

Environment and Climate Change Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

1. Performance highlights this quarter:

- West Sussex County Council in partnership with UKHarvest and Biffa has won a coveted **National Recycling Award** for the Community Food Hub pilot project. The partnership won the Food Waste Initiative Category and was praised by the expert recycling sector judging panel.
- **A digital series of a “[World Beyond Waste](#)”**, with CIWM (Chartered Institute of Waste Management) and CWP (Content with Purpose) went live; highlighting the UKHarvest Community Food Hub Programme and contribution and support of volunteers.
- **Paint re-use container open at Chichester Recycling Centre** which has generated a good uptake from customers so far, with an average of 60 litres being re-used per week. The potential for rolling out to other sites is currently being explored.
- A **Vapes Collection Scheme** has been introduced at all recycling centres. These are being collected as part of the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) compliance scheme and aims to keep electrical products and batteries out of the waste stream.
- **Fire suppression water cannons** are now installed and operational at the Crawley Transfer Station and Recycling Centre with the aim to stop an outbreak of fire and limit any potential damage caused.
- Working in conjunction with Horsham District Council (HDC), the County Council released a version of the **Cloud 9 Waste Collection Smartphone application (app)** to HDC residents before Christmas. The app provides information on council services such as waste and recycling collection information.
- The Energy Services Team continued to **develop feasibility work on new renewable energy projects**. This includes work to develop a potential new solar farm on County Council-owned land at Baystone Farm near Horsham and install solar panels on waste sites such as the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Ford.
- Phase 1 of the **Estate Decarbonisation Programme** started in December, with work commencing at three libraries and three fire stations. Works on the remaining eight sites will commence in January.
- Officers continued to engage in the **statutory Development Consent Order (DCO) process** in relation to two nationally significant infrastructure projects, for which the County Council is a statutory consultee. This has included working in partnership with nine other local authorities on the Gatwick Airport Limited’s Northern Runway Project, which seeks to bring the standby/ maintenance runway into routine use; and the Rampion 2 proposed extension

to the existing wind farm off the Sussex coast. Both applications for consent will be subject to formal examinations, which are due to start in early 2024 and run for six months.

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	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	↘	A
			G	G	G		
			4,667 CO2te	10,999 CO2te	19,447 CO2te		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Recorded carbon emissions for Q3 2023/24 totalled 8,448 tonnes; however, it should be noted that the data presented is preliminary as there are delays in reporting some finalised consumption datasets. Confirmed data will be logged at the next reporting period, which is likely to cause a change to this quarter's data.							
There has been an increase of reported emissions within transportation in Q3, largely due to the recent update in the Council's commuting and work from home activity data. This increase does not reflect a sudden change in activity, but rather, a better reporting of existing activity. This increase is somewhat offset by decreases in emissions from our corporate and schools' estates.							
It should be noted that the emissions baseline changed at the start of 2023/2024 to reflect a more complete emissions dataset, however, WSCC's ability to meet its overall emission performance is now threatened in Q4 as historically, it has been the quarter with the highest emissions due to both heat demand and streetlighting increased usage in response to colder temperatures and reduced daylight.							
Actions: Work continues on the actions set out in the Carbon Management Plan to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The Sustainability Team are reviewing the calculation used for this measure.							
23	Measure: Household waste recycled, reused or composted (CC) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly, Reported two quarters in arrears. 	56.0%	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	→	A
			A	A	A		
			53.3%	53.7%	53.7%		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: This performance analysis relates to Quarter 1 (April – June) 2023. The recycling rate for the first quarter of 2023/24 increased slightly (0.2%) when compared to the same quarter in 2022 and remained stable in Q4 of 2022/23. However, the target of 56% was not achieved. Some of the possible reasons for this are detailed below:							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total local authority collected waste showed a slight increase from 2022/23 but remained lower than pre-pandemic figures. The recycling rate for Q1 remained static due to operational issues at the MBT during that period. The green waste in this reporting period was higher than the same quarter in the previous year. This could be due to the weather conditions for this period, with May showing the highest increase compared to the previous year. Also, it should be noted that there was a large increase at the start of 2023/24 in green waste through the sites which contributed to improving the recycling rate. Dry recycling reduced across all district and boroughs; however, composting had risen to counteract this. The recycling rate could show an improvement once the issues with the MBT have been sorted. 							
Actions: Work continues to increase the level of household waste recycled, reused or composted. The introduction of separating of hard plastics and vapes at the Recycling centres has seen a positive initial response. The 'Think Before you Throw' campaign has been launched in partnership with our District and Borough Councils and focusses on waste minimisation and recycling. The West Sussex Waste Partnership will work together to implement the Government's Simpler Recycling Policy to ensure compliance with the Environment Act 2021. Issues with the operation of the MBT are being addressed by the team.							

