

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	28TH FEBRUARY 2019	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee notes and welcomes the Government's headline commitments aimed at reducing waste and its impact on the environment and promoting resource efficiency, including the elimination of avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.
- 1.2 That the Committee endorses officers continuing to work collaboratively with other Waste Collection Authorities in Derbyshire and the County Council as Waste Disposal Authority to formulate local responses to future Government consultations for future Committee sign-off and to fully consider the implications of the Strategy to inform the development of future waste services in South Derbyshire.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To outline the key points and headline commitments from the Government's Strategy – Our Waste, Our Resources, which was published on 18 December 2018.
- 2.2 To inform the Committee of the planned future Government consultations on the detail contained in the Strategy and the potential implementation dates, some of which may not be introduced for several years.
- 2.3 To inform the Committee of the potential implications of the Strategy for the future design and delivery of waste services in South Derbyshire and the County as a whole.
- 2.4 To inform the Committee of the ongoing collaborative working with other Waste Collection Authorities in Derbyshire, the County Council and the Waste and

Resources Action Programme (WRAP) as part of the Councils' Membership of the Derbyshire Waste Partnership (DWP).

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 The report outlines key points from the Government's 146 page Resources and Waste Strategy which was published on 18 December 2018. The Strategy outlines a series of commitments and areas for further consultation aimed at reducing waste and promoting resource efficiency, including the elimination of avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050. It has two overarching objectives:

- a. maximise the value of resource use; and
- b. minimise waste and its impact on the environment

3.2 Policies set out in the Strategy are designed to contribute towards one or more of five 'strategic principles':

- Provide the incentives, through regulatory or economic instruments if necessary and appropriate, and ensure the infrastructure, information and skills are in place, for people to do the right thing;
- Prevent waste from occurring in the first place, and manage it better when it does;
- Ensure that those who place on the market products which become waste to take greater responsibility for the costs of disposal – the 'polluter pays' principle;
- Lead by example, both domestically and internationally; and
- Not allow our ambition to be undermined by criminality.

3.3 The Strategy itself will contribute towards the delivery of 'five strategic ambitions':

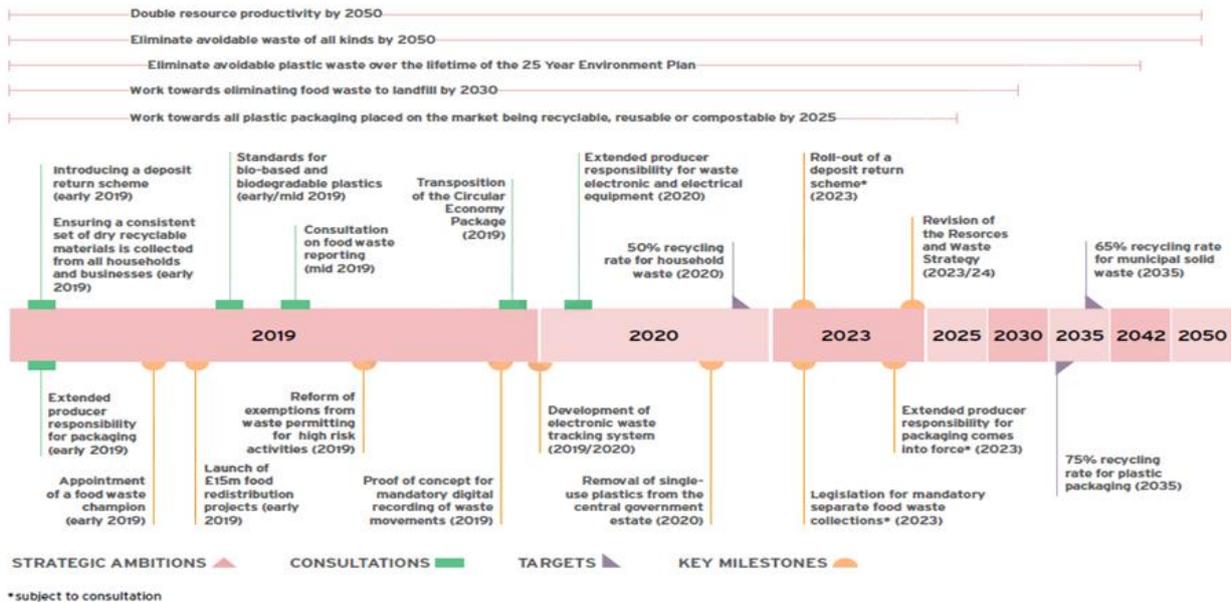
- Work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
- Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
- Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan;
- Double resource productivity by 2050; and
- Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The vision is where environmental standards are not only maintained, but enhanced.

