

# Overview and Scrutiny – Executive Member Bi-Annual Update

## Councillor Charles Nuttall – Executive Member for Environmental Services

<p>Services and legal responsibilities covered by Executive Member remit:</p>	<p>Environmental Services covers Refuse, Waste, Recycling, Cleansing, Green Spaces &amp; Health and Safety.</p>
<p>Strategic Plan objectives</p>	<p>Look after our parks and green spaces, making sure they are clean, safe, and wildlife friendly places where people of all ages want to go.</p> <p>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>Introduce new measures to increase household recycling rates</p> <p>Promote campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy, Great British Spring Clean</p>
<p>Service Delivery updates</p>	<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p><b>GM Contract</b></p> <p>Despite challenges from reduced resources assigned to the Grounds Maintenance contract, and challenging weather, the team have been working hard to ensure the successful delivery of essential winter works and obtaining green flags at 4 of our parks. The focus is currently on the grass cutting programme and ongoing management of cemeteries and burials.</p> <p><b>Target Hardening Works</b></p> <p>Works to minimise the risk of unauthorised encampments have now been completed across the sites identified below in line with the specified requirements.</p> <p>Bakers Park Courtenay Park Dawlish Countryside Park Forde Park</p>

Osborne Park  
Sandringham Park

***Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANG's) Expansion***

Ridgetop Park is an attractive green space that is well located to absorb visitor pressure on nearby internationally protected nature sites such as the Exe Estuary. It forms part of a strategy that is delivered by the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership between East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council. An agreement with the Land Trust has been finalised to fund costs associated with expanding the park into an additional 11 hectares of restored landfill, including additional staff resource.

***Waste Transfer Station Project***

Work started on site on 07 April 2026 to upgrade the Waste Transfer Station to deliver improved storage of waste, drainage, fire protection and staff welfare facilities and is part of the requirements to obtain a waste permit from the Environment Agency.

New processing equipment will increase the sorting and storage capacity for cartons, plastic bags and wrapping from recycling collections that we are obliged to collect through the 'Simpler Recycling' reforms. The project is currently on track and within budget. Further information available here [20250507 WTS FC Final.pdf](#)

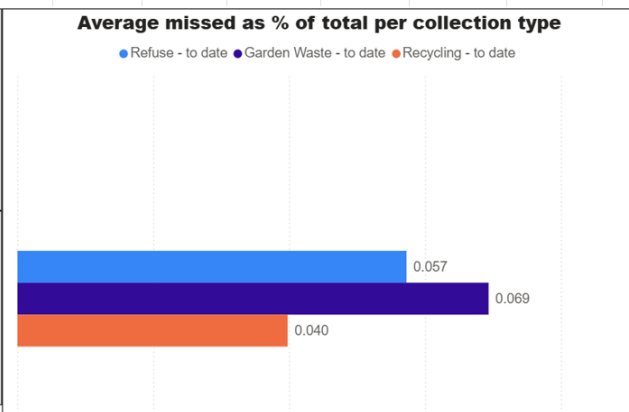
<b>Complaints 2025-26</b>	<b>No. of complaints</b>	<b>Resolved within timescales</b>	<b>Average response time</b>	<b>No. of compliments</b>
Waste & Recycling/Street Cleansing/Workshops	84	100%	6 days	49
Green Spaces/Resorts/Active Leisure/Rangers	10	80%	15 days	2

**Missed Bins 2025-26**

**0.05**  
Total missed as percentage of all collections

**Total collections missed to date (2025-26)**

Collection type	Total Collections	Total missed
Black	1,561,369.33	894
Green	579,800.00	402
Recycling	3,122,738.67	1242
Totals	5,263,908.00	2538



**Recycling Rate**

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. Audited figures for the 2025/26 rates will be published in the Autumn.

**Garden Waste Service**

We currently have over 26,000 subscriptions to the garden waste service, the income from which helps support the service costs. Numbers are in line with the previous year.

**Budget**

The final outturn position for 2025/26 is scheduled to be presented to the Executive on 16 July 2026, following which the details will be made available to Members.

**Risks**

In addition to the ongoing department risks linked to business as usual, the following additional risks are being carefully managed.

**Waste Transfer Station Project** – there are significant risks associated with Health & Safety, disruption to services and local traffic management being actively managed by the project team.

**Fuel supply and costs** - the conflict in the middle east continues to create an increased risk to the disruption of fuel supply and associated costs and service impacts. The Emergency Fuel Plan has been updated to reflect the current situation.

	<p>On a positive note, the Electric Vehicles have proved a great success. Initial data shows that the first phase of fleet electrification has reduced our fuel use by the equivalent of driving a Renault Clio hatchback around the world 18 times. Comparing fuel consumption and electricity use, direct energy savings amount to about £18,500 per annum. Carbon savings of 72 tonnes have outperformed initial estimates by 24% and will continue to increase as grid supplied electricity continues to decarbonise.</p> <p><b>Cartons</b> A reminder that since April we have been able to collect cartons with plastics and cans as part of the household recycling collection service.</p> <p><b>Food waste participation project</b> Around half of the food waste produced by residents still ends up in the residual waste stream. Teignbridge have led on a project to better understand who is not participating and why and to increase the number of households taking part in food waste recycling is underway.</p> <p>Recycling operatives are using ruggedised smart watches to identify non-participating households to improve how we record and use participation data, enabling us to trial practical, behavioural science-led interventions to encourage participation, using methods that can be scaled up. Pilot areas have shown up to 43% increases in food waste recycling participation, and the project is being rolled out across Devon authorities through the Devon Strategic Waste Committee.</p> <p><b>Health and Safety</b> The Executive member role has been expanded to cover responsibility for Corporate Health and Safety for the Council. There are several key projects that officers are delivering including the implementation of a Health and Safety Management system that will allow monitoring of data and performance by officers and members. Officers are also implementing a lone worker monitoring solution that will provide better protection to our medium risk lone workers.</p>
<p>Upcoming decisions, how Overview and Scrutiny can support the delivery of the strategic plan or any other information relevant for the Overview</p>	<p>Changes to the Recycling Collection Service as discussed at O&amp;S on 03 February 2026. Implementation will be dependent on schedule of works at the waste transfer station. Currently on track for delivery by June 2027 but identified opportunities to expediate delivery with works contractor in line with April 2027 deadline.</p>

and Scrutiny Forward Plan	
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