

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 Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendations:

- a) that the Cabinet be asked to approve the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay for consultation;
- b) That delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste on any necessary changes to the draft strategy prior to consultation.

1. Summary

This report outlines the new draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay. It describes how the Devon local authorities and Torbay will manage Local Authority Collected Waste (household waste, litter, flytipped, street sweepings and some trade) from 2020-2030. The delivery of this Strategy will be overseen by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee. Torbay are party to the Strategy but, as a Unitary Authority also have their own.

Following its approval at the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) meeting on 15th October 2020 the draft Strategy requires the approval of the individual local authorities for proceeding to public consultation before returning to Cabinet in 2021 for final approval.

2. Introduction

The Review of the 2005 Strategy was published in 2013. Since then there have been many developments in waste management. The Government published its own Resource and Waste Strategy in 2018 and is currently planning further consultation on several aspects of this. The Environment Bill is progressing through Parliament although this has been delayed due to COVID19. Given the amount of change which has occurred it was concluded that a new Strategy for Devon and Torbay should be written to reflect the direction of travel and changes in national waste policy. The draft Strategy will be consulted upon over the winter and the final Strategy will be presented to DASWC in 2021, following formal approval by the individual Authorities.

The aim is to provide a document which describes the way in which Devon and Torbay local authorities will manage resources and waste (under their control) from 2020 – 2030. It sets out waste policies and targets. The objectives are to:

- To manage Devon's & Torbay's waste in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner.
- To minimise the waste we create.
- To reduce the impact of resource and waste management in Devon on climate change by implementing the waste hierarchy and tailoring operations to reduce the waste carbon footprint.
- To maximise the value of the resources we use and preserve the stock of material resources i.e. Preserve natural capital and practice resource efficiency.

Torbay Council, as a Unitary Authority and a member of the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC), is closely aligned with the Devon authorities, having responsibilities for both collection and disposal. Torbay's collection system follows the Devon aligned option and they are part of the South West Devon Waste Partnership which delivers residual waste to the Devonport EfW CHP plant, in Plymouth. Torbay wish to be party to the Devon Strategy but have also written a short strategy of their own which is currently out for consultation.

3. Proposal: Draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay

The draft Strategy is available from the [agenda page for this meeting](#) as an additional document, and can also be found as Appendix I to report HIW/20/34 at <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s32889/HIW-20-34.pdf>. The Strategy focusses on waste prevention and reuse, but also considers the carbon impact of the authorities' services. The Environmental Consultant, Eunomia, and Exeter University have assisted with the analysis of the carbon impact of Devon's waste services and their recommendations have been integrated into the Strategy. Their findings have also been shared with the Devon Climate Emergency Team.

Waste Prevention and Reuse are critically important areas of the Strategy. Less waste means that costs of collection and recycling/disposal are reduced along with a reduced carbon footprint. The behavioural change work under the Don't let Devon go to Waste branding has been a key factor in the success of reducing overall waste arisings and recycling more and it will continue to be a fundamental element of the Strategy going forwards.

Reuse and Recycling in particular contribute to the move from the linear to the circular economy whereby resources are kept in use for as long as possible.

The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy forms the policy background at a national level. However further consultations are awaited on key Government initiatives in early 2021. These include consistency on waste collections including separate food waste collections, extended producer responsibility and the introduction of a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. This draft Strategy has been written to take into account the Government Strategy and it is expected to be in line with Government policy insofar as what is known.

The key targets in the Resource & Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay are as follows:

Carbon

- Contribute to net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest by focussing on:
 - a) Reducing, reusing and recycling more textiles, plastics, metals/Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment, food and paper/card
 - b) Looking specifically at how to reduce the plastics in the residual waste stream
 - c) Considering options for utilising heat from the ERFs which will need to be commercially viable
 - d) Reviewing carbon capture technology as it develops further
- Increase the use of carbon friendly fuelled vehicles for transporting waste e.g. electric, hydrogen, over the period of the Strategy
- Develop opportunities for local reprocessing with stakeholders – by 2030

Waste reduction and reuse

- Reduce the waste collected per head to 416kg per year by 2030 through
 - a) Community engagement and
 - b) Operational service policies e.g. reducing residual waste collection capacity
- Achieve a 20% reduction in food waste by 2025 from 2015 baseline
- Increase the amount of waste reused to 2% by 2025 and 5% by 2030

Recycling

- Recycle at least 60% of household waste by 2025 and 65% by 2035
- All collection authorities to provide a weekly separate collection of food waste by 2022
- Collect a consistent range of recyclable materials by 2023 in line with Government policy with the addition of a broader range by 2030

Miscellaneous

- Continue to support Don't let Devon go to waste/Recycle Devon
- Procure a residual waste analysis in 2022 and 2027
- Continue to support the Clean Devon Partnership
- To work with the Government to deliver services compliant with Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and consistency legislation.

4. Options/Alternatives

There would be an option to delay developing the Strategy until after the Government consults further on its own policies next year. However, it is considered that with so much changing in the waste sector since 2013 that it would be unhelpful to delay further. It is anticipated that this Strategy will be in line with national policy as it develops further.

5. Consultations and Stakeholder engagement

The draft Strategy will be published for consultation over the winter of 2020/21. It is likely that due to the Covid 19 situation that this will be on-line only. It will be widely shared with relevant stakeholders and the public.

6. Financial Considerations

The DASWC Committee's budget contributes to achieving elements of the Strategy, in addition to each authority's own budgets contributing to the overall aims and targets of the Strategy. An allocation is proposed for a residual waste analysis in 2022 from the DASWC Committee's 2021/22 and 2022/23 budgets.

7. Legal Considerations

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

8. 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.

9. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment / Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

In progressing this particular proposal, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Councillors and is also available on the Council's website at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/waste-management-strategy/>, which Councillors will need to consider for the purposes of this item.

The draft Strategy focusses on reducing, reusing and recycling so there will be positive impacts on the environment, including a reduction in greenhouse gases. There will also be potential for improved social cohesion, skills development and resilience, via community engagement (e.g. repair cafes). The Strategy will align with the Circular Economy and Green Recovery plans so there will be the potential for new jobs due to the need to increase reuse and recycling and enable businesses to recycle more. When implementing campaigns and changes to services the authorities will ensure information is written in plain English and available in a variety of formats and languages where appropriate such that it is accessible to all.

10. Risk Management Considerations

There are no significant risks associated with the Strategy.

11. Public Health Impact

There are no impacts to public health identified.

12. Summary

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 help to ensure a sustainable future for waste management in Devon and Torbay.

Meg Booth
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Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Development and Waste: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Impact Assessment	7 October 2020	https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/waste-management-strategy/
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