

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Climate Emergency & Sustainability Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	14 November 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		Not applicable
TITLE:	Waste Services Update	
WARD:	Multiple	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Climate Emergency & Sustainability Scrutiny Panel is asked to;

- 1.1 Note the update to the Panel on the Waste Services programme.

2 THE REPORT

2.1 This report provides updates on the:

- (1) Completion of the Pixash construction project and update on current activity
- (2) Update on of a programme of workstreams for the relocation of operational staff which includes a cultural change programme
- (3) Waste strategy update.
- (4) Bath recycling centre relocation project

2.2 Pixash, Keynsham Recycling Hub

- i) Waste Update
 - a. Key milestones were realised in 2024 by relocating all waste and recycling collection services which are now co located at Keynsham Recycling Hub as of Jan 2024. Both Ashmead Rd and Midland Rd are now closed apart from the Bath recycling centre which remains open.
 - b. Refuse and garden waste is now hauled to disposal by artics, taking 4x RORO trucks off the road, and more than halving vehicle movements.
 - c. We are expanding our commercial waste and recycling offering, taking advantage of capacity at the new site. We have brought in some new business processing some recycling from Bristol waste company and garden waste from Glendales. New disposal contracts for waste are currently being procured to enable more commercial waste to be handled.

- d. We have had initial discussions with South Gloucestershire Council about potential to process some of their kerbside plastic and cans recycling material which will be put out to tender ready for commencement late 2025

ii) Fleet

- a. The Midland Rd, Locksbrook and Keynsham workshops are now merged on one site. Public MOTs and repairs are doing well, with capacity to increase further.
- b. The authorised HGV MOT test facility opened in July, (This has got off to a slower start than expected due to problems with availability of DVSA examiners). We are now doing our own internal tacho, HGV MOT and brake testing which offsets circa £50k of costs.
- c. There is now an HGV MOT standard vehicle wash, open to external customers, offsets costs for our own MOTS
- d. Marketing drive to increase fleet business/ awareness of new facility
- e. Winter gritting for Highways is about to commence for first time from the depot this autumn and we are servicing the gritters now at the new depot.

iii) Climate emergency - Fleet transition plan.

- a. There has been ongoing incremental electrification of the fleet, including small panel vans, small pedestrian and mini sweepers, and smaller ancillary vans.
- b. The replacement of the medium sized cleansing cage tipper fleet in 2025 should add to this list. Trials of electric vehicles in Autumn 2024
- c. Once approved, the intention is to electrify some of the large HGV refuse fleet in 2025. Indications are that whole life costs only slightly more expensive than the diesel alternative, in spite of significantly larger up front capital costs. There is also likely to be a higher residual value of end of life trucks in the large 250KWH batteries.

2.2 Relocation of staff and culture change project and other key workstreams

- 1) 200 staff were relocated from the former Midland Road and Ashmead Road depots in January 2024
- 2) There has been ongoing work via the OD programme supported by HR to implement culture change to drive improvements in efficiency, resilience, crew behaviours and customer service.
- 3) Efficiencies have been realised at the new depot by recycling drivers self-tipping their trucks which resulted in the redeployment of 2 posts.
- 4) Collection round efficiencies will be reviewed in 2025 as part of a rebalancing programme due to property growth. Any changes to collection days will be communicated to residents in advance.
- 5) Midland Road public Recycling Centre to stay open, we are planning its operation as a stand-alone facility, Formal break notices will need to be served at leased depots at Ashmead Road and Locksbrook Road, compliance with any lease obligations such as dilapidations and complete vacation with removal of any redundant equipment.

2.3 Waste Strategy

1) Current key workstreams

- a) A City Centre Improvement Programme is in progress with a vision of improving containerisation and storage of waste and recycling by businesses and homes within central Bath. The key objectives being to reduce litter, gull attacks, maximise recycling and ensure compliance with new simpler recycling legislation.

- b) Review of planning guidance with the development team to ensure better consideration is given to recycling and waste storage provision and collection ahead of planned property growth.
- c) Bin store improvement programme with Curo to ensure fit for purpose recycling facilities and appropriate waste containers are in place for residents.
- d) On-going procurement and contract management activity to support service delivery and ensure CSO compliance.

