

Waste and Recycling Strategy

Community Consultation Report
Round two

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



Waste and Recycling Strategy Consultation
Consultation Period: 29 July 2026 to 25 August 2026
Total survey responses: 121

Executive summary

Hobsons Bay City Council's Waste and Recycling Strategy consultation was open through a survey via Participate from 29 July to 25 August 2026 and received 121 contributions from 112 contributors. An additional three submissions were received via email. Feedback was collected on three key areas: kerbside collection, public realm, and Council operations. Most respondents provided feedback on kerbside collection, with lower participation in the public realm and council operations sections.

Written feedback covered a broad range of waste and recycling topics. Within the kerbside collection section, common themes included collection frequencies for food and garden and general rubbish bins, flexibility around bin sizes and service combinations, soft plastics recycling, hard waste services, recycling drop-off locations, recycling education, and waste collection arrangements for apartments, multi-unit developments and specific streets. Respondents also raised opportunities for recycling additional waste streams such as clothing, vapes, electronic waste, plastic lids and garden waste.

Feedback relating to the public realm focused on illegal dumping, public bin infrastructure and servicing, litter and dog waste management, hard waste disposal, recycling facilities in public spaces, enforcement measures and community education.

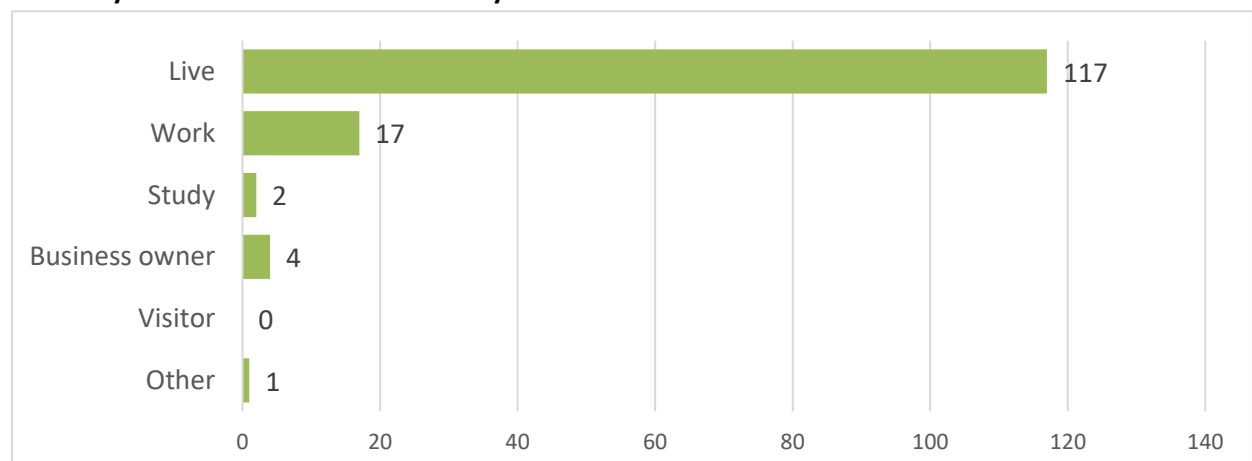
Responses relating to council operations commonly referred to procurement practices, contractor performance, waste reduction targets, reporting and accountability measures, circular economy initiatives, and partnerships with businesses and community groups.

Most respondents identified as Hobsons Bay residents (97.5%). The largest concentrations of respondents reported spending most of their time in Williamstown, Newport, Altona Meadows, Altona and Altona North. Respondents were predominantly aged between 40 and 69 years, and 62.5% identified as female.

