

Environment and Climate Change Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

1. Performance highlights this quarter:

- The County Council's **Energy Services Team has received national recognition for its work in helping the county's businesses to invest in clean energy**. In June, the team came first in the 'Enabler' category at the 2023 Association of Decentralised Energy Awards for its leading role in establishing the [Re-Energise Manor Royal](#) local energy community with the Manor Royal Business Improvement District (BID) and Crawley Borough Council. Re-Energise Manor Royal, launched in March, is working to attract investment into Manor Royal and deliver new clean energy projects, such as roof mounted solar panels and batteries to store clean electricity. This will help businesses reduce their energy costs and carbon emissions and support them in working towards net zero operation.
- The contract for the **disposal of refuse derived fuel and energy recovery feedstock services** with West Sussex Britaniacrest Seneca Partnership Limited (WSBSP) has been approved from 8th April 2024, for an initial period of 11 years with an option to extend.
- Two feasibility studies (December 2022 at the mechanical biological treatment plant, and May 2023 for five other sites), have been completed at the County Council's waste transfer and processing sites to **explore opportunities for rooftop solar PV panels** to increase the consumption of locally generated renewable power, reduce emissions and generate income for the council.
- Residents attending the **Recycling Centres in May brought in the highest monthly tonnage since pre-Covid**, with green waste recording a three-year high. The collection of vapes has commenced at the sites to combat fly-tipping of the items. The booking system at six of the sites has improved with the introduction of tablets to check bookings and minimising queuing. By the end of June, the total number of bookings made passed 1.6 million.
- For the **"Think Before You Throw" campaign**, working in partnership with the districts and boroughs and corporate communications teams, preparation has been underway to create a large-scale communications campaign 'Think Before You Throw' that focuses on waste minimisation and recycling which will go live Mid July.
- A successful **recruitment exercise took place to enhance the already well-established volunteer scheme**. The waste prevention team now have 37 volunteers who support face to face events and school assemblies across West Sussex sharing waste prevention and recycling advice and guidance.

Our Council Performance Measures

2. The following section provides KPI updates comparing performance over the last three periods (each measure will explain the reporting period).

Environment and Climate Change		2023/24 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Forecast
22	Measure: Equivalent tonnes (te) of CO2 emissions from WSCC activities (CC) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly, Accumulative. 	22,833 CO2te	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	↗	G
			G	G	G		
			17,561 CO2te	27,264 CO2te (2022/23 Target: 29,910 CO2te)	4,667 CO2te		
	Performance Analysis: Jun-23: Preliminary recorded carbon emissions for Q1 2023/24 totalled 4,667 tonnes. Note, this is the first quarter of emissions reporting under a new baseline calculation and thus comparison to previous reporting is not accurate. Also, data presented is preliminary as there are delays in reporting some finalised consumption datasets. Confirmed data will be logged at the next reporting period, causing changes to this quarterly preliminary data.						
	Q1 emissions have declined in the corporate and schools' estate (largely due to updating of the baseline which removed some buildings outside of the scope of work – e.g., non-maintained schools) as well as streetlighting. Emissions rose slightly within transportation categories as grey mileage and business travel increased.						
	As the emissions baseline changed from 2023/24 to reflect a more complete emissions dataset, the overall performance in this sector will change from previous years. However, overall emission performance remains on track to meet the targeted annual reductions, though it should be noted that on average, the highest emissions sit within the last six months of the financial year, where both heat demand and streetlighting increase in response to colder temperatures and reduced daylight hours.						
	Actions: Work continues on the actions set out in the Carbon Management Plan to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.						
23	Measure: Household waste recycled, reused or composted (CC) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly, Reported two quarters in arrears. 	56.0%	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	↗	A
			A	A	A		
			53.5%	52.9%	53.3% (2022/23 Target: 55%)		
	Performance Analysis: Jun-23: The recycling rate for the third quarter of 2022/23 decreased (1.97%) when compared to the same quarter in 2021, however, it has increased by 0.39% on Q2 of 2022/23. The contractor has informed us that most of the wood stockpile, mentioned in previous updates has been cleared. It is hoped that there will be some recovery in the recycling rate when the Q4 results are available with a more accurate picture of performance.						
	Although in this reporting period the green waste has been more consistent with the same quarter in the previous year, overall, 2022/23 green waste was lower than 2021/22 which could also influence the recycling rate. However, there has been a big increase in green waste through the sites during April and May 2023 which will likely improve the recycling rate in Q1 of 2023/24.						
	Actions: Compared to the previous 12-month rolling figure, total local authority collected waste continues to decrease. This may be due to the increases in the cost of living or could be still levelling off after the rise in tonnages of residual and recycling waste after the pandemic. Another reason for the decrease in tonnages could be partly due to the bin strikes in the Adur and Worthing district that took place in March and April 2022 and would therefore contribute to the 12-month rolling figure included in the calculations. The MBT has also been under processing waste i.e., collected but not processed which could also have affected the recycling rate (approximately 3,300 tonnes). Some of this has been processed during Q4.						

