



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT COVER SHEET**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Review of Waste & Recycling Services	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
<b>Meeting of:</b>	Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee	
	Corporate Management Team	
	Leader and Deputy Leaders	
	Cabinet	

# Scrutiny Committee Review Final Report

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**Title:** Review of Waste & Recycling Services

**Scrutiny Committee:** Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee

**Committee Chair:** Cllr Wileman

**Sub-group Members Leading Review:**

- Cllr Legg
- Cllr Lamb
- Cllr Clarke
- Cllr Wileman

**Is the Report Confidential?** No

**If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972:** N/a

## **SECTION 1: COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

### **1. Scrutiny approach**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being) Committee held on 16th December 2020, Committee members agreed to undertake a review on recycling and that a sub-group made up of the councillors named below lead the review on behalf of the Committee.
- 1.2 The review will dovetail with the scrutiny review being undertaken the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee.

### **2. Sub Group Membership:**

- Cllr Legg
- Cllr Lamb
- Cllr Clarke
- Cllr Wileman

### **3. Scrutiny Review Scope**

- 3.1 What are the key challenges to recycling?
- 3.2 What is the strategy to address these challenges?
- 3.3 How do other local authorities attempt to address community challenges to recycling?

### **4. Research conducted and methodology**

- 4.1 Research undertaken for this scrutiny review consisted of both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Qualitative measures included a residents survey and a desk top review (conducted by Councillors) of the best and least well performing local authorities in the West Midlands and Staffordshire. This latter technique involved individual members reviewing the websites of these respect Council's to assess how information is disseminated to the public and to garner any learning that could be applied to ESBC from their research.
- 4.2 Quantitative information was provided - via the Waste Management team - on performance against NI and BVPI indicators for waste collection and recycling. This information compared ESBC against the rest of Staffordshire, the West Midlands, the CIPFA nearest neighbour group and our geographical neighbour South Derbyshire. This data helped members to understand the performance of ESBC when contrasted against authorities within these groups. A shortened version of this information is presented below. Finally, to further aid understanding of the amount of waste generated in East Staffordshire the group have considered the number of bulky waste collections and fly-tipping incidents on a ward by ward basis.

### **5. Performance information**

- 5.1 Set out in the following diagrams is the performance of ESBC in the cluster of Staffordshire authorities, the West Midlands, CIPFA nearest group and geographical neighbour.

## Residual Household Waste per Household (kg)

Figure 1: NI191- Residual Household Waste per Household (kg); West Midlands (11 authorities excluding the 8 from Staffordshire)



Figure 2 NI191- Residual Household Waste per Household (kg); Staffordshire



Figure 3 NI191- Residual Household Waste per Household (kg); CIPFA nearest neighbour

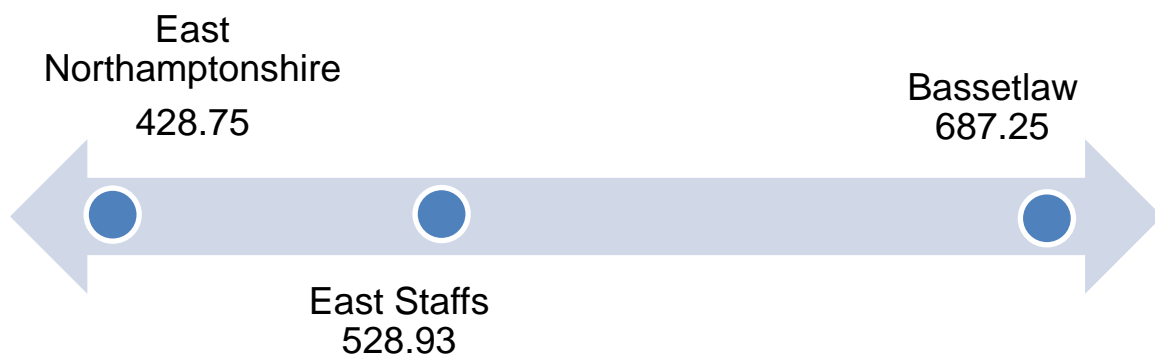


Figure 4 NI191- Residual Household Waste per Household (kg); v geographical neighbour



