Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:00	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH

For information about the meeting please ask for:
Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 03330 139825
Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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		Pages
1	**Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**	**4 - 4**
2	**Minutes of the previous meeting** To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2023 and to consider the matters arising.	**5 - 9**
3	**Questions from the Public** A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. No statement or question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers will be timed. If you would like to ask a question at this meeting, please email Democratic Services by 12 noon the day before (21 February 2024).	
4	**Work Programme and Communications Review** To receive an update (**PSEG/01/24)** on the current Committee Work Programme.	**10 - 14**

5	**Waste Strategy for Essex** To consider a report **(PSEG/02/24)** and presentation on the Waste Strategy for Essex	**15 - 29**
6	**Date of Next Meeting** To note that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21 March 2024 at County Hall.	
7	**Urgent Business** To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.	

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

8	**Urgent Exempt Business** To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Agenda Item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership
(Quorum: 5)

Cllr Alan Goggin	Chairman
Cllr Jane Fleming	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Dave Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Simon Crow	
Cllr Paul Gadd	
Cllr Paul Honeywood	
Cllr Jaymey McIvor	
Cllr James Newport	
Cllr Lee Scordis	
Cllr Andrew Sheldon	
Cllr Chris Siddall	
Cllr Mick Skeels	
Cllr Marshall Vance	
Cllr Andy Wiles	

Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 20 December 2023

Present:

Members:

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor D Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S Barker	Substitute
Councillor P Gadd	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor M Platt	Substitute - To Item 6
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor A Sheldon	From Item 5
Councillor C Siddall	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Vance	

Officers:

Jason Searles	Head of Waste Policy and Circular Economy
Katy Chambers	Circular Economy Development Manager
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Emma Tombs	Democratic Services Manager
Freddey Ayres	Democratic Services Officer
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer

Councillor P Schwier - Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling

Joining Remotely:
Councillor S Crow
Councillor J Newport

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr A Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report.

2. Apologies had been received from Cllr J McIvor, Cllr J Fleming (Cllr S Barker substitute) and from Cllr A Wiles (Cllr M Platt substitute).

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 November were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed that the outstanding information on LHPs (as referenced in the 'Matters Arising' document) would be circulated as soon as it was received.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Work Programme and Communications Review

The updated Work Programme was noted.

It was agreed to add an item on Emergency Planning / Flooding to the Work Programme.

5. Recycling Centre Vehicle Booking System Pilot

The Cabinet Member introduced the presentation which can be found here.

Members were then invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- Members were generally supportive of the continuation of the pilot scheme.
- The Committee would like officers to explore any options for local flexibility (whilst noting the concerns about deviating from a countywide model) and wanted to see a pragmatic approach on sites e.g., for those that haven't booked in advance.
- Members were keen to retain the telephone booking system and promote the scheme and options for non-internet users.
- Members were keen for officers to look at income-generating opportunities including commercial waste and re-use shops.
- Further information on the consultation responses (numbers not just percentages, any information on queues around bank holidays, etc) would be supplied to the Committee.

It was agreed that the issue would be brought back to the Committee following the Cabinet decision (expected February 2024).

6. Proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2024-25

The Committee agreed the following meeting dates for the 2024-25 municipal year and the new start time of 10:00 (to take effect from February 2024):

Thursday 23 May 2024
Thursday 20 June 2024
Thursday 18 July 2024
Thursday 19 September 2024
Thursday 17 October 2024
Thursday 21 November 2024
Wednesday 19 December 2024
Thursday 23 January 2025
Thursday 20 February 2025
Thursday 20 March 2025
Thursday 17 April 2025

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 18 January 2024 (with details to be confirmed).

8. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

9. Urgent Exempt Business

No items were raised.