Finance Summary

Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

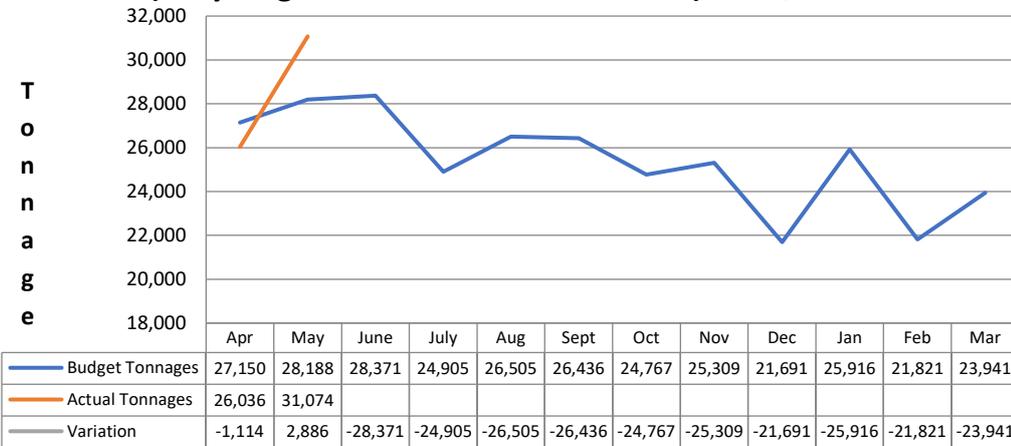
Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year end budget variation (£m)
Waste Services – Additional cost on waste recycling contract above budgeted inflation	£0.130m			
Waste Services - Increase in waste volumes at Household Waste Recycling Sites and kerbside collections	£0.485m			
Waste Services – Non-delivery of saving - reduction in recycling income projection	£0.260m			
Energy Services – Delays in saving delivery on solar and battery storage project	£0.500m			
Other minor variations	£0.010m			
Environment & Climate Change Portfolio - Total	£1.385m		(£0m)	£1.385m

Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

3. As at the end of June, the forecast for the Environment and Climate Change Portfolio is a projected overspend of £1.385m. The main variations are described below.
4. **Inflation** on the waste recycling contract was set at 12.4%, slightly lower than the actual inflation rate applied to the contract which averaged 12.9%. This has led to a budgeted shortfall of £0.130m.
5. **Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS)** have seen an increase in waste volume of around 3% above the budgeted tonnages so far this year. Additional green waste has been received due to a weather-related early growing season. The Material Recycling Facility (MRF) has experienced 6% higher than budgeted waste volume due to the increase in household waste recycling collected at the kerbsides, which is in part due to the continued and likely permanent home-working arrangements. Overall, this has resulted in a projected £0.485m overspend.
6. In recent years, the value of **Recyclate** has fluctuated greatly, however the start of 2023/24 is showing a much more stable picture with recyclate values generally indicating a slight recovery from the sharp drop experienced across virtually all recyclate streams in the second half of 2022/23. The largest driver of recycling income is waste paper and the value of this commodity is currently +£38 per tonne; this is some improvement from the +£18 low in November 2022, but far short of the £124 per tonne high in August 2022. Current projections estimate a £0.259m shortfall in income in 2023/24, however major market changes will affect this forecast.
7. Due to continued delays in the **Solar and Battery Storage site at Halewick Lane** becoming active, the income generation saving of £0.5m linked to this site is not expected to be delivered in 2023/24. It had been hoped that this shortfall could be mitigated by the County Council's other solar farms producing and selling more energy following recent favourable weather conditions. However, the current and projected sale prices suggest this may not be possible.