**Percentage of household waste sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting**

Figure 5: NI192- Percentage Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting; West Midlands

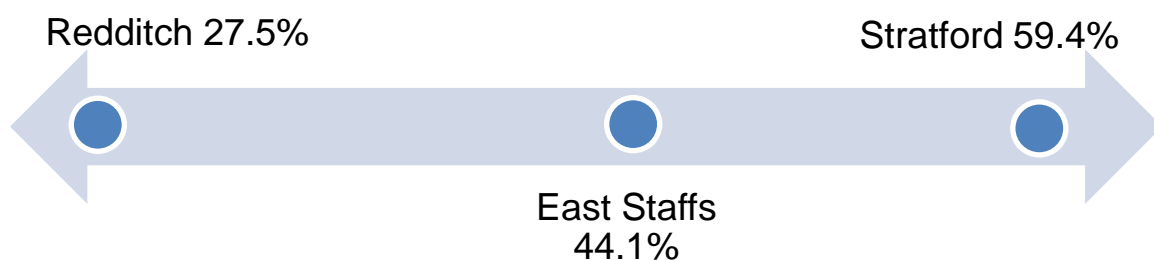


Figure 6: NI192- Percentage Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting; Staffordshire



Figure 7: NI192- Percentage Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting; CIPFA nearest neighbour



Figure 8 NI192- Percentage Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting; Staffordshire; v geographical neighbour



**Percentage household waste arisings sent for composting.**

Figure 9: BVPI 82a Percentage household waste arisings sent for composting: West Midlands



Figure 10: BVPI 82a Percentage household waste arisings sent for composting: Staffordshire

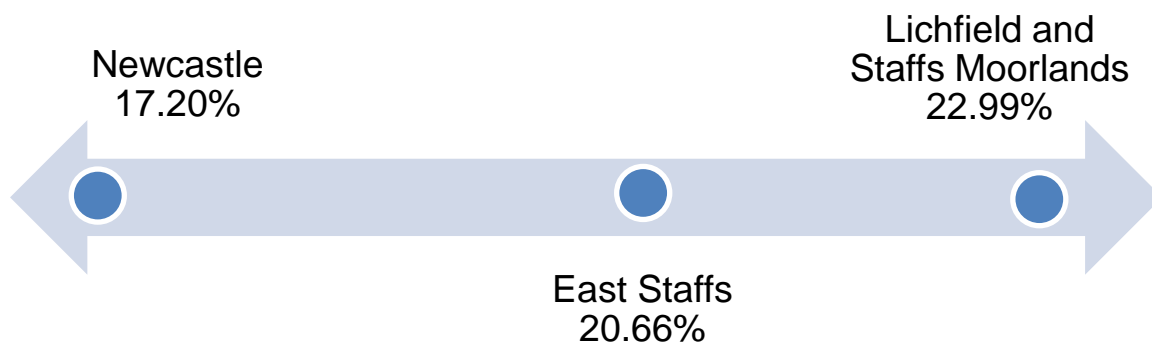


Figure 11: BVPI 82a Percentage household waste arisings sent for composting: CIPFA nearest neighbour

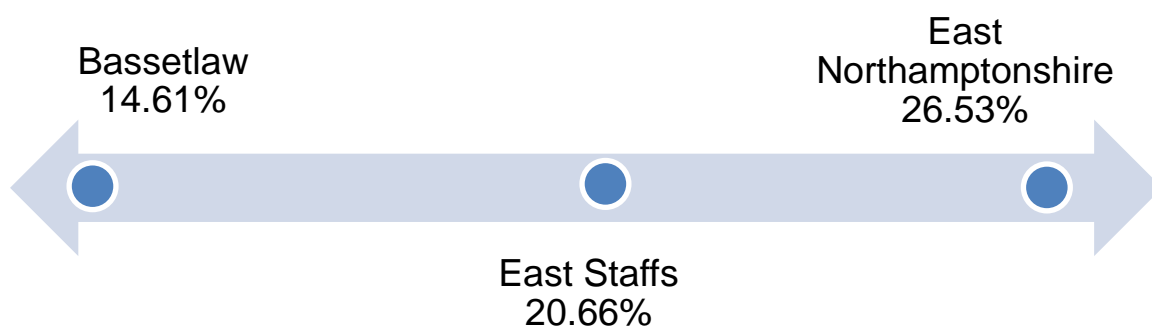


Figure 12: BVPI 82a Percentage household waste arisings sent for composting: geographical neighbour

