ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

St Helens
Borough recycles

RESOURCES & WASTE STRATEGY

2023-2030

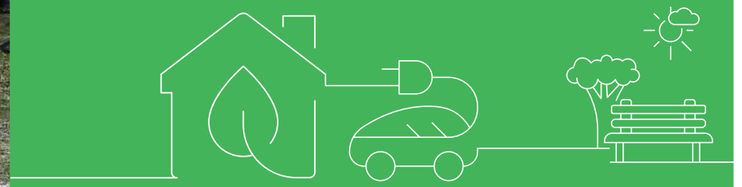
MAKING WASTE A THING OF THE PAST

FOREWORD

Waste and recycling collections and disposal is a key service provided by St Helens Borough Council. By having an efficient and effective service in place we are able to make St Helens a better, healthier, and more sustainable place. Dealing with waste sustainability generated by our residents and local businesses is a real challenge and is key to helping us mitigate the impacts of Climate Change. We have set an ambitious target to achieve zero carbon by 2040 and have committed to the delivery against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This strategy will deliver an increase to recycling locally and help residents understand the impact of their waste and how together we can work towards reducing, reusing, and recycling as much of our waste. If it's not possible to do this, we will treat the waste as a sustainable renewable energy source and only use landfill as a last resort.

Councillor Andy Bowden
Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport



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1. INTRODUCTION

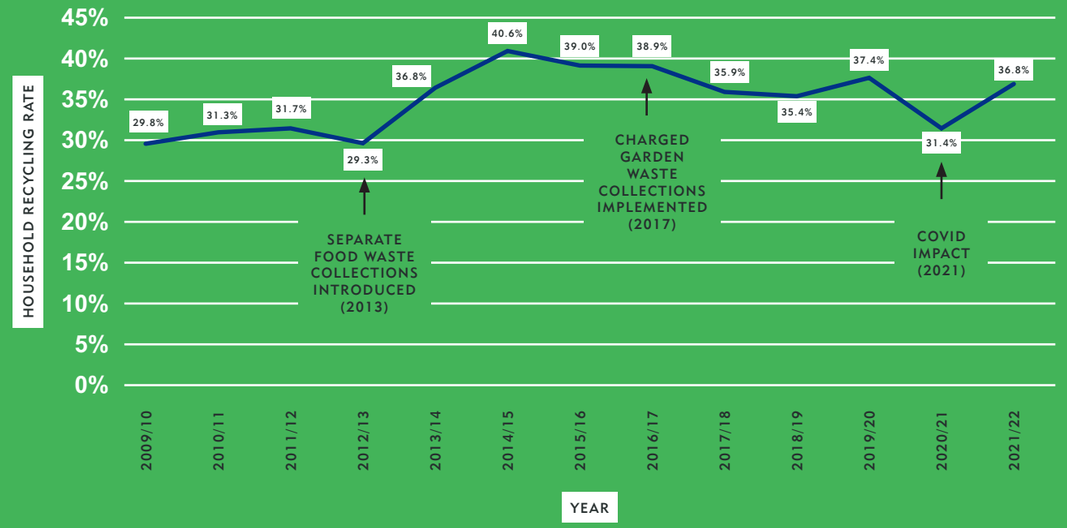
St Helens Borough is one of the six local authority areas, along with Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, and Wirral that make up the Liverpool City Region. Its semirural nature makes for a very attractive place to live, with strong growth in new housing and increasing numbers of people choosing to live here. Our current population of 181,000 residents and 80,200 households is expected to grow steadily over the next 10-20 years, although at a lesser rate than that predicted for the North-West and England.

St Helens has an ageing population with projections suggesting that the number of residents aged 65 and over will increase by a quarter by 2043. The most rapid growth will be in the 75 plus population and numbers of people aged 85 years and over are projected to nearly double. Over the 10-year period 2020-2030, there is a projected 5% growth in the number of households equating to 407 households per annum. There are significant inequalities within the borough. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ranks St Helens as the 26th most deprived local authority in England out of 317. Nearly a quarter of all neighbourhoods within the borough fall within the most 10% deprived of neighbourhoods nationally. The highest levels of multiple deprivation in the Borough are to be found around the Town Centre / Parr border, particularly the areas of Parr Stocks Road, Fingerpost, Ashtons Green, Pennine Drive and around Boundary Road / Napier Street / Lyon Street, as well Four Acre in Bold. There is a high prevalence of health, income, and employment deprivation. The council's inclusive growth strategy highlights these challenges in more detail and what steps will be taken to address these inequalities.

St Helens as a Waste Collection Authority has a legal duty to collect municipal solid waste, this is waste which is generated by households and similar wastes from businesses and commerce. Once collected, waste is managed and disposed of by the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, referred to as the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). As a member of the MRWA, St Helens have an ability to influence and retain some control over the arrangements in place. MRWA is funded through the payment of a levy known as the 'Waste Levy' from each of the Merseyside authorities. The annual cost of the Waste Levy is apportioned based on waste tonnages and population and is incorporated into the Council Tax calculation for each Authority.

The Local Plan and Borough Strategy for St Helens both include targets/priorities for the environment. In terms of waste management, relevant targets include an aim to make it easier to recycle while also reducing litter and fly-tipping, and tackle climate change, whilst delivering major regeneration and growth. The Resource and Waste Strategy describes the recycling and waste collection services which will be delivered by St Helens up to 2030. This will link regionally with the Merseyside Zero Waste 2040 Strategy and Action Plan and the wider national Resource and Waste Strategy for England.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING OVER TIME



COLLECTION INFORMATION 2021/22

25,000 tonnes
TOTAL RECYCLED

36.80%
RECYCLING RATE

29,000
GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 2022

7 million
NUMBER OF WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS PER YEAR

4,800 tonnes
GLASS

2,700 tonnes
CANS & PLASTICS

2,250 tonnes
PAPER

2,950 tonnes
CARD

3,400 tonnes
FOOD

41,000 tonnes
GENERAL WASTE

7,500 tonnes
GARDEN WASTE

2. MISSION AND VISION

The strategy looks at waste as a resource. It also considers its management in a holistic manner and explores the ways in which waste can be collected, in order to reduce the amount of waste arising in the first place, and how it is processed in order to reduce few environmental impacts as much as possible.

