

**REPORT TITLE: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Resource and Waste  
Strategy 2026-2031**

**To:** Councillor Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment  
Cabinet 13 January 2026

**Report by:**

Rebecca Weymouth Wood

Waste Policy Manager

[Rebecca.weymouthwood@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.weymouthwood@scambs.gov.uk)

**(Wards affected:**

All

Director Approval: Directors Bode Esan and James Elms confirm that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
1.1	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the Draft RECAP Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 (RRWS).</li> <li>2. Grant delegation of approval to Executive Cllr for the final post consultation version of RECAP Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 (RRWS) in Feb 2026</li> </ol>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Purpose and reason for the report</b>
2.1	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council as the the Minerals and Waste Authority has approved the publication of a consultation on a new Draft RECAP Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 on behalf of the RECAP Waste Partnership (RRWS). Consultation finishes on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, GCSWS is seeking the support and approval from Cambridge City as a partner of the RECAP group on the draft document and grant</p>

	<p>delegation of approval to Executive Cllr for the final post consultation final version for the document.</p> <p>The Draft RRWS sets out the strategic direction for the RECAP Waste Partnership in the medium term, acknowledging areas of consensus for future infrastructure projects, priorities in waste collection, treatment and disposal, along with themes such as behavioural change, to support the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>The document is currently within the public consultation period to obtain views from wider stakeholder prior to finalisation and then adoption by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2026 and all authorities which form part of the RECAP Partnership including GCSWS.</p>
3.	<p>Alternative options considered</p> <p>Alternative option would be to not bring the document for approval.</p> <p>This option was not taken as it is important to ensure all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough partners embrace the future direction of waste management in Cambridgeshire and give reassurance to the WDA, Cambridgeshire County Council before they provide final sign off.</p>
4.	<p><b>Background and key issues</b></p>
4.1	<p>This report relates to the following Council ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambition 1 – Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes.</li> <li>• Ambition 6 – Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.</li> </ul> <p>The Draft RECAP Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031 (RRWS) includes a strategic approach to reducing levels of waste within the county by 2031 as well as impacting behaviour change to increase the public's response to the waste hierarchy; increasing the capture of recycling; and implementing best practices for waste collection, treatment and disposal.</p> <p>The RECAP waste partnership (which is made up of all the local authorities in Cambridgeshire and the unitary authority of Peterborough) has been in existence since</p>

1999 and has worked collaboratively to deliver on a strategic approach for collecting, managing and disposing of waste in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough during that time. In 2015 a statutory Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was published, which ran between 2015 to 2022. This strategy embodied a joint approach to working on the whole system of waste management to look for efficiencies, common policies and joint working to deliver against the waste hierarchy. There were 18 aims and objectives to deliver for the strategy. It embodied the aspect of waste being a contributor towards climate change, and that applying the waste hierarchy to the partnership's joint campaigns, would support waste reduction and reduce the pace of cost increases. The Draft RRWS is effectively the replacement for the previous statutory Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Since that strategy the partnership has gone from strength to strength working to procure contracts together, employ joint resources and align policies and campaigns to reduce waste, raise public awareness of waste issues and actively decarbonise the waste services. Working collectively East Cambridgeshire District Council and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste have joined up to share Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel tanks and to purchase more collaboratively. There has also been work by Peterborough and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste to trial vehicles and move to alternative fuels such as electric vehicles or HVO.

During the previous strategy, themes with procurement of waste services, existing contracts and limitations of the partnership's authority emerged. Over time areas for improvement was identified and greater collaboration and cooperation to deliver improved outcomes and reduced costs on the waste collection and disposal services.

A new national waste strategy was introduced in 2018, which was supported by subsequent legislation and altered the approach local authorities take to deliver kerbside waste collection and disposal arrangements. The introduction of Simpler Recycling, Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) and weekly food waste collections has meant the partnership has to consider how it would implement these. In addition, the introduction of flexible plastics recycling and a Deposit Return Scheme are anticipated in the next few years and these changes may require amendments to existing contracts and consideration of how the waste streams will be impacted.

#### Main Issues

The new Draft RRWS is looking at the needs of the area for the medium term, so that in the long term the infrastructure, collection and disposal arrangements could be more aligned and potentially using a whole system approach.