East Staffordshire

- 20.66%

South Derbyshire

- 17.92%

**Household waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion.**

Figure 13: Household waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion: West Midlands

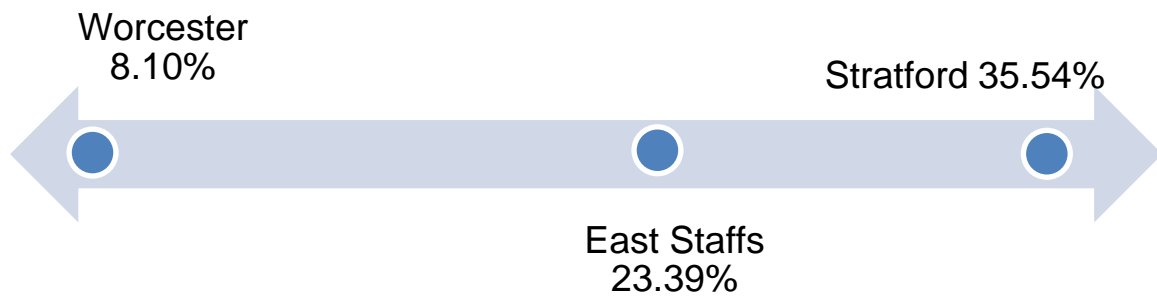


Figure 14: Household waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion: Staffordshire

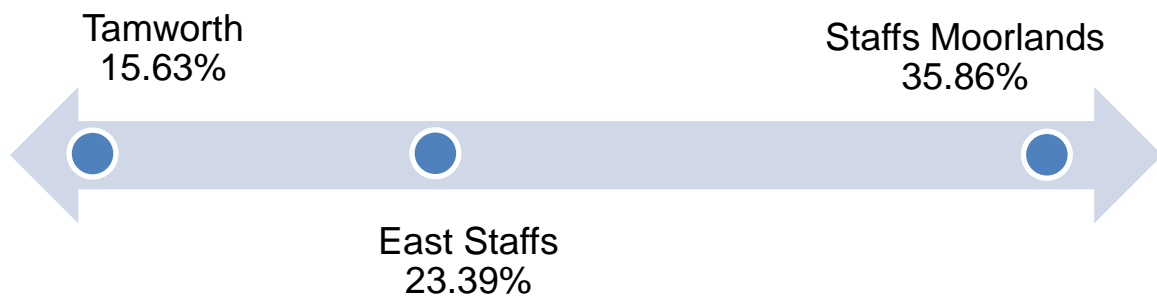


Figure 15: Household waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion: CIPFA nearest neighbour





Figure 16: Household waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion: geographical neighbour

South Derbyshire

• 28.20%

East Staffordshire

• 23.39%

**Household waste collection (Kilograms per head)**

Figure 17: BVPI84a Household waste collection (Kilograms per head): West Midlands

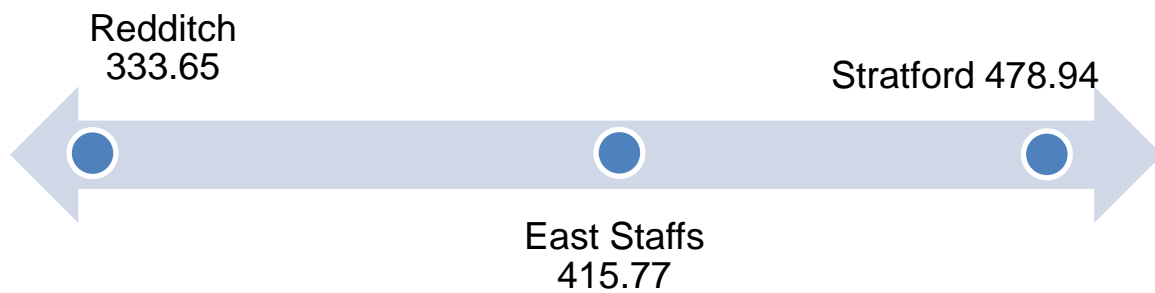


Figure 18: BVPI84a Household waste collection (Kilograms per head): Staffordshire



