

Terms of Reference – Waste Cross Party Joint Working Group

1. Identify the core aims and priorities in terms of service performance, identifying our current performance levels and how these are benchmarked, considering the long-term objectives of both Councils.
2. Consider the impending changes to legislation, including environmental and financial pressures. Reviewing the current service design in relation to these factors.
3. Identify best practice and where opportunities may exist to transition towards best practice where this is both financially and environmentally sustainable.
4. Seek to achieve consensus and greater consistency of services endeavouring to benefit from greater stability and efficiencies from a common contract.
5. Identify opportunities for financial efficiencies and cost reduction in service design and delivery.
6. Consider and identify the optimal long term service design options for the Councils and how these will deliver the Councils objectives and aims and principles of the shared service.
7. Specifically, the working group will focus on:
 - a. Customer Services
 - b. Street Cleansing Non-Core Services
 - c. Street Cleansing Core Services
 - d. Waste & Recycling Non-Core Services e.g. textiles collections
 - e. Waste and Recycling Core Services
 - f. Chargeable Garden Waste Collections
 - g. Chargeable Waste & Recycling Services

East Herts Council Priorities

- Sustainability at the heart of everything we do
 - We will make changes to how the council manages its own premises, people and services
 - We will use our regulatory powers to promote action by others
 - We will influence and encourage others to be more environmentally sustainable
- Enabling our communities
 - We will invest in our places
 - We will ensure all voices in the community are heard
 - We will support our vulnerable residents
- Encouraging economic growth
 - We will develop new sources of income
 - We will support business growth
 - We will create viable places
- Digital by Design
 - We will improve the customer experience for those who use council services
 - We will work with partners to ensure our communities are digitally enabled

North Herts Council Priorities

- People First - People make North Herts work. We value all our residents, businesses, staff, contractors, councillors, and other partners, and place them at the heart of everything we do.
- Sustainability - We recognise the challenges our towns and district face and are committed to delivering services which are relevant and sustainable. In doing so we will place our environmental responsibilities, as well as sound financial planning, at the centre of our policy making.
- A brighter future together - We are far-sighted and plan for the long term to secure the best outcomes for our people, towns and villages, and the local economy, ensuring North Herts continues to thrive.

Waste Shared Service Aim

Delivering high quality and well performing services which are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

Waste Shared Service Principles

- a. Maintain and/or improve service standards through efficient working.
- b. Achieve service improvements, greater resilience, efficiencies, cost reductions or better performance through service alignment
- c. Deliver service changes aligned with the government's Resources and Waste Strategy which demonstrate a net environmental benefit
- d. Work in partnership with contractors to develop and evolve a carbon management plan identifying how operations can deliver year on year carbon savings and move towards services with net zero carbon emissions.
- e. Improve efficiencies and enhance the offering for chargeable waste and recycling services and explore commercial opportunities
- f. Work in partnership with contractors to explore new opportunities to reduce costs and ensure the delivery of financially sustainable services
- g. Providing residents and customers with improved and enhanced online self-serve opportunities delivering any service changes with this in mind
- h. Work in partnership with contractors to improve and modernise working practices and make our services an attractive place to work
- i. Work with the Herts Waste Partnership and other partners to share knowledge, best practice, reduce waste and embed circular economy principles in service delivery.