

Essex Waste Partnership



# WASTE STRATEGY

FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054

## Response to consultation

June 2024

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# Introduction

The Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054 sets out the Essex Waste Partnership's vision for waste management in the county for the next 30 years.

The Essex Waste Partnership (the 'partnership') is made up of the 12 district, borough and city councils in Essex and the county council. The partnership aims to ensure cost efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.

## The Strategy

The strategy covers the period to 2054 and sets out how we will manage the waste we collect from homes and businesses in Essex. The strategy sets ambitious targets and commits the partnership to working together to minimise the impact that waste management has on the environment.

The vision of the strategy is to protect the environment and save resources by reducing the amount of waste that is produced and reusing and recycling more.

The strategy details how we will do this by:

- moving to a circular economy
- applying the waste hierarchy when making decisions about services
- recovering energy and materials from waste that can't be recycled
- supporting residents to reduce their waste and recycle more
- be an active voice in influencing government
- supporting and encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices

Through the strategy, the partnership commits to creating action plans and reviewing progress to ensure we are on track to achieving our targets and ambitions. The partnership will publish progress and performance updates enabling residents to hold us to account. The strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

To find out more, read the [Waste Strategy for Essex](#)

## The consultation process

In Autumn 2023, the partnership carried out a 10-week public consultation to give residents and communities the opportunity to have their say on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The consultation process was developed in line with HM Government code of practice and the Gunning principles. The design and delivery of the consultation activity was externally validated by The Consultation Institute (TCI), a body that champions best

practice in public consultation. The consultation documents, survey questionnaire and consultation approach were approved by the partnership prior to consultation.

Alongside the draft strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment, a suite of consultation documents provided information to ensure that those responding understand the issues and could give informed responses.

Alternative formats of the key consultation documents and consultation survey were made available and held in each of the county's 74 libraries. Focus Group sessions were delivered to support the survey with a more in-depth exploration of specific aspects of the draft strategy.

The consultation commenced on 13 September 2023 and closed on 22 November 2023, with paper copies accepted until 29 November 2023. An extensive communications and events programme was delivered throughout the consultation period to promote a broad and informed response to the consultation.

Read the [Final Consultation Report](#) on the consultation portal.

# How to read this document

## Structure

This report sets out the proposals (“We asked”), the consultation response (“You said”) and the partnership’s response (“We did”).

“We did” summarises the changes we have made to the strategy as a result of the public consultation and other information such as updates to government policy and targets. Under the Environment Act 2021, the government has introduced regulations to drive up recycling and set requirements for councils to deliver comprehensive, frequent rubbish and recycling collections. These regulations are referred to as [Simpler Recycling](#).

All survey results are presented as percentages. Respondents could choose which questions they answered so the number of responses for each question will vary. Unless otherwise stated, percentages quoted in this report relate to the number answering a specific question not the total number of respondents to the consultation. The questionnaire contained a mix of single and multiple-choice questioning. Where percentages for single choice questions do not sum to 100%, this is either the result of rounding for each response code or where multiple points of commentary from a single respondent have been coded individually.

This document summarises and responds to the key themes reported in the independent analysis of the consultation response. For more detail on the consultation response, please refer to the relevant section of the [\[Final Consultation Analysis Report\]](#).

## Accompanying documents

This document is one of a suite that should be read together to understand how the partnership has considered consultation responses and made its recommendation for decisions on the strategy.

These documents are:

- Final Consultation Analysis Report
- Waste Strategy for Essex
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Decision paper
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Report
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement

## Final Consultation Analysis Report

The public consultation was hosted on Essex County Council’s consultation portal Citizen Space. Details of the consultation and a summary of the findings can be viewed on the council’s [Waste Strategy for Essex consultation webpage](#).

The consultation was made available in several different ways. In addition to an online survey, alternative formats were available, including an Easy Read version of the strategy and consultation survey. Large print and paper copies could be printed from the consultation portal and were available on request by phoning the county council's contact centre. It could also be completed by telephoning the council's contact centre. The majority of respondents completed the consultation survey online.

The consultation survey asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement with the vision, targets and principles contained in the draft strategy. The survey also allowed respondents to explain their reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the strategy, and to provide further information or suggestions.