Figure 19: BVPI84a Household waste collection (Kilograms per head): CIPFA nearest neighbour

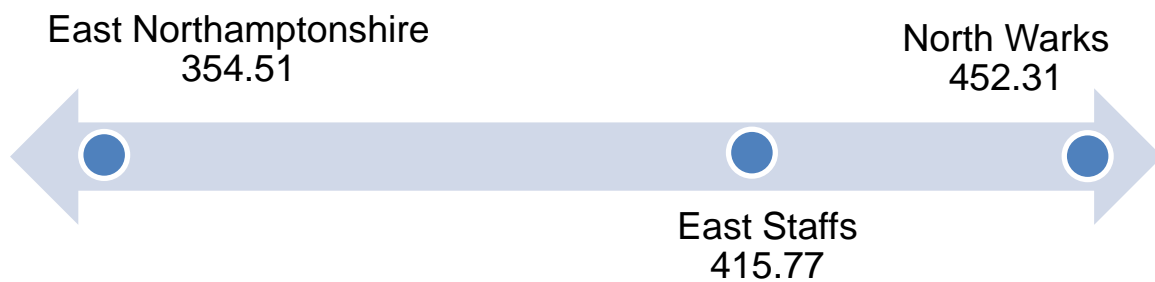


Figure 20: BVPI84a Household waste collection (Kilograms per head): geographical neighbour

