

**Meeting:**  
**Council**

**Date:**  
**25 February 2021**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Report Title: Resource Management and Waste Strategy (Revised Report)**

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

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

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Mike Morey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure,  
[mike.morey@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:mike.morey@torbay.gov.uk), Tel: 01803 853316

**Supporting Officer Contact Details:** Ian Hartley, Service Manager for Waste & Natural Environment, [ian.Hartley@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:ian.Hartley@torbay.gov.uk) Tel: 01803 208695

---

## **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.
- 1.3 The Cabinet at its meeting on 18 February 2021, resolved to pause the proposed trial of a three weekly collection, to enable efforts to be intensified in respect of educating, engaging and communicating with residents regarding recycling is undertaken, along with implementation of other aspects of the Resource Management and Waste Strategy in order to increase recycling rates. This revised report has been updated to reflect the Cabinet's decision. (Note: the Cabinet's decision to pause the trial of a three weekly collection has not changed the Resource Management and Waste Strategy attached to this report.)

## **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.

---

### **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 a number of proposals that will take this service forward, however the following 4 are key in this respect;

## 2. Increase education, engagement and communication

- 2.1 We are developing and delivering a new education programme for the whole Bay, some of the main points are shown below.

2.2A new centre page recycling leaflet will be included with the council Tax invoices that will be issued in March 2021. This clarifies what materials can be put into which recycling box and is especially focussed on food waste collection and who to make contact with if you have a problem with recycling.

2.3Currently we have employed a new team of Recycling Support Co-ordinators, who are already identifying properties that are not recycling to their full potential. With an intense programme of leaflet delivery, door knocking and a clear line of communication to these new staff, we can enable everyone to recycle as much as they can.

2.4The Recycling box stickers are being updated so that households have an easy reference picture of what to recycle on each container they have.

2.5Food waste is often not presented at all so advice will be given to again clarify what can be collected as this material is often just put in the Residual bin and is of significant weight. Food waste alone can reduce disposal costs by £70 per ton, and it is sent to a local processing plant in Devon and turned into compost as well as generating energy for the national grid, both huge Climate change gains.

2.6Clarify to residents that what they put out for recycling is actually recycled and that the majority of it is turned into new products in the UK and not sent overseas.

2.7We will continue with the recycling advisor resource that we get from working in partnership with Devon County Council to continually educate on all of the above points.

2.8We will continue to fund our external School Education advisors, Resource Futures to educate pupils from Primary school level upwards.

2.9Continue to promote the Devon wide recycling themes Don't let Devon go to waste, and Love food hate waste

2.10Ensure all the above information is updated regularly on both the Torbay Council and SWISCo Website's.

### **3. Increase recycling capacity and rates**

3.1 With the increased education above this should increase the recycling rate for Torbay, and anyone requiring additional recycling containers will be supplied with as many as they can fill.

### **4. the introduction of charging at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)**

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

### **5. Offer an opt-in charged for garden waste doorstep service pending the outcome of central government consultations, update expected in March 2021.**

5.1 This would allow Torbay to collect more of the green waste on a separate collection increasing the recycling rate and further reducing disposal cost. This would 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.

5.2 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.

### **6. Financial Opportunities and Implications**

6.1 Initially it is likely that there will need to be a spend to save requirement so additional Recycling Support Co-ordinators could be employed to assist and educate residents.

6.2 If all these proposals are implemented then the benefits gained later on will be maximised. The more that is recycled will see a greater saving not only on the disposal budget, but will achieve added recycling income, and the additional positive benefits regarding the Council's Climate Emergency position.

6.3 The sorts of financial gains that are possible can be seen for each recycling material in the net gain table in the Resource and Waste Strategy report.

### **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications to consider.

## **8. Engagement and Consultation**

8.1 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.

8.2 A 6 week consultation on the draft strategy was held and amendments have subsequently been made.

8.3 The Community can play their part and it is hoped following the model adopted by East Devon District Council, Torbay 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.

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

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

## **10. Tackling Climate Change**

10.1 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 M.V.V. Umvelt. 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.

10.2 No waste generated by Torbay's householders is sent to Landfill.

10.3 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 35 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.

## **11. Associated Risks**

11.1 If the options in this revised strategy are not implemented then it is unlikely that Torbay will meet its Climate Emergency targets.



## Equality Impacts

12.	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	