

Overview and Scrutiny – Executive Member Bi-Annual Update

Councillor Peter Williams – Executive Member for Environmental Services

<p>Services and legal responsibilities covered by Executive Member remit:</p>	<p>Statutory responsibilities as a 'Waste Collection Authority' with the duty to ensure waste and recycling collections are provided across the district. In-house service providing alternating weekly residual waste collections, weekly recycling collections, a paid subscription service for fortnightly garden waste collections and community recycling bank sites. TDC operates an in-house waste transfer station to manage recyclable materials collected and a workshop service for vehicle and plant maintenance. Residual waste is fed into the Plymouth Energy from Waste (EfW) Facility via a waste transfer station near Kingsteignton (Bickley Ball) or directly into the Exeter EfW facility depending on collection location. It is worth noting that the main Recycling Centres (CA sites) are managed by DCC.</p> <p>Statutory responsibilities as a 'Principal Litter Authority' duty to keep public highways and publicly accessible land free of litter and detritus as far as is reasonably practicable. In- house service covering all public roads in the district, including the dual carriageways of the A30, A38 and A380. Teignbridge is not responsible for the cleansing of any motorways. The cleansing team consists of 42 operational staff.</p> <p>Statutory responsibilities for Closed Churchyard Maintenance, Cemetery Burial Services and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGS) at Dawlish Country Park and Ridgetop, management delivered by the Green Spaces team.</p> <p>Additional service areas include the management of contracts for public toilet and building cleaning, the management of parks, open spaces and nature reserves, including Dawlish Warren.</p> <p>The Environmental Services department functions are delivered by 189 FTE's, operating a fleet of 100 vehicles, from tractors to specialist recycling vehicles, covering an area of 260 square miles and over 65,000 households.</p>
<p>Strategic Plan objectives</p>	<p>EN.3. Introduce new measures to increase household recycling rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver upgraded waste transfer station• Collection of soft plastics• Collection of tetrapacks• Communications and compliance efforts to encourage public uptake <p>EN.12. Work with other local authorities in Devon to align services and deliver other projects as per the joint 'Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay 2020-2030</p>

	<p>EN.13. Promote campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy, Great British Spring Clean.</p> <p>There is a long history of partnership working within the team helping to deliver effective outcomes for the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint contracts in place for the sale and haulage of materials collected such as paper, glass and textiles, generating economies of scale and increasing income levels. • Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) – DCC, Torbay and districts working through a member led committee, supported with a small budget to help deliver strategic aims. Link here to minutes Browse meetings - Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee - Democracy in Devon <p>Currently working on an innovative smart watch project to identify households not participating in food waste recycling and target with communication interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a joint Waste and Resources Strategy in place – details here Waste management strategy for Devon - Waste and Recycling • Clean Devon – a recently formed alliance of organisations with an interest in reducing littering and fly-tipping. Clean Devon Partnership • ReFurnish – a local charity and social enterprise providing bulky waste collections using spare capacity on their collection vehicles and helping to maximise the amount of waste reused from this stream through their network of repair and resale outlets.
Service Delivery updates (inc. budget monitoring, performance information, risks, customer feedback)	<p>Waste & Recycling</p> <p>In 2024/25 we recycled 54.2% of household waste collected, an increase of 0.4% on the previous year which placed us within the top 12% of authorities nationally.</p> <p>We have over 25,000 subscribed to the garden waste service, the income from which helps us support the service costs.</p> <p>Waste Transfer Station</p> <p>A major project is underway to redevelop the Council's Waste Transfer Station to ensure that additional recyclable materials can be collected in line with the Simpler Recycling waste reforms, and to fulfil the requirements of the required site waste permit. Further detail is available here 20250507 WTS FC Final.pdf</p> <p>Green Spaces</p> <p>Target hardening works completed at the following sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bakers Park • Dawlish Countryside Park • Sandringham Park

Works and are due to commence in January 2026 at the following sites, with Osborne Park being prioritised and completion anticipated there by early February.

- Courtenay Park
- Forde Park
- Osborne Park

Green Spaces Satisfaction Survey

The survey ran from May to October 2025, promoted through social media, website, residents & staff newsletters, on-site posters, and pop-up roadshows. Total of 247 responses across 29 Teignbridge-owned sites including

- Dawlish Countryside Park (15.29%)
- Teignmouth Den (13.22%)
- Bakers Park (8.68%)
- Decoy Country Park (7.44%)

Positive feedback included 'a welcoming place to visit' (75%), 'feel safe when visiting' (88%), 'litter is well managed' (72%), 'grass cutting is satisfactory' (81%).

Areas we're working on include 'sustainable beds maintenance' only 54% responded positively, though this could be a perception as wildflower beds are intentionally left at times as part of the process, but there is potential to increase information on this.

When asked if playing fields/sports pitches are adequate only 54.21% agreed. Work on a new Teignbridge Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), led by the Council's strategy team has begun and is expected to be completed by November 2026. The PPS will provide a strategic framework to ensure that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the needs of existing and future residents within Teignbridge and is a supporting document of the Teignbridge Local Plan.

Green Flags

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Success at all 4 sites entered this year

- Courtenay park
- Decoy Countryside Park
- The Den
- Homeyards Botanical Gardens

Environmental Services Department Restructure

	<p>The Environmental services staff restructure has been completed, generating over £40,000 of cost savings and reducing the establishment by 2.6 FTEs. This is in addition to the reduction of 2 x FTEs in 2024/25 delivered through the street cleansing efficiency project.</p>
<p>Upcoming decisions, how Overview and Scrutiny can support the delivery of the strategic plan or any other information relevant for the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Plan</p>	<p>O&S Committee 3rd February To consider changes to the Council's recycling collection service to ensure compliance with the 'Simpler Recycling' reforms and waste permitting regulations.</p>