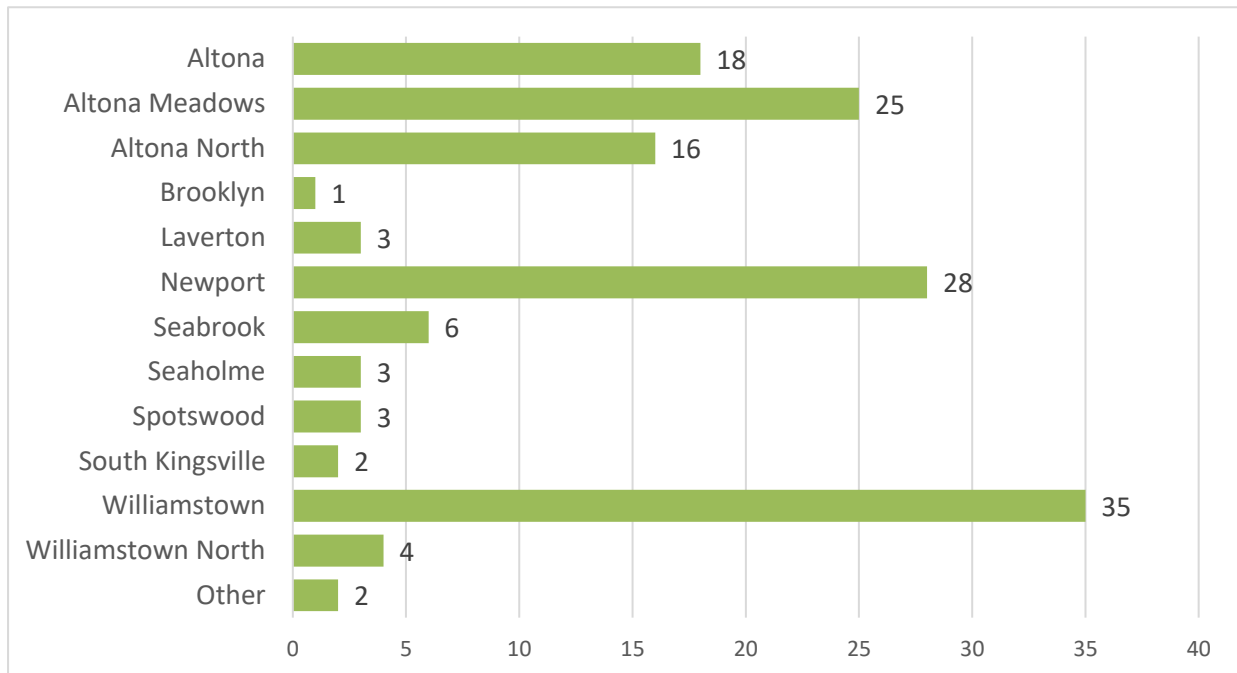
The consultation provided feedback across all aspects of the draft Waste and Recycling Strategy, with respondents commenting on service delivery, recycling opportunities, public cleanliness, waste education, operational practices and future waste management initiatives.

Survey questions

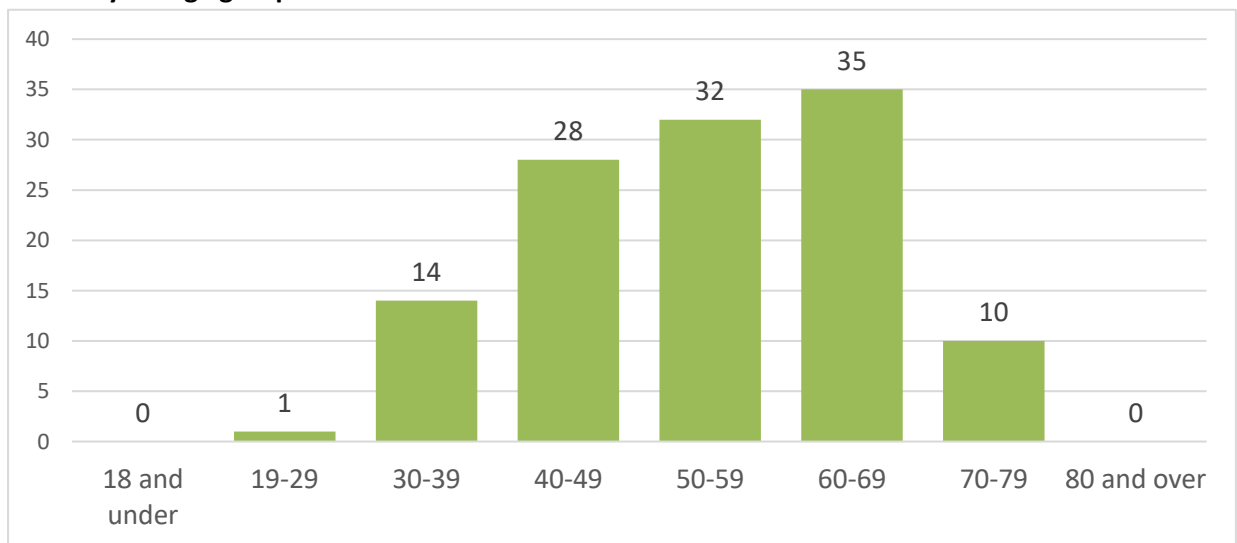
What is your connection to Hobsons Bay?



