

Report to: **Council**

Date: **8 December 2020**

Title: **Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay**

Portfolio Area: **Caroline Mott  
Lead Member for Environment**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y / N**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That the Council APPROVE:**

- 1. the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay for public consultation; and**
- 2. delegated authority to the Head of Contracts and Commissioning in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment for any minor changes considered necessary to the draft Strategy, prior to public consultation.**

**1. Executive summary**

1.1 This report outlines the new draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay. It describes how the Devon local authorities and Torbay will manage Local Authority Collected Waste (household waste, litter, fly-tipped, street sweepings and some trade) from 2020-2030. The delivery of this Strategy will be overseen by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC). Torbay are party to the Strategy but, as a Unitary Authority, also have their own.

1.2 Following its approval at the DASWC meeting on 15th October 2020, the draft Strategy requires the approval of the individual local authorities for proceeding to public consultation. After the public consultation and further scrutiny by the DASWC, the final Strategy will be brought back for

endorsement by the relevant individual authorities. It will then be presented to Devon County Council for final adoption.

## **2. Background**

2.1 The Review of the 2005 Strategy was published in 2013. Since then there have been many developments in waste management. The Government published its own Resource and Waste Strategy in 2018 and is currently planning further consultation on several aspects of this. The Environment Bill is progressing through Parliament although this has been delayed due to COVID-19.

2.2 Given the amount of change which has occurred, it was concluded that a new Strategy for Devon and Torbay should be written to reflect the direction of travel and changes in national waste policy. The draft Strategy will be consulted upon over the winter of 2020-21 and the final Strategy will be presented to DASWC in 2021, following formal approval by the individual Authorities.

2.3 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. It sets out waste policies and targets. The objectives are:

- a) To manage Devon's & Torbay's waste in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner.
- b) To minimise the waste we create.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.

2.4 Torbay Council, as a Unitary Authority and a member of the DASWC, is closely aligned with the Devon authorities, having responsibilities for both collection and disposal. Torbay's collection system follows the Devon aligned option and they are part of the South West Devon Waste Partnership which delivers residual waste to the Devonport Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power plant, in Plymouth. Torbay wish to be party to the Devon Strategy but have also written a short strategy of their own which is currently out for consultation.

2.5 The Strategy has been drafted by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee of which the Council is a member.

## **3. Outcomes/outputs**

3.1 The draft Strategy can be found as Appendix 1 to this report. The Strategy focusses on waste prevention and reuse, but also considers the carbon impact of the authorities' services. The Environmental Consultant, Eunomia, and Exeter University have assisted with the analysis of the

carbon impact of Devon's waste services and their recommendations have been integrated into the Strategy. Their findings have also been shared with the Devon Climate Emergency Team. Waste Prevention and Reuse are critically important areas of the Strategy.

3.2 Less waste means that costs of collection, recycling and disposal are reduced along with a lower carbon footprint. The behavioural change work under the Don't let Devon go to Waste branding has been a key factor in the success of reducing overall waste arisings and recycling more and it will continue to be a fundamental element of the Strategy going forwards. Reuse and Recycling in particular contribute to the move from the linear to the circular economy whereby resources are kept in use for as long as possible.

3.3 The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy forms the policy background at a national level. However further consultations are awaited on key Government initiatives in early 2021. These include consistency on waste collections including separate food waste collections, extended producer responsibility and the introduction of a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. This draft Strategy has been written to take into account the Government Strategy and it is expected to be in line with Government policy insofar as what is known.

3.4 The key targets in the Resource & Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay are as follows:

#### 3.4.1 Carbon

Contribute to net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest by focussing on:

- a) Reducing, reusing and recycling more textiles, plastics, metals/Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment, food and paper/card
- b) Looking specifically at how to reduce the plastics in the residual waste stream
- c) Considering options for utilising heat from the ERFs which will need to be commercially viable
- d) Reviewing carbon capture technology as it develops further
- e) Increasing the use of carbon friendly fuelled vehicles for transporting waste e.g. electric/hydrogen, over the period of the Strategy
- f) Developing opportunities for local reprocessing with stakeholders – by 2030

#### 3.4.2 Waste Reduction and Reuse

Reduce the waste collected per head to 416kg per year by 2030 through:

- a) Community engagement
- b) Operational service policies e.g. reducing residual waste collection capacity
- c) Achieve a 20% reduction in food waste by 2025 from 2015 baseline

- d) Increase the amount of waste reused to 2% by 2025 and 5% by 2030

### 3.4.3 Recycling

- a) Recycle at least 60% of household waste by 2025 and 65% by 2035
- b) All collection authorities to provide a weekly separate collection of food waste by 2022
- c) Collect a consistent range of recyclable materials by 2023 in line with Government policy with the addition of a broader range by 2030

### 3.4.4 Miscellaneous

- a) Continue to support Don't let Devon go to waste/Recycle Devon
- b) Procure a residual waste analysis in 2022 and 2027
- c) Continue to support the Clean Devon Partnership
- d) Work with the Government to deliver services compliant with Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and consistency legislation.

## 4. Options available and consideration of risk

4.1 There would be an option to delay developing the Strategy until after the Government consults further on its own policies next year. However, it is considered that with so much changing in the waste sector since 2013, it would be unhelpful to delay further and there are no guarantees that the Government consultation will be concluded when expected.

4.2 In terms of risk, it is anticipated that this Strategy will be in line with national policy as it develops further.

## 5. Proposed Way Forward

5.1 It is proposed that the recommendations are approved to allow a full public consultation to take place.

## 6. Implications

| Implications     | Relevant to proposals Y/N | Details and proposed measures to address   |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Legal/Governance |                           | The Authority has a duty to arrange for collection of household waste. The legislative framework is to be found in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Waste Framework Directive 2008, and Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. |

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|--|--|---|
| Financial implications to include reference to value for money |  | There are no financial implications.  |
| Risk   |  | As set out in 4.2.  |
| Supporting Corporate Strategy                                  |  | The provision of these services aligns with the Council themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• Environment</li> </ul>  |
| Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact                  |  | The Strategy is focussed on reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, all of which will lead to reduced environmental impact. It aims to contribute to net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest. See 3.4.1 for further details. |
| <b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>            |  |   |
| Equality and Diversity   |  | None  |
| Safeguarding   |  | None  |
| Community Safety, Crime and Disorder                           |  | None  |
| Health, Safety and Wellbeing                                   |  | None  |
| Other implications   |  | None  |

**Supporting Information**

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay

**Background Papers:**

None