

Report to: **COUNCIL**  
Date: **5 April 2022**  
Title: **Resource and Waste Management Strategy  
for Devon and Torbay**  
Portfolio Area: **Natural Environment – Councillor Lyn Daniel**  
Wards Affected: **All**

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

Date next steps can be taken:

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**It is RECOMMENDED that Council:**

- 1. Notes the results of the public consultation;**
- 2. Approves the proposed amendment to reduce the waste prevention target to 400kg/head/year by 2030; and**
- 3. Approves the final Strategy.**

**1. Executive summary**

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

## **2. Background**

2.1 The draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay was approved by the Council at the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, minute 30/20 refers.

2.2 Following on from approval by all Devon districts, the Strategy was published on 3 March 2021 for a 6 week public consultation. 214 responses were received and the detailed responses are summarised at Appendix A. The Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) resolved that the Strategy be endorsed and recommended for final approval to the (DASWC) partner authorities at their meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and is attached at Appendix B.

2.3 Many of the Devon districts have already adopted the strategy and are actively working towards meeting the indicators within the strategy.

2.4 The Government consulted on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Consistency in Household & Business Recycling proposals in the early summer 2021. This Strategy has been developed with the Government's proposals in mind, but it is not possible to know with confidence how the new Environment bill will affect this Strategy. As soon as the Government confirms its position this Strategy can be reviewed to see what changes, if any, are required.

## **3. Outcomes**

3.1 The majority of the respondents to the Devon consultation were supportive of the proposals set out within the Strategy so no significant amendments are proposed. As can be seen in the response Appendix A, 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 consider 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

3.2 As above, some were keen on stretching the proposed targets for reducing, reusing and recycling, however It is considered that the targets are already ambitious.

3.3 Recycling targets are in line with the EU Circular Economy Package which the UK government has pledged to comply with. These targets will

be difficult to achieve depending to some extent on the final details of the Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and Consistency proposals and how recycling develops as a consequence of these. The reuse target is limited to that achievable at the Household Waste Recycling Centres as local authorities do not have full data from charity shops and other community reuse activities. The food waste reduction target is in line with the Courtauld agreement target.

3.4 However, the waste prevention target of waste collected per head per year by 2030 of 416kg could be reduced further since various initiatives, either local ones or those to be initiated by the Government, could help to reduce waste arising's. It is therefore proposed that this target be reduced to 400kg/head/year by 2030.

3.5 Many of the points made regarding packaging should be addressed in the Government's Extended Producer Responsibility proposals as part of the Environment bill. Under these 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.

3.6 Local authorities are introducing electric vehicles where appropriate and in a timely manner e.g. as vehicles approach replacement, but they will certainly be considering the economic and environmental cost benefits as well as developing technologies as they approach this transition.

3.7 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.

#### **4. Options available and consideration of risk**

4.1 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 have been asked to approve the Strategy at their next appropriate committee.

4.2 There are no significant risks associated with the Strategy.

## 5. Proposed Way Forward

5.1 It is proposed that the recommendations are approved in order that the Strategy can be adopted across the whole of Devon and Torbay.

## 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The Authority has a duty to arrange for collection and disposal 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.
Financial	Y	N/A
Risk	Y	The risks are set out in section 4 of this report.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		N/A
Safeguarding		N/A
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		N/A
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		N/A
Other implications		N/A

## **Supporting Information**

### **Appendices:**

**A** – Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon Consultation

**B** – Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon 2020 - 2030

### **Background Papers:**

None