnership will also be considering its content.

To allow for this, a second recommendation is also included in this report, that the Director Operations is given delegated authority to approve any such minor amendments.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

| Financial Implications | Legal Implications | Human Resources (HR) Implications |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| No | No | No |
| Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) | Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) | Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) |
| No | No | No |

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – RECAP Waste Strategy 2026

7.0 Background documents

None