2) Waste reforms

There is a range of upcoming waste legislation changes pending which will impact our services to varying degrees. This includes:

- a) Simpler Recycling Legislation – March 25 – to ensure paper & card, cartons, plastic bottles tubs and trays, metals, glass and food waste recycling collections are consistently collected across the country. This legislation requires all businesses to make arrangements to recycle these core materials by March 2025, and all domestic properties by March 2026. In addition, plastic film recycling is to be introduced by March 2027.
- b) Extended Producer Responsibility – which will see producer and suppliers of waste packaging funding the collection and recycling of its material once discarded. This is due to start in October 2025, with first payments being made in 25/26. At present, local authorities are awaiting the detail behind the mechanism and levels of payments expected.
- c) Digital Waste Tracking – a single mandatory online tracking system being introduced from April 2025 to track movements of waste within the UK.
- d) Deposit Return Scheme – expected in October 2027, this scheme is designed to levy a refundable deposit on packaging at the point of sale to incentivise consumers to bring it back to collection points for recycling.
- e) Emissions Trading Scheme – the inclusion of Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities within this industry cap and trade system from January 2028 which will place a price on carbon emission. This will have a significant financial burden on waste disposal costs.

2.4 Bath Recycling

1. The [planning application 24/03168/REG03](#) was submitted August 2024 for a recycling centre on Locksbrook Rd to replace Midland Rd when this site is redeveloped for market and affordable housing. The statutory consultation period closed on 3 October. There were 168 objections of a very localised nature, 5 supporting and 7 comments.
2. As a result of feedback from statutory consultees and the public a number of improvements have been made to the application:
 - a. The drainage scheme has been altered to run through the middle of the site, the public vehicle entrance has been narrowed and the hardstanding reduced, all to ensure the root protection areas around the mature trees to the north of the site are not impacted
 - b. The double yellow lines have been extended and 'no loading at any time' restrictions added across the full frontage of the site at the request of B&NES Traffic Management Team
 - c. The traffic management arrangements within the site have been improved to reduce reversing and waiting traffic will be queued in a line around the edge of the car park area
 - d. The pedestrian access has been moved to the other side of the public entrance to make it easier to access the bring bank and skips on foot
 - e. An Operational Statement and a Gull Management Plan have been added to the submission
 - f. A Landscape Plan and drawings has been added to clarify the planting schemes and the mitigations for the removal of 2 trees along the river towpath
 - g. The lighting scheme has been altered to reduce vertical lux levels
 - h. A solid balustrade is proposed for the gantry to reduce the risk of noise

3. The revisions require a further 21-day consultation which should close at the end of the month and the application is anticipated to be at Planning Committee on January 15th
4. The Environment Agency permit variation application will be submitted before the end of the year
5. The project also includes full refurbishment of the Locksbrook Rd Transport Depot (former MOT) which will be started before the RC site can be vacated by Cleansing services who are moving to the Transport Depot. The work here will be done in a number of phases ending with the SEND Passenger Transport offices.
6. The PID and Full Business Case should be approved in December, provisional on obtaining planning permission in January
7. Construction is expected to start in late spring with completion by the end of 2025
8. The scheme will be able to deliver an excess of Biodiversity Net Gain and there will also be procurement of Watercourse BNG units from a nearby scheme
9. If possible solar panels will be installed on the welfare unit remaining onsite

Climate Emergency

Keynsham recycling hub has a variety of purpose-built infrastructure and investment in modern baling and sorting equipment for recyclate materials to increase recycling and reuse opportunities for our residents.

i) Climate emergency highlights

- a. 820KWP of solar panels across site building roofs are generating electricity which is used for on-site materials processing as well as supplying the offices and workshops.
- b. We are exploring options for battery storage / exporting surplus, as we currently have some spare generation capacity available in the summer months. It is envisaged that some of this will also be able to be used to supplement the charging of electric vehicles once the HGV fleet is electrified.
- c. The new reuse shop has been running well all year. It has proved very popular and is turning a healthy profit, whilst increasing levels of reuse and reducing materials sent for disposal. There has been partnership working with various local organisations to facilitate its operation.
- d. Rainwater harvesting from site roofs is being used for onsite irrigation of the tree planting and landscape infrastructure.
- e. The Pixash building is heated by air source heat pumps, and the office complex is a far more energy efficient building.

The future replacement of refuse and recycling vehicles to electric powered vehicles is being factored in and infrastructure to future-proof the site has been of key importance. We use specialist route planning software for the refuse, recycling and garden waste rounds to minimise distances travelled, whilst collecting from every household in the district, and to avoid local community impacts wherever possible. The site is on the strategic road network for access to the ring road and motorway for the bulk haulage of waste and recycling to treatment and reprocessing sites in the West of England and across the UK. This will allow us to maximise the highest payload forms of transport, and so reduce carbon emissions for this part of the operation.

Community Engagement:

A visit to Keynsham recycling Hub was organised in September Keynsham Area forum which included various local councillors and interested parties, including some local residents. The visit was well received. There is a parish liaison meeting organised for March 25.

Equality:

As a front-facing service with significant touch points with all residents and households across the district, waste & recycling collections and public reuse and recycling centres have a core focus of equality and accessibility; Equalities Impact Assessments are updated at the time when service changes are planned and implemented. An [EqIA](#) has been published for the proposed Bath RC.

Contact person	Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Environment
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	