




Recycling and Waste Strategy Action Plan for Chorley






Significant changes will be required over the coming years to realise our targets for waste reduction and recycling and our wider corporate climate goals. To deliver these changes, we have five strategic **objectives**:




Encourage and improve behaviour and communication	We will encourage everyone to be responsible for their waste, make full use of their recycling collection services, and provide access to all the information they need about recycling and reducing waste.
Engagement activities and partnerships	We will work with partners, schools, businesses and community groups to deliver projects and initiatives that aim to reduce waste and recycle more.
Changes and improvements to collection systems	We will enable residents to recycle more of the waste they generate by offering easy-to-use services and opportunities to recycle a wider range of materials.
Leading by example	We will lead by example by ensuring waste minimisation, recycling and net-zero carbon principles and best practice across council services and facilities.
Other waste reduction and recycling initiatives	We will support reuse, refill, repair schemes and explore opportunities for materials that are harder to recycle.





The actions outlined in this plan correspond to one or more of these **themes**:





Optimise our local potential for recycling and waste reduction	
Prepare our services for future changes linked to emerging policy and legislation	
Support residents, community groups and other stakeholders to become a waste-free borough	




Strategic Objective 1: Encourage and improve behaviour and communication


Activity	Actions	Costs	Delivery start	Priority	Theme	Internal & external Interdependencies
Improve communication with residents	<p>We will develop and implement initiatives that encourage households to change their behaviour to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle their waste.</p> <p>We will use clear and simple messages across a variety of communication channels to explain what can be recycled, the benefits and importance of recycling, what happens to recyclable materials, and where to obtain more information.</p> <p>We will make use of national and local campaigns to reinforce the messages.</p>	<p>Communication materials and advertising: £10,000</p>	Annual/ongoing	Local priority	 	<p>Communications team</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p>
Improve our website	<p>We will ensure there is easy access to clear and detailed information on waste reduction and recycling.</p> <p>We will raise awareness of what happens to recyclable waste, provide transparency on where our waste ends up, explain the importance of recycling, and publish a new A-Z guide.</p> <p>We will signpost locations to recycle items that cannot currently be collected from home and raise awareness of better consumer habits aimed at reducing waste.</p>	Within existing budgets	2023/24	Local priority	 	Customer Services team
Digital engagement	<p>We will maintain a high profile on social media and explore opportunities for more digital engagement.</p> <p>We will engage with residents through digital channels to provide clear and informative waste reduction and recycling advice, including seasonal messages.</p>	<p>Mostly within existing budgets.</p> <p>Communication materials and development costs: £5,000</p>	Annual/ongoing	Local priority		Communications team





	We will look to introduce email alerts about bin collections or a new smartphone app.					
Increase participation in recycling in low-performing areas	<p>We will use data recorded by our collection crews to identify areas of low participation, or areas that are not performing as well on recycling or that generate more waste per household.</p> <p>We will develop a tailored approach to improve recycling performance in low performing areas. These areas can be targeted with extra communication and home visits to raise the level of understanding and awareness of recycling and encourage households to modify their behaviour.</p>	Within existing budgets.	2024/25	Local priority		
Tackling contamination in recycling	<p>We will strive year on year to improve the quality of recycling and increase recovery levels.</p> <p>We will proactively provide information and education, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bin day calendars and recycling information for all households • Recycling bins stickered with recycling information • Collection crews with bin tags and flyers with recycling information to hand out • Home visits to educate and encourage good recycling behaviours • Recycling information in community hubs such as libraries, community centres and shops 	<p>Mostly within existing budgets</p> <p>Communication materials:</p> <p>£5,000</p>	Annual/ongoing	Local and regional priority		Lancashire County Council
Recycling incentives and rewards	We will explore opportunities for incentives or a reward scheme with a review of best practice examples. Research suggests a simple incentive scheme could result in an immediate effect with increased participation and improved quality of recyclable materials.	Investment for specific incentives/ rewards dependent on the type of scheme:	2026/27	Local priority		





