

**Meeting: Cabinet  
Council**

**Date: 18 February 2021  
24 February 2021**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Report Title: Resource Management and Waste Strategy**

**Is the decision a key decision?** Yes (Policy Framework)

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** ASAP

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## **1. Purpose of Report**

To agree the Resource Management and Waste Strategy that was released for consultation from 28 September 2020 to 6 November 2020. The strategy has been revised to take into account the main themes that were identified from this consultation.

- 1.1 The table Appendix 1 shows the top 10 themes that were identified and as a result of these themes the strategy has been amended accordingly to take into account respondents concerns.
- 1.2 A summary of the consultation responses is available on the Council's Consultation Webpages

## **2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits**

- 2.1 Reflecting on the principles with the Community and Corporate Plan, our approach in delivering this Resource Management and Waste Strategy is described below.

**Enable our communities:** We will involve and empower Torbay's residents to take positive action to reduce the amount of waste we generate and increase our recycling rates and have a positive contribution to the climate emergency.

**Use reducing resources to best effect:** We will work to reduce the amount of waste that we generate in Torbay, reusing and recycling goods and materials wherever possible.

**Reduce demand through prevention and innovation:** We will put in place initiatives and mechanisms which aim to reduce the amount of waste we generate, in particular reducing the amount of residual waste that we dispose of.

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### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

That the Resource Management and Waste Strategy be approved.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Resource Management and Waste Strategy

# Supporting Information

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At present Torbay Council has achieved a recycling rate of just over 40% which needs to be improved to attain budget savings, and a lower Carbon Impact. There are three main proposals that will take this service forward.

## 2. The first is to introduce a three weekly residual collection service.

- 2.1 Currently residual waste is collected fortnightly and recycling is collected weekly. Under the proposal in the strategy a trial will be undertaken to see if like other authorities, the nearest being East Devon, Torbay can implement a residual collection every three weeks for the properties that have sufficient room to accommodate this.
- 2.2 Weekly dry recycling and food waste collections would continue in these areas, but as has been seen so successfully elsewhere, by effectively reducing the residual capacity, residents have to find an alternative to just putting waste in the residual bin and consequently they look at what extra they can recycle. This additional material can be contained in the additional recycling boxes that will be supplied.
- 2.3 This will of course be backed up with a comprehensive communications programme to explain to residents how they can manage their waste, and those who feel they will struggle will be given help and advice.

## 3. Secondly the introduction of charging at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

- 3.1 This will bring Torbay in line with the rest of Devon, will ensure there is little or no trade abuse at the Tor Park Road site, and will generate income from the construction materials that are recycled.
- 3.2 Torbay Council only has a legal obligation to provide recycling centre facilities for household waste – waste arising from the day to day running of a household. Items resulting from the repair or improvement of houses, for example, DIY type waste, is classified as construction waste and there is no requirement for us to provide any service for the disposal of this material or accept it free of charge. This includes garden or other renovations outside the building, but on the same piece of Land owned by the householder.

## 4. The Third proposal is to offer an opt-in charged for garden waste doorstep service.

- 4.1 This will allow Torbay to collect more of the green waste on a separate collection increasing the recycling rate and further reducing disposal cost. This will work by charging a fixed annual fee with regular dedicated collection days, and again a service that is already successfully employed by most of the Devon authorities as well as many others in the rest of the UK.

- 4.2 Without these changes recycling tonnages will not improve, disposal costs will increase and the required budget savings will not be achieved. The Targets of the Climate Emergency will also be very unlikely to be achieved.

## **5. Financial Opportunities and Implications**

- 5.1 Initially it is likely that there will need to be a spend to save requirement as Waste recycling assistants will be employed to assist and educate those residents who are having difficulties with any of the new services. It is proposed that these extra staff members will only be required for a period of about two years while the new services are bedding in.
- 5.2 If the start of the project is managed correctly then the benefits gained later on will be maximised and the more that is recycled will see a greater saving not only on the disposal budget, but will achieve added recycling income.
- 5.3 The sorts of financial gains that are possible can be seen for each recycling material in the net gain table in the Waste Strategy report.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications to consider.

## **7. Engagement and Consultation**

- 7.1 These changes will impact on every resident across Torbay, which is why getting the communications and engagement correct is a fundamental part of this strategy.
- 7.2 A 6 week consultation on the draft strategy was held and amendments have subsequently been made..
- 7.3 The Community can play there part and it is hoped again like East Devon we can empower members of the public to become recycling champions who help to educate others and share their experiences, so that everyone can manage their waste to achieve high levels of recycling.

## **8. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services**

- 8.1 Any required additional purchases will be managed in line with Torbay Council's procurement guidelines

## **9. Tackling Climate Change**

- 9.1 Torbay Council has achieved Zero waste to Landfill with the formation of the South West Devon Waste Partnership (SWDWP), including partners Plymouth City Council (PCC) and Devon County Council (DCC). All of Torbay's residual municipal waste is treated at the Combined Heat and Power Energy from Waste facility (EFW) in Plymouth under contract with MVV Umwelt. The heat and energy produced is used at the local Ministry of Defence, Devonport Dockyard, to achieve maximum environmental benefit, which is twice as good for climate change as Landfilling would be. So to summarise the waste that is collected for recycling is mainly recycled in the UK (see the appendices section at the end of this document), and any waste that is not recycled is sent to generate energy and heat.

- 9.2 No waste generated by Torbay's householders is sent to Landfill.
- 9.3 Across Torbay, specialised vehicles, with the most up to date energy efficient engines are used to collect weekly dry recycling in two 55 litre boxes and food waste in a 55 litre caddy. Residual waste is collected fortnightly, also in new vehicles with the most up to date energy efficient engines in a 240 litre wheeled bin. As soon as Electric vehicles are available that can cope with Torbay's hilly terrain and have a battery life that will operate at the required capacity, the authority will look to replace its current fleet with the most efficient and climate friendly vehicles available.

## **10. Associated Risks**

- 10.1 If the options in this revised strategy are not implemented then it is unlikely that Torbay will meet its Climate Emergency targets or its budget saving targets.

## Equality Impacts

11.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people			There is no differential impact
	People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact
	People with a disability			There is no differential impact
	Women or men			There is no differential impact
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			There is no differential impact
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact
	People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact

	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		There is no differential impact
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		There is no differential impact
10..	<b>Cumulative Council Impact</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No	
11.	<b>Cumulative Community Impacts</b> (proposed changes within the wider community (inc the public sector) which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No	