

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Public Waste  
Consultation  
**21 January -  
18 March 2021**

# Don't let your future go to waste

## Play **your** part

Find out more: <https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>



Cheshire West  
and Chester

## What this consultation is about

We would like to hear your views on our proposed waste strategy, which will shape how the Council delivers waste services over the next 10 years.

Our current waste strategy was developed in 2002. We are preparing a new strategy to ensure that our vision and priorities; **to recycle more, waste less and deliver efficient services**, reflect the needs of our communities. This should also be aligned to emerging national plans and policies, as well as helping to address our climate emergency.

The new strategy will also help the Council ensure that the waste collection and, recycling services are managed in a cost-effective way in order to address the unprecedented budget challenges faced by the Council.

### The aim of this consultation is to:

- Describe the current waste service in Cheshire West and Chester.
- Share some of the challenges and opportunities we face over the next 10 years.
- Receive feedback on the proposed key priorities for our strategy and the options we are considering in order to achieve our priorities.

Please take time to read the information and complete the related questions in our consultation questionnaire.

## Have your say

The consultation is open from **Thursday, 21 January - Thursday, 18 March.**

You can share your views by completing our online survey: **<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/waste-strategy-consultation>**

You can also request a paper version or an easy read version of the consultation document and questionnaire by calling **0300 123 7026** quoting 'waste consultation'

**Comments can also be sent to us via the following methods:**

Email your views to: **WasteConsultationResidents@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**

### What happens next?

We will carefully consider all feedback received. The results will be published on our website ahead of bringing a recommended waste strategy for final approval by the Council in July 2021.

## Current Waste Management Services in west Cheshire

- **Household waste** is currently collected by the Council owned company Cheshire West Recycling (or CWR).
  - All recycling, including food waste, is collected weekly. Black and green bins are collected every two weeks.
  - The kerbside service caters for residents in certain types of properties with space restrictions, such as flats or apartments.
  - This service currently costs the Council around **£12.8 million each year**.



- There are seven **recycling centres** in Cheshire West, which are managed in partnership with HW Martin:
  - Three large sites in Chester, Ellesmere Port and Winsford are open seven days a week.
  - The four smaller sites in Frodsham, Neston, Northwich and Tattenhall are open five days a week.
  - Each site receives and recycles a wide range of materials from cans to TVs.
  - Chester, Ellesmere Port, Neston, Northwich and Winsford also have reuse shops. Residents can drop off unwanted items and pick up a bargain as well as contributing to our climate emergency by minimising waste.
  - This service costs the Council around **£2.5 million each year**.
- We offer a chargeable **'bulky waste' collection service** to households for large items such as white goods and furniture. Collections can be arranged from your home for a small fee. All items are reused wherever possible.



- **Processing of non-recycled household waste** is managed by a company called FCC Environment in Ellesmere Port. Any metals are extracted and sent for recycling then the rest of the waste is sent to an 'energy from waste' plant where it is turned into fuel to generate electricity. This process helps to ensure that we send minimal waste to landfill.
- This service costs around **£7.1 million per annum**. However, this figure often rises each year due to an annual increase in the number of homes in Cheshire West and Chester and an increasing amount of overall waste being produced by us all. **Unless waste is reduced or recycled these processing costs will continue to rise.**



- In order to reduce the overall waste generated in Cheshire West and Chester and to encourage recycling of waste that is produced we deliver a range of **education and awareness activities**. We work with schools, community groups and individuals to deliver behavioural change campaigns throughout the borough.



## Challenges and opportunities

### Recycling rates and costs of processing non-recycled household waste

- Over the past 10 years, Cheshire West and Chester residents have made significant improvements in rates of recycling. In 2019-20 our overall recycling rate was just over 56 per cent - this is a vast improvement on a rate of 48 per cent in 2010-11.
- However, we still have a long way to go, with the Council required to pay to process the remaining 44 per cent (69,000 tonnes) of waste. This processing also has an environmental impact. If we do not reduce our waste and increase recycling, the Council will face annual rising costs and we will not be in a position to address our climate emergency.
- Material Income** – Material collected for recycling is sold and the money received helps to reduce the overall cost of running the service. There have been significant impacts upon material income in the past 10 years due to a global slowdown in the value of recyclable materials. This means that there is decreasing funding available to be reinvested into our waste services.