The Mission, Vision and Objectives of the Strategy are explained below, however they can only be achieved by working in partnership with residents, businesses, community groups, and Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority.

MISSION

To make waste a thing of the past.

VISION

To deliver a service that enables residents and businesses to contribute towards the circular economy and achieving net zero carbon. This means preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation through repair, reuse and recycling to realise their maximum resource value whilst minimising environmental impacts.

2.1 OUR OBJECTIVES TO DELIVER THE VISION

In order to achieve the vision, as outlined above, the following objectives have been developed:

Increase Customer Satisfaction and Engagement

Increase customer interaction to encourage maximum buy-in of the service and increase participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling activity. Use technology to automate processes, generate efficiencies and improve the customer journey.

A future proofed, flexible and high-quality service

In making decisions, consider the whole life financial sustainability and environmental impact, and deliver quality services with sufficient room for flexibility and innovation to allow evolution and improvement over time. Ensuring we are flexible and a responsive service that can meet needs of the Borough and its residents now and in the future.

Enable the Circular Economy

Manage materials in accordance with circular economy principles, except where costs are prohibitive, or where the environmental consequences can be demonstrated to be negative. Promote the economic and employment opportunities of sustainable waste management where this is consistent with circular economy principles. As a local authority, set an example by preventing, reusing, recycling and composting our own waste and use our own buying power to positively encourage sustainable resource use.

Reduce Residual Waste

Work closely with the community and the community sector to raise awareness and educate residents in environmental matters (including climate change, energy and resource management). Encourage participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives, while adopting a consistent approach with national campaigns.

Increase the collection of high quality and value recyclate

Ensure that the full range of recyclables (as specified by Government) are collected by residents in a manner which encourages recycling and maximises material value.

Optimise environmental performance - recycling rate / carbon reduction

Measure and monitor carbon emissions from St Helens waste management services and seek to continually reduce carbon emissions to improve the impact of the service on climate change. This supports the councils aim to be net zero by 2040.

Deliver an efficient operational service aligned with locality working

Support, when possible, the local and regional supply chain for markets for recyclate and other secondary materials. Tailor services where practicable and affordable so that local needs/ concerns can be addressed.

Develop and support the local green economy within St Helens and Merseyside

Work closely with local business to support low carbon and resource efficient growth in the region to create new jobs and opportunities for all.

3. OUR RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICE

3.1 RECYCLING PERFORMANCE IN ST HELENS

As of 2021/22, the recycling rate for St Helens was 36.8%, this is below the average national performance of 43.8% for the same period, however there are many factors that influence the recycling rate, such as demographics, housing type, collection methodologies and residual restriction.

From 2013/14, an improvement in performance can be seen, following the introduction of a kerbside sort recycling and separate food waste collection. A decrease in performance is observed from 2014/15, which is likely due to a variety of reasons, including the garden waste collection changing from a free to a charged service. We also saw a drop in recycling performance in 2020/21 due to the effects of COVID-19 on waste and recycling collections and increased household waste due to the lockdown.

79.9%
of respondents satisfied with Recycling Service

77.8%
of respondents satisfied with Waste Service

97.4%
of respondents used the Waste Service in last 12 months

95.0%
of respondents used the Recycling Service in last 12 months

Information taken from 2022 residents survey

COST OF RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

£9,600,000
Budget for Waste and Recycling Service

£9,400,000
Total cost of waste disposal

£3,400,000
Total recycling income budget

£120
Cost treatment for residual non-recyclable waste per tonne

INDICATIVE / AVERAGE FROM RECYCLING PER TONNE

£23
Paper

£20
Card

£7
Glass

£37
Plastic

£32
Steel Cans

£200
Aluminium Cans

£190,000
Cost of new bin lorry

£165,000
Cost of new recycling vehicle

3.2 WHAT'S LEFT IN YOUR GENERAL WASTE BROWN BIN?

The below image shows the contents of a typical household brown bin in St Helens. It shows that the vast majority of items that are thrown away can be reduced, reused or recycled in some way. This isn't just the materials that we normally associate with recycling, such as paper, card, metals, glass, plastic and food waste, but also other materials like plastic film and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which can be collected separately for resource recovery.

SEPARATING THESE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR RECYCLING CAN HELP CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE NATIONAL RECYCLING TARGET OF 65%, SET BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR 2035.

Furthermore, other items may be reused to prevent them becoming waste at all. This is preferable to recycling and helps conserve resources and avoid the need for packaging and other wastes. Examples of reuse include using washable nappies, reusable water bottles for drinks and refilling containers with goods from a refill shop to avoid new packaging.

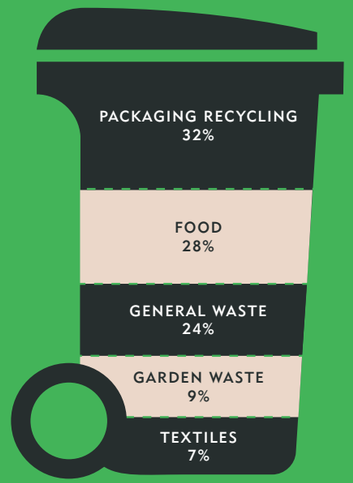
Over 75% of the waste in the brown bin is recyclable through either kerbside recycling, Household Recycling Centres or shop take-back collections. For example, 7% of the waste was clothes and shoes that could have been recycled or reused and 9% of the waste was garden waste that could have been recycled through the subscription-based garden waste service.

Over 50% could have been recycled through the existing household kerbside recycling scheme. For example, the packaging recycling element included 14% of plastic, 8% of paper, 5% of card and 3% of glass and metal cans.

For every tonne of waste that is placed in the brown non-recyclable refuse bin it costs £120 for disposal and treatment.

In 2020/21 we treated over 40,000 tonnes of waste through our brown bins costing over £4.8 million.

What's in St Helens Brown Refuse Bin? - 2021



3.3 CHANGING FOCUS

There has been a change from looking at waste management as a linear process ending with disposal, to one of a circular process ensuring resources are maintained in a circular process for as long as possible.

