

Sent as e-mail attachment to
packaging@defra.gov.uk

Date: 13 May 2019

Dear Sirs

Response to Defra Consultation - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Sevenoaks District Council is a waste collection authority in Kent. We write to confirm that, we broadly agree with the response provided by the Kent Resource Partnership, of which Sevenoaks District Council is a member.

However, for reasons outlined below, **we do not support the imposition of collection services that must meet a minimum standard requirement.** Nor could we endorse the introduction of any other measures, which might produce a similar impact on our collection service and residents. This variance from the Kent Resource Partnership's representation is particularly in relation to Question 26 and is reflected in our response to the parallel consultation, 'Consultation on consistency in household and business recycling collections in England'.

By way of background, Sevenoaks District Council collects refuse and recycling in two sacks, one co-mingled recycling and the other residual waste. Most importantly, both of these collections take place from each household every week throughout the year. Glass is collected from bring banks and with food waste (which is placed in the residual waste stream for incineration) minimisation is encouraged through regular communications.

Were the kerbside collection of food waste, glass or any other material, which cannot be co-mingled, mandated we would insist the significant capital and revenue cost of meeting that additional burden would be met by the Government in perpetuity. Furthermore, the clear expectation of the Council and residents of the Sevenoaks District would be that any such new collections take place on a weekly basis throughout the year and would not be introduced to the detriment of their existing weekly refuse and recycling service.

It is also worth noting that any measures which would require the provision of additional containers, be they sacks with their many advantages over bins, or bins, would also increase the complexity of our straightforward two bag, everything every week, approach.

The existing provision is extremely well liked by residents and this distinction from neighbouring authorities is well recognised.

Therefore whilst Sevenoaks District Council endorses and very much shares the Government's commitment to the environment, we believe the outcomes expected from the standardisation of waste collections could be better achieved with less cost by remaining faithful to the 'localist agenda' and without threatening the service Sevenoaks District Council provides those it exists to serve.

Yours faithfully
Sevenoaks District Council

Chief Executive Dr. Pav Ramewal

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