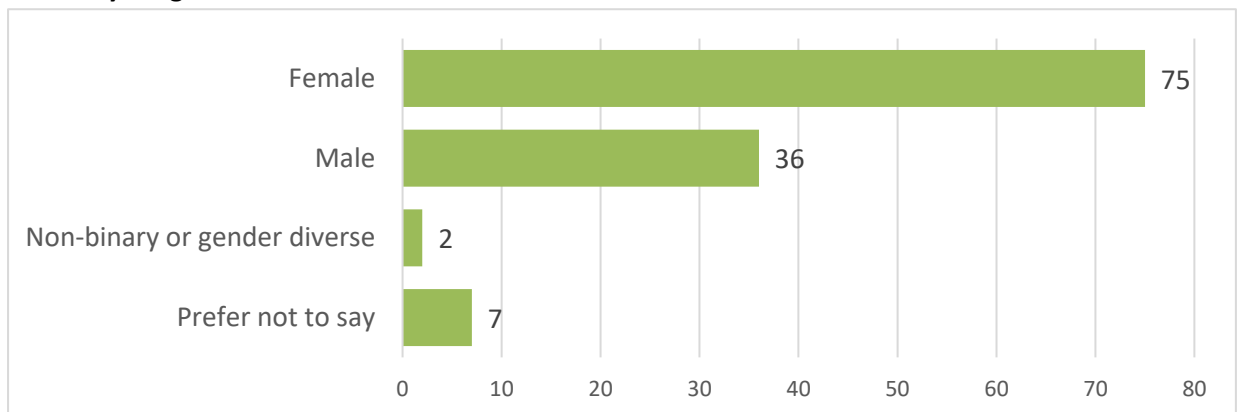
What suburb do you spend most time in?



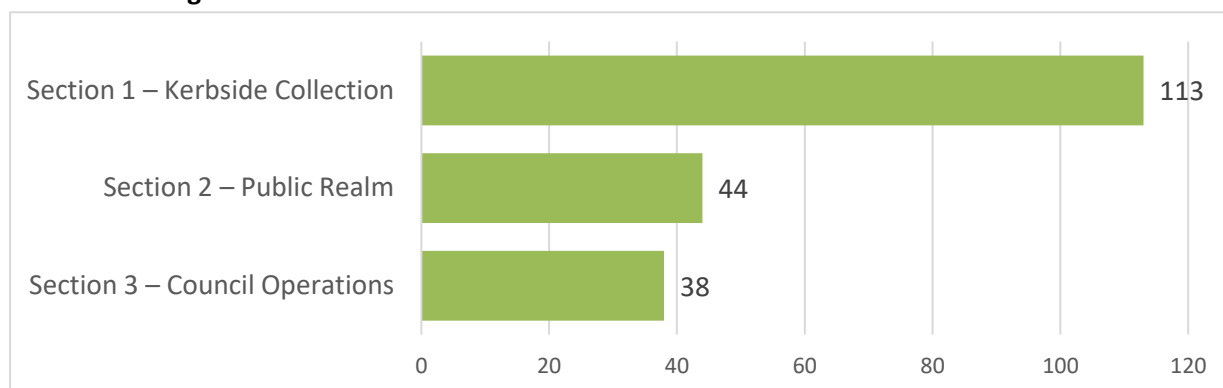
What is your age group?