Finance Summary

Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year end budget variation (£m)
Waste Services – Recycling. Projected POPs disposal legislation costs	£0.900m	Increase in Trade Waste income	(£0.650m)	
Waste Services – Shortfall in baled RDF contract	£0.600m			
Waste Services – Non-delivery of saving - reduction in recycling income projection	£0.510m			
Waste Services – Increase in waste volumes at Household Waste Recycling Sites including increase in green waste tonnage	£0.330m			
Waste Services – Additional cost on waste recycling contract above budgeted inflation	£0.130m			
Energy Services – Delays in saving delivery on solar and battery storage project	£0.500m			
Countryside – Resource and maintenance pressures	£0.100m			
Planning Services (Environment) – Gatwick Development Consent Order	£0.100m			
Other minor variations	£0.010m			
Environment & Climate Change Portfolio - Total	£3.180m		(£0.650m)	£2.530m

Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

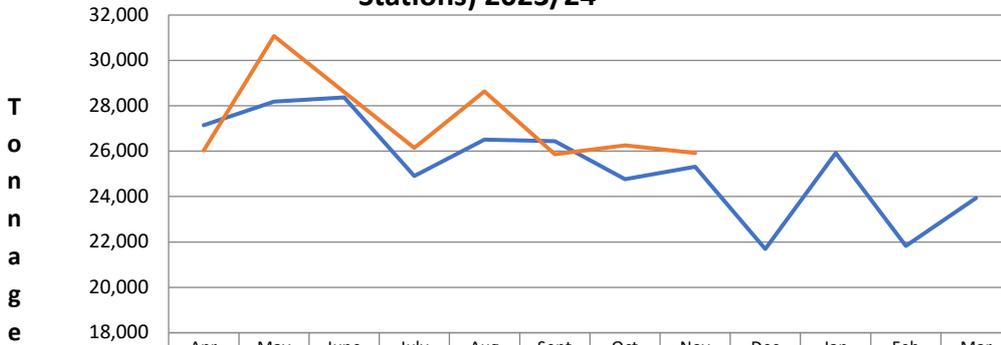
3. As at the end of December, the forecast against the Environment and Climate Change budget is a projected overspend of £2.530m, an improvement of £0.010m when compared to the September position. The main variations within the budget position are described below.
4. Identification, classification and disposal of **persistent organic pollutants (POPs) material** is a requirement recently mandated by Central Government. Waste Disposal Authorities are now responsible for identifying what types of waste contain POPs, sorting and storage of POPs waste and the removal of material and destruction of POPs content within the waste. The cost of meeting these new obligations is projected to be around £0.9m for 2023/24 and covers the period January 2023 to March 2024.
5. In year issues with **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) baling** means that it is unlikely the County Council will meet its guaranteed minimum tonnage (GMT) as part of the agreement with the RDF contractor. The service have been working on a solution which has resulted in a recent increase in the number of RDF loads sent to continental Europe. It is anticipated that the GMT shortfall will create an

overspend of around £0.600m. This projection could fluctuate dependent on performance.

6. In recent years, the value of **Recyclate** has fluctuated greatly. The start of 2023/24 has been less volatile, but there has still been some variations. Following a reduction in market rates in quarter two, the position has improved slightly in quarter three. The largest driver of recycling income is waste paper and the value of this material decreased from +£38 per tonne in May 2023 to +£28 in August, recovering to +£37 per tonne in October. These values are all an improvement from the 2022/23 low of +£18 in November 2022 but far below the high of +£124 per tonne in August 2022. Due to the reduction in overall recyclate values this financial year, the budget is projecting a £0.510m shortfall of income in 2023/24, an improvement of £0.180m when compared to quarter two. This is reflected in the savings delivery update position.
7. There has been an increase in **waste recycling volumes** of around 3% above the budgeted tonnages so far this year, with additional green waste received due to a weather-related pro-longed growing season. Overall, the current net position is a £0.330m projected overspend, a £0.1m reduction when compared to the Q2 forecast.
8. The increase in waste volumes is also partly due to an increase in **trade waste service** volumes. Two district and borough councils have been temporarily using the County Council's Trade Waste Service following the termination of contracts with their previous providers. This short-term solution is expected to generate an additional £0.650m of income.
9. **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.
10. 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.
11. Planning Services are projecting a £0.1m overspend due to resource pressure relating to **statutory consultee work** required for the Gatwick Airport Development Consent Order application. In addition, the **Countryside Services** team are also reporting a £0.1m pressure due to resource and maintenance costs relating to countryside facilities.