South Derbyshire

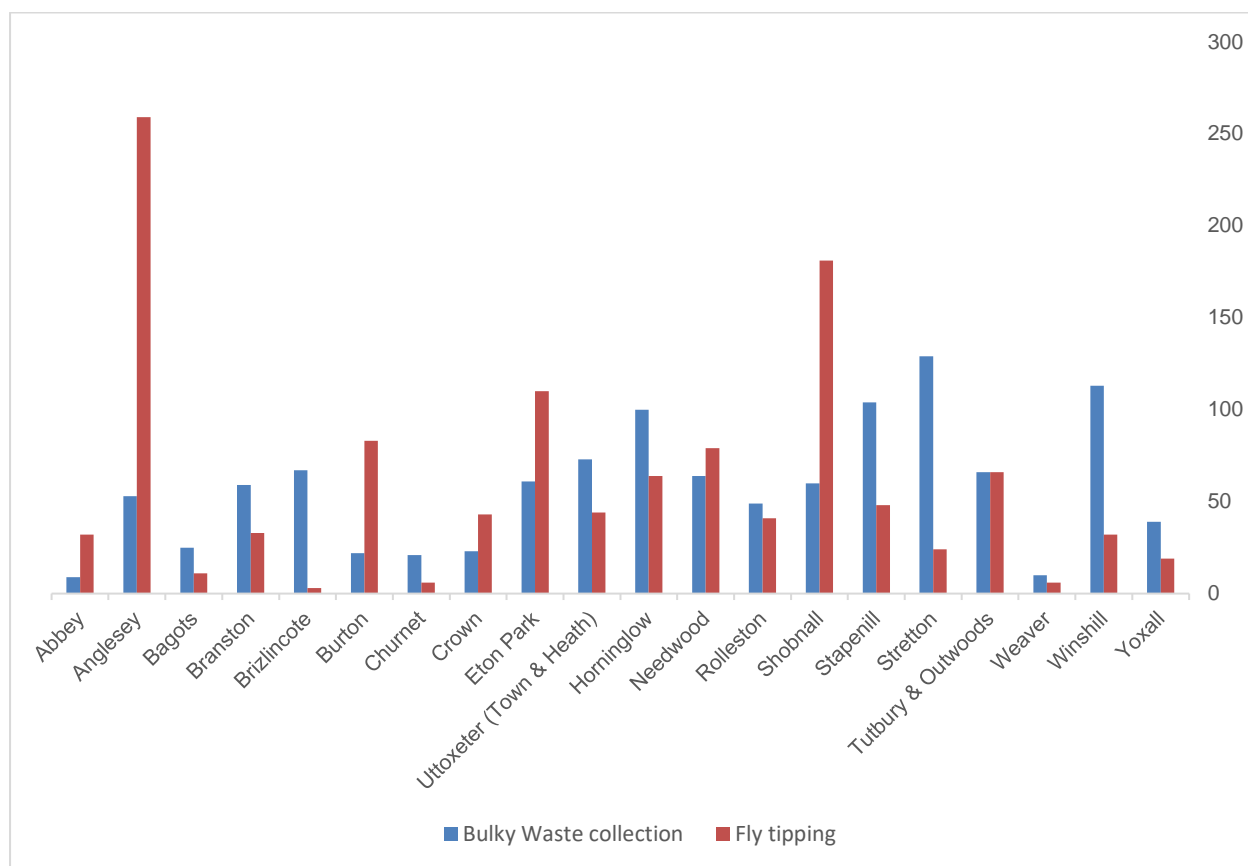
• 430.27

East Staffordshire

• 415.77

- 5.2 From the series of diagrams above it can be seen that ESBC generally performance is on or near to the average for each of the datasets. Although many contextual factors are at play- therefore making examination of performance difficult- one immediate observation is the higher positive rates experienced by authorities that appear to cover more rural areas and have greater affluence in amongst their populations.
- 5.3 Alongside the group comparisons the committee also considered data in relation to bulky waste collections and fly-tipping to examine how residents are handling their large waste items

Figure 21: Bulky waste and fly-tipping incidents by ward (August 20-21)



5.4 Ward level statistics appear not to throw up any obvious trends that could be considered challenges for waste collection and recycling. Two wards (Anglesey & Shobnall) have significantly higher numbers of fly-tipping incidents and in comparison low numbers of bulky waste collections. This may suggest correlation between low income and fly-tipping as both Shobnall and Anglesey have featured in the top 20% of deprived areas in the Indices of Deprivation. However, this is not borne out when looking at other wards with similar high levels of deprivation in the Burton area. This is most starkly illustrated in Stapenhill and Winshill, with both wards having more bulky waste collections than fly-tipping incidents.

## 6. Qualitative research

6.1 Purely on the analysis of quantitative data it is difficult to draw any conclusion as to challenges that are faced by the council when dealing with waste collection and recycling rates, although the potential number of low income homes could be a factor. Consequently, the research has also encompassed a qualitative approach through a resident online survey and desk top research by Councillors examining the information put out by Redditch, Staffs Moorlands, Tamworth and Stratford councils respectively. Survey results are presented in a numerical format followed by a short commentary on responses to the open text questions. Full survey results can be found in the appendices. Following on from this is a synopsis of the Councillor findings and how this aligns with East Staffs strategic approach to Waste & Recycling.

Figure 22: Resident satisfaction with grey/black bin service

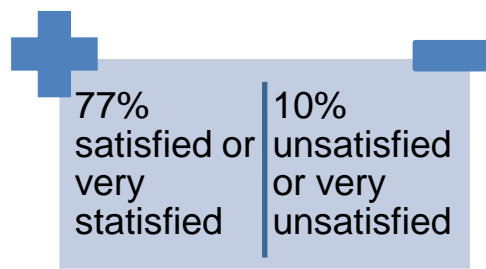


Figure 23: Resident satisfaction with brown bin service

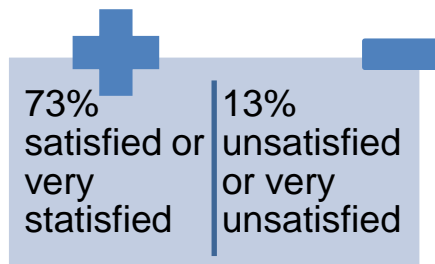


Figure 24: Resident satisfaction with blue bin service

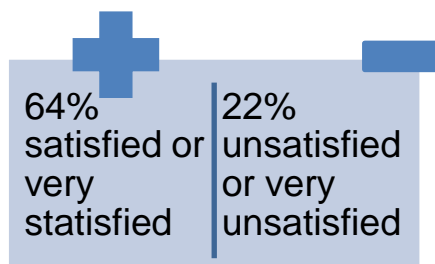
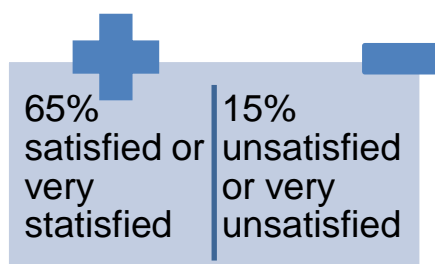