3.3.1 THE WASTE HIERARCHY

A guiding principle of managing waste and resources is the 'waste hierarchy', this is derived from Defra's 'Guidance on applying the Waste Hierarchy' (2011). The diagram show below gives definitions as well as the meaning of each level. The most beneficial method is 'prevention' of waste and the least beneficial 'disposal'.

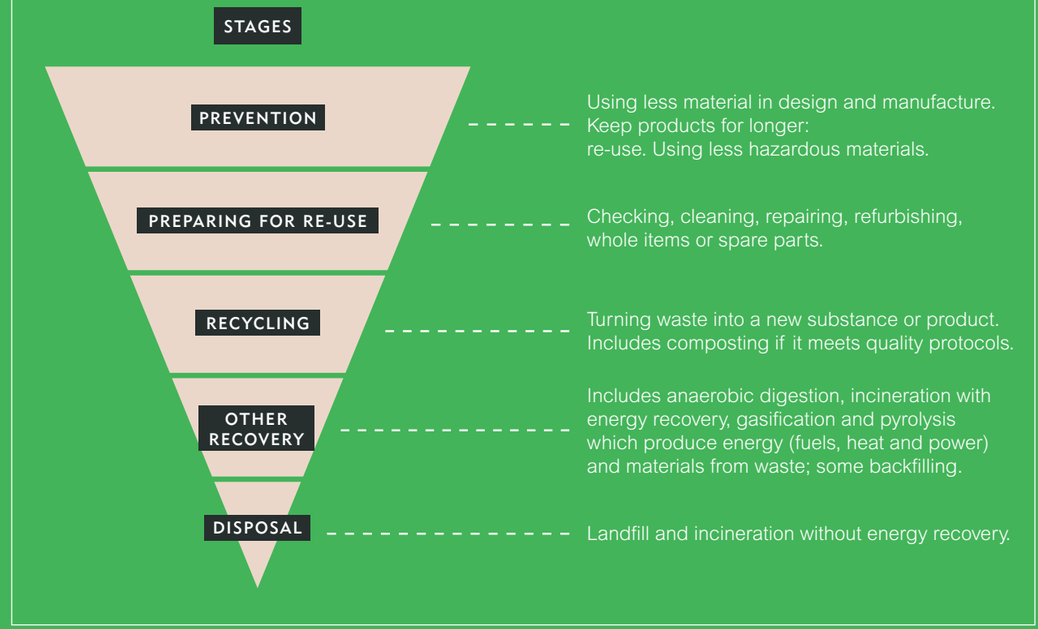
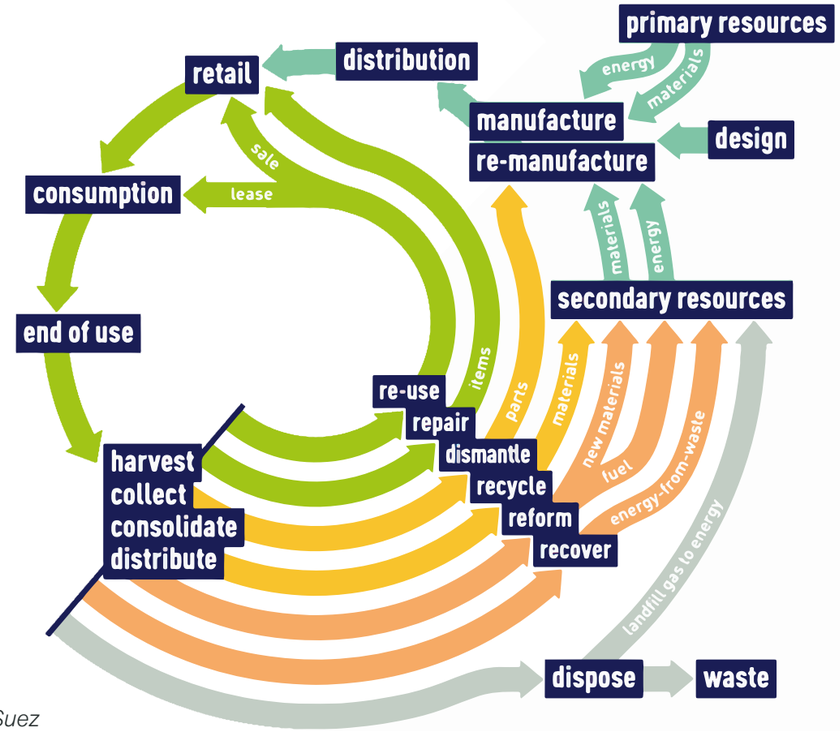


Figure 1: The Waste Hierarchy (2011)

3.3.2 CIRCULAR ECONOMY

In a Circular Economy we see a transition away from a 'take-make-dispose' ideology to a more circular system in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible. This is achieved through reducing the amount of materials used in goods and the economy, maintaining the maximum value of those resources when in use, and then recovering and repurposing materials at the end of their life as goods or products.

The EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) introduces a revised legislative framework, identifying steps for the reduction of waste and establishing an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling. This has been largely incorporated into UK Government strategy and policy within "Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England" (2018).



Source - Suez

4. CURRENT SERVICE

4.1 HOW IS THE SERVICE DELIVERED NOW?

All residents in St Helens currently have access to household collections of recycling, residual (general mixed ‘rubbish’), garden and food waste.

CONTAINER	SIZE	MATERIAL	COLLECTION
Blue Recycling Box	55 Litre	Glass/Cardboard	Weekly
Blue Recycling Box	46 Litre	Paper	Weekly
Pink/White Recycling Bag	70 Litre	Plastic Cans	Weekly
Grey Internal Food Caddy	5 Litre	Food Waste - Liners on request	Weekly
Grey External Food Caddy	23 Litre	Food Waste in Liners	Weekly
Green Garden Waste Bin	240 Litre	Garden Waste	Fortnight March - December
Brown Residual Bin	240 Litre	What Left	Fortnight

Table 1: Material destinations for St Helens Borough Council

MATERIAL	DESTINATION
Paper and Card	SAICA Manchester, UK & Link Paper, Huyton
Mixed Cans	St Helens Metals
Mixed Plastics	Biffa, Wigan
Glass	Recresco, Ellesmere Port
Textiles	Green World Recycling, Stourbridge
Food Waste	ReFood, Widnes

4.1.1 RECYCLING

Residents in St Helens are provided with a mixture of bags and boxes to separate out key recyclable materials, which are then placed in different compartments on a specialist vehicle. This is often referred to as a 'kerbside-sort' or 'multi-stream' collection. Recycling collected from households is then sold to reprocess the recycling back into useful items.

