
The Communities Scrutiny Panel has asked for an update on the development of the Council's Waste Strategy. This briefing contains the latest position as at 3 October 2019.

NELC Waste Strategy 2020 - 2035: developing a new approach

Context

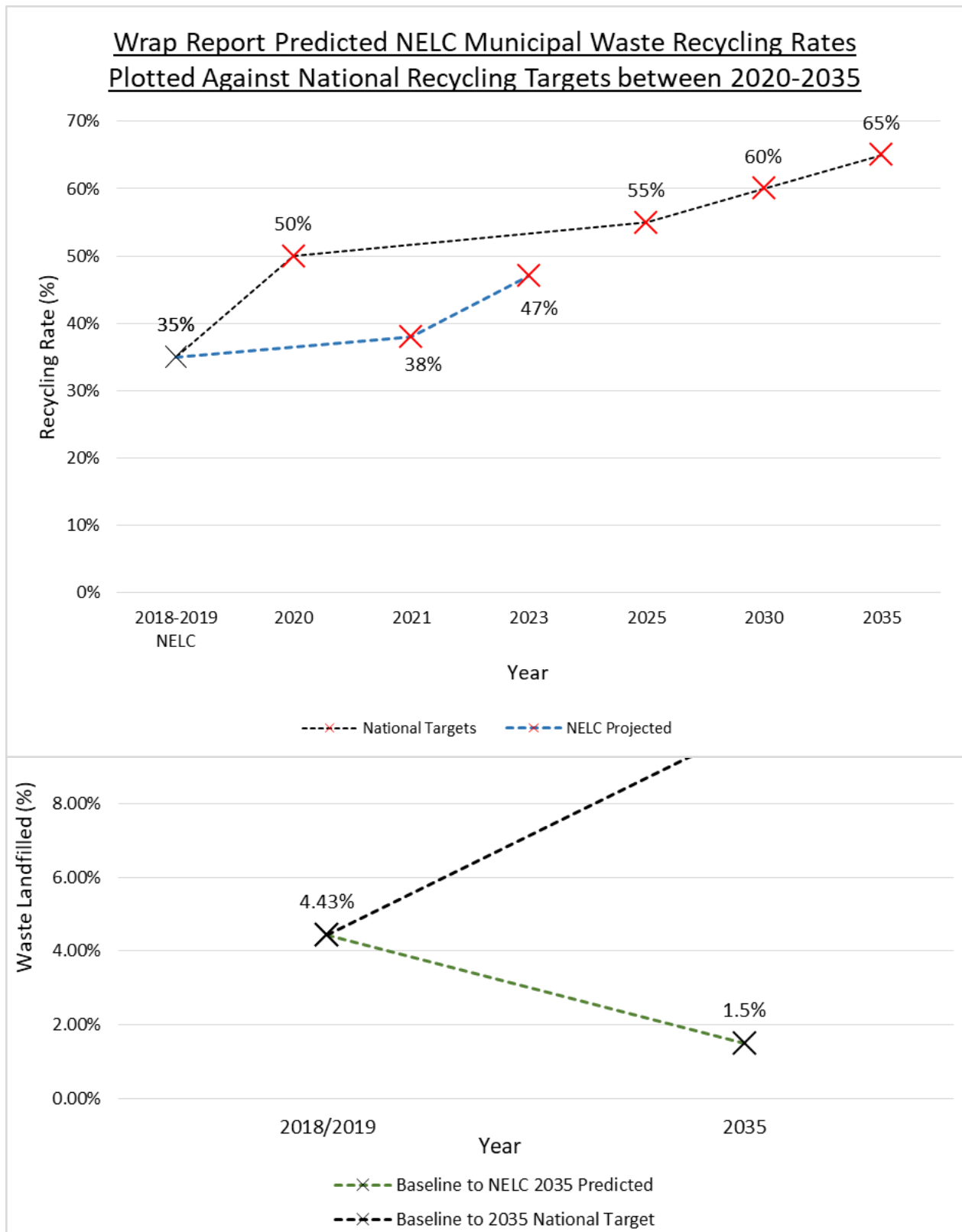
Members will be aware that all authorities are obliged to publish a waste management strategy. North East Lincolnshire Council's (NELC) latest Waste Strategy was published in 2009. This was redrafted as the Municipal Waste Management Plan for North East Lincolnshire (2015 to 2020) to reflect the terminology introduced under the EU revised Municipal Waste Management Plan Framework Directive and used by DEFRA. Any new strategy should be in line with government policy and set out our approach to deliver against the national targets.

