

RESOURCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR DEVON AND TORBAY

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Colin Slade, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change

Responsible Officer: Darren Beer, Operations Manager for Street Scene

Reason for Report: This report summarises the consultation response to the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay and proposes amendments for inclusion in the final Strategy.

Recommendation:

- (a) Members note the results of the public consultation;**
- (b) Members recommend to Cabinet that they approve the proposed amendment to reduce the waste prevention target to 400kg/head/year by 2030 and**
- (c) approves the final Strategy.**

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.

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. 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.

1.0 Introduction/Background

1.1 The draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay was published for consultation on March 3rd 2021 for a 6 week public consultation. 214 responses were received and they are summarised here [Summary of responses](#). The detailed responses are summarised at Appendix I. The Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) resolved that the Strategy be endorsed and recommended for final approval to the (DASWC) partner authorities at their meeting on 16th June. [Minutes Template \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

2.0 Government Consultations

The Government consulted on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Consistency in Household & Business Recycling proposals in the early summer. This Strategy has been developed with the Government's proposals in mind, but until Government has taken the responses into consideration and the final proposals are confirmed with draft legislation it is not possible to know with confidence how the Government legislation will affect this Strategy. As soon as the Government confirms its position this Strategy can be reviewed to see what changes if any are required.

3.0 Proposed amendment to this Strategy

The majority of the respondents were supportive of the proposals in the Strategy so no significant amendments are proposed. As can be seen in the response summary and Appendix I, the major areas of concern include:

- To stretch proposed targets for reducing, reusing and recycling
- Working with businesses, manufacturers, retailers and government to reduce packaging waste (particularly plastic waste) throughout the supply chain
- To be cautious about electric vehicles in terms of their cost and carbon impacts
- Focus on economic, efficient and carbon friendly solutions
- Focus on education and community engagement
- To promote further reuse and repair in the community and at HWRCs

As above, some were keen on stretching the proposed targets for reducing, reusing and recycling. It is considered that the targets are already ambitious.

Recycling targets are in line with the EU Circular Economy Package which the UK government has pledged to comply with. These targets will be difficult to achieve depending to some extent on the final details of the EPR, DRS and consistency proposals and how recycling develops as a consequence of these. The reuse target is limited to that achievable at the HWRCs due to the local authorities not having both the data from charity shops and other

community reuse activities. The food waste reduction target is in line with the Courtauld agreement target.

However, the waste prevention target of waste collected per head per year by 2030 of 416kg could be reduced further since various initiatives either local ones or those to be initiated by the Government could help to reduce waste arisings. It is therefore proposed that this target be reduced to 400kg/head/year by 2030.

Many of the points made regarding packaging should be addressed in the Government's EPR proposals whereby producers of packaging will pay for its recycling and disposal thereby incentivising producers to reduce their packaging and/or increase its recyclability. The proposed tax on plastic with less than a 30% recycled content should also drive down the production of virgin plastic products and encourage recycling.

The local authorities are bringing in electric vehicles where appropriate and in a timely manner e.g. as vehicles approach replacement, but they will certainly be considering the economic and environmental cost benefits as well as developing technologies as they approach this transition.

It is pleasing that the respondees are concerned that local authorities follow effective, efficient and carbon friendly policies. These are all concerns that the local authorities are equally determined to take account of.

Community engagement, education and promoting reuse and repair are all fundamental elements of the Strategy & will continue to be supported by all Devon Authorities and Torbay.

4.0 Conclusion/Recommendation

4.1 The consultation response was generally supportive of the draft Strategy. An amendment has been made to the waste prevention target. The 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 ensure a sustainable future for waste management in Devon and Torbay. The other DASWC authorities are also being asked to approve the Strategy at their next appropriate committee after which the Strategy will be published.

4.2 In accordance with the above, the following recommendations are therefore made:

- (a) Members note the results of the public consultation;
- (b) Members recommend to Cabinet that they approve the proposed amendment to reduce the waste prevention target to 400kg/head/year by 2030 and
- (c) approves the final Strategy.

Contact for more Information:

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Circulation of the Report:

Cllr Colin Slade, Leadership Team

List of Background Papers:

None