

**Teignbridge District Council
Executive Committee
16 September 2021
Part i**

Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay

Purpose of Report

To seek approval of the amendments to the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay.

Recommendation(s)

The Executive RESOLVES to:

- (1) approve the proposed amendment to reduce the waste prevention target to 400kg/head/year by 2030; and
- (2) approve the final strategy.

Financial Implications

Please see paragraph 3.1 of the report.
Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services
Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising out of this report.
Paul Woodhead, Legal Services Team Leader and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Risk Assessment

Please see paragraph 3.3 of the report.
Waste & Cleansing Manager
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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

Please see paragraph 3.4 of the report.
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Executive Member

Cllr Alistair Dewhirst - Deputy Leader of the Council, and Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health.

Appendices/Background Papers

A1 – Detailed consultation responses
A2 – Summary of consultation responses

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 This report summarises the consultation response to the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay and proposes amendments for inclusion in the final strategy.

1.2 The draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay was published for consultation on 03 March 2021, for a 6-week period. A total of 214 responses were received which are detailed in Appendix 1. The detailed responses are summarised at Appendix 2.

1.3 At its meeting on 16 June 2021, The Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) resolved that the Strategy be endorsed and recommended for final approval to the (DASWC) partner authorities.

2. Additional Information

2.1 Government Consultations

The Government consulted on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Consistency in Household & Business Recycling proposals in the early summer. This Strategy has been developed with the Government's proposals in mind, but until Government has taken the responses into consideration and the final proposals are confirmed with draft legislation it is not possible to know with confidence how the Government legislation will affect this Strategy. Once the Government confirms its position this Strategy will be reviewed accordingly.

2.2 Proposed amendment to this Strategy

The majority of the respondents were supportive of the proposals in the Strategy so no significant amendments are proposed. As can be seen in the response summary and Appendix I, the major areas of concern include:

- To stretch proposed targets for reducing, reusing and recycling
- Working with businesses, manufacturers, retailers and government to reduce packaging waste (particularly plastic waste) throughout the supply chain
- To be cautious about electric vehicles in terms of their cost and carbon impacts
- Focus on economic, efficient and carbon friendly solutions
- Focus on education and community engagement
- To promote further reuse and repair in the community and at HWRCs

2.3 Some were keen on stretching the proposed targets for reducing, reusing and recycling. It is considered, however, that the targets are already ambitious.

2.4 Recycling targets are in line with the EU Circular Economy Package that the UK government has pledged to adopt. These targets will be difficult to achieve depending to some extent on the final details of the EPR, DRS and consistency proposals and how recycling develops as a consequence of these. The reuse target is limited to that achievable at the HWRCs due to the local authorities not having the data from charity shops or other community reuse activities. The food waste reduction target is in line with the Courtauld agreement target.

2.5 The waste prevention target of waste collected per head per year by 2030 of 416kg could be reduced further since various initiatives, either local or national, could help to reduce waste arisings. It is proposed that this target is reduced to 400kg/head/year by 2030.

2.6 Many of the points made regarding packaging should be addressed in the Government's EPR proposals whereby producers of packaging will pay for its recycling and disposal thereby incentivising producers to reduce their packaging and/or increase its recyclability. The proposed tax on plastic with less than a 30% recycled content should also drive down the production of virgin plastic products and encourage recycling.

2.7 It is pleasing that the respondees are concerned that local authorities follow effective, efficient and carbon friendly policies. These are all concerns that the local authorities are equally determined to address.

2.8 Community engagement, education and promoting reuse and repair are all fundamental elements of the Strategy & will continue to be supported by all Devon Authorities and Torbay.

3. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

3.1 Financial

Teignbridge District Council's waste budget is designed to cover the costs of implementing responsibilities under the Strategy. Any further implications arising from the strategy will need to be fully considered and approved through the Council's usual procedures. In addition, the Devon Authorities' Strategic Waste Committee's budget contributes to the overall aims and targets of the Strategy.

3.2 Risks

There are no significant risks associated with the proposed strategy for Teignbridge District Council.

3.3 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

The Strategy provides the basis for the management of Local Authority Collected Waste across Devon and Torbay to 2030. Its objectives focus on 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.

4. Alternative Options

There would be an option to delay finalizing the Strategy until after the Government consults further on its own policies later this 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.

5. Conclusion

The consultation response was generally supportive of the draft Strategy. An amendment has been made to the waste prevention target.

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

The other DASWC authorities are also being asked to approve the Strategy at their next appropriate committee after which the Strategy will be published.