

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 30 August 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

Report Title: Amendment to the Resources and Waste Management Strategy 2020-2023

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Resource and Waste Management Strategy 2020 – 2023 was approved by Council in February 2021. Although the Strategy includes a reference to undertaking a trial of a reduction in the frequency of residual waste collections, this was not included within the Action Plan associated with the strategy.
- 1.2 The Council and SWISCo are working hard to increase recycling rates, thereby reducing the amount of residual waste that households generate. However, it is felt that the ongoing inclusion of the potential for this trial could cause a distraction from the important work to improve the levels of household recycling in the Bay.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver our ambition by ensuring that there is a sustained focus on increasing recycling rates across Torbay. This is part of our work to tackle climate change.
- 2.2 The reason for the decision is to provide clarity within the Council's Policy Framework about the future plans for the collection of residual waste.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

That the Cabinet recommends to Council:

1. That within Action 2 of the approved Resources and Waste Management Strategy 2022-2023:
 - a. The sixth paragraph be deleted; and

- b. The words “To support any changes to the frequency of residual waste collections” be deleted from the start of the seventh paragraph.
2. That within the Regional Context section of the Strategy:
 - a. The first sentence of the final paragraph be deleted; and
 - b. The start of the second sentence of the final paragraph be amended to read “East Devon District Council found...”

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Resource and Waste Management Strategy 2020 – 2023 was approved by Council in February 2021: www.torbay.gov.uk/waste-management-strategy
- 1.2 Although the Strategy includes a reference to undertaking a trial of a reduction in the frequency of residual waste collections, this was not included within the Action Plan associated with the strategy.
- 1.3 The Council and SWISCo are working hard to increase recycling rates, thereby reducing the amount of residual waste that households generate. However, it is felt that the ongoing inclusion of the potential for this trial could cause a distraction from the important work to improve the levels of household recycling in the Bay.
- 1.4 The Resource and Waste Management Strategy forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and therefore the Constitution requires that any changes need to be subject to consultation.
- 1.5 Consultation of the proposed change to the Strategy took place between 24 July and 21 August 2022. As part of the consultation, we also asked residents for their ideas on how the Council could increase recycling in Torbay.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 The alternative option would be to make no changes to the Resource and Waste Management Strategy. However, it is felt that by removing the references to a trial of a reduced frequency of collection of residual waste, the Council is able to provide clarity about its future plans in this regard.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The Council and SWISCo will continue to encourage an increase in recycling and therefore a reduction in residual waste. Recovering more materials for recycling reduces the cost of

disposing of residual waste, and gives a double benefit because in most cases the material is recovered as recyclate which will have an associated income.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation.

5. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 Consultation on the proposed change to the Resource and Waste Management Strategy was undertaken between 24 July and 21 August 2021. At the same time, residents were asked to share their ideas for increasing recycling rates in Torbay. The consultation was promoted via the Council's social media channels and through articles in One Torbay (our weekly e-newsletter).

5.2 425 people visited at least one page of the consultation website, with 32 contributing to the poll on the proposed change to the Strategy and 45 providing ideas. A total of 50 ideas were shared, with 67 "likes" and 16 comments (a total of 133 contributions).

5.3 The consultation poll asked:

As there are no plans to trial a reduced frequency of residual waste collections, how strongly do you support its removal from our Resource and Waste Management Strategy?

19 people (59%) strongly supported the removal

4 people (13%) somewhat supported the removal

2 people (6%) were unsure

7 people (22%) did not support the removal

5.4 The ideas which have been provided can be seen on the consultation webpage (<https://yoursay.torbay.gov.uk/resource-and-waste-management-strategy>) and analysis and consideration is being given to these. Feedback to respondents will be provided in the coming weeks (and will be available on the website).

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

6.1 Not applicable

7. Tackling Climate Change

7.1 The Council remains committed to increasing recycling rates as part of tackling climate change. Work is continuing through a variety of means to encourage residents to recycle.

It is expected that we can use the feedback from the consultation to focus that activity on areas which have the highest impact.

8. Associated Risks

8.1 There are no risks associated with this recommendation.

9. Equality Impacts - 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) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			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			There is no differential impact.

child poverty issues and deprivation)			
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 None