

Local Authority Fleet Management:

Delivering improvements, flexibility and better outcomes

James Hendry, Assistant Director of Environment, Climate Change and Open Spaces

APSE National Transport Network – July 2026



Basildon
Borough Council

Background:

- An Introduction to Basildon
- Environmental Services Function
- Key Drivers for Change
- Legislation
- Political Changes
- Financial pressures



Where we were:

- Up until 2011, the Council ran an In-house service provision with a Transport Manager whose roles were to manage O-license compliance, the vehicle workshop and staff, procurement of vehicles/plant etc.
- Aging workforce, little succession planning. Workshop function not meeting expectations
- Fleet management not supporting good operations
- Overall fear of not meeting compliance requirements
- No social value

What we did:

- Competitive Tender
- Competitive dialogue
- Why this was important
- Contract began May 2011
- 7+7 year contract
- Recently agreed to extend contract to 2028 to allow LGR preparations



Performance

- Service Delivery Standards – Daily Operations
- Compliance, H&S, supports and protects the authority's O-Licence
- Availability & Reliability of fleet
- Reporting & Data Requirements to monitor and manage the contract
- Co-location of operations team and transport manager

Importance of partnership model:

- Flexibility – Supportive in trying out new ideas, solving emerging problems
- Changes in legislation – Recycling Collections, Simpler Recycling
- Requirement to amend quickly in ever changing political and legislative landscapes



Key Achievements:

- Improved Compliance
- Increased Safety
- Innovation – alert to future opportunities
- 1st Fully Electric Vehicle fleet to carry out food waste collections
- Investment in workshops infrastructure
- Legislative compliance
- Double award winning – Fleet Team of the year, Most innovative fleet management strategy, Fleet Vision International Awards, 2026



- c.42 tonnes of CO2e saved per year

Electric Food Waste Vehicles:

- Fleet size total 120 vehicles of which 56 are HGV
- Mandatory Food Waste Services – Key Materials
- Climate Change Commitments
- Discussions with NRG Riverside
- Option review
- 7 x 12.5 tonne eCargo vehicles
- Installation of and uprating of Depot – Working with UKPN
- 7 x 23 kW and 2 x 7 kW chargers installed
- Food waste service launched Oct 2022



Telematics data collected throughout one year from a vehicle in the **Basildon** fleet



Age
20 Months



Body
Hillend



GVW
12.5T



Battery Size
140 kWh

Performance

Key metrics

Distance
Travelled
(km)

14k

Energy
Consumed
(kWh)

14.5k

Energy
Recovered
(kWh)

2k

Annual Battery
Degradation
(%)

2%

Estimated
Annual Cost
(£)

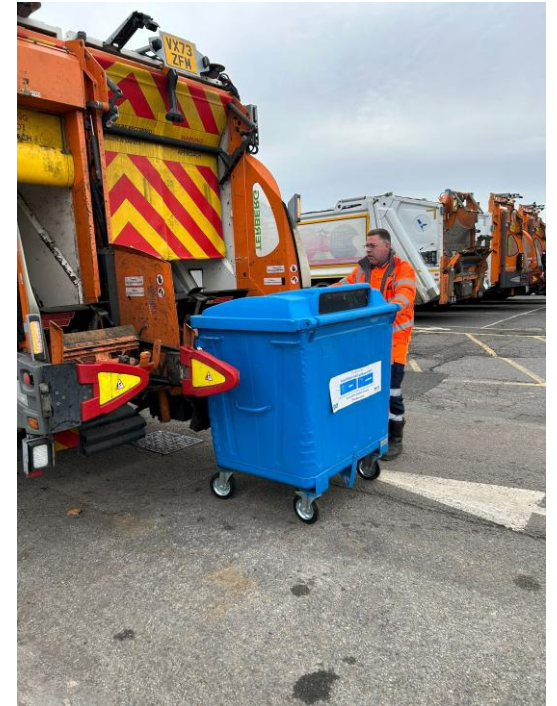
4k

Estimated
CO₂e Savings
(kg)

6k

Supporting Drivers through Change

- Early engagement
- Regular feedback
- Clear communications (and listening!)
- Involvement in service design
- Ongoing training



Social Value

- Apprenticeships
- Support for Mayor's charitable aims
- Pedal Power
- Work with Schools
- Training and development of staff
- Signing up to wider Council values and programmes



Next Steps

- LGR
- Contract ends in May 2028
- Future opportunities for the industry

Thank you – Your Questions



James Hendry
Assistant Director
Environment, Climate Change and Open Spaces