4,545 people responded to the consultation survey, including 321 responses to the Easy Read Survey, and more than 16,000 comments were recorded. In addition, 45 emails relating to the draft strategy were submitted, which have been reviewed together with the outputs from focus groups and engagement events. The consultation response has been independently analysed and a report published setting out:

- details of the consultation response
- demographics of respondents
- levels of agreement with the vision, targets and principles of the draft strategy
- themes arising from the qualitative comments

During the consultation period, respondents were also able to provide feedback on the Strategic Environmental Assessment ("environmental report") published alongside the strategy. The environmental report considers the environmental impacts of the strategy and the approaches proposed to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and that sustainability is at the forefront of the draft strategy.

Full details of the findings are provided in the [Final Consultation Analysis Report](#).

## **Waste Strategy for Essex**

The partnership has considered the findings of the consultation together with other information such as updates to government policy and targets. An updated version of the strategy has been created and published which sets the framework for management of waste in Essex for the next 30 years. The [\[Waste Strategy for Essex\]](#) is available online.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

For a detailed assessment on the potential impact on service users with protected characteristics and in levelling up areas and cohorts, refer to the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA references information collected through the public consultation and operational evaluation process.

Overall, the EIA concludes the strategy does not have any equality and diversity impacts for service users with protected characteristics. The EIA however does recognise that further assessments will need to be undertaken as the actions required to deliver the strategy are developed. The Essex County Council (ECC) EIA is available at [\[link to ECIA\]](#).

# Consultation consideration

This section outlines the consultation consideration process that the partnership has followed to reflect consultation findings in the Waste Strategy for Essex.

## Principles of consultation consideration

Best practice for consultation requires that:

- information is published on consultation responses
- conscientious consideration is given to consultation response before a decision is made
- how the consultation response has informed the final policy or decision is shared

The consideration process has been externally validated by The Consultation Institute (TCI), a body that champions best practice in public consultation.

## Consideration approach

Following consultation, the partnership has published information on the consultation response through a [draft consultation analysis report](#). Hosting the draft consultation analysis report on Essex County Council's consultation portal also enabled respondents to provide further feedback.

The partnership also shared an overview of the consultation approach, emerging consultation findings and the consideration approach at a public meeting of Essex County Council's Place Services and Economy Growth Scrutiny Committee (the "Committee") in February 2024. Engaging with the council's Committee provided an opportunity for scrutiny of the consultation process, and areas of focus for consideration.

As the consultation analysis findings demonstrated that the public was supportive of the vision, targets and approaches proposed in the strategy, it has not been necessary to make substantive changes. However, the insight gained through consultation highlighted several areas requiring minor amendment, update or enhancement.

Following consultation, the partnership carried out several workshops to review consultation response. The workshops addressed each key area of the draft strategy and considered the quantitative levels of agreement, thematic comments and, where appropriate, other information such as updates from government on policy and targets. The partnership has applied updates to the draft strategy document to create a final version that reflects the consultation response.

The environmental report originally created and published alongside the draft strategy has been supplemented with a [\[Strategic Environmental Assessment: Post Adoption Statement\]](#).



The detail of consultation consideration is set out in this report in [\[Response to Consultation\]](#)

# Response to Consultation

## Overview of consultation response

There was a large response to the consultation (4,545 responses) from across the county with all districts, cities and boroughs represented in the response.

All aspects of the strategy received very good levels of agreement. Although views differed across the county, the level of agreement with all elements of the strategy exceed the levels of disagreement in all cases. Feelings that the targets and ambitions were about right were most common with some preference for the targets to be achieved sooner.

In accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulations, statutory consultees were invited to give responses to the environmental report. Responses were received from Natural England and the Environment Agency. Natural England confirmed that, in their view, the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that it has a statutory duty to protect. The Environment Agency response indicated no comment to make on the documents. A small number of other consultation respondents (288) gave feedback on the Strategic Environmental Assessment. There was a split in opinion on whether it correctly identifies the likely significant effects of the strategy.

The consultation response also included responses from partners and businesses.

Full details of the consultation response can be found in the [\[Final Consultation Analysis Report\]](#).