The Draft RRWS is structured with 8 themes which are: -

- Waste Hierarchy and Circular Economy
- Effective Waste Communications
- Legislations, Contracts and Procurement
- Waste Management Infrastructure
- Climate Change and Emissions Reduction
- Commercial Opportunities and Innovation
- Data Capture, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting
- Strategic Application Review and Governance

The Draft RRWS has been developed with RECAP members, officers and other stakeholders involved with waste management. It captures lessons learnt from RECAP procurements which exposed a weak economic position when each local authority was procuring waste transfer services. There have been two opportunities to procure waste transfer services in the last 2 years when both returned costs which are either above the market average or there were no acceptable bids because contractors did not have access to suitable sites within Cambridgeshire. In addition, when procuring contracts for dry mixed recycling, the market response to the procurement was high priced or geographically challenging. These commercial issues are recognised within the strategy and encourage greater collaboration and empowerment of the public sector to secure infrastructure, which may drive down the economic pressures and provide certainty for the future.

The Draft RRWS also aims to define the role waste management can play in reducing the overall carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This can be done by decarbonising the refuse collection fleet of vehicles, finding alternative fuels such as solar to produce electricity for waste management services and optimising routes to make them as efficient as possible. It identifies commercial opportunities, collaboration and a strategic approach to minimise the negative impacts of the lack of public engagement and best behaviours to optimise the services, by working collectively.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Corporate plan</b>
5.1	<p><u>Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</u></p> <p>The setting of new RECAP waste strategy directly supports the following priority in the corporate plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading Cambridge's response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies and creating a net zero council by 2030</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Consultation, engagement and communication</b>
6.1	<p>Proposed consultation arrangements</p> <p>A consultation, run by Cambridgeshire County Council has commenced between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026. The consultation documents will be made available at New Shire Hall and can be found on the <a href="#">RECAP website</a>. Any responses proposed to be sent by email for the consultation will be directed to <a href="mailto:recap@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">recap@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Emails have been sent to the list of the statutory consultees and other relevant parties, setting out arrangements for viewing documents and making representations. In addition, the district councils in partnership with RECAP have made contact via their developer forums with registered developers.</p> <p>It is expected that a final version of the strategy will be available in February once all comments have been collated and the document updated as necessary.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact</b>
7.1	<p>The Draft RRWS set out in Appendix 1 will align the priorities of the RECAP partnership for the medium term during a period of significant change in terms of new waste legislation and the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The consultation will allow residents the opportunity to understand the priorities and development of the waste collection and disposal services over the next five years and provide an opportunity for them to comment on the strategy.</p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Implications</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Relevant risks</b>
	No significant risk implications are anticipated from the consultation of the Draft RRWS. However, it is noted that full RECAP endorsement will be required to allow adoption of the final documents before the next report to this County Council committee.
	<b>Financial Implications</b>
<b>8.2</b>	There are no financial implications of endorsing the new strategy
	<b>Legal Implications</b>
<b>8.3</b>	There are no legal implications from this proposal. This report is seeking approval from Cambridge City Council as a member of the RECAP Partnership along with other partner authorities to sign up to the strategy post consultation ahead of adoption, the RECAP Board (represented in Cambridge by Councillor Moore) will have the final RRWS presented to allow their endorsement. As formal adoption will be a decision for Full Council at County level as part of their constitution.
	<b>Equalities and socio-economic Implications</b>
<b>8.4</b>	There are no implications identified under this category as set out in the Equality Impact Assessment.
	<b>Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications</b>
<b>8.5</b>	The Strategy intention is to drive improvements in waste and recycling services in the area to bring about waste reduction as well as enabling recycling and encourage more sustainable and climate friendly ways of providing the service. It was medium positive impact under the assessment

	<b>Procurement Implications</b>
8.6	N/A
	<b>Community Safety Implications</b>
8.7	N/A
<b>9.</b>	<b>Background documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RECAP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy  <a href="#">RECAP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy</a></li> <li>• Statement of Community Involvement 2014  <a href="#">Statement of Community Involvement 2019</a></li> </ul> <p>Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
10.1	Appendix 1 - Draft RECAP Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2026-2031
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact</p> <p>Rebecca Weymouth-Wood, Waste Policy Manager</p> <p>07968 343096      <a href="mailto:Rebecca.weymouthwood@scambs.gov.uk">Rebecca.weymouthwood@scambs.gov.uk</a></p>