

# Impact Assessment



Assessment of: Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay

Service: Waste Management

Head of Service: Wendy Barratt

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Assessment carried out by (job title): Principal Waste Manager

## 1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

The Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon describes how the Devon local authorities and Torbay will manage domestic waste from 2020-2030. The delivery of this Strategy is overseen by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee. Torbay are party to the Strategy but, as a Unitary Authority also have their own.

## 2. Reason for change / review

Government advice suggests that Waste Strategies should be reviewed every 5 years. The Waste Strategy was last reviewed in 2013. Due to the significant changes that have occurred since the Strategy was first published in 2005 it was agreed that a new Strategy rather than a review was appropriate. The process of drafting a new Strategy was then delayed due to waiting for the Government's new Resource and Waste Strategy for England which was published in October 2018 but was followed by a number of consultations in 2019 designed to develop the Strategy further. It

was concluded in February 2020 that the Devon Strategy should be progressed regardless. However, the Covid 19 pandemic initially delayed further progress. Further Government consultations were also delayed until early 2021. Approval to the draft Strategy will be sought in the Autumn of 2020 with the final document to be published in 2021 following a public consultation. 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 and to set both targets to reach and policies to manage waste. 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

### 3. People affected and their diversity profile

The whole of the populations of Devon and Torbay will be affected as residents who receive waste collection and treatment services. The Community Survey of 2019 raised a number of issues and low satisfaction in relation to the question of whether Devon was free of fly tipping and litter. People from North Devon were concerned about the Tarka Trail. There were no significant differences for diversity groups.

### 4. Research used to inform this assessment

N/A

### 5. Description of consultation process and outcomes

Following on from the approval of the draft Strategy in October 2020 the Strategy will be put out for public consultation. Given the Covid 19 situation this is likely to be on-line only.

## 6. Equality analysis

### Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).
- The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:
  - Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
  - Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
  - Fair
  - Necessary
  - Reasonable, and
  - Those affected have been adequately consulted.

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group.  [Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a> ]	<p>In what way will you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>advance equality (to meet needs/ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'), if possible.</li> <li>foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
All residents (include generic equality provisions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strategy is relevant to the whole population of Devon and Torbay but it is not expected to have any specific negative consequences on the whole population</li> </ul>	N/A
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People may have difficulty understanding new instructions as services change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance can be provided by the local councils and the Waste Recycling Advisors</li> <li>We are committed to using plain English and, where appropriate, Easy Read (simple words and pictures) in public communications</li> </ul>

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group.  [Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a> ]	<p>In what way will you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>advance equality (to meet needs/ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'), if possible.</li> <li>foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People may have difficulty understanding new instructions as services change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance can be provided by the local councils and the Waste Recycling Advisors</li> <li>Campaigns as well as information about service changes will be made accessible to disabled people where appropriate (e.g. alternative formats such as large print, Easy Read and BSL, website accessibility)</li> <li>We are committed to using plain English and, where appropriate, Easy Read (simple words and pictures) in public communications.</li> </ul>
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may be a language barrier with regard to understanding new instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance can be provided by the local council and instructions can be provided in different languages</li> <li>Campaigns as well as information about service changes where appropriate will be made accessible to BAME people whose first language is not English.</li> <li>We are committed to using plain English and, where appropriate, Easy Read (simple words and pictures) in public communications.</li> </ul>

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group.  [Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a> ]	<p>In what way will you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>advance equality (to meet needs/ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'), if possible.</li> <li>foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)	N/A	N/A
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership	N/A	N/A

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a>]</p>	<p>In what way will you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>• advance equality (to meet needs/ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'), if possible.</li> <li>• foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
<p>Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HWRC shops – positive issue – increased availability of low priced items in reuse shops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are shops at every HWRC where secondhand goods are sold at low prices. A recent initiative includes TVs, lamps and vacuum cleaners also being sold at low prices.</li> <li>• Much of the Strategy is focussed on reducing, reusing and recycling waste. If residents follow some of the advice and ideas they will be able to save money, e.g. wasting less food can save a family up to £700 a year.</li> </ul>