4.2 The Strategy contains a useful Key Milestones chart for the development of consultations and potential implementations dates. This suggests some new policies may not be implemented for several years.

KEY MILESTONES



- 4.3 A move away from using weight-based targets to measure local authority recycling performance, with a move towards 'impact-based targets', is proposed. This is partially because of a perceived reliance on large volumes of garden waste for higher performing local authorities and of local authorities avoiding plastic collections because the material is light. Government will consult on whether householders should have access to free garden waste collections and also on stimulating demand for recycled plastics through initiatives such as the introduction of a tax on plastic packaging.
- 4.4 The consistency agenda for local authority collections is recognised, whereby all local authorities move towards collecting the same materials to reduce public confusion, with the suggested need for improvements in both quality and quantity of dry recyclable material collected from the kerbside, and increased recycling rates. Government will seek to establish a core set of materials collected by local authorities and businesses and also the possibility of weekly separate food waste collections.
- 4.5 The Household Waste Recycling Centre service and Controlled Waste Regulations will, subject to consultation, be reviewed including the acceptance of waste from small scale DIY activities by householders and potentially the setting of minimum service standards, including reuse targets.
- 4.6 The public is to be incentivised to purchase sustainably through the provision of better information, improvement in products, a proposal to increase the single-use carrier bag charge from 5p to 10p and a consultation on a deposit-return scheme for drinks containers from 2023.
- 4.7 A major review and overhaul of producer responsibility regimes for packaging, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and batteries will also be instigated in a bid to shake-up the funding of the collection and processing of waste so that more money is paid into the system by obligated businesses.

- 4.8 Consultations on the key policy areas are expected from early 2019, led by calls for evidence on the introduction of a deposit return scheme, consistency in the collection of dry recyclables from households, extended producer responsibility for packaging and other waste streams (i.e. textiles, bulky waste, construction and demolition wastes and equipment from the fishing industry) as well as for interim targets on packaging waste recycling.
- 4.9 In the medium to longer-term, Defra will look to the minimisation of food waste, the redistribution of food to those in need and implement legislation to require mandatory food waste collections from 2023. Also Government intends to explore the possibility of a potential tax on waste sent to energy from waste facilities.
- 4.10 A focus on waste crime could see the creation of a 'Joint Unit for Waste Crime', the introduction of compulsory electronic tracking of waste to clamp-down on illegal movements of waste at home and abroad, and tougher penalties for rogue crime operators. Reference is made to new legislation on Fixed Penalty Notices which can be issued to householders, who breach duty of care requirements, by the Environment Agency and collection authorities from 7 January 2019.
- 4.11 There is recognition that high quality data, information and insights are essential for effective policy making. Government intends to 'develop a shared vision and bold new approach to data on resources and waste'. The coverage and quality of local authority collected waste is to be maintaining with improved waste data collection to meet future needs. There is a need to produce data in the areas of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste streams. A suite of indicators has been developed to measure progress against the Strategy's objectives, whilst recognising that some cannot be established immediately because the data does not yet exist.
- 4.12 It is stated that Government recognises the financial pressures on local authorities and that local authorities will receive additional resources to meet new costs arising from the implementation of policies set out in the Strategy. It is suggested that some of this may result from Extended Producer Responsibility requirements such as the proposed reform of the Packaging Regulations which introduces the concept of producers bearing the full net cost of managing their products at the end of their life.
- 4.13 A review of the effectiveness of current local authority waste management in two-tier council areas is proposed along with a potential review of the current Recycling Credit and cost sharing arrangements, depending on how packaging producer responsibility is reformed.
- 4.14 South Derbyshire District Council, along with the seven other District/Borough Councils, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council, has been working with the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on three key pieces of work, these being;
- A waste procurement strategy
 - Organic waste collection and treatment, and
 - Cost sharing mechanisms
- 4.15 The officer group has reviewed the available opportunities to align the procurement of goods and services connected to the delivery of waste collection and disposal by the member authorities of the DWP and is continuing to develop a procurement strategy for the collection authorities that would enable them to procure in the most efficient manner, either jointly or individually and develop an efficient and effective specification for services for the coming decade.