This method of collections generates high quality material which means re-processors prefer to use it and it is more valuable. That means we can always say It with confidence that what we collect for recycling will actually get recycled. When recycling is all commingled in one blue bin regularly over 20% of what is put out for recycling cannot be recycled as it is contaminated. All of the recycling collected by St Helens Borough Council is sent for reprocessing into materials for new products here in the UK.

4.1.2 GARDEN WASTE

Unlike recycling and residual waste, the collection of garden waste is a non-statutory activity and is a discretionary service provided by Local Authorities. As such, Local Authorities are able to provide this service for free, to ask residents to pay for its collection, or decide to not collect it at all from the kerbside. Residents in St Helens wishing to have their garden waste collected pay an annual subscription fee which covers the costs of a wheeled bin and the vehicles and crew that collect garden waste and the processing of the garden waste. The garden waste is currently turned into compost at a site in Wigan and applied to land to provide benefit to the soil.

4.1.3 FOOD WASTE

Food waste is collected from households in St Helens on a weekly basis. Once this has been collected, it is sent to an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility. The digestion process, as the name implies, takes place in sealed vessels in the absence of oxygen. It is similar to the process that happens when a cow digests its food. The waste degrades and releases a flammable biogas (which is roughly half methane and half carbon dioxide), this gas is then usually combusted in a gas engine to generate electricity, which can be fed back into the national grid as 100% renewable electricity. The gas can alternatively be used to fuel vehicles with 'biomethane' or, after further processing, as an input into the gas grid. The remaining residue from the food waste is applied to land as a fertiliser.

4.1.4 RESIDUAL WASTE

Residual waste ('brown bin' waste or 'general rubbish') consists of mixed waste which is not separated. In St Helens, this waste is collected fortnightly via a wheeled bin. This waste is then loaded and sent via rail to an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Teesside. At the EfW facility, waste is incinerated and then energy is recovered from this process in the form of electricity.

4.1.5 BULKY WASTE

Residents of St Helens are able to arrange for the collection of larger items, known as a bulky waste collection, covering items like furniture and fridges. We ask residents to always consider donating items first to charities or to try to sell or gift via online services such as Facebook marketplace or similar. The collections are a charged service and supports people who may not have their own transport to move large waste items.

4.1.6 BRING SITES

We operate a total of 23 recycling bring sites that offer a range of recycling containers in public car parks for residents to dispose of their extra recycling and for items not currently collected on kerbside. The bring sites offer glass, textile and shoe recycling

4.1.7 HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRES (HWRCS)

Household Waste and Recycling Centres (historically known as 'the tip') are provided for residents to get rid of any bulky or additional waste and recycling which cannot be collected through the kerbside collection. There are three HWRCs located across St Helens, as shown in the image below. These sites are operated by private contractors on behalf of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA).

The HWRCs take a wide range of items which can be sent for reuse, recycling or disposal. Opening hours and the waste accepted varies across each site and residents of St Helens are generally able to use these sites for free. Those residents wishing to access these sites in a van, flatbed or trailer will require a waste permit, which can be obtained free of charge. The exception is for commercial waste (eg from tradespeople or other commercial operations) which cannot be disposed of free of charge and requires deposit at a suitable licensed facility for which a gate fee is paid.

4.1.8 TRADE WASTE

St Helens Borough Council offer a collection service from businesses in the area. This is known as a trade waste collection. The services available include weekly trade waste collections (which can be tailored to the needs of the business) and clinical waste collections. The cost of this service is determined by the type and number of containers used, the nature of the waste as well as the frequency of collections required.

5. POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are a number of key national policies which directly influence this Strategy and how the Council must deliver the service in the future. These policies focus on creating a Circular Economy, whereby materials are kept in use for as long as possible, reducing waste and working toward net zero carbon ambitions. The main policies and influences are discussed in turn below.

5.1 NATIONAL POLICIES

5.1.1 THE ENVIRONMENT ACT 2021

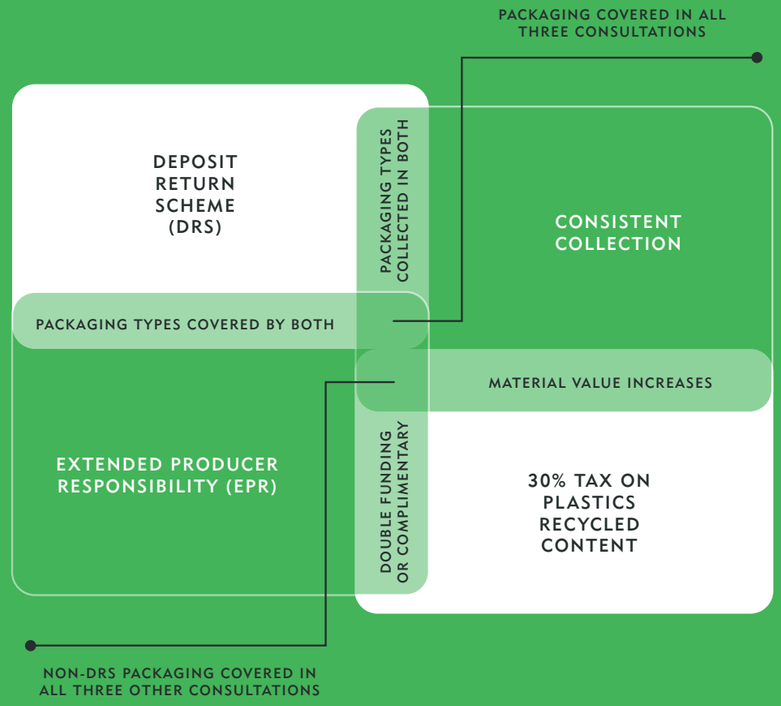
The Environment Act is a key piece of government legislation which aims to address key environmental issues such as air and water quality, wildlife and climate.