## 7. Human rights considerations:

N/A

## 8. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

The Strategy proposes the continuing support of Community Action Groups. These provide support in communities for residents to help themselves become more resilient. For example assistance is offered to set up Repair Cafes whereby local menders repair items such as toasters that are broke. This helps community cohesion, saves people money and can offer the potential to develop skills

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

The Strategy describes how domestic waste will be dealt with over the next 10 years. It will be dealt with in a safe manner and therefore will not harm residents. There is a chapter on litter and fly tipping which have the potential to harm communities, landowners and wildlife in a number of ways so there are proposals to work more closely together with partners to reduce the impact.

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

As above, the Strategy proposes the continuing support of Community Action Groups. These provide support in communities for residents to help themselves become more resilient. For example assistance is offered to set up Repair Cafes whereby local menders repair items such as toasters that are broke. This helps community cohesion, saves people money and can offer the potential to develop skills. In addition a bid is being made to the Lottery Funds to provide community fridges whereby local people can access food for free, donated by local businesses.

## 9. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	
Planning Permission	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

	<b>Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).</b>	<b>Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).</b>
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	The key focus of the Strategy is based on managing waste at the higher end of the waste hierarchy, in other words, reusing, reusing and recycling/composting. There are no negative consequences in this context.	Dealing with Devon's waste in line with the waste hierarchy will result in reduced impact on the environment and also reduce carbon impact.
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	There are no negative impacts.	Working together to tackle litter and fly tipping will reduce the impact on wildlife
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	There are no negative impacts	Working together to tackle litter and fly tipping will reduce the impact of waste on Devon's landscape.  The Strategy will ensure that the amount of waste landfilled is reduced to less than 5% of the total waste disposal and that redundant landfills are maintained and returned to their original land use where possible.
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	N/A	N/A
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	Waste management does produce greenhouse gases.	The Strategy will ensure that waste will be dealt with in ways that reduce carbon impact in line with the Devon and Torbay climate emergency declarations.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):	Waste management has the potential to pollute if not carried out in a controlled manner.	The Strategy will ensure that waste is managed in line with planning and permitting requirements.

Contribute to reducing water consumption:	N/A	N/A
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):	Waste infrastructure could be affected by climate change weather impacts.	When designing new infrastructure e.g. HWRCs, the need to build in resilience to climate change effects will be taken into account.
Other (please state below):		

## 10. Economic analysis

	<b>Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).</b>	<b>Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).</b>
Impact on knowledge and skills:	There are no negative impacts.	Advising residents on how best to reduce, reuse and recycle will increase their knowledge. Work with residents on initiatives such as repair cafes could potentially increase the skills base in communities.
Impact on employment levels:	There are no negative impacts.	The Strategy aims to help develop the Circular Economy – i.e. keeping things in use for as long as possible before they are disposed of, designing goods to be durable, and easily repairable, and recycling to reduce the use of finite resources. Encouraging reuse and repair could potentially lead to new jobs in Devon, supported by the need for a Green Recovery.
Impact on local business:	There are no negative impacts.	Supporting a circular economy and a Green Recovery could have a positive effect on businesses and enable new businesses to appear.  The Government is likely to introduce the requirement for business waste to be recycled.  Requiring businesses to recycle could increase opportunities for business development.

## 11. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

The Strategy aims to integrate and develop the positive social, environmental and economic impacts of waste management. There are no obvious conflicts between them.

## 12. How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?

By focussing on reducing, reusing and recycling there will be positive impacts on the environment, including a reduction in greenhouse gases, potential for improved social cohesion via community engagement and the possibility of new jobs in the sector due to the need to increase reuse and recycling and enable businesses to recycle more.

The majority of the waste management services provided by the county, district and Unitary authorities are procured through contracts with the private sector. In as far as is possible through sustainable procurement obligations the specifications will ensure a positive impact on the economic, social and environmental well being of Devon and Torbay.

## 13. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

The Strategy will be accompanied by an Action Plan that will be reviewed yearly and impacts and actions will be monitored through this.