Chairman

PSEG – Matters Arising (February 2024)

Date of Meeting:	Agenda Item	Action	Status
December 2023	Work Programme	Issue raised on Flooding and wider Emergency Planning role of ECC.	Added to Work Programme
	Recycling Centre Vehicle Booking System Pilot	Further information on the consultation responses (numbers not just percentages, any information on queues around bank holidays, etc) would be supplied to the Committee.	E-mail circulated to members
		It was agreed that the issue would be brought back to the Committee following the Cabinet decision (expected February 2024). *General comments passed to Cabinet Member ahead of decision.*	Added to Work Programme
Other Issues	Local Highway Panels (issues originally raised in October 2023)	Information being sought to include the budget status of 'carry over' schemes (schemes allocated for funding in 22/23).	Awaiting response

Reference Number: PSEG/01/24

Agenda Item 4

Report title: Work Programme and Communications Review	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 22 February 2024	**For:** Discussion
Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

1.1 This is a standard agenda item giving members of the Committee an opportunity to consider upcoming scrutiny activity and request items to be added to the work programme.

2. Action required

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the work programme in the Appendix and suggest any additional items.

2.2 The Scrutiny Board has asked committees to give consideration as to which work programme items may benefit from communications activity to promote the work of the scrutiny function both internally and externally. Members are asked to consider this when reviewing the Appendix.

3. Background

3.1 Developing a work programme

Work has continued identifying priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers as well as the other Policy and Scrutiny Committees via the Scrutiny Board.

This work has reflected the adoption of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* organisation strategy.

The current work programme is attached in the **Appendix**.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy when considering the work programme and future items.

Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy', and 'High Quality Environment.'

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix – Current work programme and an outline of the remit of the Committee.

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) Work Programme – February 2024

Provisional Dates (2023/24)	Topic Title	Lead Contact / Cabinet Member	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Cross-Committee Work Identified (where applicable)
15 February 2024	*Scrutiny Briefing* Future Highways Programme	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	Online briefing for PSEG members	
22 February 2024	Waste Strategy for Essex	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the emerging strategy	
21 March 2024	Cycling Strategy	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To consider the emerging strategy	
TBC	LTP4 including Space and Movement/Road Hierarchy	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To consider the emerging LTP (Local Transport Plan) 4 and related issues	

TBC	Local Highway Panels (LHPs)	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To review issues in relation to LHPs (as raised at the October 2023 meeting including membership)	
TBC – 6 month after adoption	EV and Charging Point Strategy	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To review progress on the new EV and Charging Point Strategy (6 months after adoption) and review work on employee fleet transition to EVs	
TBC	LED Streetlight Rollout	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update on the LED streetlight programme	
TBC	Climate Change	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To receive an update on Climate Change activity	Cross-committee issue – extend invite to PSC Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen
TBC	Recycling Booking System Trial	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the issue post Cabinet decision (expected Feb 2024)	

TBC	Emergency Planning / Flooding	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update on the issue following a request at the December 2023 meeting (further scoping work needed)	

Committee Remit

PSEG is responsible for scrutiny of the following areas of Council activity:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety and Crime and Disorder (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers.

Reference Number: PSEG/02/24

Agenda Item 5

Report title: Waste Strategy for Essex	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 22 February 2024	**For:** Discussion
Enquiries to: Sam Kennedy, Director: Environment and Climate Action samantha.kennedy@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee's (PSEG) remit includes scrutiny of Waste and Recycling plus related areas such as Climate Change.

In July 2023, committee members received a briefing on Waste Strategy. This gave an update on the approach, progress, and timeline for the launch of the public consultation on the draft strategy and sought feedback on the proposed consultation approach.

The public consultation ran from 13 September to 22 November 2023. The presentation (**Appendix 1)** updates members on the consultation responses, draft strategy and proposed next steps.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the presentation and identify any further scrutiny activity. It is an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Council's activity in this area.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Peter Schwier Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling

Sam Kennedy - Director: Environment & Climate Action

Jason Searles - Head of Waste Policy and Circular Economy

Katy Chambers – Circular Economy Development Manager

3. Appendix

Presentation: Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054

Essex Waste Partnership

WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054

PLACE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

February 2024

Emerging consultation outputs, consideration and adoption approach

RETHINKING OUR WASTE

Purpose of today

1 **Overview of the consultation process**

2 **Emerging consultation insights**

3 **Consultation consideration**

4 **Next steps**

Overview

New strategy to refresh the current waste strategy that Essex adopted in 2009. Times and technology have changed, and so must we