Cost Driver Information

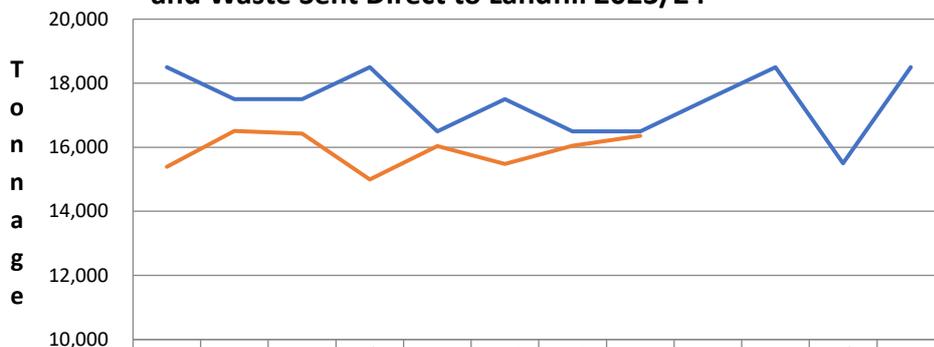
Contract Handling Fee Tonnage (Recycling Centres & Transfer Stations) 2023/24



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

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

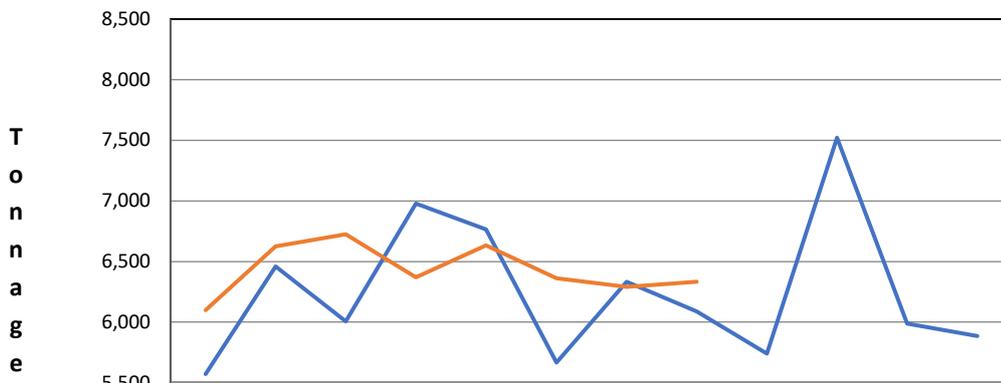
Monthly Tonnage Profile and Actual Waste Entering the MBT and Waste Sent Direct to Landfill 2023/24



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.

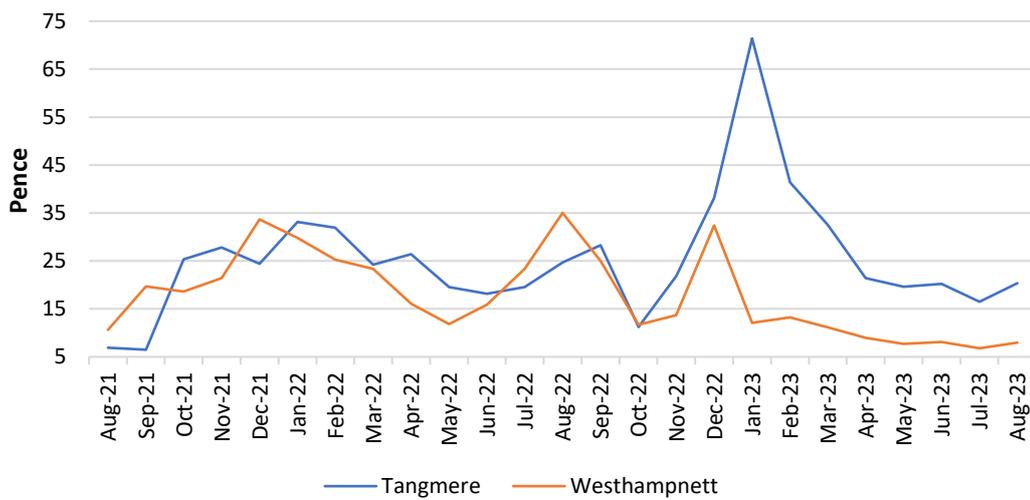
This graph demonstrates an 8% reduction in tonnes sent to the landfill so far when compared to the forecast profile.

Materials Recycling Facility (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 3% above the budgeted profile.