In late 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published an ambitious Resources & Waste Strategy (2018 to 2035) which will have many implications for local authorities with regard to waste collection and management. In particular the Government has set out the ambition to increase recycling rates to 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The strategy further sets out an aspiration to deliver a consistency framework for recycling collections in England. This will reduce the flexibility available to Local Authorities in deciding what type of recycling they will collect and how they will collect it.

Cabinet received a report in March 2018 setting out a priority work programme, that included 'the development of an integrated waste management strategy to improve recycling, reduce waste production and achieve the best value from the current waste disposal contract, including consideration of a separate collection of food waste'. A further report in November 2018 recommended a revised timeline for development and adoption of a new strategy to include full public consultation. This was recommended due to the review work underway within the service area at the time and to bring our plans in to line with the publication of DEFRA's strategy.

The purpose of this briefing is to update Scrutiny on our planned approach, and the associated timeline, to develop and deliver a local strategy. It is critical that members understand that at this stage we are working to determine the strategy in respect of what waste we collect and why we collect it, rather than the method of collection. Although the method of collection is an important aspect of our service delivery, this should be determined by our strategy rather than informing our strategy.

Further detail on the proposals in the DEFRA strategy is expected in early 2020, with an expected implementation timescale of 2021-2023. In light of this, we propose to develop and publish a new 15 year strategy to be launched in 2020.



recycling as much waste as possible as an alternative to landfill. Work so far has focussed on the kerbside collection of dry recycling and general waste, but this is just part of our overall waste management system. The whole system consists of a number of parts:

- Kerbside collections of dry recycling and waste
- Kerbside collections of green waste
- Community Recycling Centres
- “Bring to” sites across the borough
- Bulky Waste services
- The energy from waste plant that treats and disposes of our waste and transfers our recycling to where it is used to make new products.

Our priority work programme includes a more strategic approach to recycling and waste management improvement and a refreshed community engagement plan to promote more environmentally sustainable behaviours such as recycling, reduction of waste and achieving the best value for the current contract with Newlincs.

A new strategy should endeavour to meet the targets and make the most of the incentives laid out in the DEFRA Resources & Waste Strategy whilst taking in to account local priorities and considerations, and also the opinions of our residents. There is a need to strike a balance between these to ensure we can deliver a value for money service that continues to meet our vision for the borough.

We also need to build on and promote the areas of waste management we do well. North East Lincolnshire has already achieved the 2035 government target for diversion from landfill. The Authority also has a strong record of ensuring all waste and recycling are processed as local as possible, to reduce the carbon foot print from long transports.

Other considerations

The waste management strategy has interdependencies with other local strategies and policies, which will be taken in to account during development.

Our [Local Plan](#), adopted in 2018, is a plan for growth with a predicted 13,000 new houses needed to meet expected demand by 2032. There will be emerging pressures on waste services as new housing comes on line, which will need to be accounted for in terms of additional collection rounds and community recycling centres and the budget requirements linked to this growth. Likewise future strategies and policies relating to housing should consider waste facilities as part of the planning process – for example, underground bin storage in communal dwellings, flats, etc.