	For example the 'Litter Lotto', an app that communicates, educates and incentivises, and changes behaviour for household waste and recycling	£20,000				
Support food waste reduction	We will support and promote the Love Food, Hate Waste campaign and Food Waste Action Week so that households, schools and businesses reduce avoidable food waste and save money.	Within existing budgets.	Annual/ongoing	Local and national priority		National campaigns WRAP
Strategic Objective 2: Engagement and partnerships						
Activity	Actions	Costs	Delivery start	Priority	Theme	Internal & external Interdependencies
Recycling or recovery of value from household bulky waste	We will work with our partners and community groups to explore the opportunities to reuse, recycle or recover value from furniture and goods that are removed from households on our bulky waste collection service. We will continue to work with Recycling Lives and Valpak for the recycling of waste electrical items.	Further work is needed to identify viable and sustainable outlets for waste furniture and any associated costs	2024/25	Local and regional priority		Availability and sustainability of third-party reuse or recycling. Potential for Lancashire County Council to expand reuse hubs.
Deliver schools education events	We will work with a partner organisation to offer schools a bespoke programme to educate and inform schoolchildren in order to increase engagement about waste and recycling, and to promote the positive actions they can take to help protect the environment and encourage others to do the same.	Partnership with a service provider: £15,000	2023-25	Local priority		Primary schools as voluntary partners
Support recycling in schools	We will encourage schools to take advantage of free recycling collections and will help with introducing and promoting these services.	Mostly within existing budgets Recycling bins and boxes: £5,000	2023-25	Local priority		Primary schools as voluntary partners






Support for community litter picks	<p>We will support local groups and residents with tools and equipment for community litter picks and recycle separated plastic bottles and cans which are collected.</p>	<p>Within existing budgets.</p>	<p>2023/24</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		<p>Volunteers can be supported with Time Credits</p>
Community engagement	<p>We will explore opportunities to engage with and support local community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, parish councils, and schools on waste reduction and recycling activities.</p>	<p>Within existing budgets.</p>	<p>2024-27</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		<p>Communities team Third sector organisations</p>
Business recycling services	<p>We will engage with businesses on waste reduction and recycling to enable them to find cost-effective circular solutions that help to support sustainable business growth.</p> <p>We will investigate the introduction of a business recycling collection scheme.</p>	<p>Further work is needed to decide how these collections would be introduced and what investment would be required</p>	<p>2026/27</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		<p>Business Engagement team Town Centre team</p>
Work with partners on new initiatives	<p>We will explore partnership opportunities to maximise value from the waste we collect.</p> <p>We will work together with Lancashire County Council to co-ordinate waste collection and disposal requirements and ensure we can use a long-term and sustainable collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure.</p> <p>We will investigate the opportunities to work with alternative partners for additional waste streams not currently within the remit of Lancashire County Council.</p>	<p>Further work is needed to determine how these could be introduced and what investment would be required</p>	<p>Annual/ongoing</p>	<p>Local and regional priority</p>		<p>Lancashire County Council as the waste disposal authority are responsible for waste treatment and recycling outlets.</p> <p>Availability and sustainability of third-party reuse or recycling.</p>

Strategic Objective 3: Changes and improvements to collection systems						
Activity	Actions	Costs	Delivery start	Priority	Theme	Internal & external Interdependencies
Consistency in collections	<p>We will collect a consistent set of recyclable materials from households following the national Resources and Waste Strategy and Government waste reforms.</p> <p>We will design our services in ways that positively drives residents to make full use of recycling services and minimise the environmental impact of our collection operations.</p> <p>By 31 March 2026 we will collect the following recyclable waste streams from all households: paper and card, plastic, metal, glass, food waste and garden waste; plastic film packaging will be collected by 31 March 2027.</p>	Government has indicated there will be full financial support for councils.	2025-27	<p>National policy</p> <p>New obligation under the Environment Act and the Resources and Waste Strategy</p>		<p>Government funding is still to be confirmed for new burdens.</p> <p>Lancashire County Council as the waste disposal authority are responsible for waste treatment and recycling outlets.</p>
Expand the range of recyclable materials accepted	<p>We will continue to explore options available to increase recycling by adding extra materials to recycling collections such as plastic film, cartons, small electrical items, textiles, and batteries.</p> <p>If kerbside collection isn't possible, we will signpost to 'out-of-home' recycling points, consider 'drop-off' recycling events, and explore new opportunities for hard-to-recycle items.</p>	Further work is needed to determine how these could be introduced and what investment would be required	2024-27	<p>Local priority</p> <p>National policy</p>		<p>Lancashire County Council determine what materials can be accepted in household recycling bins.</p> <p>Need to ensure there are feasible and sustainable recycling solutions for any new materials accepted.</p>
Food waste collections	We will prepare for the introduction of separate weekly food waste collections which are mandatory under new legislation by March 2026.	<p>Implementation costs: £1.25 million</p> <p>Annual operating costs:</p>	2025/26	<p>National policy</p> <p>New obligation under the</p>		This is subject to confirmation of Government funding and new statutory guidance.