Sets a framework for the delivery of waste management across Essex

By working together we can reduce waste, protect the environment and save resources

Developed collaboratively between Members and Officers as part of the Essex Waste Partnership, with external technical support

Public consultation delivered from 13 September to 22 November 2023

RETHINKING
OUR WASTE

The draft strategy – in summary

A zero waste vision statement

Prioritising moving to a Circular Economy and delivering the Waste Hierarchy

Focus on prevention, reuse and recycling

Proposing recovery of materials and energy

Aligning with national targets and setting stretching ambitions

Education, engagement and progress reporting

The consultation process

The consultation was open from 13 September to 22 November 2023.

Documents were available in every Essex CC library where there are free to access computer to complete the survey

Read the documents and complete the survey online at essex.gov.uk/wastestrategy

Alternative formats and help filling out the survey was provided through the ECC Contact Centre

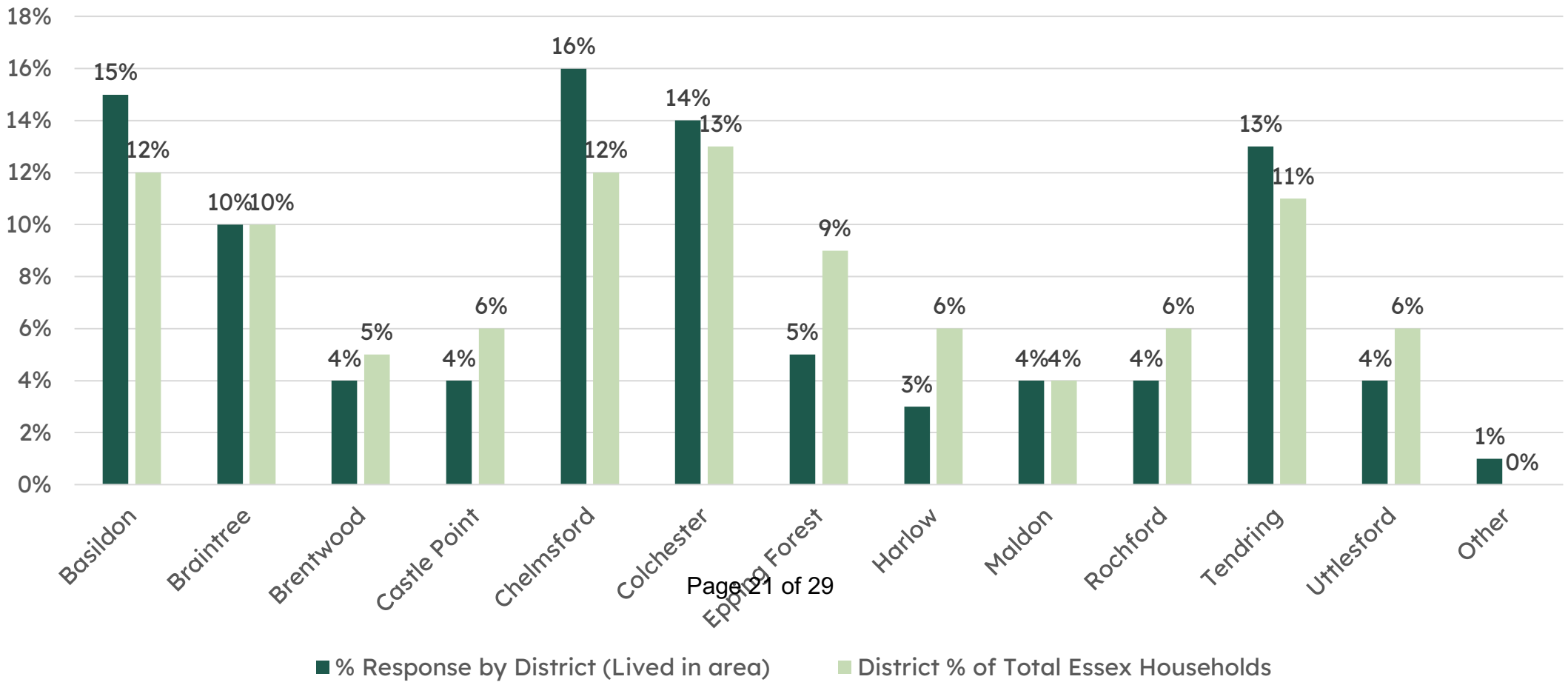
Dynamic communications were deployed across range of channels and responding to consultation response trends. Programme of events delivered for residents, parish and town councils and interested groups