The first part of the Act is to provide measures to address environmental governance gaps following withdrawal from the EU and beyond. The Bill puts into legislation a series of environmental principles and establishes an Office for Environmental Protection, which will have scrutiny, advice and enforcement functions. It also makes provision for the setting of long-term, legally binding environmental targets in four "priority areas" of air quality, water, biodiversity, resource efficiency and waste reduction, along with the production of statutory Environmental Improvement Plans.

The Act will also be the primary legislation for a number of the key waste management measures in the Strategy. The provisions in the Bill introduce a revised extended packaging producer responsibility scheme, the power to regulate for eco-design standards and resource efficiency information across a wider range of products, and amendments to the responsibilities and powers for separating and recycling waste. It also provides a framework for the deposit return scheme.

5.1.2 RESOURCES & WASTE STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND

The national resources and waste strategy for England, "Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England" (2018), is focussed on recycling quality and increasing recycling rates from households and businesses. It includes substantial reforms to municipal waste collection and management services, including requiring a common set of materials to be separately collected from households. It also puts a greater responsibility on producers of goods and packaging to play their part in dealing with the products at the end of their life. New measures proposed include Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging materials (EPR) and the introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for single use drinks containers. These measures will have a significant impact on the services delivered in St Helens and who pays for them. The direction of the national strategy has had a major influence on the St Helens Resource & Waste Strategy.



5.1.3 WASTE PREVENTION STRATEGY

Waste prevention activity reduces the amount of waste which is generated, and the Government's view on how this can be achieved is set out in the Waste Prevention Programme for England, "Prevention is better than cure: the role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy" (2013). Key actions for Central Government include setting a clear direction, leading by doing, driving innovation, and ensuring that information regarding waste prevention is available to all. More recently in March 2021, a consultation on a revised Waste Prevention Programme for England began. The consultation document outlines how waste prevention could be achieved through transforming product design, making it easier for consumers to make sustainable choices or purchases and aligning policy with a circular economy approach.

5.1.4 NET ZERO CARBON

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world and is driven by rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (which include gases such as carbon dioxide and methane). This results in rising temperatures, sea levels and changing climate patterns. To overcome this, the Government has committed the UK to achieving net zero by 2050, this means that there will be an equal balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere, through planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture. St Helens has gone one step further and has set an ambitious target of achieving Net Zero for the borough by 2040.

The waste management sector is estimated to have contributed around 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2019 according to government. These emissions can be addressed through minimising the quantity of waste sent to landfill (which is a large contributor of methane emissions), and by applying the waste hierarchy (prioritising prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery).

5.1.5 CLEAN GROWTH STRATEGY

The "Clean Growth Strategy" (2017), was published by HM Government and aims to increase national income while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the UK's 2050 net zero goal. The Strategy highlights that the UK waste sector has contributed to significant falls in carbon, with a large reduction in waste being sent to landfill resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to this, the waste sector helped to generate 14% of the UK's renewable electricity in 2015 by converting waste to energy, enough to power 2.3 million homes.

5.1.6 AIR QUALITY

Air quality is used to describe the condition of our air, it can be negatively impacted by a number of pollutants including sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Road transport is a contributor to poorer air quality, demonstrated by the fact that it accounted for 33% of nitrogen oxides emissions across the UK in 2019. The impact of waste management activity on air quality is most likely to arise through transport impacts, for example, when collecting household waste and the transport of this to transfer/recycling/treatment/disposal facilities. However, alternative fuels for Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs, or 'bin lorries') are coming into the market which will help to reduce the impact that the waste management sector has on air quality, this is because these fuels are cleaner and have a lower environmental impact in comparison to diesel. St Helens Council are among the first Councils to actively use alternative fuels for waste and recycling collection activities through the use of a Hydrogen Fuel cell Refuse Collection Vehicle.

5.2 LOCAL POLICIES AND INFLUENCES

The Resource & Waste Strategy for St Helens will be implemented in the context of local policies, which both shape and affect it. The proposals in this draft strategy have been developed in consideration of these policies, in order to check that the strategy can be practically implemented and that it either complements or does not diverge from any aims, as set out in other relevant policies.

The declaration of a Climate Emergency by St Helens in July 2019 influences the direction of this strategy. As part of this, we aim to achieve a zero-carbon target by 2040 through a range of priorities. These include an increase in the level of recycling and a reduction in waste, providing infrastructure for electric vehicles and encouraging more sustainable forms of transport (eg travelling by bus or rail) and promoting net-zero carbon developments and communities.

The Local Plan and Borough Strategy for St Helens are consistent with this declaration, with both documents including targets/ priorities for the environment. In terms of waste management, relevant targets include an aim to make it easier to recycle while also reducing litter and fly-tipping, wanting to grow more trees and woodland to improve the environment and tackle climate change, and finally, an aim for the council to review waste management processes, which is being undertaken as part of this Strategy. Reviews to local supplementary planning documents are being undertaken to enable the planning service to support the delivery of this strategy.

As the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) for St Helens, the Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority (MRWA) have developed several documents which outline how they aim to minimise climate and environmental impacts through their management of waste and resources within the region. MRWA declared a Climate Emergency in October 2019 which is accompanied by a Climate Action Plan which outlines how the Authority will take climate and circular economy measures in order to confront the climate challenge. The Authority also have a Waste Strategy which sets out how MRWA will deliver sustainable waste management on Merseyside, transform the waste agenda and move towards greater resource efficiency.

