

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2019  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES)

DEFRA'S RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY- SUMMARY

**1 Executive Summary**

1.1 This report summarises the key aspects of the new Resources and Waste Strategy, published on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

**3 Explanation**

3.1 This report outlines the key aspects DEFRA's Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) published on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

3.2 The key policies are centred around a drive to increase recycling through increased capture of organic waste, consistent collections and extended producer responsibility.

3.3 Many of the policies that are contained in the RWS are subject to consultations, and are likely to be publish the first consultation in late January, with key stakeholders that will determine whether some of the proposed policies will, or how they will, be implemented. Currently, the plan is to roll out different consultations for different aspects of the RWS over a period of months.

3.4 The table overleaf sets out the key proposals that may have an impact on the Council.

Item	Description	Comments
	<b>General</b>	
1	Proposed move away from weight-based (tonnage) reporting to carbon-based and/or natural accounting reporting.	Measurements and reporting will need to be in line with any new government policies and processes.
	<b>Chapter 1: Extended Producer Responsibility</b>	

2	Invoke the 'polluter pays' principle and extending producer responsibility for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full net costs of managing packaging waste at end of life.	May see a change in the overall composition of recycling collected at the kerbside, for example supermarkets phasing out types of plastic. This policy would have the most significant change for the retail and manufacturing businesses in the UK
<b>Chapter 2: Deposit Return Schemes</b>		
3	Consult on introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for single-use drinks containers.	May see a change in the overall composition of recycling collected at the kerbside but, current expectations are the legislation will target the reduction of waste on the go (street litter). This is expected to be the first consultation.
<b>Chapter 3: Consistent Collections</b>		
4	Consult on legislation to allow Government to specify a core set of materials to be collected by all local authorities and waste operators. Timings for introduction will be subject to discussions at spending review.	Will be able to make policy changes in terms of what materials can be recycled at the kerbside and are already collecting majority of materials that can be widely recycled. Officers are currently working on a project to standardise how recyclable materials are referred to.  This will be consulted on.
5	Consult on which materials should comprise this core set, and which collection systems would be most effective at preserving material quality. The consultation will be carried out in parallel with the consultation on reforms to the existing packaging waste regulations	This will be consulted on.
6	Consult on introducing non-binding performance indicators for the quantity of materials collected for recycling and minimum service standards for recycling.	This will be consulted on.
7	Potentially legislate for mandatory separate collections for business.	The Council provide trade waste collections through the contracted streetscene services and this will continue in line with and legislation changes.

8	Consult on legislation to require weekly separate food waste collections for all householders and appropriate businesses	<p>Officers are currently in the process of procuring a new Streetscene contract, to commence in April 2020, and this work is overseen by the Streetscene Procurement Board, with any service changes agreed by Cabinet.</p> <p>Based on a recommendation by the Streetscene Procurement Board, Cabinet have agreed to procure a solution that will assist the Council in achieving a higher recycling rate. As part of the procurement, Officers have been exploring with bidders how the Council could change collection services to achieve a higher recycling rate including separate food waste collection.</p> <p>The final collection options will be confirmed at the contract award stage.</p>
9	Consider whether householders with gardens should have access to free garden waste collections. This is caveated with being assessed to account for new burdens being funded appropriately.	This is likely to be consulted on. It is recognised by Government that garden waste charging has helped to support Council funding in the UK.
<b>Chapter 4: Waste Crime</b>		
12	Consult on reform of regulations for duty of care, carrier/broker/dealers, hazardous waste, and international waste shipments.	Police/ Environment Agency/Council is continuing to take lead on enforcement, as necessary and will undertake enforcement in line with any new regulations and policies.

#### **4 Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1 The Council is the waste collection authority responsible for the collection of municipal waste across the borough and has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect household waste.

#### **5 Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation at this stage; however, there are a number of significant changes contained in the Resources and Waste Strategy, which could have material financial implications to the Council. Until the detailed consultation documents are published by Defra, it is not possible to accurately assess the impact at this stage.

#### **6 Risk Management Implications**

6.1 There are no known risk management implications associated with the recommendation; however, this will continue to be monitored by Officers.

## **7 Security & Terrorism Implications**

7.1 There are no known security & terrorism implications associated with the recommendation.

## **8 Human Resources**

8.1 There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendation.

## **9 Communication and Engagement**

9.1 Officers will respond to consultations, as appropriate, in addition to contributing to any wider joint Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) responses and relevant professional bodies including the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC).

## **10 Health and Wellbeing**

10.1 There are no known Health and Wellbeing implications associated with the recommendation.

## **11 Procurement Implications**

11.1 There are no known procurement implications associated with the recommendation.

## **12 Climate Change Implication(s)**

13.1 There are no known climate change implications associated with the recommendation.

## **13 Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 The report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority (Our Environment), and specifically to the achievement of (reducing waste and improving recycling).

## **14 Equality and Diversity**

14.1 EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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