

DEVON AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC WASTE COMMITTEE

19 October 2022

Present:-

Councillors R Croad (Chair), K Baldry, C Leather, R Williams, N Pearson,
A Dewhirst, C Slade

Apologies:-

Councillor G Jung

* **23** **Apologies for Absence**

* **24** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022 be signed as a correct record.

* **25** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* **26** **Waste Performance Statistics 2021/2022**

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Director of Climate Change (CET/22/55) which provided Members with an overview of waste performance statistics for Devon and Torbay for 2021/2022.

In reference to the National picture, it was noted that funding by the Welsh Assembly provided greater waste service opportunities for the country.

Recycling in Devon continued at a consistent rate, with a small reduction last year.

It was noted that Exeter City Council food waste scheme was not a pilot scheme and was currently in the third phase of roll out. Greater education of waste collections for new residents in the city would be welcomed particularly at the start of the academic year.

The Committee requested that future results published in September be circulated to District Officers for dissemination to the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee prior to inclusion in the committee papers.

Devon remained one of the highest performing Waste Disposal Authorities in England achieving a recycling rate of 55.3% in 2020/21 and, retained its position as second highest performing Waste Disposal Authority, nationally.

Torbay had achieved a recycling rate of 35.5% in 2020/21, reflecting a slight reduction from the previous year.

It was noted that the average recycling rate for Devon Waste Collection Authority reduced from 51.5% to 49.8%.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Dewhirst, **SECONDED** by Councillor Slade and

RESOLVED that

- (a) the performance statistics for 2021/22 and the ongoing challenges arising from impact of the Covid19 pandemic & the current geopolitical landscape be noted;
- (b) support be continued for Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee authorities to provide comprehensive waste services for residents in accordance with the objectives outlined in the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay (2020- 2030).

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Budget Proposals 2023/2024

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Director of Climate Change (CET/22/56) which detailed a proposal to postpone the allocation of the 2021/22 underspend until the publication of the results of the Waste Composition Analysis. It was noted that the underspend of £57,895 was due mainly to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In referring to the Waste and Recycling Advisors (WRA) Contract, it was noted that the Advisors offer advice on a range of issues including waste prevention, reuse and recycling. The plan for 2023/24 is to continue to build on the achievements of the work carried out in the previous years. Members considered the work of the WRAs to be invaluable and welcomed the proposal to extend the WRA contract for a further year.

During general discussion regarding the schemes, the main areas of spend in 2022/23 included the Don't let Devon go to waste campaign work; to meet the targets in the Waste Prevention and Reuse Strategy Action Plan; Waste Composition Analysis of the residual bins in Devon and Torbay; and the Waste Recycling Adviser contract. The Committee generally supported the budget proposal but a contrary view from the representative of South Hams District Council was expressed that any underspend be returned to the authorities.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Dewhirst, **SECONDED** by Councillor Slade and **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the budget for 2023/24 be approved;
- (b) the proposal to wait on the results of the waste compositional analysis before deciding at the February 2023 meeting how to allocate the 2021/22 underspend be approved;
- (c) the Waste and Recycling Advisor (WRA) contract be extended for a year.

28 Convergence

The Committee shared information about waste and recycling in their areas and noted progress made across the County to align waste and recycling services.

East Devon District Council

- A proposal to be discussed at the Council's Partnership Board to change the first collection to an earlier time of 6am.

South Hams District Council

- Introduction of a garden waste collection at a cost of £49 per annum subscription will commence from March.

West Devon District Council

- No changes currently

Torridge District Council

- Discussions about a three weekly collection cycle in line with the convergence of other authorities.

Exeter City Council

- Progression with food waste collection scheme progressing in phase three of the scheme. Currently 7.2% of the Exeter residents currently have a food waste collection.

North Devon District Council

- Problems have been encountered with drivers lately.

Teignbridge District Council

– A fully aligned service is currently in place. Charges for sacks have been introduced. Consultation with Exeter City Council regarding processing of recycling is ongoing.

Mid Devon District Council

– Three weekly collections have commenced. 30,000 black wheelie bins have been delivered with hang tags detailing the new scheme throughout the district with seagull sacks offered to households unable to accommodate a bin.

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Dates of Future Meetings

The next meetings of the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee will be:

23 February 2023

28 June 2023

17 October 2023

21 February 2024

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 3.27 pm