Cost Driver Information

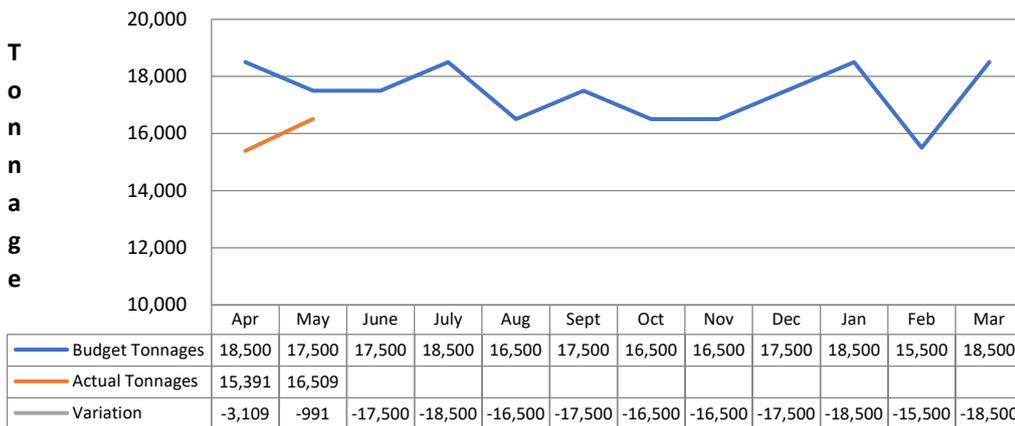
**Contract Handling Fee Tonnage
(Recycling Centres & Transfer Stations) 2023/24**



This graph shows tonnages received at the Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS) and Transfer Stations.

The tonnages received to May are 3% above the budgeted profile.

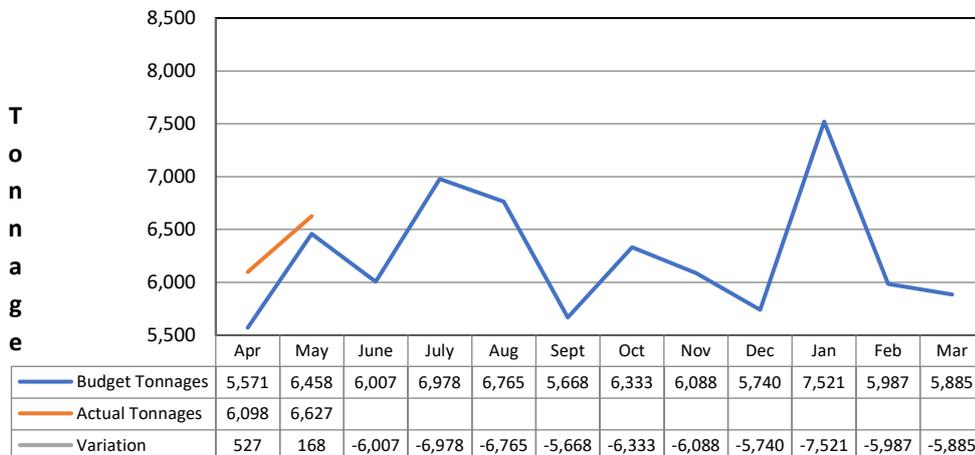
**Monthly Tonnage Profile and Actual Waste Entering the MBT
and Waste Sent Direct to Landfill 2023/24**



Waste is transferred to the Mechanical Biological Treatment Centre (MBT) with a small proportion directly sent to landfill, as the waste is not suitable for treatment through the MBT.