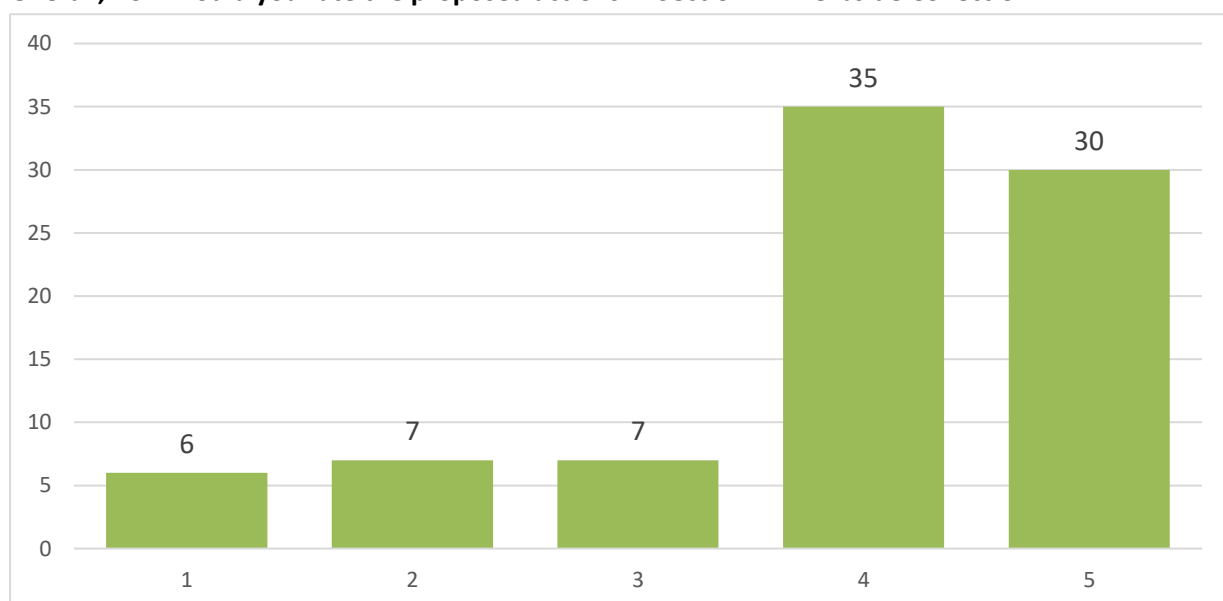
What is your gender?



I am submitting feedback on



Overall, how would you rate the proposed actions in Section 1 – Kerbside Collection



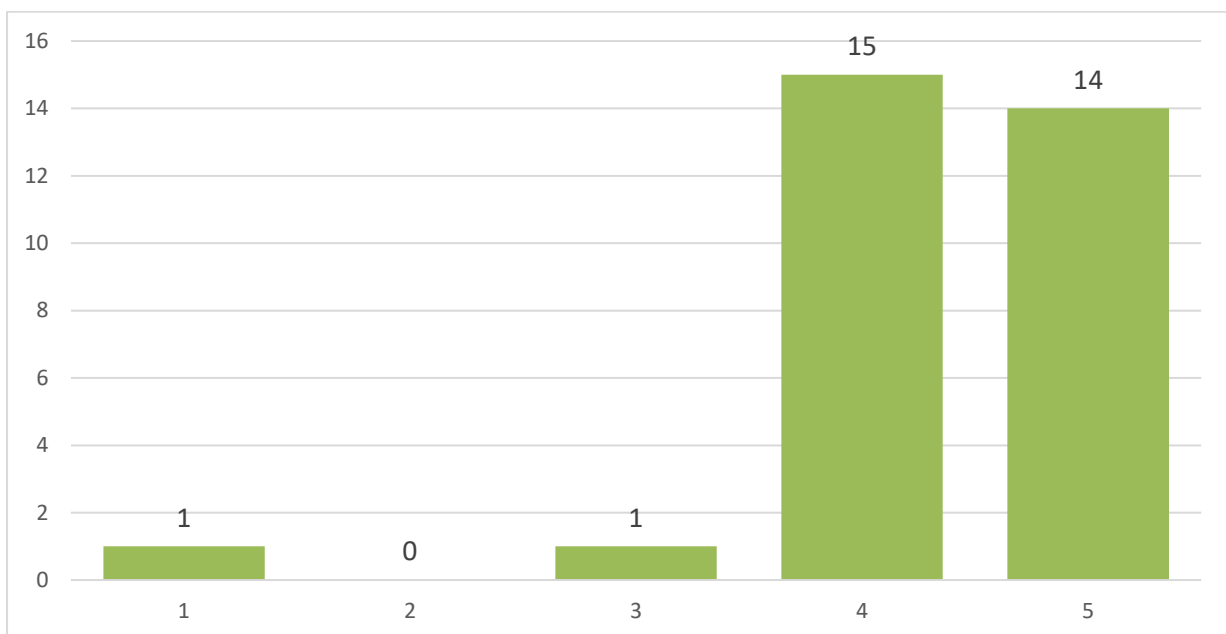
Section 1 – Kerbside collection: frequently raised topics