	<p>We will work towards the implementation and promotion of food waste collections, subject to confirmation of Government funding.</p> <p>We will work closely with the Lancashire Waste Partnership on delivering food waste collections as soon as possible, lobby Lancashire County Council for suitable processing facilities and seek confirmation of Government commitment for full financial support for food waste collections.</p>	<p>£1.2 million.</p> <p>No direct cost savings to Chorley Council however LCC would realise significant savings from avoided waste disposal costs.</p>		<p>Environment Act and RaWS</p>		<p>LCC are responsible for providing a food recycling facility and have indicated their Farington Waste Technology Park will be ready to receive food waste from Summer 2024.</p>
<p>Restrictions on residual waste</p>	<p>We will review whether restrictions on non-recyclable residual waste capacity would be appropriate alongside the introduction of food waste collections. With a comprehensive range of recycling services including food waste, we could drive up recycling rates and reduce waste even further by placing new restrictions on bins for residual waste.</p> <p>We will explore the benefits and costs of restricting general waste capacity through either smaller bins or less frequent collections, possible options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smaller bins for residual waste – 140 or 180-litre, instead of the current 240-litre standard • less frequent residual waste collections – 3-weekly or 4-weekly <p>Restricting residual waste capacity is the biggest impact we can have on waste and carbon reduction within the borough. These measures could increase our recycling rate by 10-20%.</p> <p>Less frequent collections would also drive cost savings and support our Climate Strategy, by saving fuel and vehicle journeys, alongside a reroute to improve efficiency of collections.</p>	<p>A smaller bin can help to significantly reduce the amount of waste each household can produce, however the cost of replacing bins across the district could exceed £1 million.</p>	<p>2025/26</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		<p>This is subject to confirmation of new statutory guidance on minimum service standards and would require full council approval.</p>

Paper and card collections	<p>We will review the frequency of collection which is currently every four weeks. Any benefits will have to be evaluated against costs and environmental impacts.</p>	<p>More frequent collections would add ~£300,000 in annual costs, with a ~1% increase in recycling rate.</p>	<p>2025/26</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		
Recycling services to every household	<p>We will aim to provide a recycling collection service to the remote properties that are still on a weekly bagged waste collection.</p>	<p>Further work is needed to determine how these collections can be achieved cost-effectively</p>	<p>2024/25</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		<p>LCC - there are some limitations on the method of collection and delivery into facilities for sorting and processing.</p>
Improve communal recycling facilities	<p>We will review the provision of communal bins for household waste and recycling at flats and apartments, and how these are labelled and signposted.</p> <p>We will work closely with site management companies and housing associations to ensure sites are well maintained, tidy and attractive to use.</p>	<p>Investment in new bins, repairs, signage and labels:</p> <p>£25,000</p>	<p>2023/24</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		<p>Housing associations and management companies</p>
<p>Strategic Objective 4: Leading by example</p>						
Activity	Actions	Costs	Delivery start	Priority	Theme	Internal & external Interdependencies
Efficient collection rounds	<p>We will plan waste and recycling collections to deliver our waste services in a co-ordinated, quality and cost-effective way to enable more efficient rounds that will reduce fuel consumption and minimise environmental impact.</p>	<p>This will not affect recycling rate but is important in minimising vehicle emissions and</p>	<p>Annual/ ongoing</p>	<p>Local priority</p>		

		may identify some cost savings				
Decarbonisation of fleet	<p>We will investigate the transition of our fleet to carbon neutral vehicles with aim of having a zero emissions fleet. Alongside electric vehicles, the role of hydrogen and bio-fuel will be considered.</p> <p>We will trial alternative fuels for waste collection vehicles as we look to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality</p>	Significant investment will be required for new fleet vehicles, and our new Fleet Strategy will look to progress this.	2026-30	Local priority National policy		Streetscene team
Waste audits and recycling facilities across the council	<p>We will undertake audits of waste from council facilities to identify any avoidable waste and ensure we are recycling a minimum of paper, card, glass, plastic and tins/cans, printer cartridges, electronic equipment, light bulbs and batteries.</p> <p>We will improve the segregation and recycling of waste from council events and encourage other event organisers to do the same.</p>	Within existing budgets.	2023-25	Local priority		Civics team Property Services team Events team
Phase out single-use plastics	<p>We will reduce packaging and the unnecessary use of single-use plastic and encourage other organisations to do the same.</p> <p>Our aim is to identify all single use-plastic within the council and determine whether it is avoidable and can be eliminated or minimised, such as packaging from suppliers, or if there are alternatives such as re-usable products.</p>	Within existing budgets.	2024-26	Local priority National policy		Suppliers of goods and services Partner organisations
New procurement principles	We will look to apply Circular Economy principles when procuring goods and services and lead by example in promoting waste prevention, reuse and recycling in council purchasing	Within existing budgets.	2024/25	Local priority		Procurement team Suppliers of goods and services Partner organisations