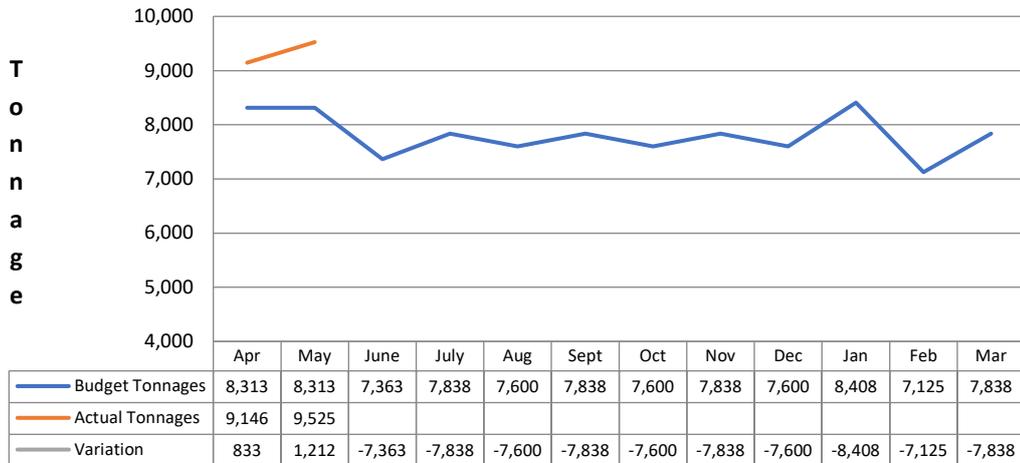
This graph demonstrates a 10% reduction in tonnes sent to the landfill so far when compared to the forecast profile.

MRF Tonnage 2023/24



This graph shows the monthly volumes of recycling taken to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF). The monthly tonnages taken to the MRF so far in 2023/24 are 6% above the budgeted profile.

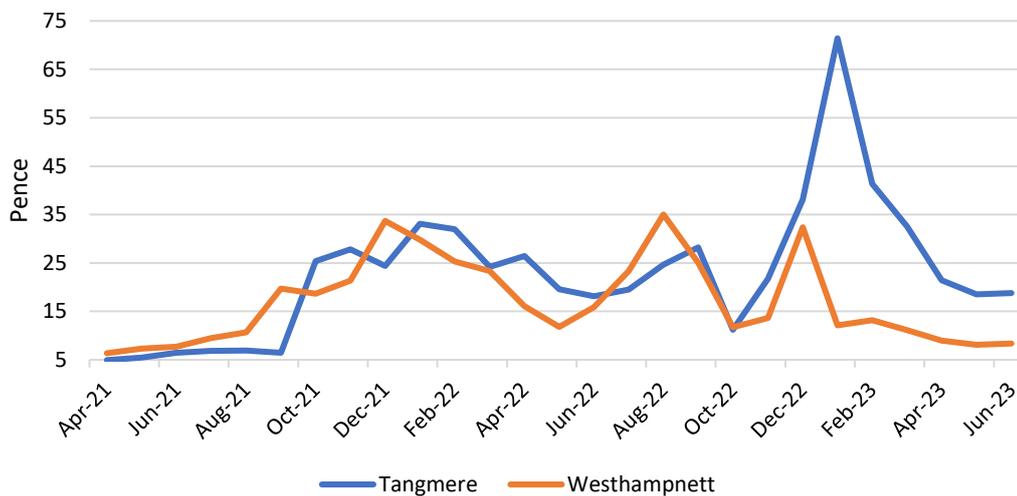
Monthly profile and actual waste tonnage converted into RDF 2023/24



This graph shows the Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) production compared to the estimated levels.