The 74 written responses on kerbside collection covered a range of service and infrastructure matters. Common topics included:

- **Food and garden bin collection frequency**, with numerous respondents commenting on the current collection schedule and suggesting alternative collection frequencies, particularly during warmer months.
- **General rubbish collection frequency**, including comments supporting both weekly and fortnightly collection arrangements.
- **Bin size and combinations options**, including requests for larger and/or smaller bins, making the glass bin optional, and greater flexibility for households, apartments and multi-unit developments.
- **Soft plastics recycling**, with respondents requesting additional recycling options for soft plastics, including kerbside collection and other collection programs or drop-off opportunities. Some responses also noted the absence of soft plastics recycling within the draft Strategy.
- **Hard-to-recycle materials**, including requests for additional recycling opportunities for items such as clothing and textiles, vapes, plastic lids, cardboard, polystyrene, electronic waste and garden waste.

- **Hard waste services**, including comments regarding hard waste collections, disposal costs, access to drop-off facilities and requests for additional collection opportunities.
- **Drop-off locations**, with respondents seeking expanded permanent or temporary locations for hard-to-recycle materials and other waste streams. Libraries, community facilities and dedicated recycling locations were identified in some submissions.
- **Recycling education and communication**, including requests for clearer information about what can and cannot be recycled, education programs, bin tagging, bin stickers, community outreach and improved online information.
- **Street-specific collection issues**, particularly submissions relating to waste collection arrangements in Mariner Street and other narrow or one-way streets, including requests for alternative collection approaches.
- **Apartments and multi-unit developments**, including comments about bin storage, communal bin systems, shared recycling facilities and service suitability for higher-density housing.

Overall, how would you rate the proposed actions in Section 2 – Public Realm?

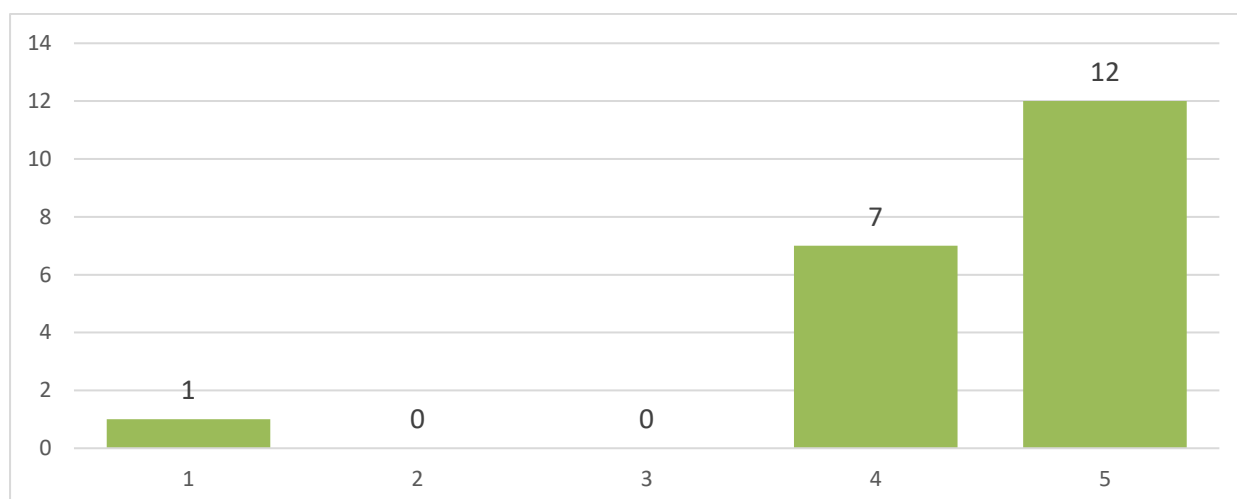


Section 2 – Public realm: frequently raised topics

The 26 responses relating to public realm actions:

- Illegal dumping and enforcement measures.
- Public bin numbers, placement and collection frequency.
- Additional recycling facilities in public spaces.
- Hard waste disposal options and access to drop-off services.
- CCTV, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
- Litter management in parks, foreshore areas and activity centres.
- Dog waste disposal facilities, including waste bag stations and bin infrastructure.
- Community education and behaviour change initiatives.