6. ALIGNMENT WITH BOROUGH STRATEGY 2021-2030

ST HELENS BOROUGH STRATEGY

- CREATE GREEN AND VIBRANT PLACES THAT REFLECT OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE
- SUPPORT A STRONG, THRIVING, INCLUSIVE & WELL-CONNECTED LOCAL ECONOMY
- CREATE SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR ALL
- PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE, AND CARE ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES
- ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE START IN LIFE
- BE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY

- TOWARDS NET ZERO BY 2040 BY INCREASING RECYCLING AND ZERO WASTE
- DEVELOP LOCAL GREEN ECONOMY THROUGH LOCAL REPROCESSORS AND JOB CREATION
- SUPPORT LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THROUGH GREEN SKILLS AND TRAINING
- CREATE CLEAN AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE FOOD WASTE IN OUR COMMUNITIES
- IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
- DELIVER WASTE SERVICES TAILORED FOR LOCAL NEED

PRIORITY 1 - ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE START IN LIFE	
OUTCOME	**HOW RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY SUPPORTS THE OUTCOME**
Ensure children and young people have a positive start to life	Improved environmental education of young people in St Helens. With focus on local environment and Climate Change and how they can make a difference.

PRIORITY 2 - PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH INDEPENDENCE AND CARE ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES	
OUTCOME	**HOW RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY SUPPORTS THE OUTCOME**
Promote good health independence and care across our communities	Create clean and green environment and support the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste in our community. With increased furniture reuse and food waste reduction.

PRIORITY 3 - CREATE SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR ALL	
OUTCOME	**HOW RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY SUPPORTS THE OUTCOME**
Our communities and neighbourhoods are safe, strong, and caring	Support local circular economy and through green skills and training.

PRIORITY 4 - SUPPORT A STRONG, THRIVING, INCLUSIVE AND WELL-CONNECTED ECONOMY	
OUTCOME	**HOW RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY SUPPORTS THE OUTCOME**
Our local economy recovers and grows and people's skills and access to jobs improves	Support local green economy and through local reprocessors and job creation.

PRIORITY 5 - CREATE GREEN AND VIBRANT PLACES THAT REFLECT OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE	
OUTCOME	**HOW RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY SUPPORTS THE OUTCOME**
Our environment is protected for the future.	Transition to Net Zero by 2040 by recycling and zero waste.

PRIORITY 6 - BE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL	
OUTCOME	**HOW HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT SUPPORTS THE OUTCOME**
Communicate, listen, engage, and work in partnership well with our residents, communities, local organisations, and partners recognising the strengths and skills in our community.	Work with local community to help them reduce and recycle their waste and support third sector organisations operating locally.
Provide value for money and ensure we are financially resilient and sustainable.	Deliver waste services tailored to local needs.

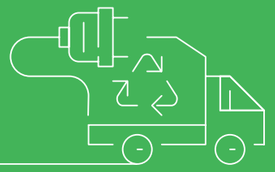
7. FUTURE - HOW WILL THE STRATEGY BE DELIVERED?

THIS SECTION IDENTIFIES ST HELENS COMMITMENTS REQUIRED TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY. THESE ARE DIVIDED INTO THE THEMES THAT ARE NEEDED TO MEET THE OVERALL VISION.

The need to reduce carbon emissions to achieve net zero will require many changes to our current lifestyles and to our environmental impacts. This lifestyle change is part of the global movement towards a circular economy model, essential to reduce our demands on limited resources and to dramatically decrease our carbon impacts. These influences will affect the future amount and type of resources and waste in St Helens.

Already, St Helens has seen major changes in its resources and waste. Recently, increasing digitisation means residents and communities produce less paper. By contrast, more on-line shopping has increased quantities of household cardboard from deliveries; this was exacerbated by the lifestyle changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, over the last 20 years, although each person is now producing less waste because of lighter weight packaging, the weight they do produce includes far more plastic. Because plastic is usually oil based (fossil carbon), this conflicts with the aims of a low carbon future, unless we can recycle that material multiple times.

Dealing with these uncertainties and changes to resource and wastes needs a responsive and flexible Strategy, which tackles new challenges with a broad range of solutions. We have set out a range of pledges and measures to support national and local circumstances and to set a direction for long term resource recovery for the benefit of residents and communities of St Helens. We recognise however that there will be many substantial changes impacting on materials and wastes over the next five years, as the national strategy takes effect.



7.1 WORKING TOGETHER

The Strategy objectives are to deliver resource and waste services in which residents and communities can participate effectively. This requires clear and effective communication between the council and its residents. Residents are encouraged to maximise resource recovery by using the range of recycling services provided by St Helens Borough Council, and in turn, the council is required to provide accessible and good quality services for residents. The council will also need to work closely with reprocesses, neighbouring authorities and the MWDA to ensure that recyclate and waste is treated in the best way to generate the best and sustainable outcomes from the material, when that be reuse, recycling or energy generation.

In coming years, St Helens will also be working more collaboratively with private sector 'Producers' of waste under new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. EPR is intended to promote packaging design which considers resource inputs and easier end of life recovery (eg reuse or recycling) of the resources within the packaging. Once finalised, EPR regulations will require the St Helens Council to participate in its implementation with possible service changes.

As we implement the strategy, we will have to deliver a range of behavioural change and education programmes both customised for St Helens and more generally in partnership across the region.

7.2 CONSUMPTION / WASTE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Waste prevention is the highest priority of the waste management hierarchy and is an integral part of this Strategy. Waste prevention measures ensure that the quantity of waste is reduced (either through the avoidance of waste creation in the first place, reuse of products and services, or the extension of its useful life). It therefore reduces the adverse impacts on the environment of waste generation and management, and subsequently prevents impact on human health. It also eases our demand on finite natural resources and as such, reduces the carbon emissions associated with waste management activity.

The most effective waste prevention activities are often focused on particular waste streams or products. One way in which St Helens encourages waste prevention is through the promotion of the national 'Love Food, Hate Waste' scheme on their website. It outlines how big of an issue food waste can be for the environment, and signposts residents to the charity website where more information and recipe ideas can be found.

St Helens also promote the reusable nappy scheme 'Warrington, Wigan and St Helens Sling Library' who cover areas of the Northwest. The use of these nappies results in the use of fewer resources and the creation of less waste, both of which have positive impacts for the environment. Through the scheme, there are a variety of different kits available to hire for a small cost, and there are regular sessions where demos of the nappies are given.