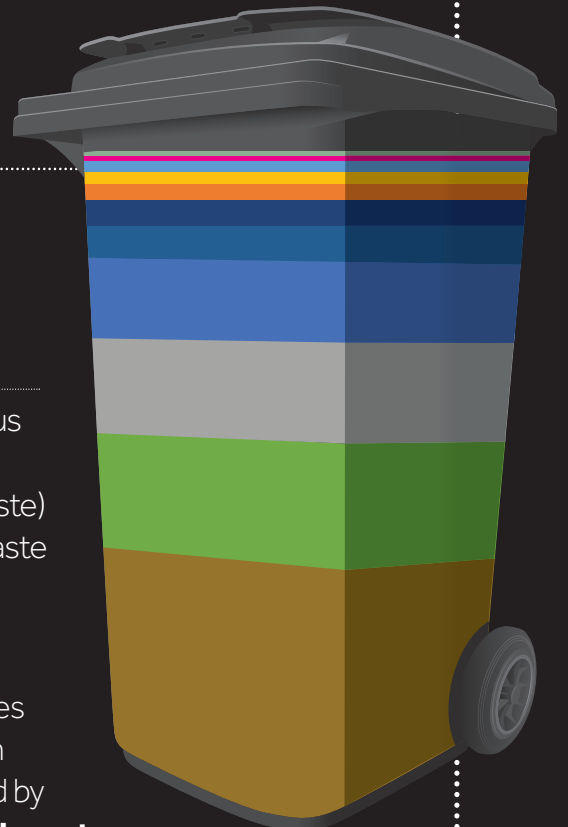
### What's in your black bin

The kerbside collection service collects all of our recyclable waste from every home in west Cheshire every week. A recent report has shown that **74% of the waste collected in the black bins** around west Cheshire could have been recycled.

Only a small number of items should be put in your black bin. Everything else can be recycled or taken to your Household Waste Recycling Centre.

### What are people most likely to put in their black bins

Could be recycled	Not recycled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> <b>27.4%</b> Food and garden waste</li> <li><span style="color: #A9A9A9;">■</span> <b>14.1%</b> Plastics</li> <li><span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> <b>13.2%</b> Paper</li> <li><span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> <b>7.4%</b> Textiles and shoes</li> <li><span style="color: #FF8C00;">■</span> <b>4.2%</b> Card</li> <li><span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span> <b>4.0%</b> Glass</li> <li><span style="color: #6495ED;">■</span> <b>2.7%</b> Metals</li> <li><span style="color: #FF00FF;">■</span> <b>1.1%</b> Electrical items</li> </ul> <p><b>Total: 74.1%</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: #3CB371;">■</span> <b>16.3%</b> Miscellaneous</li> <li><span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> <b>9.2%</b> Fines (small pieces of waste) and other waste</li> <li><span style="color: #3CB371;">■</span> <b>0.4%</b> Hazardous</li> </ul> <p><b>Total: 25.9%</b></p> <p>By making small changes west Cheshire black bin waste could be reduced by <b>74%</b> and a <b>60% recycling rate could be achieved.</b></p>





## Our Collection Service

- Since the last review of the collection service in 2012 there has been an increase of approximately 13,000 households in Cheshire West and Chester. This number continues to grow annually. There is a need to review our collection routes to ensure the best use of vehicles, staff resources and fuel consumption.
- 45% of residents have told us in a recent survey that their black bin was full on collection day, with 20 per cent confirming their bin was only half full after two weeks.

This highlights the need to review our kerbside waste collection service to ensure it is as efficient as possible, meeting the needs of our residents and minimising the impact on our environment, particularly around carbon emissions from our vehicles. We also have ageing waste collection vehicles, with many of them reaching the end of their useful life and becoming inefficient.

## Food Waste

- Globally, food production is responsible for 30 per cent of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, an estimated one-third of all the food produced in the world goes to waste. The \*Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has calculated that on average, the equivalent of four tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided for every tonne of food waste prevented.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council has ensured that the kerbside food recycling service is as easy as possible. Residents can use any type of plastic bag, newspaper or liner to recycle their food waste.
- It is important that we continue to work together to be smart about planning and buying food and to recycle leftover food rather than putting it in the black bin with non-recyclable waste.

\* WRAP works with governments, businesses and communities to deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency.

## Garden waste collections

- Due to increased financial pressures, the Council must make some tough decisions. The Council is considering various options including charging for collecting garden waste.
- Other local authorities already do this, and it gives people the choice whether to use it or not. This way, only those that wish to use the service would pay for it. Currently, all households in Cheshire West contribute to this service via their council tax, even if they don't have a garden.
- The Council's recycling centres would still be available for residents to recycle their garden waste free of charge.

## Our Recycling Centre Arrangement

- Our recycling centre contract with HW Martin will end in 2023. Before this a review will need to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate long-term arrangement for this service.

## National Waste Management Plans and Policies

- The Council must ensure that all waste collection and management services are aligned to national policies, plans and strategies. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has just consulted on a new waste management plan for England. Although the consultation findings are not yet published this plan will set out ambitious targets to ensure we are the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.
- The National Resources and Waste Strategy was published by the Government in 2018 and sets out measures to help to achieve this ambition including to;
  - Work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.
  - Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030.
  - Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan.
  - Double resource productivity by 2050.
  - Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

## Our proposed priorities

In order to maximise opportunities and address the significant challenges faced we propose the following three key priorities for our waste strategy:

- **Reduce overall waste.**
- **Maximise recycling.**
- **Deliver an efficient and cost-effective waste collection, recycling and processing service.**

Underpinning all of these priorities is the need to tackle our climate emergency and protect our environment.

## Proposals to deliver our priorities

### Reduce Overall Waste proposals

We want to work with residents to understand how we can all reduce the amount of waste that is generated in west Cheshire:

- Using a new communication and engagement plan we will continue to promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling to residents
- We will continue to work towards eliminating avoidable waste, including our pledge around becoming a single-use plastic free borough.