Overall, how would you rate the proposed actions in Section 3 – Council Operations?



What have we missed in Section 3 – Council operations?

The 15 responses regarding Council operations most referred to:

- Procurement practices and purchasing of recycled-content products.
- Contractor performance, accountability and reporting.
- Waste reduction targets and public reporting of progress.
- Circular economy initiatives and material reuse.
- Partnerships with local businesses and community groups.

Before the Strategy is finalised, is there anything else you would like Council to consider?

60 respondents provided additional comments for Council to consider before finalising the Strategy. The feedback covered a range of topics, with several recurring themes identified.

Service delivery and collection arrangements

A few respondents commented on waste collection services, including requests for changes to collection frequencies, particularly weekly food and garden waste collections and less frequent general rubbish collections. Some respondents raised concerns about odour, insects and food waste build-up in the food and garden bins, while others advocated for maintaining existing collection services. Comments were also made regarding street-specific collection arrangements, bin sizes and combinations, neighbourhood bulk bins and reliability of collection services.

Recycling and waste reduction initiatives

Respondents suggested a variety of opportunities to expand recycling services, including soft plastics recycling, e-waste drop-off events, recycling of hard-to-recycle items, compost return programs and support for charities that reuse or recycle household goods. Several respondents also called for simpler recycling systems, clearer information about recyclable materials and greater responsibility for packaging manufacturers.

Illegal dumping, litter and public amenity

Illegal dumping was a commonly raised issue. Respondents called for stronger enforcement, increased penalties, improved reporting mechanisms and additional funding to address dumping hotspots. Other comments focused on litter management, public bin infrastructure, graffiti removal, community clean-up activities and maintaining cleanliness in public places such as beaches, parks and foreshore areas.

Education and community engagement

Many respondents highlighted the importance of education and behaviour change. Suggestions included clearer recycling information, improved website content, bin stickers, face-to-face education programs, public awareness campaigns and broader community consultation on significant initiatives. Some respondents noted the value of community involvement in waste and recycling programs.

Strategic planning and accountability

Several submissions sought greater detail regarding implementation, including measurable targets, timelines, responsibilities, reporting mechanisms and cost implications. Respondents also requested transparent assessment of major initiatives, regular public reporting of outcomes and a longer-term approach to waste management planning.

Cost and affordability

Several respondents emphasised that waste and recycling initiatives should consider impacts on rates and service charges. Comments included requests for cost transparency, maintaining affordability, providing free or low-cost disposal options and ensuring services deliver value for money.

Waste-to-energy and emerging waste solutions

Some respondents commented specifically on waste-to-energy initiatives, requesting further community consultation, transparent assessment processes and consideration of alternative waste diversion approaches. Others encouraged Council to continue investigating waste-to-energy and other new technologies and long-term waste solutions.

Public infrastructure and environmental management

Additional comments included requests for more public bins, fishing line disposal bins, dog waste facilities, maintenance of public spaces, tree establishment and watering, and improvements to streetscape cleanliness and amenities.

Conclusion

The Waste and Recycling Strategy consultation attracted 124 contributions and provided feedback across all areas of the draft Strategy. Respondents commented on existing waste services, future service options, recycling opportunities, public realm management and council operations. The highest level of participation related to kerbside collection, although feedback was also received on public realm initiatives and council's operational practices.

Additional comments highlighted a broad range of topics, including waste collection frequencies, recycling services, illegal dumping, public litter, education and behaviour change initiatives, cost and affordability considerations, and longer-term waste management planning. Respondents also provided suggestions relating to public infrastructure, community engagement, hard-to-recycle materials, waste-to-energy, and opportunities to improve accountability and reporting.

Overall, the consultation generated detailed feedback on both strategic and operational aspects of waste and recycling services. The feedback provides a record of community views, experiences and suggestions that can be considered alongside other technical, operational and legislative requirements in the finalisation of the Waste and Recycling Strategy.

Next steps

Council will use insights from this feedback, alongside technical advice, operational requirements and legislative obligations, to ensure the new Waste and Recycling Strategy reflects community needs and priorities while remaining practical and achievable.

The Waste and Recycling Strategy is now being finalised and will be presented to councillors for consideration and endorsement at the Council meeting on 27 October 2026.