## High level themes

Analysis of comments and enquiries provided by respondents to the consultation survey and focus group participants identified some broad themes that respondents felt should be considered when updating the strategy. The themes related to:

- availability and accessibility of services
- achievability of the strategy and the need for clear actions
- informing, educating, supporting and enforcing
- the role businesses can play
- concerns about costs
- concerns about the environmental impact of incineration
- the need for leadership
- general agreement or disagreement with the strategy
- working collaboratively
- understanding how interim steps contributed to overall targets

The partnership has considered these high-level themes alongside quantitative and qualitative consultation response on each element of the strategy. Changes have been applied to the document that reflect these themes. For example, alongside each area of

the partnership's approach, statements have been updated to clearly set out actions the partnership will take to achieve the approach and targets.

In response to the strong interest in the role of businesses in waste prevention, the partnership is engaging further with businesses, commencing with a webinar delivered in April 2024 exploring actions businesses can take and opportunities arising from the transition to a more circular economy. A circular economy is where natural resources are used efficiently and products are designed to be durable, easy to repair and recyclable.

The partnership will continue to consider these high-level themes when creating the action plans needed to deliver our vision as set out in the updated 'Research, Plan and Monitor Performance' section of the strategy. For example, concerns about costs and the environmental impact of incineration will be addressed when making detailed decisions about services, technology choices and infrastructure design.

The themes seeking further collaborative working, information, education and support will continue to be considered by the partnership. For example, the updated 'Research, Plan and Monitor Performance' section commits the partnership to continuing to engage with residents and communities throughout the life of this strategy.

## Enhancements

Throughout the document, language has been simplified and unnecessary technical terms have been removed to ensure the strategy is easy to understand. Information that was solely included in the draft strategy to provide context for consultation respondents has been removed.

Targets have been aligned to each section of the partnership's approach to help residents hold the partnership to account for progress and performance.

The partnership identified an opportunity to enhance the strategy with additional content. Commitments have been added to:

- work together to increase recycling in public spaces, reduce litter and fly tipping
- regularly review the strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose and to publish progress reports
- lobby government for better regulation to tackle waste at source, ensuring manufacturers and retailers play their part to reduce waste

## Detailed Consideration Actions

In this section of the report, consultation findings are set out against each area of the strategy, together with a summary of updates applied during consultation consideration.

Strategy Area	You said	We did
<p><b>Vision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 7% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 26% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is too ambitious or unachievable, or that zero waste is unrealistic</li> <li>• Services need to be easy to use or more convenient</li> <li>• Businesses need to do more, particularly to reduce packaging</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 70% said becoming a zero waste county is important to them, compared with 15% who said it was not</li> </ul>	<p>Although there was broad agreement with the vision statement, the partnership noted concern about achievability, the need for businesses to do more and for the right services to be available to residents. In response to consultation and focus group feedback, the vision statement has been reviewed and updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more closely reflect service-led approaches that received strong support from respondents with clear reference to waste reduction, reuse and recycling</li> <li>• emphasise commitment to everyone working together</li> <li>• remove reference to 'zero waste'. The partnership remains committed to reducing all unnecessary waste – the term 'zero waste' has been removed because it was misunderstood by many respondents who thought it meant we would not produce any waste, recycling or composting in the future</li> </ul> <p>• strengthen the commitment from aspiration to action</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflect the role of businesses, councils and residents in delivering change</li> </ul>
<p><b>Targets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48% of respondents thought the targets are about right</li> <li>• A further 28% would prefer more ambitious targets</li> <li>• 13% would prefer less ambitious targets</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The targets are unachievable or will be difficult to achieve</li> <li>• Services need to be easy to use or convenient</li> <li>• The targets are not ambitious enough or need to be achieved sooner</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 65% said they agree with the targets, which was a far larger proportion than not sure (18%) and that said they disagree with the targets (17%)</li> </ul>	<p>In response to the government’s update on Simpler Recycling and consultation response that achieving targets will require services to be easy to use or convenient, the targets have been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add a new target for recycling services for plastic film</li> <li>• achieve the goal of stopping use of landfill earlier</li> <li>• to quantify the target to halve the amount of residual waste produced. Residual waste means waste that is not reused, recycled, composted or anaerobically digested</li> <li>• remove interim steps originally captured as targets</li> <li>• remove reference to ‘zero waste’</li> </ul> <p>The consultation response indicated good levels of support for the proposed targets and a preference for more ambitious targets. In response, the partnership has retained the ambition to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste, and commitment to contributing to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To reflect consultation respondents’ support for clear and ambitious targets, the partnership has also added to the commitment to review the strategy every five years to include an action to review the strategy earlier if significant change occurs.</p>