RDF levels are around 29% (17,900 tonnes) above expectation contributing to the reduction in waste sent to landfill.

Solar Farm Income Unit Rate - Pence Per kWh



This graph demonstrates the average pence per kWh since April 2021 for both Tangmere and Westhampnett Solar Farms.

The sale of the power at Tangmere is agreed in advance whereas Westhampnett's sale of power is subject to a blend of agreed and demand system sell price due to the battery storage element. This difference can produce distinctive pricing variations.

Savings Delivery Update

8. There are £2.492m of savings to be delivered within the portfolio. Details are shown in the table below:

Saving Activity	Year	Saving to be Delivered in 2023/24 (£000)	June 2023		Narrative
			Value	Status	
Recyclate income	2023/24	800	540	G	There has been a downturn in the value of recyclable material in the last 3-6 months meaning that it is likely that a proportion of this saving will be made in 2023/24.
			260	R	
Solar and Battery Investments	2023/24	500	500	R	Continued delays at Halewick Lane, project will not complete or generate income in 2023/24.

Saving Activity	Year	Saving to be Delivered in 2023/24 (£000)	June 2023		Narrative
Additional Energy Generation	2023/24	200	200	G	
Staffing vacancy increase in vacancy factor from 5% to 6%	2023/24	72	72	G	
Development of Battery Storage Site	Prior Years	100	100	B	
Additional income from increased sales of Recyclates (2022/23 element)	Prior Years	800	800	B	
Review of Countryside Fees and Charges	Prior Years	20	20	G	

Savings Key:

R Significant Risk **A** At Risk **G** On Track **B** Delivered

Capital Programme

Summary - Capital

9. The Environment and Climate Change capital programme; as approved by County Council in February 2023, agreed a programme totalling £12.182m for 2023/24. Budget of £0.291m, originally profiled to be spent in 2022/23, was slipped into 2023/24, revising this year's capital programme to £12.473m.
10. Since this time, the profiled spend has decreased overall by £0.033m, to give a current year end projection for 2023/24 of £12.440m.
11. The portfolio's capital programme contains 11 schemes with all projects currently in delivery. The performance and financial details for each scheme are reported below.

	Environment and Climate Change Capital Projects	Performance RAG Status			Total Project Budget	Previous Years Expenditure To 2022/23	2023/24 Expenditure to Date	In Flight Remaining Project Budget
		Time	Quality	Cost				
	Project: Asset Decarbonisation - Carbon Net Zero Programme	A	G	G	£12.364m	£0.064m	£0.389m	£11.911m
1	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-going			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: From this programme, £7.9m is being invested to reduce the carbon emissions of 14 County Council buildings, including seven libraries, six fire stations and a day centre. The work will include replacing boilers over 10 years old with Air-Source Heat Pumps. Salix funding is time limited.							

	Environment and Climate Change Capital Projects	Performance RAG Status			Total Project Budget	Previous Years Expenditure To 2022/23	2023/24 Expenditure to Date	In Flight Remaining Project Budget
		Time	Quality	Cost				
2	Project: Carbon Reduction (Salix) Programme – Block Allocation	A	G	G	£1.756m	£1.575m	£0.005m	£0.176m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-Going			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Pipeline of schools lighting projects is being assessed by the Energy Team. Some schools have dropped out of the initial pipeline that had been worked up last year, so replacement sites are being identified. Still anticipating projects to be delivered within 2023/24, however works will be unlikely to deliver in school summer holiday window.							
3	Project: Faygate Site Improvements	G	G	G	£1.121m	£0.504m	£-	£0.617m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Gas well drilling programmed for the summer to determine if liquid levels within wells are perched or groundwater. Differing gas well designs will aid with these investigations and contribute to a full scheme design.							
4	Project: Flood Management	G	G	G	£1.069m	£0.704m	£-	£0.365m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: Year 2028			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Next stage Business Case being created by Service and with a first draft expected in August 2023.							
5	Project: Property Maintenance - Carbon Net Zero – Block Allocation	G	G	G	£5.060m	£1.509m	£0.250m	£3.301m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-going			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Project reporting on track.							
6	Project: Your Energy Sussex (YES) - Halewick Lane	A	G	G	£23.616m	£5.051m	£0.092m	£18.473m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Phase 2 – Cabling Works is awaiting final signing of land consents. Options appraisal being developed for alternative procurement options for Phase 3.							
7	Project: Operation Watershed	G	G	G	£1.009m	N/A	£0.165m	£0.844m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-Going to 2028			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Funds have recently been awarded to local communities to help with works to improve drainage and flood areas.							
8	Project: Your Energy Sussex (YES) - Schools Solar PV Programme	A	G	A	£4.685m	£4.170m	£-	£0.515m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Quality issues caused by one installer has caused some disruption to the programme. Solution to rectify installations at six schools currently under review.							