	<p>We will specify products made from recycled content and sustainable sources wherever possible as part of our procurement of goods and services.</p> <p>We will embed carbon reduction and improvements where applicable in new contracts through new Social Value requirements.</p>					
Expand 'On-the-go' recycling	<p>We will look to expand the number of recycling bins in public spaces based off demand, and ensure it is recycled effectively. This follows a successful trial of dual-use litter and recycling bins in the town centre.</p>	<p>Investment in new bins: £25,000</p>	2024-26	Local priority		Streetscene team
Strategic Objective 5: Other waste reduction and recycling initiatives						
Activity	Actions	Costs	Delivery start	Priority	Theme	Internal & external Interdependencies
Support Reuse and Refill schemes	<p>We will explore the feasibility and uptake of reuse schemes, promote local refill and zero waste shops.</p> <p>We will promote local donation or exchange points for the re-use of household items, for example school uniform swaps. Schools have been engaged and plans have been put in place for swap schemes to take place within the schools</p>	<p>Within existing budgets.</p>	Annual/ongoing	<p>Local priority</p> <p>Regional priority</p>	<p></p> <p></p>	<p>Third sector organisations</p> <p>Potential for Lancashire County Council to expand reuse hubs.</p>
Support Repair cafes	<p>We will promote and help facilitate local repair groups to encourage repair instead of replacement.</p> <p>For example Chorley Repair Café, a volunteer group that meet to help fix broken items and stop them from going to landfill.</p>	<p>Within existing budgets.</p>	Annual/ongoing	Local priority		Third sector organisations
	<p>We will explore recycling options for harder to recycle materials which cannot be collected from households but could be taken to out-of-home recycling points.</p>	<p>Within existing budgets and</p>	2024-27			Industry compliance schemes and recycling service providers

Harder to recycle materials	For example, small electricals recycling following a successful grant funding application to the Materials Focus recycling campaign; coffee pod recycling using the Podback scheme.	through grant funding.				
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Budget requirements (not including major service changes)

Action	Costs estimate
Improve communal recycling facilities: new bins, bin repairs, new signage and labelling	£25,000
Improve communication with residents: materials and advertising	£10,000
Tackling contamination in recycling: communication materials	£5,000
Digital engagement: app development	£5,000
Recycling incentives/rewards	£20,000
Support recycling in schools: recycling bins and boxes	£5,000
Deliver schools education events programme	£15,000
'On-the-go' recycling: dual litter bins	£25,000
Total	£110,000

High level timetable

Annual/ ongoing	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-30
<p>Improve communication with residents</p> <p>Digital engagement</p> <p>Tackling contamination in recycling</p> <p>Support food waste reduction</p> <p>Work with partners on new initiatives</p> <p>Efficient collection rounds</p> <p>Support Reuse and Refill schemes</p> <p>Support Repair cafes</p>	<p>Improve our website</p> <p>Deliver schools education events</p> <p>Support recycling in schools</p> <p>Support for community litter picks</p> <p>Improve communal recycling facilities for flats and apartments</p> <p>Waste audits and recycling facilities across the council</p>	<p>Recycling or recovery of value from household bulky waste</p> <p>Community engagement</p> <p>Increase participation in recycling in low-performing areas</p> <p>Recycling services to every household</p> <p>Expand 'On-the-go' recycling</p> <p>Phase out single-use plastics</p> <p>New procurement principles</p> <p>Planning for waste collection service changes</p>	<p>Consistency in collections</p> <p>Food waste collections</p> <p>Restrictions on residual waste</p> <p>Paper and card collections</p> <p>Expand the range of recyclable materials accepted</p>	<p>Business recycling services</p> <p>Recycling incentives and rewards</p> <p>Harder to recycle materials</p>	<p>Decarbonisation of fleet</p>