

	Resources and Waste Strategy 2018
Committee	Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee
Committee Date	12 February 2019
Significant Decision	No
Responsible Officers	Andy Pritchard, Strategy & Development Manager 01452 427014; andy.pritchard@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Main Consultees	None
Purpose of Report	To update members on the governments recently published resources and waste strategy
Recommendations	It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and considers whether it wishes to respond to future consultations relating to the Resources and Waste Strategy.
Resource Implications	None

1. Context

In December the Government published the Resources and Waste Strategy for England. It brings together a thorough direction of travel on public policy as it relates to resources and waste.

It makes a commitment to protect the environment for future generations and sets an ambition for the UK becoming a world leader in using resources efficiently and in reducing the amount of waste we create as a society. It emphasises the need to accelerate towards a more circular economy, which includes keeping resources in use for as long as possible and recovering and regenerating products or materials. The strategy also reflects and re-states a commitment to eliminating plastic waste within the next 25 years and elimination of all avoidable waste by 2050.

2. Strategy Overview

The strategy contains 8 chapters, each of which are summarised below:

Chapter 1: Sustainable production

Focusing on the resources lifecycle and emphasising that the most damaging impact of waste could be avoided through better production methods; by avoiding waste at the start of production processes and considering how materials can be reused and recycled at the end of life. This chapter sets out an overview of the general focus of the strategy as well as highlighting some specifics such as the introduction of a tax on plastic packaging which contains less than 30% recycled plastic and a strengthening of regulations on producers, building upon the ‘polluter pays’ principle.

Chapter 2: Helping consumers take more considered actions

This chapter is dedicated to consumer behaviour with a focus on the throwaway

society. Policy will now focus on product repair, reuse and remanufacture, with a specific emphasis on sustainable purchasing, providing better information to consumers, banning plastic products where alternatives exist, supporting the remanufacture of goods and leading by example through government purchasing decisions.

Chapter 3: Resource recovery and waste management

This chapter concentrates on recycling, landfill, energy from waste and hazardous waste, and is therefore of some significance to local authorities. It acknowledges the plateauing of recycling rates in England and also acknowledges a need to improve waste processing and recycling capacity in the UK. The strategy aims to improve recycling and resource recovery rates through a number of measures, including ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable materials is collected from households and businesses and ensuring all households and appropriate businesses receive a weekly food waste collection. It also discusses delivering improvements in working arrangements between 2-tier authorities. It encourages a greater use of secondary materials, and where waste is disposed of via EfW, this process should operate to a high level of efficiency.

Chapter 4: Tackling waste crime

This chapter looks at rogue operators who illegally dump or export waste as well as depriving the economy of tax income and harming the local environment. The strategy commits to reforming regulations, strengthening intelligence sharing, mandating the digital recording of waste movements, creating a joint unit for waste crime, increasing awareness and toughening penalties.

Chapter 5: Enough is enough: cutting down on food waste

The chapter cites that there is an estimated 10 million tonnes of food and drink wasted post-farm gate annually in the UK. This is food worth around £20 billion. Excess food waste is economically and environmentally damaging. A fifth of UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are associated with food and drink, mostly created during production (agriculture and manufacturing). The Government is committed to reducing food waste, reducing the UK carbon footprint, and meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goal of halving global food waste at consumer and retail levels by 2030. Government will work towards more effective redistribution of food before it can become waste, reporting of food waste by food businesses, introduction of food waste targets and redistribution obligations, promoting greater awareness and supporting cross sector collaboration.

Chapter 6: Global Britain: international leadership

This chapter recites the international and global impact of waste and resource management and the impact of pollution and environmental damage which requires a broad coalition of action. It specifically acknowledges the impact of plastic pollution, stating an aim to promote the objectives of this strategy globally and to drive international commitments, supporting developing nations in tackling waste and pollution.

Chapter 7: Research and innovation

Chapter 7 acknowledges the need for innovation in change, knowledge, data and technologies to support this strategy. The Government, has committed to supporting industry and academia to stimulate innovation through targeted investments and the development of standards

Chapter 8: Measuring progress: data, monitoring and evaluation

This chapter sets out a vision to adopt a new approach to data. Working with partners to develop a shared vision, it states a desire to move away from weight based targets and to instead adopt impact based targets including carbon and natural capital. Data capture in relation to waste and waste movements will increasingly be digital based.

3. Impacts on LAs

The strategy is clear on the need to address all stages of materials lifecycles, and contains a great number of ambitions impacting across supply chains from cradle to grave. All

measures identified will have an impact upon local authority services either directly or indirectly. Indirect impacts would include those benefits in terms of waste reduction and the banning of certain types of materials. Regulatory reform resulting in extended producer responsibility, product life extension and eco-design, materials choices, consumer attitudes, infrastructure development and innovation will all serve to reduce the pressures on local authorities and drive change where it can be most effectively delivered.

The strategy also contains a number of objectives (most of which will be subject to prior consultation) which will have a direct impact upon the design and delivery of local authority services, recognising the significant role played by these services in achieving improved resource efficiency. In brief, these are:

- Producers bearing greater cost (in the case of some materials, the full net cost) of managing their products at end of life, the scope of which will be subject to consultation and implemented for packaging from around 2023 onwards. This may have a significant impact in the future financing of waste collection and treatment services, and may encompass a greater range of materials (such as mattresses, textiles and tyres) in the longer term.
- Clarifying a duty, through amendment of regulations, for local authorities to undertake more re-use at HRCs, and undertaking a review of opening hours and charging policies, in particular for some small scale DIY wastes.
- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers. Evidence where this has been introduced in other countries points to a significant drop in these materials entering the waste stream.
- Moving away from weight based measurements in the longer term, introducing new measures which better reflect the impact of waste.
- New legislation which will specify a core set of materials to be collected by all local authorities and waste operators. Consideration will also be given to which type of collection system would be most effective at preserving materials quality.
- Consideration of introducing non-binding performance indicators for the quality of materials collected and the minimum service standards required for this.
- By 2023, ensuring that every householder and appropriate business has a separate weekly food waste collection.
- The provision of free garden waste collections for households with gardens, taking into account the results of an assessment of new burdens.
- Improving urban recycling rates, for example working with local authorities and businesses to pilot shared domestic and business collection rounds.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of two-tier joint working, including the supporting systems of recycling credits and two-tier cost sharing.
- Assessing and removing barriers to making use of the heat produced when incinerating waste, and considering whether the introduction of a tax on incineration is necessary in the longer term to assist in delivering the ambitions of the strategy.
- Encouraging and facilitating a partnership approach amongst all parties involved in tackling waste crime, including fly-tipping, and assisting local authorities improve the quality of prosecution cases, making longer sentences more likely.
- Calling on local authorities to actively support WRAPs call to action on food waste.

4. Timescales

The detail and scope of most strategy objectives are to be the subject of a series of consultations starting in the months ahead.

There will be three major consultations that DEFRA are intending to launch in early 2019:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- Collection Systems

A consultation on the increase of charges for single-use carrier bags commenced in December.

The consultations will run for a minimum of eight weeks.

DEFRA will continue to lead on regulatory and policy review in the longer term, subject to the outcome of these and other consultations.

5. Officer advice

Some of the planned consultations are likely to have a significant impact on local authorities. It is recommended that the Joint Waste Team develops draft responses to the consultations on EPR, DRS and collection systems when they are issued for agreement by the GJWC.