Figure 25: Overall satisfaction



6.2 Survey results illustrate that residents are largely positive for each of the bin services provided by the Council. Challenges do, however, arise when trying to understand what can and cannot be recycled. Responses showed that 56% were unclear on what could be recycled. On a positive note, 86% of residents answering the survey would like to recycle 80% or more of their waste. Awareness rates and usage of the bulky waste service scored 78% and 77% respectively.

- 6.3 Open text questions encouraged to give broader answers to the questions posed. When asked about waste that can be recycled residents appear to be unsure and an eclectic mix of answers has been provided. Therein, lies a potential challenge. Suggestions for how this could be improved did not yield any radical ideas with stickers on bins, leaflets and social media posts featuring strongly. Other service improvement recommendations included the collection of food waste and a return to weekly rounds.
- 6.4 Councillor desk top research on the bench-marked authorities revealed similar strategic techniques to those used by East Staffs with the use of list on websites and social media featuring prominently. One interesting aspect was the use of public roadshows by Stratford to promote and encourage recycling. Diversion did occur in the types of waste collected, methods used and charges applied. Each bench-marked Council had the standard three bins for general, garden and recycling waste. However, Tamworth (£36 per Garden bin) and Stratford (£40.00 per year) charge for collection of garden waste. Tamworth suspend this bin collection of the Christmas and New Year period, whereas Stratford also administer a charge of £2.00 for each additional sack of waste. Staffordshire Moorlands will also collect additional garden waste but residents have to purchase a 70p bag from the council. Additional services offered by Stratford and Staffordshire Moorlands is the collection of shoes and textiles (Staffordshire Moorlands) and batteries or small electric items (Stratford).

## **7. Summary**

- 7.1 Waste and recycling collection services are not uniformly delivered across the country and Councils appear to have some degree of choice on what they recycle and how. Consequently, there is the potential for central government to introduce some form of a standardisation, but such a move is beyond the scope of this report. What does appear to be uniform is the way that services are promoted with websites and social media to the fore. Traditional methods such as stickers and leaflets still find favour with the public and the use of public roadshows may be an avenue for ESBC to explore for further.
- 7.2 Overall, the Waste and Recycling service is well regarded by the residents of East Staffordshire. Options exist to introduce charging for brown/garden waste as per Tamworth & Stratford or expand the materials collected. Any such move would need to be fully investigated and the costs v benefits explored in detail. Encouragingly, East Staffordshire residents would like to recycle more, the challenges arises in helping them to understand what can be recycled and ensuring that messages are communicated consistently through a variety of mediums.

## **8. Recommendation(s) of the Committee**

- 8.1.1. The Council undertake a detailed review into charging for the collection of garden waste.
- 8.1.2. Brown/Garden waste bin collection is suspended in December and/or January.
- 8.1.3. Review methods of communication to residents with regard to recycling.

## **9. Appendices**

- 9.1. Scrutiny Audit and Value for Money Council Services Committee Waste Review

## **SECTION 2: OFFICER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **10. Financial Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:  
**Lisa Turner***

10.1. The main financial issues arising from this Report are as follows:

10.1.1. There are potentially significant financial implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report which have not been considered in detail as part of the Scrutiny Report. Should the Cabinet accept these recommendations, a further report may be needed to fully assess the implications.

### **11. Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team: **Caroline Elwood***

11.1. The main legal issues arising from this Report are as follows:

11.1.1. Councils have a statutory duty to collect Household recyclates, including food waste, from domestic properties. However they do not have a statutory duty to collect garden waste from domestic properties and accordingly a number of Councils now charge a supplement for collecting this type of waste.

### **12. Background Papers**

12.1 None.

### **13. Equalities and Health**

13.1 **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

13.2 **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed.

### **14. Human Rights**

14.1 There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

### **15. Sustainability**(including climate change and change adaptation measures)

15.1 Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) **N/A**