7.3 REUSE AND REPAIR INITIATIVES

The second highest priority of the waste hierarchy is 'preparing items for reuse', the aim of repair and reuse is to extend the useful life of a product or service. This has wide ranging benefits which include saving money, conserving the Earth's limited resources, and lowering carbon emissions. Reuse activities often support social and economic development, through skills training, employment, and community volunteering.

SOME EXAMPLES OF REUSE/REPAIR ACTIVITIES IN ST HELENS ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

7.3.1 RESTORE ST HELENS

Restore are a volunteer-based organisation who operate an upcycling store within St Helens. They accept donated furniture and items are upcycled by trainees, who are often individuals who struggle with issues such as homelessness, poor mental health etc.

They are trained and supported in the process by volunteers. Once the items are completed, they are sold on at a low cost in order to help those who are on lower incomes.

The project has been previously supported through funding from the MRWA and Veolia Community Fund and was awarded 'Green Business of the Year 2021' at the 2021 Liverpool Echo Environmental Awards

7.3.2 TANGO - TOGETHER AS NEIGHBOURS GIVING OUT

Haydock based community group providing support and resources for families and the community through donations of clothing, furniture and electrical items for reuse serving the community since 2000.

Over this period, they have saved 100's of tonnes of items from going to landfill. They rely on donations so the stock changes all the time however they regularly stock items such as beds, table and chair sets, televisions, stock pots and wardrobes. Also smaller household items such as plates, cups, glassware, cutlery and bowls. In addition, they stock preloved items such as men's, women's and kids' clothing, shoes and accessories.

7.3.3 WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

Willowbrook Hospice have donations warehouses, in Sutton and Prescot. They ask for good quality furniture and household items that are in good enough condition, that they can use to sell in their shops to the local community; this helps to raise vital funds for their hospice.

7.4 COLLECTION - EXPANDING RECYCLING FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES INITIATIVES

The residents and communities of St Helens already have a wide range of materials collected for recycling. This aligns well with the Government intention to have a standardised set of materials collected for recycling from each house and business across the Country. This will include each of the following:

- **Metals (cans, foil trays, foil, aerosols)**
- **Plastics (plastic film, bottles, trays, pots, tubs)**
- **Cartons (eg tetrapak)**
- **Card**
- **Paper**
- **Glass**
- **Food waste**

It is only the plastic film and cartons which are currently not collected in St Helens. The aim is that all of England has the same range of materials collected and that this will enable more targeted nationwide messages and standardised product labelling for recyclability to be established. Furthermore, residents moving from one area to another will know what materials can be separated for recycling (although there might be different colours or types of containers in which to separate them).

In addition to these changes, the Government is seeking to introduce a deposit return scheme (DRS) for all single use drinks containers (excluding bottles made of High-Density Polyethylene plastic, primarily milk bottles). This is likely to place an additional 20p charge (the deposit) onto bottles and cans containing drink, which then may be redeemed (returned) when the bottle / can is placed in an authorised collection point. The collection points are likely to be at shops / supermarkets and are known as reverse vending machines, although alternative methods of redeeming deposits are also being investigated. The DRS scheme is still undergoing consultation but is due to be implemented in 2025. This could have the effect of changing consumer behaviour to an extent, also potentially reducing the amount of littering of containers (covered by the DRS) and may reduce the amount of recyclables and waste handled by the local authorities.

As part of the wide-ranging national changes and to encourage greater resource recovery from waste, the Government are also intending to implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for all producers of packaging. EPR means that all packaging producers will need to pay for the costs of dealing with their packaging at the end of its life (eg when it is recycled or thrown

away). In future packaging producers will be covering the net costs of collecting, handling, recycling, treating and disposing of packaging waste, by providing monies to local government equivalent to that cost. This, together with the DRS scheme will also provide an incentive to product and packaging producers to consider how their products can be designed better for their resource recovery, for example by making them easier to recycle. Packaging that is hard to recycle will cost more for disposal which will ultimately cost the producer of that packaging. This approach helps the role of the Councils and should assist in improving resource recovery and recycling over the medium and long term.

7.5 KERBSIDE COLLECTION SYSTEMS

In developing the strategy, a comprehensive assessment has been undertaken to review the current collection methodology alongside a range of other methodologies. This should provide reassurance to both residents and members that an objective options appraisal has been undertaken and that our strategy is deliverable from an operational perspective.

The options appraisal modelling was undertaken with the support of consultants and compared the council's existing collection system with 5 other collections options. These are listed below:

- **Enhanced kerbside sort - weekly recycling**
- **Fully commingled recycling - fortnightly - all recycling in one bin**
- **Two stream collection - fortnightly - one bin for card with paper, and one bin for other recycling**
- **Three week rolling collection - Week one - Residual waste, Week two - Card with paper, Week three - other recycling**
- **Three stream collection - fortnightly - one bin for card with paper, and one bin for other recycling, and third bin for glass four weekly**

Each of the above options were assessed against a range of criteria to determine their suitability:

- **Increasing the St Helens recycling rate**
- **Cost of operation**
- **Cost of change**
- **Carbon benefit**
- **Alignment with National Policy**
- **Public Acceptability**
- **Operational Flexibility (Material, Fleet & Staff)**
- **Deliverability**

A summary of the assessment can be found in the Options Appraisal document. As can be seen the objective assessment concludes that retaining a kerbside sort collection is the suggested preferred collection methodology, but that it would be enhanced/improved (option 1 within the appraisal) to address resident/member concerns that have been raised.

This option is considered to be the preferred option as it provides the lowest total cost of service and change, its close alignment with national policy focusing on high quality recyclate which and be recycled; and its flexibility for future change depending on industry and consumer changes.

The proposed collection containers will give residents more flexibility and capacity, also by increase the weight in the bag this will reduce the number has been lost.

This is something that a number of residents have raised concerns about. When determining the type and size of containers, a number of options were investigated to ensure that the final solution was affordable, flexible, and reliable. It was determined that the following configurate would provide the best service for residents and operationally. The larger, weighted bags which are been proposed will provide residents with additional capacity, particularly with cardboard, but are agile and can be stored all property types across the borough.

Other configurations such as box or trolly box systems were investigated however tended to provide residents with less flexibility both in term of storage and capacity, and the trolley box system had the additional issue regarding cost.