		See the Research, Planning and Monitor Performance section of this table for further details.
<p><b>Move to a circular economy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 15% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 22% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• concerns about costs or additional charges</li> <li>• it's unachievable, unrealistic or difficult to achieve</li> <li>• further education, training or support for residents are needed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 78% said using a circular economy in Essex is important to them. A further 11% were not sure and 10% said it was not important.</li> </ul>	<p>Although there was overall agreement with the principle of 'Move to a Circular Economy', levels of agreement were slightly lower than for other areas of the approach to delivering the vision of the partnership. The comment themes demonstrate that this may be linked to a need for further information, alongside concerns about whether the principle is realistic to achieve or too costly to deliver.</p> <p>The principle of moving to a circular economy is a fundamental part of the government's national Resources and Waste Strategy for England, therefore the partnership considers that it is important to retain this as a key part of the Waste Strategy for Essex. Therefore, the content has been updated to simplify the definition of the circular economy and approach with a clearer summary of what the partnership will do to lead the move to a circular economy.</p> <p>Action statements that the partnership will take to deliver the priority approach have been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add an action to lobby government and work with businesses</li> <li>• list actions that the partnership will take in their own operations</li> </ul>

<p><b>Apply the waste hierarchy: Prevention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 11% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 24% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• businesses need to do more, particularly to reduce packaging</li> <li>• don't reduce service. Frequent collections are needed</li> <li>• concerns about cost or additional charges</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 76% said that using the waste hierarchy system in Essex was important to them. In contrast, 11% said it was not important and 13% were not sure.</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation response demonstrated broad support for the principle of waste prevention, but the level of agreement was lower for the reuse and recycle priorities. Focus Group feedback indicated that some participants misunderstood 'prevention' and thought it referenced reducing general rubbish rather than all types of waste. The most common comment themes arising from the consultation survey indicate that respondents feel businesses need to do more to reduce packaging, alongside the councils providing the right services to support residents to reduce their waste.</p> <p>The consultation response shows that accessible and frequent collection services are important to respondents. Therefore, the action statement relating to delivering waste reduction through service design has been simplified. The partnership has also reviewed and strengthened content about services in the sections related to applying the waste hierarchy for reuse and recycling. For further details, see sections of this table related to 'Apply the waste hierarchy: Reuse' and 'Apply the waste hierarchy: Recycling'.</p> <p>Action statements that the partnership will take to deliver have been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clearly state a lobbying role with government with a focus on actions government can take to prevent waste</li> <li>• add a commitment to change the way the partnership works to lead by example</li> <li>• strengthen commitment to support businesses to work sustainably</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• simplify commitment to deliver waste reduction through service design</li> </ul>
<b>Apply the waste hierarchy: Reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 9% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 19% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it needs to be easier or cheaper to repair items</li> <li>• there is a need to change mindsets or address throwaway culture</li> <li>• it's a good priority or agree generally with it</li> <li>• businesses need to do more, particularly to reduce packaging</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For Easy Read survey findings, please see Apply the waste hierarchy: Prevention</li> </ul>	<p>The consultation response indicated strong support for applying the waste hierarchy to increase reuse. Focus Group feedback and consultation comments further demonstrated support and focused on the role of businesses, attitudes and the need for easy to access and low-cost repair services.</p> <p>Therefore the partnership consideration has focused on reviewing the actions that the partnership will take to deliver. Action statements have been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthen the lobbying role with government to enhance right to repair and measures to increase reuse and repair</li> <li>• add a commitment to develop a directory of services, organisations and groups that promote reuse</li> <li>• broaden the commitment to support activities that promote repair and sharing of pre-loved items</li> <li>• clearly state that we will maximise reuse of bulky waste items</li> </ul>
<b>Apply the waste hierarchy: Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 5% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 18% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• services need to be easy to use, convenient and at the kerbside</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Support for the principle of increasing recycling was strongly indicated through the consultation response. Positive themes arising from respondent comments highlighted the need for more materials to be collected for recycling through easy to use, convenient services. Respondents also commented that councils should maintain</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more materials should be collected for recycling</li> <li>• there is a need for easy access to recycling centres and no booking ahead</li> <li>• don't charge for garden waste collection</li> <li>• For Easy Read survey findings, please see Apply the waste hierarchy: Prevention</li> </ul>	<p>easy access to recycling centres and should not charge for garden waste collections. .</p> <p>When considering comments concerning charging for garden waste collections, the partnership considered the consultation response alongside the latest updates from government on Simpler Recycling which requires councils to provide services to recycle a consistent set of materials. Under Simpler Recycling, it is expected that councils will be required to provide a garden waste collection service, but will be able to charge for this. The strategy makes a commitment to providing accessible and easy to use services. Decisions about the detailed design of services will however still be taken at a local level by individual councils, taking consideration of all relevant factors.</p> <p>Essex County Council (ECC), as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) responsible for provision of Recycling Centres for Household Waste ("<b>Recycling Centres</b>"), considered resident comments regarding easy access to recycling centres. Providing places for local residents to dispose of household waste free of charge is part of the WDA legal duty. ECC now requires users to book a slot, and residents can book a visit to any of the 21 recycling centres up to 15 minutes in advance. The service offers around 50,000 bookable visits per week. Full details of ECC's <a href="#">evaluation and decision</a> to retain a booking process is published online.</p>
