

DRAFT RESOURCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR DEVON AND TORBAY

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Colin Slade
Responsible Officer: Darren Beer, Interim Group Manager - Street Scene and Open Spaces

Reason for Report: This report outlines the new draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay. The strategy describes how the Devon local authorities and Torbay will manage Local Authority Collected Waste (household waste, litter, fly tipped, street sweepings and some trade) from 2020-2030. The delivery of this Strategy will be overseen by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC). Torbay are party to the Strategy but, as a Unitary Authority also have their own.

Following its approval at the DASWC meeting on 15th October 2020, the draft Strategy requires the approval of the individual local authorities for proceeding to public consultation. After the public consultation and further scrutiny by the DASWC, the final Strategy will be brought back for endorsement by the relevant individual authorities. It will then be presented to Devon County Council for final adoption.

Recommendation: This PDG considers the contents of this report and the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay for public consultation and recommends it to Cabinet for approval.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Budget and Policy Framework: There are no additional resource implications for MDDC. The DASWC Committee's budget contributes to achieving elements of the Strategy, in addition to each authority's own budgets contributing to the overall aims and targets of the Strategy. An allocation is proposed for a residual waste analysis in 2022 from the DASWC Committee's 2021/22 and 2022/23 budgets.

Legal Implications: The Authority has a duty to arrange for collection of household waste. The legislative framework is to be found in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Waste Framework Directive 2008, and Controlled Waste Regulations 2012.

Risk Assessment: There would be an option to delay developing the Strategy until after the Government consults further on its own policies next year. However, it is considered that with so much changing in the waste sector since 2013, it would be unhelpful to delay further and there are no guarantees that the Government consultation will be concluded when expected. In terms of risk, it is anticipated that this Strategy will be in line with national policy as it develops further.

Equality Impact Assessment: There are no equality issues identified in this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The Strategy is focussed on reducing, reusing and recycling waste all of which will lead to reduced environmental impact. There is also a focus on reducing the carbon impact of the waste management services with the

aim of contributing to the net zero carbon targets. As a result the Strategy identifies with the 'Environment' priority area of the Corporate Plan for 2020-2024 'increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of residual waste generated'.

Impact on Climate Change: The Strategy is focussed on reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, all of which will lead to reduced environmental impact. It aims to contribute to net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest. See 3.4.1 for further details.

1.0 Introduction/Background

1.1 The draft Strategy provides the basis for the management of Local Authority Collected Waste across Devon and Torbay to 2030. Its objectives are aimed at reducing waste, reducing the carbon impact of managing waste and conserving natural resources. By working together, the local authorities, their partners and the public will help to ensure a sustainable future for waste management in Devon and Torbay. As part of the process of preparing the draft Strategy, members of the Devon Waste Partnership are asked to approve the plan for public consultation.

2.0 Report Details

2.1 The Review of the 2005 Strategy was published in 2013. Since then there have been many developments in waste management. The Government published its own Resource and Waste Strategy in 2018 and is currently planning further consultation on several aspects of this. The Environment Bill is progressing through Parliament although this has been delayed due to COVID19.

2.2 Given the amount of change which has occurred it was concluded that a new Strategy for Devon and Torbay should be written to reflect the direction of travel and changes in national waste policy. The draft Strategy will be consulted upon over the winter and the final Strategy will be presented to DASWC in 2021, following formal approval by the individual authorities.

2.3 The aim is to provide a document which describes the way in which Devon and Torbay local authorities will manage resources and waste (under their control) from 2020 – 2030. It sets out waste policies and targets. The objectives are to:

- To manage Devon's & Torbay's waste in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner
- To minimise the waste we create
- To reduce the impact of resource and waste management in Devon on climate change by implementing the waste hierarchy and tailoring operations to reduce the waste carbon footprint
- To maximise the value of the resources we use and preserve the stock of material resources i.e. Preserve natural capital and practice resource efficiency

2.4 Torbay Council, as a Unitary Authority and a member of the DASWC, is closely aligned with the Devon authorities, having responsibilities for both

collection and disposal. Torbay's collection system follows the Devon aligned option and they are part of the South West Devon Waste Partnership which delivers residual waste to the Devonport Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power plant, in Plymouth. Torbay wish to be party to the Devon Strategy but have also written a short strategy of their own which is currently out for consultation.

2.5 The Strategy has been drafted by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee of which MDDC is a member.

3.0 **Outcomes / Outputs**

3.1 The draft Strategy can be found as Appendix 1 to this report. The Strategy focusses on waste prevention and reuse, but also considers the carbon impact of the authorities' services. The Environmental Consultant, Eunomia, and Exeter University have assisted with the analysis of the carbon impact of Devon's waste services and their recommendations have been integrated into the Strategy. Their findings have also been shared with the Devon Climate Emergency Team. Waste Prevention and Reuse are critically important areas of the Strategy.

3.2 Less waste means that costs of collection, recycling and disposal are reduced along with a lower carbon footprint. The behavioural change work under the Don't let Devon go to Waste branding has been a key factor in the success of reducing overall waste arisings and recycling more and it will continue to be a fundamental element of the Strategy going forwards. Reuse and Recycling in particular contribute to the move from the linear to the circular economy whereby resources are kept in use for as long as possible.

3.3 The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy forms the policy background at a national level. However further consultations are awaited on key Government initiatives in early 2021. These include consistency on waste collections including separate food waste collections, extended producer responsibility and the introduction of a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. This draft Strategy has been written to take into account the Government Strategy and it is expected to be in line with Government policy insofar as what is known.

3.4 The key targets in the Resource & Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay are as follows:

3.4.1 Carbon

Contribute to net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest by focussing on:

- a) Reducing, reusing and recycling more textiles, plastics, metals/Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment, food and paper/card
- b) Looking specifically at how to reduce the plastics in the residual waste stream
- c) Considering options for utilising heat from the ERFs which will need to be commercially viable
- d) Reviewing carbon capture technology as it develops further

- e) Increasing the use of carbon friendly fuelled vehicles for transporting waste e.g. electric/hydrogen, over the period of the Strategy
- f) Developing opportunities for local reprocessing with stakeholders – by 2030

3.4.2 Waste Reduction and Reuse

Reduce the waste collected per head to 416kg per year by 2030 through:

- a) Community engagement
- b) Operational service policies e.g. reducing residual waste collection capacity
- c) Achieve a 20% reduction in food waste by 2025 from 2015 baseline
- d) Increase the amount of waste reused to 2% by 2025 and 5% by 2030

3.4.3 Recycling

- a) Recycle at least 60% of household waste by 2025 and 65% by 2035
- b) All collection authorities to provide a weekly separate collection of food waste by 2022
- c) Collect a consistent range of recyclable materials by 2023 in line with Government policy with the addition of a broader range by 2030

3.4.4 Miscellaneous

- a) Continue to support Don't let Devon go to waste/Recycle Devon
- b) Procure a residual waste analysis in 2022 and 2027
- c) Continue to support the Clean Devon Partnership
- d) Work with the Government to deliver services compliant with Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and consistency legislation

4.0 Conclusion/Recommendation

- 4.1 This PDG considers the contents of this report and the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay for public consultation and recommends it to Cabinet for approval.

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Circulation of the Report:

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List of Background Papers:

None