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

12. 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	December 2023		Narrative
			Value	Status	
Recyclate income	2023/24	£0.800m	£0.290m	A	There has been a downturn in the value of recyclable material in the last year. It is unlikely that the majority of this additional income will be achieved in 2023/24.
			£0.510m	R	
Solar and Battery Investments	2023/24	£0.500m	£0.500m	R	Continued delays at Halewick Lane, project will not complete or generate income in 2023/24.
Additional Energy Generation	2023/24	£0.200m	£0.200m	G	
Staffing vacancy increase in vacancy factor from 5% to 6%	2023/24	£0.072m	£0.072m	B	Staffing budgets currently assume a vacancy factor of 5% but over the last few years, this has averaged 6% across the organisation and has remained at this level in 2023/24.
Development of Battery Storage Site	Prior Years	£0.100m	£0.100m	B	
Additional income from increased sales of Recyclates (2022/23 element)	Prior Years	£0.800m	£0.800m	B	
Review of Countryside Fees and Charges	Prior Years	£0.020m	£0.020m	B	

Savings Key:

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

Capital Programme

Summary - Capital

13. 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.

14. Since this time, the profiled spend has decreased overall by £2.100m, to give a current year end projection for 2023/24 of £10.373m.

15. The portfolio's capital programme contains 12 projects 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				
1	Project: Asset Decarbonisation - Carbon Net Zero Programme	G	G	A	£7.926m	£0.064m	£0.916m	£6.946m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: March 2024			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Key Decision published in July 2023. A Change Request has been submitted for a further £0.310m from the Climate Change Fund and is currently going through governance. Programme progressing to plan.							
2	Project: Carbon Reduction (Salix) Programme – Block Allocation	G	G	G	£1.756m	£1.575m	£0.005m	£0.176m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: March 2025			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: One mid-scale project completed in December 2023 at Northgate. There are currently four school projects either with a costed design or awaiting final prices. These projects will not be completed by the end of the 2023/24 financial year due to the Easter holidays commencing in March.							
3	Project: Faygate - Gas Schemes	G	G	G	£1.121m	£0.504m	£0.004m	£0.613m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Trial gas wells are now installed and functioning. Data is being collected and will be reviewed in the Spring to enable design of new system.							
4	Project: Flood Management	A	A	A	£1.009m	£0.704m	£0.004m	£0.301m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: The programme is under review with revised costs and completion dates to be confirmed.							
5	Project: Property Maintenance - Carbon Net Zero – Block Allocation	G	G	G	£5.060m	£1.509m	£1.476m	£2.075m

	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				
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-going			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Programme progressing as planned.							
6	Project: Halewick Lane Battery Storage	A	G	G	£23.616m	£5.051m	£0.183m	£18.382m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Unfortunately, the previously recommended replacement framework offered by Local Partnerships has not proven suitable for the project. An Options Report is being created which will reassess the project and detail potential next steps.							
7	Project: Operation Watershed	G	G	G	£1.009m	N/A	£0.203m	£0.806m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-Going to 2028			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Funds are awarded to local communities to help with works to improve drainage and flood areas.							
8	Project: Solar PV Schools - Phase 1	A	G	A	£4.685m	£4.170m	£-	£0.515m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Remedial work site visits completed in November 2023. Quality issues caused by one installer has caused some disruption to the programme. Solution to rectify installations currently under review.							
9	Project: Solar PV and Battery Storage Programme	G	G	G	£7.700m	£-	£0.050m	£7.650m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: January 2027			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Programme of work over 23 corporate and 56 school buildings. Issues with procurement process have delayed the initial project process, but it is hoped this time will be recoverable.							
10	Project: Waste General After Care Works	G	G	G	£0.434m	£0.403m	£0.013m	£0.018m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: On-Going			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Monitoring of new boreholes and vents continues at Baystone Farm. Six months of data is needed to make final decision on whether to progress the gas system. Westhampnett gas well repairs are now complete, however, borehole works remain outstanding. The numbers and locations for new boreholes at Sompting are still to be scoped, however work has slipped into the Spring due to ground conditions.							
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: March 2024			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: The waste transformation project is in its final phase with a trial for segregation and disposal of food and absorbent hygiene products in Mid Sussex underway.							

	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				
12	Project: Littlehampton Harbour – Infrastructure Maintenance	G	G	G	£1.100m	£-	£0.654m	£0.446m
	Latest Estimated Completion Date: To Be Confirmed			Project Phase: In Delivery				
	Narrative: Funding contribution towards the maintenance works required at Littlehampton Harbour.							

16. 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

17. 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 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.	12	12
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 .	12	12

18. 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.