### Maximise Recycling proposals

- We will continue to promote and raise awareness of the importance of recycling, including awareness of what can be recycled, and what happens to non-recycled waste, impacts of this on the environment and the cost.
- In order to meet our priorities, we have explored possible changes to the kerbside collection service to make recycling as easy and convenient as possible for residents. Two options are being considered for this.
- We will explore 'on the go' recycling - allowing opportunities to recycle when away from home.



### **Proposals to deliver an efficient and cost-effective waste collection, recycling and processing service;**

- We will work to maximise financial value from the recyclable waste collected to reinvest into the overall waste service - providing the best value for the Council taxpayer
- We will ensure that any changes to the kerbside waste collection service will include "route optimisation" - this ensures efficiency through best use of vehicles, staff resources and fuel consumption
- We will review our container management policy - this will support residents with broken or missing bins while minimising costs and environmental impacts related to replacement
- We will continue to minimise waste sent to landfill through 'energy from waste'
- We will continue to use anaerobic digestion\* for food waste.
- We will explore expanded use of compactor bins in rural areas to reduce frequency of emptying
- We will explore charging for some types of waste (such as soil, rubble and hardcore from building work) at recycling centres to cover the increasing costs of disposal / processing
- We will explore charging for our garden waste collection service to help address our significant budget challenge, encourage home composting and reduce carbon emissions
- We will review our recycling centre arrangements ahead of the end of our contract in 2023.
- We will review our trade waste site to ensure that this is fit for purpose and cost effective

\* Your food waste is taken to a special processing plant where it is transformed into fertiliser and electricity – this process is called Anaerobic Digestion.

### Detailed Options for Kerbside Waste Collection Service

We have looked at a number of different options for how the deal with household waste in the future. **Each of the options identified has been assessed against the following criteria:**

- Impacts on residents including ease of use
- Cost
- Environmental impacts
- Service flexibility - ensuring we can adapt to changes in technology, the economy and meet our climate change ambitions.

The two options we are considering are as follows.

#### Option A

- Household waste collected every two weeks using a 180 litre bin
- Recycling waste collected every two weeks using two bins. One bin for paper and card, one bin for other recyclables
- Garden waste collected every two weeks using a 240 litre bin (this could be collected on either week 1 or week 2)
- Food waste collected every week using a bin.

**Week 1** - Food waste and household waste

**Week 2** - Food waste and recycling

#### Option B

- Household waste collected every three weeks using a 240 litre bin
- Recycling waste collected every three weeks using two bins. One bin for paper and card, one bin for other recyclables.
- Garden waste collected every three weeks using a 240 litre bin ( this could be collected on week 1, 2 or 3)
- Food waste collected every week using a bin.

**Week 1** - Food waste and household waste

**Week 2** - Food waste and recycling bin A

**Week 3** - Food waste and recycling bin B

# Current Kerbside collection service: weekly recycling, two weekly garden and residual waste collections

Waste type	Frequency
Household waste	2 weekly
Container	180 Litre bin



Waste type	Frequency
Recycling	Weekly kerbside
Container	2 x boxes



Waste type	Frequency
Garden	2 weekly
Container	240 Litre bin



Waste type	Frequency
Food	Weekly co-collect
Container	Food bin



## Future options

### What is the difference between Option A and Option B?

Garden recycling and waste will be collected every three weeks in **Option B** compared to every two weeks in **Option A**.

Of the two options, **Option A** will require more vehicles, therefore have increased carbon emissions and cost more to deliver.

**Option B** will require fewer vehicles, reducing our carbon emissions and cost less to deliver.

**Option B** would achieve a higher recycling rate compared to **Option A**.

For **Option B**, you would have a bigger household waste wheeled bin.

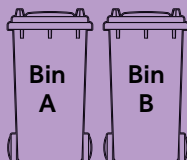
Note that both **Option A** and **Option B** save money and emissions compared to the current scheme. **Option B** would also achieve a higher recycling rate compared to the current scheme.

### Option A

Waste type	Frequency
Household waste	2 weekly
Container	180 Litre wheeled bin



Waste type	Frequency
Recycling	2 weekly
Container	2 x wheeled bin



Waste type	Frequency
Garden	2 weekly
Container	240 Litre wheeled bin

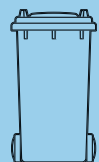


Waste type	Frequency
Food	Weekly
Container	Food bin

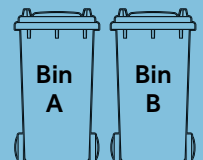


### Option B

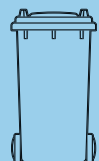
Waste type	Frequency
Household waste	3 weekly
Container	240 Litre wheeled bin



Waste type	Frequency
Recycling	3 weekly
Container	2 x wheeled bin



Waste type	Frequency
Garden	3 weekly
Container	240 Litre wheeled bin



Waste type	Frequency
Food	Weekly
Container	Food bin



**Thank you for taking part in this consultation.**

#### **Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services**

Council information is also available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like information in another format or language, including British Sign Language, please email us at:

**[equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)**

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**email:** [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**web:** [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)