

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Director of Environment and Community Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability
Submitted to:	Executive
Date:	30 April 2025
Title:	Scrutiny Review – Waste Management
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	A successful and ambitious town
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Decision(s) will have a significant impact in two or more wards
Subject to call in?:	Yes
Why:	Non-Urgent decision

Executive summary	
<p>The Environment Scrutiny Panel examined Waste Management in Middlesbrough, with a focus on increasing recycling rates within Middlesbrough and ensuring targets are met whilst minimising costs. They also looked at aligning with council priorities of environmental protection and financial sustainability.</p> <p>The report is attached as appendix 1.</p> <p>A service response to the recommendations has been developed in the form of an action plan and this is attached as appendix 2.</p> <p>The key recommendations are outlined in this report for consideration by Executive.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to inform Executive of the scrutiny review into Waste Management and to set out the proposed actions of the service to address the recommendations from the report.</p> <p>Recommendations: are that Executive note the report and approve the actions set out in the action plan.</p>	

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform members of the review undertaken by the Environment Scrutiny Panel into Waste Management which took place on 23rd October 2024.
- 1.2 To set out the services proposed actions to address the recommendations from the report. Executive approval of these actions is requested and is required as it affects more than two wards and requires approval for the outlined financial implications.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Executive

- Notes the report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel into Waste Management within Middlesbrough and the accompanying recommendations; and,
- Approves the action plan prepared by the service in response to the recommendations subject to availability of budgets and funding.
- Approve the appointment of an additional 3 environmental sustainability officers, fixed term for 2 years, funded from Transformation Programme funding from flexible use of capital receipts for a period of up to 2 years.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The implementation for the action plan will be to;
 - a) Align with Middlesbrough Councils net Zero Goals.
 - b) Improve Environmental health by reducing fly tipping and contamination rates which will lower environmental pollution and aiming for a healthier town.
 - c) Sustainable waste practices, transitioning to a circular model to assist with the green strategy and reduce the environmental impact.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 The Environment Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of Waste Management within Middlesbrough, key highlights are set out below:
 - a. National Recycling Rates.
 - England's household recycling rates have plateaued at 42-44% since 2012, below the 50% target for 2020 and the 65% target for 2035.
 - Middlesbrough's recycling rate is approximately 30%, lower than the regional average of 32.3% and far from national goals.
 - b. Waste collections in Middlesbrough.
 - Weekly residual waste collection leads to higher contamination rates (~40%) compared to fortnightly collections practiced by other councils.
 - Middlesbrough sends most waste to the Haverton Hill Energy from Waste plant, minimizing landfill use but at higher costs compared to recycling.

- c. Contamination Issues.
 - Contamination rates in kerbside recycling peaked at 37% in 2022-23, driven by improper waste disposal such as food, textiles, and household waste in recycling bins.
- d. Fortnightly collections for residual waste.
 - Aimed at aligning with best practices and improving recycling rates.
 - Adjustments made for larger households and communal waste areas of Middlesbrough.
- e. Chargeable Garden Waste collections.
 - Implemented at £40 per year with a 47% uptake, generating £915k by August 2024.
- f. Introduction of Bulky waste collection fees.
 - Fee set at £24.50 for up to 5 items to recover costs and reduce the misuse of the free service.
- g. Preparation for Food Waste collections (2026).
 - Middlesbrough has secured £1,075,994 in government funding to introduce mandatory weekly food waste collections.

4.2 Six recommendations were set out in the report with the first recommendation having two sub sections. This is set out in appendix 1 on page 38. Neighbourhood Services have set out proposed actions relating to the recommendations, and they are detailed in the action plan in appendix 2.

5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

5.1 The only other option is to do nothing and continue with the current waste management arrangements. This is not recommended as it would not allow Middlesbrough Council to reduce the costs in waste disposal.

6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	The only costings relating to this will be for additional staff members to expand the waste education team. Total cost of £149,481 per annum for up to 2 years. This will be funded from Transformation Programme funding by the flexible use of capital receipts for a period of up to 2 years.
Legal	The recommendations and associated actions do not have a specific legal impact that needs to be considered.
Risk	The proposed actions do not have any direct impact on the risk profile.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The proposed actions do not have any direct impact upon the human rights of individuals, the public sector equality duty or Community Cohesion.

Climate Change / Environmental	Climate change impacts on Waste management, by increasing participation and reducing contamination will assist us to achieve our Net-zero targets and our Green Strategy and contributes to the Council's priority – A Healthy Place.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	The proposed actions do not have any direct impact upon children and young people cared for by the authority, but by improving the environment this will contribute to the Council's priority – A Healthy Place and therefore may have a positive impact.
Data Protection	The proposed actions do not have any data protection implications.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Implement the service Action Plan	Director of ECS	31 st March 2026

Appendices

1	Environment Scrutiny Report for Waste Management
2	Action plan – Waste Management Executive
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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