External quality assurance completed on the consultation prior to and throughout consultation

Consultation Response

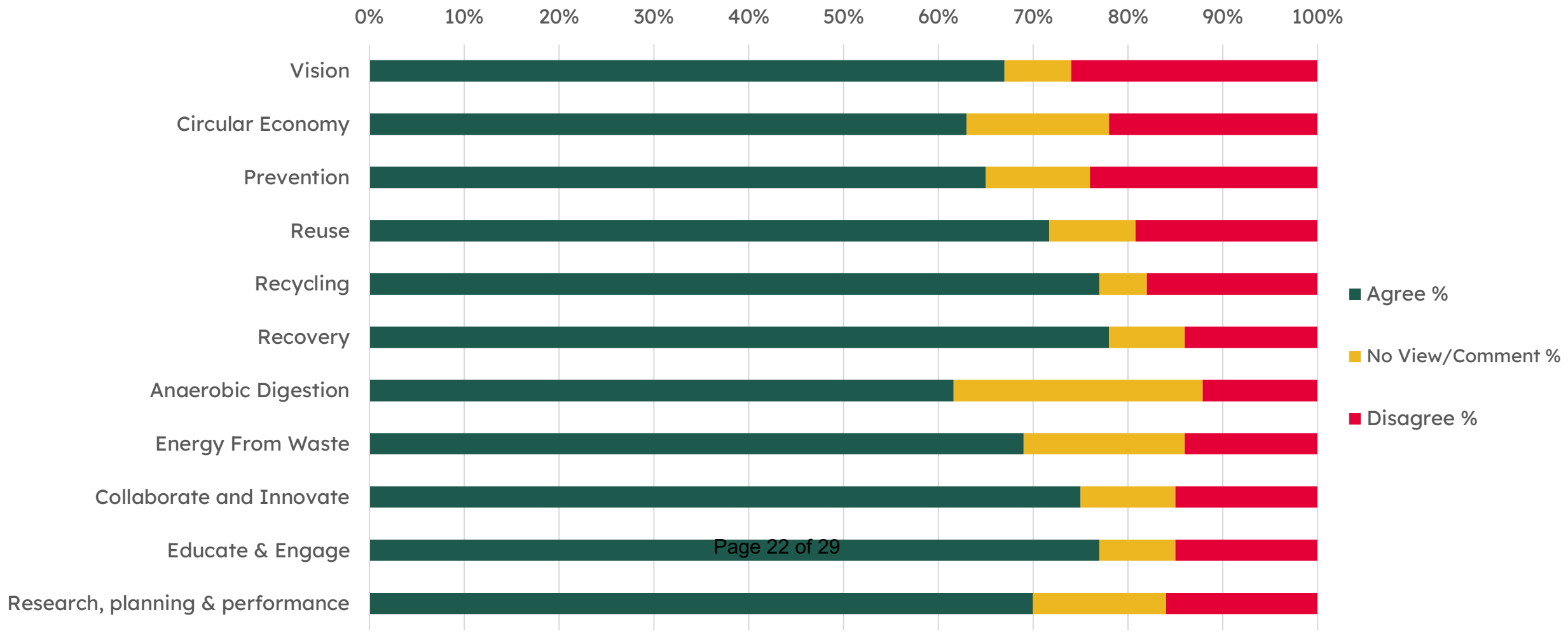
Consultation completed with 4545 responses

