

RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND - GOVERNMENT POLICY PAPER

Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 2 July 2019

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status For Information.

Key Decision No

Executive Summary: This report briefly outlines the contents of the DEFRA resources and waste strategy released on 18 December 2018 along with details of the consultations on some main policy areas that were carried out in Spring 2019.

Reponses to the consultations were all agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services prior to the submission deadline of 13 May 2019.

This report supports the Key Aim of Green Environment

Portfolio Holder Cllr. McArthur

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Introduction and Background

1 The Strategy contains some proposals for significant changes in waste policy across the UK that could have some fundamental impacts on local authority operations. It also looks to enact some of the requirements of the EU Circular Economy Package that the UK has signed up to and agreed to implement in full.

Summary of Main Points

2 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Invoke the 'polluter pays' principle and extending producer responsibility for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full net costs of managing packaging waste at end of life.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of legislation designed to minimise packaging and encourage design for greater reuse and recycling.
- Consult on introducing EPR for packaging based around certain principles.
- Review of Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations to drive minimisation of packaging.

- Consult (by 2021) on EPR for WEEE (electrical goods), Batteries and ELV (End of Life Vehicles).
- Consult on EPR (by 2025) for 5 waste streams including: textiles, bulky waste, tyres.

3 Deposit Return Schemes (DRS)

- Consult on introducing a DRS scheme for single-use drinks containers.
- Consider how to reduce the environmental impacts of disposable cups.

4 Consistent Collections

- Consult on legislation to allow Government to specify a core set of materials to be collected by all local authorities and waste operators. Timings for introduction will be subject to discussions at spending review.
- Consult on which materials should comprise this core set, and which collection systems would be most effective at preserving material quality. The consultation will be carried out in parallel with the consultation on reforms to the existing packaging waste regulations.
- Consult on introducing non-binding performance indicators for the quantity of materials collected for recycling and minimum service standards for recycling.
- Potentially legislate for mandatory separate collections for business.
- Consult on legislation to require weekly separate food waste collections for all householders and appropriate businesses (from 2023).
- Consider whether householders with gardens should have access to free garden waste collections.
- Possible amendment of waste regulations so that Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) perform a more effective role in resource efficiency and explore further measures, such as setting reuse targets for local authorities, requiring them to set their own targets, or requiring reporting to encourage provision of reuse facilities.
- Review Controlled Waste Regulations and consult on amending them in relation to HWRC regarding charging and opening hours, with possible minimum service standards for HWRCs being set.

5 Waste Crime

- Consult on reform of regulations for duty of care, carrier/broker/dealers, hazardous waste, and international waste shipments.
- Guidance on use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) that came into force on 7 January for household duty of care.

- Launch of a web-based fly-tipping toolkit hosted by the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group.
- Consult on mandatory use of electronic waste transfer details.

6 Food Waste

- Consult on mandatory food waste reporting, targets and distribution by food businesses.
- Publish a new food surplus and waste hierarchy as statutory guidance.
- Hospitality and public sectors need to produce food waste strategies.
- A review of current recommendations on date labelling in 2019.
- Production of guidance for retailers on whether to sell fresh produce loose or packaged.

7 Plastics

- To consult on a tax on plastic packaging not containing at least 30% recycled content and increasing the plastic carrier bag charge to 10p and extending it to small shops.
- Consult on banning the most problematic plastic products (e.g. straws, cotton buds, stirrers).
- Improve the regulation of waste movements, both domestic and for exports, including plastics.
- Launch a call for evidence on standards for bio-based and biodegradable plastics.
- Investing in Research and Development to tackle plastics.

8 Other proposals relevant to local authorities:

- Two-tier working - review the effectiveness of current arrangements for local authority waste management. (This is not reorganisation or a move to unitaries).
- Recycling Credits - two tier cost sharing will be reviewed subject to how packaging reform unfolds.
- Consideration of a UK eco-design mechanism to drive up product standards for the most resource intensive product groups.
- Possibility of a UK Ecolabel post EU exit.
- Promote longer lifetime products through guarantees, extended warranties, and better disclosure.
- Produce guidance on what to do with data-rich SMART devices at end-of-life.
- Drive progress in local authorities (esp. urban ones), through joint working and reviews of HWRCs and the regulatory system.

- Improve waste infrastructure.
- Make it easier to achieve 'end of waste' status.
- Periodic reviews of Waste Data Flow so it continues to be user friendly.

Key Implications

Financial

Some of the policies, if enacted following consultation, will have financial implications, particularly on separate food waste collections and free access to garden waste collections.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Implementation of policy measures will need to be by amendment to existing legislation.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

This report is for information only but as a strategy provides the direction of travel the Government wishes to take on waste policy for the future.

Consultation responses were agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services and submitted by the deadline of 13 May, on the following:-

- Extended producer responsibility
- Consistency in household and business recycling collections
- Introducing a deposit return scheme, and
- Plastic packaging tax.

The responses are included as appendices to the report. The Council also signed up to responses issued by the Kent Resource Partnership.

Background Papers

DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy 2018

Appendices

A - Response to Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility (letter format)

B - Response to Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections

C - Response to Consultation on Introducing a
Deposit Return Scheme

D - Response to Consultation on Plastic Packaging
Tax (Supported LARAC response and KRP
response)

Richard Wilson

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