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		<p>Action statements that the partnership will take to deliver have been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add a commitment to lobby government to take further measures to increase the proportion of material recycled and use of recycled material</li> <li>• add a commitment to support businesses to recycle as much of their own waste as possible</li> <li>• add a commitment to develop a directory of services and local collection points for recycling</li> <li>• strengthen commitments to make it easy for residents to recycle different materials</li> <li>• add a new focus on collecting high quality material for recycling</li> </ul>
<p><b>Apply the waste hierarchy: Recovery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the use of landfill - 78% of respondents agreed, 8% were not sure, 14% disagreed</li> <li>• Use of Anaerobic Digestion for food waste – 61% of respondents agreed, 26% were not sure, 12% disagreed</li> <li>• Adopting Energy from Waste (EfW) for residual waste - 69% of respondents agreed, 17% were not sure, 14% disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not being able to understand it, too much jargon used or not enough information provided</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Consultation response indicated broad agreement with the principle of applying the waste hierarchy to recover energy and materials from waste that can't be recycled.</p> <p>The partnership has considered the particularly strong consultation support for reducing the use of landfill. To reflect this, the updated strategy contains a clear target to stop using landfill by 2030 and a simplified commitment under the recovery principle.</p> <p>The most common comments indicated a need to provide further information and reduce the use of jargon. These comments may also link with the higher proportion of 'not sure' responses when asked to indicate level of agreement with Energy from Waste and Anaerobic Digestion. Focus</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no Basildon incinerator or disagree with incineration process</li> <li>• concerns about environmental impact, pollution or emissions</li> <li>• For Easy Read survey findings, please see Apply the waste hierarchy: Prevention</li> </ul>	<p>Group participants also told us that ‘Anaerobic Digestion’ was a completely unknown term and levels of understanding were low. As a result, the partnership has simplified the language used in the commitments to describe anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW) and developed and published explanatory animations.</p> <p>The partnership notes concern about environmental impact, pollution or emissions, and comments disagreeing with incineration or an incinerator in Basildon. These comments may suggest that respondents wanted to understand more about the environmental and local impacts of waste infrastructure, particularly EfW facilities, and where such facilities may be located. The Waste Strategy for Essex proposes to apply the legal framework of the Waste Hierarchy which shows that recovering energy and materials is better for the environment than disposing of waste in landfill.</p> <p>The partnership has committed to reducing waste and increasing recycling. However, it recognises that some residual waste will be produced which cannot be recycled and will need to be managed. The strategy establishes the principle of using recovery processes to maximise energy and material recovery. The strategy does not identify whether new waste treatment infrastructure is needed or where, if required, it would be located.</p> <p>As the design and delivery of any required waste treatment infrastructure will be subject to separate decisions and</p>
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		<p>consultation processes, no further amendments have been made to the strategy.</p>
<p><b>Collaborate and innovate</b></p>	<p>The consultation survey asked respondents to indicate their overall level of agreement with this principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall agreement – 75% of respondents agreed, 10% not sure, 15% disagreed</li> </ul> <p>The consultation survey also asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement with statements about how the partnership will deliver collaboration and innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In regard to achieving collaboration and innovation, all statements saw more agreeing than disagreeing – agreement was highest for <i>Work together and maximise opportunities to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter</i> and lowest for <i>Explore carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and carbon offsetting to mitigate unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions</i>. In relation to <i>Explore carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and carbon offsetting to mitigate unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions</i>, a slightly larger proportion of respondents were not sure than for some of</li> </ul>	<p>The consultation response indicates strong support for the principle of innovating and working collaboratively. To further strengthen the approach to delivering collaboration and innovation, the partnership has updated action statements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highlight the need to lobby government to invest in research and new approaches to managing waste</li> <li>• clarify the commitment to develop employment and skills opportunities</li> <li>• set out a specific commitment to investigate how best to reduce plastic waste in general rubbish</li> <li>• a clearer commitment to research new ways of working and adopt examples of best practice</li> </ul> <p>Consultation response indicated strong support for working together to maximise opportunities to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter, together with comments expressing concern about fly tipping and litter. This has been addressed by strengthening a commitment to work together to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter and incidents of fly tipping.</p> <p>The partnership noted comments regarding a need for easy access to recycling centres without booking. A response has</p>