4.16 The objectives of the work are to produce a high level “Procurement Strategy”, which:

- allows for further development by the Partnership;
- defines strategic objectives with a particular focus on joint-working;
- allows for procurement in the most efficient manner, either jointly or individually;
- identifies the most appropriate approach; and
- ensures flexibility.

4.17 Flexibility is of prime concern to the constituent authorities in order to enable changes to take place. The Procurement Strategy must allow for different potential start dates for new arrangements; varying duration of contracts, and the development of an efficient and effective specification.

4.18 The DWP, through funding from WRAP has commissioned consultants to undertake soft market testing on the options for organic waste collection and treatment, given that the Government Strategy is likely to require the separate weekly collection of food waste, this will require changes across most of Derbyshire (South Derbyshire included) to the current arrangements for the collection and treatment of organic waste this also brings with it opportunities for significant cost savings on the treatment options.

4.19 The soft market testing has shown a potential saving across Derbyshire in the region of £0.8 - £1.1 million per year (around £160k – £275k in South Derbyshire). Due to the increased cost of collecting separate food waste all of the savings are on the treatment disposal costs. This work has led to a further piece of work on cost sharing mechanisms.

4.20 Derbyshire County Council has recognised that in order to bring about significant savings, Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) must benefit and not be left with increased collection costs.

4.21 The DWP has reviewed the options available by which the costs and possible benefits of increased diversion from, and reductions in, the residual waste stream can be equitably shared across the two tiers of local government. This is an ongoing piece of work for which further funding may be made available from WRAP.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None directly arising from this report. Any Extended Producer Responsibility could result in a shift in how local authority waste services are funded. There is little detail on the definition of what ‘full net costs’ means in terms of funding, what it covers or how the funding would flow from producers to local authorities.

5.2 The financial implications of the Government’s Strategy on Waste Services in South Derbyshire resulting from the outcome of the proposed future consultations will be brought to a future Committee for consideration.

5.3 There is potential for WRAP to provide some resources to support Derbyshire Council’s to pilot collaborative working that would have national benefits. Details of such funding are awaited.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

6.1 None directly arising from this report

Legal Implications

6.2 None directly arising from this report

Corporate Plan Implications

6.3 The Strategy proposes some significant changes in waste policy, some of which may have an impact on local authority waste services. The scale and impact will not be known until after any associated consultation process.

6.4 Consultations are expected to start in early 2019, with ones on ensuring the consistent collection of recyclable materials from households and businesses, the potential for a deposit return scheme and on extended producer responsibility for packaging.

Risk Impact

6.5 The Corporate and Departmental risk registers will be updated with any risks identified once the consultation process commences.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

7.1 Where future collection regime changes are required, and options exist, then the Community will be consulted.

Equality and Diversity Impact

7.2 All future collection options will be evaluated for their impacts on Equality and Diversity.

Social Value Impact

7.3 Waste-related criminal activity costs the economy hundreds of millions of pounds per year. Rogue operators illegally dump or export waste, undermining legitimate businesses by disposing of waste cheaply and recklessly. This deprives the economy of tax income and harms the environment and local communities. Tackling this crime will ensure that resources are properly recycled or recovered and fed back into the economy and local communities are not blighted by illegal waste deposits.

Environmental Sustainability

7.4 The plan for a more circular economy should see resources kept in use as long as possible, and extract the maximum value from them, whilst minimising their impact on the environment.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Government's Strategy is potentially one of the most significant step changes in how waste is dealt with, it is, however, dependent on the outcome of further consultations, but the direction of travel appears to be moving the financial burden away from local authorities to waste producers in a meaningful way for the first time.
- 8.2 There is a real opportunity within Derbyshire to make significant savings on the overall waste bill through genuine collaborative working, both through the 'Procurement Strategy' and future organic waste collections and treatment. Individual WCAs are being encouraged to fully engage with the process so the opportunities are maximised.

9.0 Background Papers

www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england