The [Energy vision](#) for NEL includes a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050 and counts amongst its ambitions the aims to; protect health by reducing waste and enable



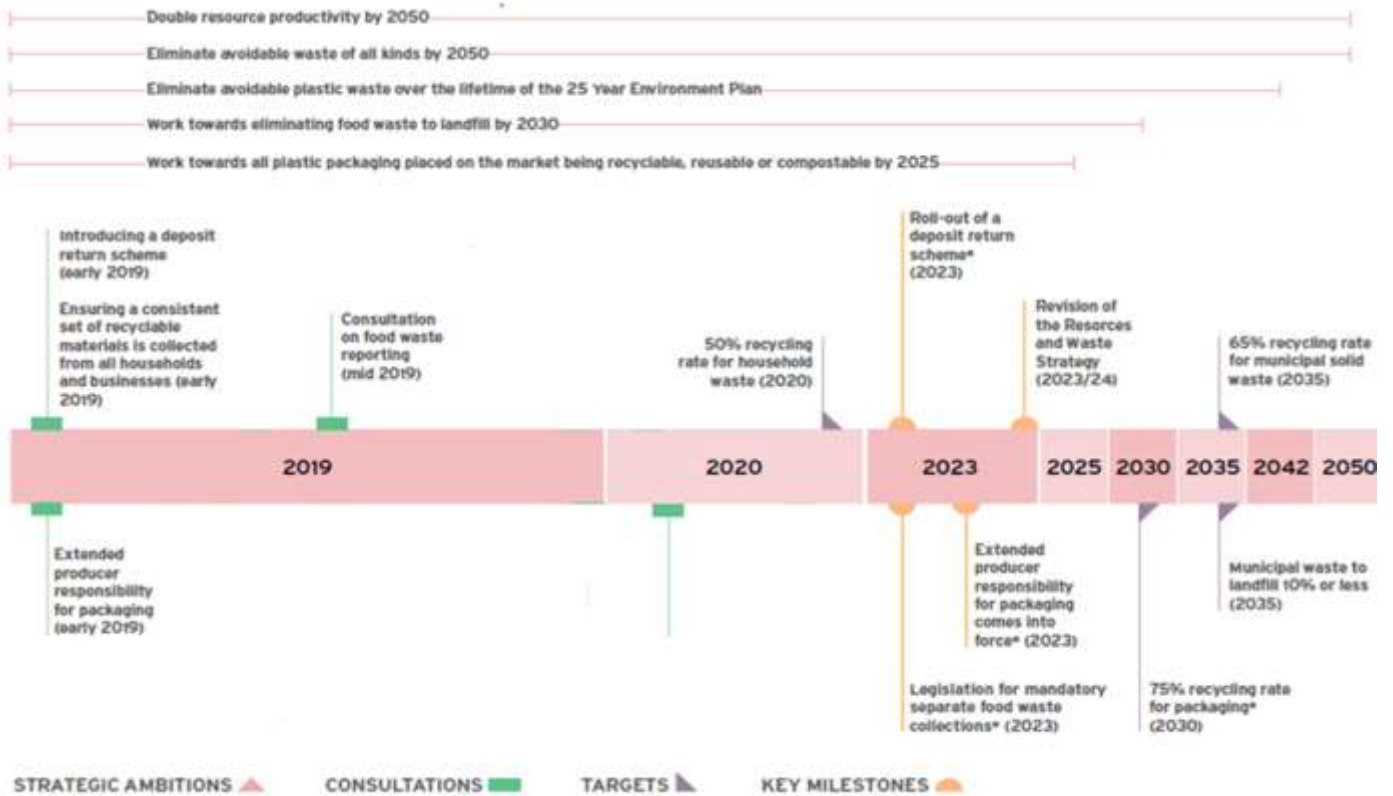
... In brief

a culture and behavioural change across the community that is measurably reducing carbon emissions. Energy generation from waste and anaerobic digestion are technologies it intends to promote to achieve its ambitions.

NELC has an integrated waste management contract and partnering agreement with Newlincs Development Ltd which will end in 2029. The majority of NEL's waste is sent to them for processing and this contract makes NELC position unique when considering methods of collection.

Timeline

The figure below shows the timeline for delivery of the national strategy that NELC will be expected to implement.



Next steps

Community engagement activities will be undertaken to help us understand our residents' preferences and their drivers for recycling. This will inform our draft strategy which will be presented to Cabinet in January 2019. If this is approved we will consult on this during February 2020 and finalise the strategy in spring 2020.

We will bring a further paper back to Scrutiny once a draft strategy has been developed.

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