Good representation from across the county. Slight over representation from Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Tendring. Under representation from Harlow and Epping Forest



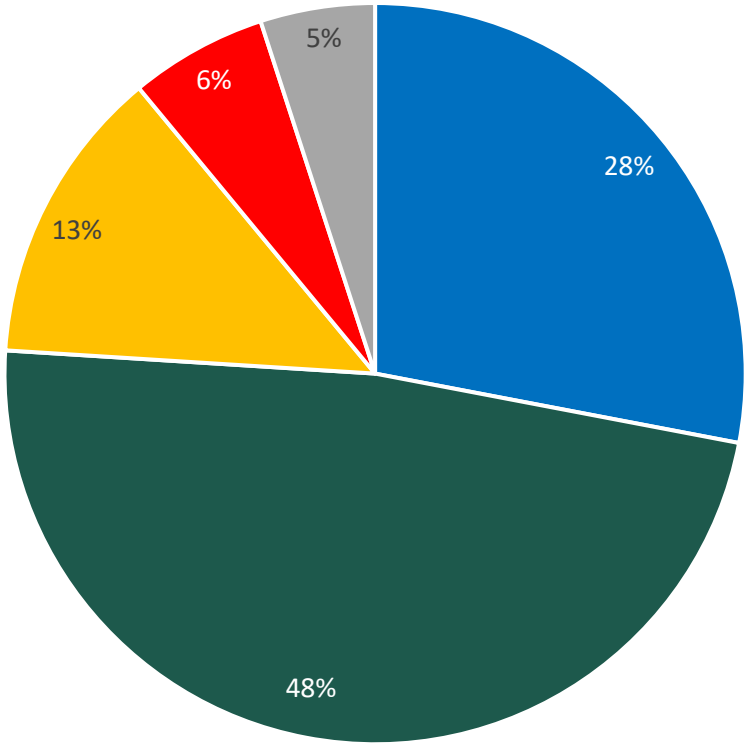
Key principles

These slides show quantitative data only, further insight will be drawn from qualitative outputs.
This slide shows the level of agreement with each key principle of the draft strategy. Levels of agreement are broadly similar across the 12 district, borough and city areas.



Targets & Ambitions

Around half of respondents felt that the targets and ambitions are about right. A further 28% of respondents would prefer more ambitious targets and ambitions.



- Prefer more ambitious targets
- About right
- Prefer less ambitious targets
- Prefer no targets
- Not sure

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Waste reduction

We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042.

We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.

We aspire that Essex will be a zero waste county by 2055.

Recycling

We will reuse, recycle, or compost 65% of waste by 2035.

We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030.

Waste disposal

We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035.