	Environment and Climate Change Capital Projects	Performance RAG Status			Total Project Budget	Previous Years Expenditure To 2022/23	2023/24 Expenditure to Date	In Flight Remaining Project Budget
		Time	Quality	Cost				
9	Project: Your Energy Sussex (YES) – Solar Battery PV corporate sites and schools	G	G	G	£7.700m	£-	£-	£7.700m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: January 2027			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Programme of work over 23 corporate and 62 school buildings. Tender package has been prepared.							
10	Project: General After Care Works - Block	G	G	G	£0.434m	£0.403m	£-	£0.031m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-Going			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Works ongoing at Baystone Farm (gas vents and replacement boreholes), Westhampnett (gas well repairs) and Sompting (new boreholes)							
11	Project: Capital Receipts Funding Waste New Service Model – Transformation Project	G	G	G	£0.627m	£0.547m	£0.002m	£0.078m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Waste project is in its final phase with a trial for segregation and disposal of food and absorbent hygiene products in Mid Sussex underway. £0.080m expected to be spent in 2023/24 with remaining uncommitted funds returned to capital receipts budget.							

12. A summary of the latest Capital Programme Budget Monitor is reported in **Appendix 4** and full details of all individual schemes are set out in the [Budget Report](#) published in February 2023

Risk

13. The following table summarises the risks within the Corporate Risk Register that would have a direct impact on the portfolio. Risks to other portfolios are specified within the respective portfolio sections.

Risk Number	Risk Description	Previous Quarter Score	Current Score
CR73a	Climate Change Mitigation - If there is a failure to adequately prioritise, finance, resource and embed into BAU our efforts to decarbonise in alignment with the commitments made in the Council's Climate Change Strategy, there is a risk that there will be insufficient capacity and capability to fully deliver the necessary actions within the stated timeframes. This will lead to additional resource strain, higher demand on capital programmes and threaten organisational reputation.	12	12
CR73b	Climate Change Adaptation - West Sussex faces the high risk of increasing impacts of climate change including extreme heat, severe storms, flooding and sea level rise, among others. Without proactive consideration of and preparation for these impacts, WSCC assets, service delivery and West Sussex residents are at increased risk of damage, disruption and injury. This will lead to protracted service	12	12

Risk Number	Risk Description	Previous Quarter Score	Current Score
	disruptions, dangerous conditions and increased reliance on emergency services. In the longer term this could lead to displacement of residents and businesses in vulnerable, lower lying areas.		
CR76	Natural England issued a Position Statement on 14 September 2021 that affects all planning applications not granted before that date within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone. This has essentially halted all WSCC plans and projects in the water supply zone until water neutrality can be demonstrated. There are a number of impacts on and, potentially, opportunities for WSCC arising. The principal corporate risk is that the council will be unable to provide sufficient school places in the water neutrality area.	N/A	12

14. Further detail on all risks can be found in **Appendix 5** - Corporate Risk Register Summary. Full details of the latest Risk Register, including actions and mitigations can be found under the County Council's [Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee Agenda](#) website.