



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

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to  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
2 APRIL 2019**

**UPDATE ON THE RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY INCLUDING  
RECENTLY PUBLISHED CONSULTATIONS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members on the Resources & Waste Strategy and the recent consultations published. To seek approval for the Director of Service Delivery to draft and submit responses to the consultations on behalf of the Council

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That the Director of Service Delivery drafts and submits responses to the consultations either individually or jointly with members of the Essex Waste Partnership Board as required on behalf of the Council.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 the governmental launched their Resource and Waste Strategy - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>
- 3.2 A timetable of milestones is attached at **APPENDIX 1** with the main elements of the strategy being introduced in 2023.
- 3.3 In January the first four consultations were published. These consultations run for 12 weeks with a closing date of 12 May 2019 for the plastic packaging tax and 13 May 2019 for the other three.
- 3.4 The consultations cover:
- Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England
  - Reforming the Packaging Producer Responsibility System
  - Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland
  - Plastic Packaging Tax
- 3.5 All four consultations can be found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/resource-and-waste-and-plastic-packaging-tax-consu-1>

3.6 **Consistency in Household Collections** Consultation looks at local authorities collecting the same core set of dry recyclable materials from households plus a weekly collection of food waste.

Other measures that are also contained within the consultation are:

- Whether waste collection authorities should provide a free garden waste collection service for households with gardens;
- How to achieve greater separation of dry materials in collections, especially paper and glass to improve the quality of dry recyclables collected from households;
- Whether statutory guidance on minimum service standards for waste and recycling services should be introduced;
- How to develop non-binding performance indicators to support local authorities to deliver high quality and quantity in recycling and waste management;
- How to support joint working between local authorities on waste; alternatives to weight-based targets; and having standardised bin colours for waste and recycling.

3.7 Subject to the outcome of this consultation there will be a further consultation in late 2019 or early 2020 on regulatory changes to implement these measures together with supporting guidance.

3.8 Maldon District Council (MDC) currently collect all the materials set out in the suggested core list including a weekly food waste collection. However following consultation there may be a mandate to introduce separate collection of some materials at the point of next contract renewal.

3.9 MDC also have a very successful chargeable garden waste service with over 12,000 customers which will grow further over the next few years due to demand and the increase in property numbers. Currently 58% of local authorities have a chargeable garden waste collection service. The strategy is proposing that local authorities should provide a free fortnightly collection of garden waste.

3.10 **Reforming the Packaging Producer Responsibility System** highlights the principles that Businesses will bear the full net cost of managing the packaging they handle or place on the market at end of life. Subject to this consultation, this could include the cost of collection, recycling, disposal, the clear-up of littered and fly tipped packaging, and communications relating to recycling and tackling littering

3.11 This element of the strategy allows for fees raised from obligated businesses to be used to support the management of packaging waste however Local Authorities will be expected to meet any minimum service standards for the household collection service they provide.

3.12 To make it easier for people to recycle and dispose of packaging waste this consultation also covers packaging design. With all packaging labelled as recyclable or not recyclable.

- 3.13 Four models for payment to local authorities are included in this consultation and although there is no stated preference, the preferred approach would be subject to a second stage consultation on specific regulatory measures in early 2020.
- 3.14 **Deposit Return Scheme Consultation (DRS)** seeks the view on proposals to introduce a DRS for drinks containers.
- 3.15 There are two options within this consultation ‘all-in’ which would not place any restrictions on the size of drinks containers in-scope of a DRS. This would target a large amount of drinks beverages placed on the market.
- 3.16 The second option, known as the ‘on-the-go’ model, would restrict the drinks containers in-scope to those less than 750ml in size and sold in single format containers. This model would target drinks beverages most often sold for consumption outside of the home (while ‘on-the-go’).
- 3.17 In the consultation there are specific questions relating to local authorities and these provide an opportunity for MDC to outline the impacts and implications of DRS on our current collection service.
- 3.18 **Plastic Packaging Tax Consultation** is proposed to stimulate end markets for plastic and promote better design of packaging. This tax will apply to all plastic packaging including imported packaging to stop production going abroad.
- 3.19 HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) intend to adopt the regulatory function in relation to this tax and companies liable for the tax will have to register by April 2022.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Resource and Waste Strategy proposal will impact on all the waste services we provide, the waste types we manage, and the way services are funded. The extension of the ‘producer pay’ principle is a significant change and will have impacts which we need to understand and plan for.
- 4.2 The Officer Waste Delivery Group are working collaboratively to understand individual issues and concerns and consider these when developing joint or individual consultation responses. It is important that we fully participate in the national debate to influence the future direction of resource management.
- 4.3 At this time, it is unclear if the proposals will impact financially upon this Authority. However, a move to free collection of garden waste would have a negative impact, particularly at a time of residential growth in our area, which may generate more demand.

#### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

- 5.1 Until the consultations are completed it is difficult to ascertain what the impact will be on corporate goals. However, as further consultations are published this will become more evident.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Unknown until consultations are complete.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Unknown until consultations are complete.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Unknown until consultations are complete.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Officer time to review consultation documents and draft and submit responses.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Officer time to review consultation documents and draft and submit responses.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Unknown until consultations are complete

Background Papers: All four consultations can be found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/resource-and-waste-and-plastic-packaging-tax-consu-1>

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