We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

Collection Services

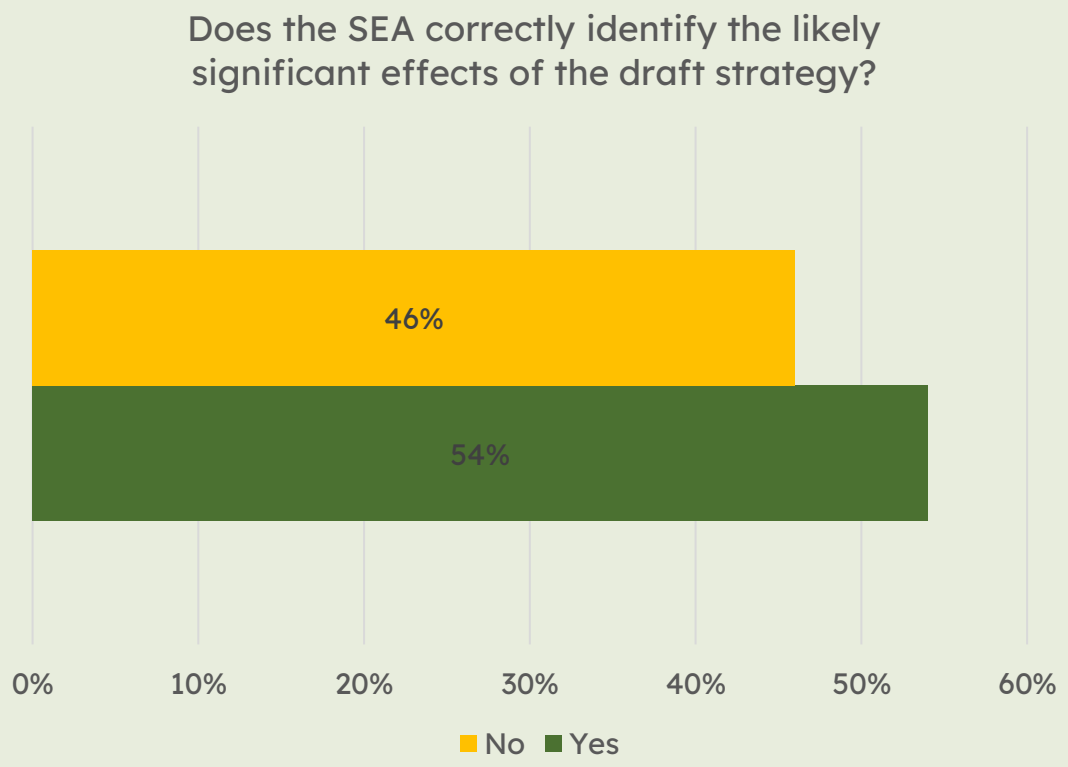
We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026.

We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste, by 2026.

The EWP will create plans, publish our progress and regularly review this strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose. The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 275 responses on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report
- A significant number of responses received from Basildon (70 responses), Braintree (32 responses) and Tendring (41).
- Statutory respondents indicate that the draft SEA is broadly acceptable
- Respondents are divided on whether the SEA is correctly identifying the likely significant effects of the draft strategy (Yes 54% / No 46%).
- Further exploration is needed on these results and the related comments from respondents



Emerging Insights

- Good level of agreement observed from all localities on key proposals.
- Agreement with the proposal to use Energy from Waste is high, but siting and environmental impact are areas of concern
- Reducing the use of landfill had high support
- Affordability of the strategy and the impact on council tax remain important to respondents
- The vision of a zero-waste county was misunderstood by many respondents
- A significant minority of respondents were unsure about Anaerobic Digestion
- Respondents want manufactures and retailers to take greater responsibility, and easy to use recycling services
- There was strong agreement to the principle of councils working in collaboration

Consultation consideration

- Consultation response independently analysed and draft report published
- Essex Waste Partnership councils working together to review and consider the consultation response bringing together quantitative and qualitative feedback
- Identify and draft amendments required to the strategy and supporting documents
- Amendments proposed to partnership members advisory board for consideration
- Adoption decisions on a final version of the strategy taken by each partnership member authority individually

Partnership Adoption Approach

Proposing Summer 24 adoption

Proposing member authorities aligning adoption decisions

Support package to be developed:

- **Briefing or presentation pack**
- **Example cabinet paper**
- **Attendance at decision making forums**

Timeline

Dec'23

Carry out consultation analysis

Commence consultation consideration

EWP Member Board share emerging consultation findings

Jan'24

Finalise consultation analysis

Focus on consultation consideration

Feb'24

ECC Scrutiny Committee

Publish draft consultation report

Focus on strategy document amendments

EWP Member Board consultation report and consideration updates

Mar'24

Finalise updated strategy documents

EWP Member Board review and endorse updated strategy

Apr'24

Updated Strategy complete

Finalise governance documents for use across the partnership

May24

ECC forward plan entry published

June'24

EWP forward plan entries published

25 June ECC Cabinet Decision

July'24

Partnership Adoption starts

Pre-election period

Discussion Points

Is there any further consultation information required by the committee?

When would committee next like to receive an update on the progress of the strategy work?

How does the committee want to be engaged during action planning?