

Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay

Report of the Chief Officer Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee

- (a) notes the results of the public consultation;
- (b) approves the proposed amendment to reduce the waste prevention target to 400kg/head/year by 2030 and
- (c) approves the final Strategy.

1. Summary

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.

2. Introduction

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 \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

3. 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.

4. 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 either 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.

5. Financial Considerations

The waste budget is designed to cover the costs of implementing the county council's responsibilities under the Strategy. In addition, the Devon Authorities' Strategic Waste Committee's budget contributes to the overall aims and targets of the Strategy, as do each district authority's and Torbay's.

6. Legal Considerations

There are no legal issues arising in relation to this report.

7. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including 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.

8. Equality Considerations

An EINA was completed to accompany the consultation.

9. Risk Management Considerations

The DCC Risk Register will be kept up to date in light of the agreed recommendation. There are no significant risks associated with the Strategy.

10. Public Health Impact

There are no impacts to public health identified.

11. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for recommendations and next steps

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.

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Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper

Date

File Ref.

Nil