

**Waste Strategy  
Public Consultation  
February/ March 2012**

**Analysis Report**

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## **Waste Strategy Consultation Public Consultation February/ March 2012**

### **1 Background**

In December 2011 Cabinet gave permission to consult on the review of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The strategy was reviewed in light of:

- The council's priorities and the city's One Planet Framework
- The Government's national review of waste policy published in June 2011
- Proposed changes to waste legislation including the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)
- Proposed EU recycling targets for the UK which may have implications for local authorities.
- The findings of research into options for dealing with food waste.

The scope of the consultation of this review was limited as the original strategy in 2010 was subject to extensive public consultation. Further consultation will be carried out on specific strategy proposals, in particular communal recycling in the city centre and food waste collection.

### **2 Headline Results**

36 responses were received, 35 through the council's consultation portal and 1 by mail. It is difficult to make firm conclusions from the small number of responses which was expected in response to a strategy document.

Responses are given for each question combined with an analysis of respondents' comments about various issues.

### **3 Methodology**

A survey was designed to ask people how they feel about an update to the council's waste management strategy document which was published in 2010.

The survey was loaded onto the Brighton & Hove City Councils' Consultation Portal and advertised on the council's website and through City News which currently reaches most households in the city. Postcards advertising the consultation were also placed in public buildings throughout the city.

### **4 Full Results**

After listing strategy objectives, respondents were asked a series of questions:

#### **Q Do you think these objectives are relevant?**

Eighteen people answered this question and most of these 9(6) thought the objectives were relevant. Respondents were then asked

**Q Are there any objectives that should be removed, changed or updated?**

Comments were made as follows:

**Compliance** should be encouraged, eg only putting out waste in acceptable forms. This respondent did not think that the “Oops” tape ensured compliance.

**Education:** two respondents felt that it was important to educate about waste reduction, for example returning packaging and the reasons why waste reduction is important – less energy used and emissions produced and the prevention of virgin resource depletion, more recycling education in schools..

*“I have spoken with local teachers and there is virtually nothing done about recycling in schools. It was better when I was at school in the 1970s! We will never change people’s attitudes to waste and recycling unless we start educating people from a young age that reusing and recycling is the norm, not landfill which should be seen as an embarrassing absolutely last resort.”*

**Food waste:** three respondents showed concerns that there should be more emphasis on food waste:

*“There should be more emphasis on domestic food waste, as this is by far the largest problem, the 'easiest' to understand and possibly the easiest to resolve.”*

One of these respondents congratulated the council on introducing a food waste trial.

Targets for the waste strategy were set out in a table for:

- Recycling and composting
- Energy recovery
- Landfill
- Kg household waste per household
- Kg residual waste per household

Respondents were then asked:

**Q Do you think these recycling and composting targets are:**

Thirteen people answered this question, 6 of these thought the target too high and 5 about right.

**Q Do you think the targets for reducing the total amount of waste produced per household are:**

Twelve people answered this question, this time only 1 thought the target too high and most people (10) thought it was about right.

The policies in the Waste Strategy were then described and questions asked about each of the six policies, together with some questions about composting and food waste (under Policy 5):

### **Policy 1 – Service quality and engagement with residents, businesses & communities**

**Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions to further improve service quality and engagement with residents, businesses and communities?**

Fifteen people answered this question, most of these (12), either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the Policy.

### **Policy 2 – Waste minimisation and prevention**

**Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions to further improve waste minimisations and prevention?**

Seventeen people answered this question, most of these (13), either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the Policy.

### **Policy 3 – Increasing re-use**

**Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions to further increase re-use?**

Seventeen people answered this question, most of these (12), either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the Policy.

### **Policy 4 – Increasing recycling rates**

**Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions to further increase recycling?**

Twenty-two people answered this question, most of these (17), either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the Policy.

### **Policy 5 – Increasing composting rates**

**Q Does your property have access to outside space (including a patio or balcony)?**

Twenty-two people answered this question, most of these (20), have access to outside space.

**Q Do you currently compost any of your food waste at home?**

Twenty-two people answered this question, half compost and half don't.

**Q If a separate food waste collection service was introduced along side refuse collection, would you be prepared to separate your food waste from your other household waste?**

Most respondents (18 out of 22) would compost under certain circumstances. And people were then asked what would those circumstances be? Three people said they would just do it! Common themes raised were:

**Vermin:** three people mentioned their concerns that any scheme must take “*strict consideration ... of how to implement without encouraging vermin/ seagulls*”

**Sanitisation and storage in the home:** Clean containers for the kitchen were mentioned four times which can be summarised in the following:

*“If we are provided with a robust, identifiable, easy to clean container for food waste in the kitchen, with a supply of compostable bags”*

**Frequency of collection:** One respondent mentioned that a weekly collection is essential because Brighton gardens are too small for compost heaps.

**Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions to further increase composting?**

Twenty-one people answered this question, most of these (14), either strongly agreed or tended to agree with this policy. Respondents were then asked a series of questions about composting.

**Q Do you have a garden?**

**Q If yes, how do you currently dispose of your garden waste?**

Thirteen respondents have a garden, 1 composts at home and 1 at the local tip.

**Q Are you aware that you can buy subsidised compost bins from the council?**

Twenty-one people answered this: fifteen have a compost bin (71%), of these 7 bought theirs from the council

**Policy 6 – Waste from business and other organisations**

**Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the actions to collect waste from business and other organisations?**

Fourteen people answered this and most (10) either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the policy objective.

The final question asked:

**Q Do you have any further comments about the waste strategy?**

Responses have been themed as follows:

## **Recycling**

There are uncertainties about what and how to recycle:

*“In our household we are uncertain about juice cartons - are they recyclable as Cardboard”*

*“There is no clear information around what can be recycled and in the past when I have left in my recycling box for collection, some items have not been taken.”*

There are also issues with management of recycling in the home:

*“We already have three bins within the kitchen: one for material for the allotment compost heap, one for re-cycling and one for waste to be taken to the bin at the end of the road - but having all this within the house is not by any means convenient nor manageable. Making processes as simple as possible to organise would be of greater use than instruction or preaching - especially for a Council whose own waste production is phenomenal”*

*“Our main concern is with the local (in house or kitchen) storage and management of recyclable materials and kitchen waste. Participating homes should be provided with one or two council-branded, hygienic and easy to use 'hoppers' for all categories of recyclable materials - glass, kitchen waste and everything else”*

And the range of recyclables collected:

*“Recycling should be increased to include more plastics options, even if BHCC remained at collecting only plastics 1&2 (which is very limited in comparison to other councils) this should include all packaging materials, not just bottles. Focus should be placed on increasing recycling of a broader range of materials, although being mindful of materials that are very energy intensive to recycle (for example tetra packs”*

And one respondent felt that there should be:

*“more fines for people who don't recycle AND/OR more rewards for those of us who do would be good”*

## **Composting**

Five respondents have made comments about composting including a lack of education and awareness of what can be composted.

*"In our household .... Composting is something we know little about and we don't want to encourage rats or foxes. Maybe there could be an "education" programme published for the ignorant!?"*

The difficulties of composting are discussed, for both residential users...

*"While I see your point about free garden waste collections detracting from composting there are some things that do not compost easily - woody shrubs, tree prunings - and some things that take more specialist knowledge to compost properly - pernicious weeds. I do not run a car and I throw out less than a carrier bag of rubbish a week - most of which is generated by my cat! I compost all vegetable matter and have three compost bins. BUT I would really appreciate a garden waste collection twice a year. At the moment I persuade my (elderly) mother to drive me to the tip when it piles up as, with the best will in the world, I cannot deal with it all at home. Please reconsider the garden waste collection."*

*".....the idea of having a home composting bin to service a window box or even a balcony shows a sad disregard for and ignorance of the home circumstances of large numbers of town residents"*

....and from someone who works in a school:

*"I work at a local primary school, which provides fruit for the children to eat at break. Unfortunately, some is thrown away on Monday morning as it has either gone past its use-by date or looks sad after being stored in a stuffy classroom at the weekend. I would like to see this waste reduced and school dinner waste collected for compost."*

## **Food Waste**

Two people wrote about food waste, both stressing that central city properties be targeted:

*"I support a strong focus on Food Waste. I live in the city centre in a one bedroom flat and food waste collections would be difficult. That's not to say I would not support food waste collections, but alternative arrangements without using a smelly kitchen caddy would need to be found for me to really participate in the scheme. Equally important is to encourage responsible and sustainable use of food. Too much food is imported or wasted at cost to the environment and economy. The main point of food waste collections is not the food that is collected, but to show how much food is wasted unnecessarily, and ultimately saves the money in our wallets! Please don't forget to target central Brighton-Hove areas for food waste collections"*

*"Food waste collections should be trialled in more densely populated areas also - these are residents that have no access to home composting therefore should be of a higher priority to establish this sort*



*of scheme than people that potentially have access to outside space and home composting already”*

## **Bulky items**

The cost of having bulky items collected was mentioned:

*“If you have large items for disposal, the cost for collection is rather expensive so it is not surprising that people leave items on the street. With salaries frozen, more people unemployed and costs for everything going up, if you need to dispose of an item you have replaced you may struggle to find the extra cost for disposal.”*

## **Education/ promotion**

Three people made suggestions for further promotional work:

*“Litter/recycling bins between local shops and schools and messages to parents and regular spots in schools about not littering and disposing of rubbish thoughtfully”.*

*“While I would not wish to see it becoming an officious exercise where as was in the press recently someone was charged for littering after some thread fell out of their pocket, it would be good if someone could be employed to go out alongside the collections teams and 'Advise' householders. \* If they leave it on the pavement and it is a hazard. \* If they need some additional capacity as they have a large family. \* If they have large items in their garden as they do not have the funds to pay for removal. \* If they are confused about what can and can not be recycled. If it was presented in an appropriate manner it could be seen as a plus and improve recycling and reduce littering”.*

*“A campaign starting with Council buildings, reminding smokers that cigarette ends are rubbish and that they should put in a suitable bin and not litter. Here it would be good to after a warning and advice period start to issue fines. Recently the front of Hove Town Hall looked terrible.*

Whilst one person criticised a recent campaign:

*The use of 'Oops' tape to draw attention to improper put-outs is too weak*

## **Business waste**

Three people wrote about business waste:

*“I believe we could concentrate more on businesses' waste as, just walking around the city, this seems considerable”*

*“Perhaps the Council should play a lead in this by reducing the amount of printed waste they produce, to avoid the unnecessary scrapping of letter*

*heads, printed slips and general waste paperwork. The Council is a serious producer of waste material in the city - it should "put it's own house in order" first"*

*"If the Council controlled business waste it could be a revenue stream and would allow the Council greater control of the amount and types of waste being produced and what was done with this waste, that it was properly controlled etc."*

## **Alternative Ideas**

One of the aims of this strategy consultation, was to find out if respondents had any other suggestions, four people commented about alternatives including two suggestions for communities getting more involved:

*"alternative systems such as community composting/information packs on responsible food use."*

*"Perhaps we can use some funding (big society stuff probably) to set up teams who will follow recycling teams, ring bells and do a sort-out and repackage for the householder, before handing over summary leaflet on 'how to do it'. I heard that there is a website video on proper recycling process - leaflets pointing to it might help. I am also keen to see local neighbourly kitchen waste hand-overs, supported by relevant bit of city administration. Perhaps getting a handful of folk to accept compostable waste from neighbours without space to compost - or the inclination - would help build a sense of community and create more material for those who have gardens and allotments."*

*"Have you thought about bulk rubbish pickups? These are for large items only and would happen once or twice a year in each area. Advantages: With a bit of luck and good publicity most of the 'rubbish' will have gone by morning as re-users (formerly scavengers) go round and collect what they can re-use. It reduces the amount of vehicle traffic going to the 'tip'"*

One of the alternative ideas suggests:

*"The Council has the potential to compost at much higher temperatures and could look into harvesting the heat energy from a central composting facility."*

## Demographic Information

Gender	No.	%
Male	16	53
Female	14	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>
No reply/ prefer not to say	6	

Age	No.	%
U18	0	0
18-24	2	6.5
25-34	8	26
35-44	4	13
45-54	10	32
55-64	5	16
65-74	2	6.5
75+	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>
No reply/ prefer not to say	5	

Disability	No.	%
Yes	4	14
No	24	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>
No reply/ prefer not to say	8	

Sexual Orientation	No.	%
Heterosexual	26	87
Bisexual	0	0
Gay	2	6.5
Lesbian	2	6.5
Other	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>
No reply/ prefer not to say	6	

Ethnicity		No.	%
<b>White</b>	English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	27	96.5
	Irish	1	3.5
	Gypsy	0	0
	Traveller	0	0
	Polish	0	0
	Portuguese	0	0
	Any other white background	0	0
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	Bangladeshi	0	0
	Indian	0	0
	Pakistani	0	0
	Chinese	0	0
	Any other Asian background	0	0

<b>Black or Black British</b>	African	0	0
	Caribbean	0	0
	Sudanese	0	0
	Any other black background	0	0
<b>Mixed</b>	Asian & White	0	0
	Asian & Black African	0	0
	Asian & Black Caribbean	0	0
	White & Black African	0	0
	White & Black Caribbean	0	0
	Any other mixed background	0	0
<b>Other ethnic group</b>	Turkish	0	0
	Arab	0	0
	Japanese	0	0
	Other ethnic group	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>
No reply/ prefer not to say		8	

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