	<p>the other questions, which explains the corresponding lower level of agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most common themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a need for easy access to recycling centres and no booking ahead</li> <li>• concerns about cost or additional charges</li> <li>• concerns about litter or fly tipping</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 87% said it was important to work together to make a better waste system, 6% were not sure and 7% said it was not important</li> </ul>	<p>been provided against the Apply the waste hierarchy: Recycling principle above.</p>
<p><b>Educate and engage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 8% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 15% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were that communication with residents should be improved, they should be listened to, and feedback should be acted on</li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 87% said it was important to teach people how to reduce their waste and recycle more, 5% were not sure and 8% said it was not important.</li> </ul>	<p>The partnership considered the strong level of agreement with the principle to listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives that encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more.</p> <p>Drawing on consultation comments, high-level themes and focus group feedback, the partnership has updated action statements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include businesses when listening to feedback and delivering information and initiatives</li> <li>• add a commitment to understand what businesses are doing to reduce waste and how the partnership can support</li> <li>• add a commitment to examine participation in services to help design future services and initiatives</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add a commitment to work with schools and young people to inspire life-long waste reduction behaviours</li> <li>• add a commitment to support and enable community action to care for the local environment</li> <li>• refine commitments on education and engagement to include a focus on the waste materials that have the biggest impact on the environment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Research, Planning and Monitor Performance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% of respondents agreed</li> <li>• 14% of respondents were not sure</li> <li>• 16% of respondents disagreed</li> <li>• The most common comment themes were that more frequent reviews were needed or that the five-year period is too long</li> <li>• In the Easy Read survey, 87% said it was important that they are kept up to date, 6% were not sure and 7% said it was not important.</li> </ul>	<p>The partnership considered the strong level of agreement with the principles around Research, Planning and Monitoring Performance.</p> <p>Drawing on consultation comments, high-level themes and focus group feedback, the partnership has updated content and commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add a commitment to continue to engage with residents and communities throughout the life of this strategy</li> <li>• strength the commitment around action planning to both create and regularly review action plans that set out how we will achieve milestones and targets</li> <li>• add a commitment to publish performance information about how waste is managed and how much is recycled</li> <li>• add to the commitment to review the strategy every five years to include an action to review the strategy earlier if significant change occurs</li> </ul>

Table 1: Table of consultation consideration and updates applied



Essex Waste Partnership

# RETHINKING OUR WASTE

This information is issued by Essex County Council  
Recycling and Waste on behalf of Essex Waste  
Partnership

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