There are no proposals to make any changes to the food waste containers other than to purchase caddies made from a higher amount of recycled plastic.

The Strategy provides details of the recycling containers which are proposed as follows:

- **Glass bottles and Jars in a black 50 litre box made from recyclable material**
- **Paper - in a 40-litre reusable bag with improved closure at top and heavier weight in bottom to reduce the issue to wind lost and placed within black box**
- **Plastic / Metals in a 70-litre reusable sack with improved closure at top and heavier weight in bottom to reduce the issue to wind lost**
- **Card in an 70-litre reusable sack with improved closure at top and heavier weight in bottom to reduce the issue to wind lost.**

7.5.1 FUTURE COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

WEEKLY GLASS - BLACK BOX 50 LITRES
MADE FROM RECYCLABLE MATERIAL

WEEKLY PAPER - 45 LITRE SMALL BAG REUSABLE SACK WITH IMPROVED CLOSURE ON TOP AND HEAVIER WEIGHT IN BOTTOM TO REDUCE THE ISSUE OF LOST BAGS IN WINDY CONDITIONS AND PLACED WITHIN THE BLACK BOX

WEEKLY PLASTIC/ METAL - 73 LITRE SMALL REUSABLE SACK WITH IMPROVED CLOSURE ON TOP AND HEAVIER WEIGHT IN BOTTOM TO REDUCE THE ISSUE OF LOST BAGS IN WINDY CONDITIONS

NEW GREEN BAG - WEEKLY CARD - 73 LITRE SMALL BAG REUSABLE SACK WITH IMPROVED CLOSURE ON TOP AND HEAVIER WEIGHT IN BOTTOM TO REDUCE THE ISSUE OF LOST BAGS IN WINDY CONDITIONS

7.6 TREATMENT AND PROCESSING

By collecting recycling by kerbside sort, we maximise the quality and value of the recycling collected from residents ensuring that as much waste as possible is recycled. We currently have a contract with a St Helens based company that provides a central location in St Helens for us to unload our recycling vehicles. This is then bulked and then sent to various repressors for recycling or further sorting before reaching its end market to be recycled. This recycling contract is due to be retendered at the end of 2023 to achieve best value and service to the council.

7.7 RESOURCING THE STRATEGY

The Resources and Waste Strategy will give a clear vision for the service, and the resources required for it to be delivered. Operationally there has already been a number of changes over the last 12 months with a new operation structure and a number of new team members. The strategy will enable the service to finalise the structure and reduce the services requirements for agency and temporary staff.

The strategy will also enable service to determine its fleet requirements and investigate greener options. Some progress has already been made in this area with investment in the UKs OEM Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered refuse vehicle and ongoing trials in electric recycling collections vehicles. There has been a shift in culture with a new focus on health and wellbeing for staff and the introduction of a new operational uniform and PPE. Some of the culture shift has been delivered by investment in the Hardshaw Brook Depot, and with a clear strategy this will facilitate the develop more extensive changes and the depot to improve efficiency and wellbeing for staff delivering the strategy.

7.8 THE FUTURE VISON

The strategy has been developed to ensure that it is flexible to be accept to changes with legislation, resident purchasing patterns and change to material put on to the market.

Glass Futures™

We are committed to a low carbon circular economy in St Helens with the development of Glass Futures a not-for-profit company created to develop a global centre for excellence to make glass the low carbon material of choice. This centre when complete will develop new technology and training linking to local end destinations for the recycling and reuse of glass to create new jobs and investment withing St Helens and the Liverpool City Region.

8. OUR KEY ACTIONS

This Implementation Plan has been developed to capture the Key Actions within each of the thematic objectives of the Resources and Waste Strategy.

ACTION	SUPPORTING ACTIVITY	MILESTONES	OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED	TIMESCALES & TARGET	RESOURCE
Overall Waste Prevention	• Think about comsumption • Recycling before you buy	• Direct engagement with residents and young people	Reduced residual waste in brown bin	Target of 10 events per year/ 4 campaigns per year	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications
Reduce food waste in residual	• Love food Hate Waste • Increase capture of food waste	• Targeted Food waste Campaign include bin stickers	Reduced food waste tonnages in brown bin and increased capture of food waste recycling	Jan 2023 onwards	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications
Increase the amount of items Re-use	• Swap shops • Bulky waste • Repair network • Facebook Market	• Increased reuse in St Helens to benefit local community	Set up St Helens Re-use Network and reduce household waste with increased community reuse	2023/24	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications
Relaunch of recycling containers	• Consultation of new containers • Procurement • Roll out • Expand flat recycling	• Increased recycling capture • Improved participation	Improved recycling rate and improved service to residents	Full roll out by September 2023	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications
Procurement of a recycling, bulky and treatment Contract	• Determine specification • Procurement • Implemenation	• Re-tend through Chest system	New contract in place by end of 2023	New contract to start January 2024	Waste & Recycling Team/ Procurement support

ACTION	SUPPORTING ACTIVITY	MILESTONES	OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED	TIMESCALES	COMPLETION
Fleet Replacement including urgent replacement of 8 kerbside recycling vehicles	• Determine need • Softmarket test • Procurement • In service	• Hydrogen Vehicle due in October 2022	Explore new low carbon vehicles and reduced carbon from fleet	Procurement for 8 kerbside recycling vehicles to be completed March 2023	Waste & Recycling Team/ Procurement support
Depot Development	• Development of business plan • Design • Build	• Approval of funding • Work starts on site	Efficient and modern depot	2023 onwards	Procurement support/ Planning/ Project Management
Collection day review	• Improve efficency of collections	• Collection day changes to new zones	Reduced costs	Full roll out by November 2023	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications
Digitisation of services including Bartec	• Bartec - in-cab technology • Goss - CRM	• Garden waste to launch on new system for 2023 season	Improved customer experience	2022 onwards to be complete Spring 2023	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications / IT Support
Expansion of the Trade Waste Service	• Develop and expand service through communications • Offer recycling service to businesses	• Customer satisfaction survey to understand for change	Improved customer experience / improved offer to local business to reduce carbon	2023 onwards	Waste & Recycling Team/ Internal Communications

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