

Waste & Recycling Strategy 2024-2029

Castle Point Borough Council

July 2024

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1. Strategy at a glance

This strategy outlines Castle Point Borough Council’s approach to waste and recycling, which we will consult on. It will support the delivery of the Council’s priorities and objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2012 -2024 as follows:

Environment

- We are proud of where we live and want to keep our local neighbourhoods looking clean and green.
- We want to help improve the local environment by reducing waste and reusing and recycling more.
- We also want to help combat climate change by making choices in our lives that reduce CO2 emissions.

A key part of our strategy is our aim to reduce waste and as such will adhere to the ‘waste hierarchy’ which ranks waste management according to what is best for the environment, with waste prevention ranked as the most preferred option at the top and disposal ranked as the least preferred option at the bottom.



2. Welcome & introduction

Involving residents in the design and delivery of our services is a fundamental principle of how Castle Point Borough Council operates. Our waste and recycling service is one which serves all of our residents, and as such is it vital that we involve our communities in the future design of the service.

3. Setting the scene

3.a Our current service

Waste collection services are provided to all residents in both houses and communal properties.

In 2023/24 we collected a total of 33,000 tonnes of waste, of which 48% was collected as recycling. A further 5,900 tonnes of garden waste were collected, as well as 2,700 tonnes of food waste.

Castle Point Borough Council currently undertakes fortnightly collections for separated recycling of glass in a box and dry mixed recycling (plastic, cans, paper & cardboard) in a pink plastic bag.

General waste is collected fortnightly in black sacks.

Food waste is collected weekly in a food waste container.

Garden waste is collected as part of our chargeable service, currently at a cost of £39 per year for a wheeled bin or £8 for 20 sacks, which are available from our leisure centres and local libraries.

3.b Our existing infrastructure

Castle Point Borough Council has its own Waste and Recycling depot and vehicle workshop within the borough. However, the current infrastructure limits opportunities to develop the service, with limited space for redevelopment and expansion, and limitations including an aging fleet of waste collection vehicles and a reliance on non-environmentally friendly fuels.

3.c Our performance

Office for Local Government (Oflog) data shows that in comparison to similar local authorities, Castle Point has more contaminated recycling. However, the borough has a higher recycling rate and less residual household waste per household when compared to similar local authorities. Source: www.oflog.data.gov.uk

3.d Our targets

- To increase our Recycling Rate to the current National set target of 55%.
- To ensure that all residents have access to recycling services for plastic, paper, card, metal, glass and garden waste.
- To reduce the amount of residual waste produced per person to under 110kg.
- To divert all residual waste away from Landfill.
- To halve the amount of fly tipping in the borough.

3.e The local demographic

- Our Waste Collections Services currently collect from over 90,00 residents.

- With approximately 36,000 houses receiving a kerbside collection and 3,000 receiving communal collections from flats or multiple occupancy properties

4. How we will develop this strategy

We will develop our strategic approach to waste management by setting out the facts and considerations to our communities and explaining our targets and environmental aims. A six-week consultation will offer residents multiple opportunities to find out more about our proposals, how they would be affected, how we are considering our local environment, and how to get involved and have their say. Following this, a final strategy will be developed, ensuring it considers and reflects the view of our residents.

5. Our Key Principles

5.a Improving recycling rates and minimising waste.

Supporting our residents to recycle more through education and promotion alongside simplifying our collection services will bring about the cultural change needed to combat illegal waste disposal, littering, fly tipping etc.... We will seek to utilise the waste hierarchy and by designing services that prioritise waste reduction and increased recycling.

5.b Educating residents, starting with our young people.

We will initiate a programme of education and engagement ensuring that we listen to feedback and deliver information and initiatives that support residents and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more. We believe that education and promotions is the cornerstone of taking forward the Council's recycling and waste minimisation plans and by working with schools on promoting sustainable waste management issues, supporting practical programmes and examining the viability of new sustainable waste initiatives we will achieve the behavioural change needed to improve our future.

5.c Partnership working.

We will strive to work with all of our partner services and collaborate on initiatives with the neighbouring boroughs within the Essex Waste Partnership and seek opportunities to drive improvements and efficiencies in the services we provide our residents.

5.d Reducing cost for our taxpayers.

We will seek to deliver efficient and value driven services and continue explore the opportunities to introduce innovative systems and operating methods to ensure we can continue to provide high quality services at the lowest possible cost to our residents.

5.e Reducing our carbon footprint.

We will work to reduce the carbon impact of our waste collection operations by exploring the use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment.

Additionally, we will look for ways to offset the impact of unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Measuring success

- We will report and publish our performance indicators on a quarterly basis to track the progress on achieving our goals.
- We will produce an annual performance report to Cabinet.