

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 1 December 2020

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 15 December 2020

Report of: Director of Net Zero Exeter and City Management

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

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

The draft 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 help to ensure a sustainable future for waste management in Devon and Torbay. As part of the process of preparing the draft strategy, members of the Devon Waste Partnership are asked to approve the plan for public consultation.

2. Recommendations:

That the Executive recommends that Council approve the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay for public consultation.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

This report outlines the new draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay. The strategy describes how the Devon local authorities and Torbay will manage Local Authority Collected Waste (household waste, litter, flytipped, 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.

Following its approval at the DASWC meeting on 15th October 2020, chaired by Cllr David Harvey, the draft Strategy requires the approval of the individual local authorities for proceeding to public consultation before returning to Cabinet in 2021 for final approval.

The draft Strategy will be published for consultation over the winter of 2020/21. It is likely that due to the Covid 19 situation that this will be on-line only. It will be widely shared with relevant stakeholders and the public.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

There are no additional resource implications for ECC. The DASWC Committee's budget contributes to achieving elements of the Strategy, in addition to each authority's own budgets contributing to the overall aims and targets of the Strategy. An allocation is proposed for a residual waste analysis in 2022 from the DASWC Committee's 2021/22 and 2022/23 budgets.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

There are no financial implications for Council to consider in this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

There are no legal issues arising in relation to this report.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring officer.

8. Report details:

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 COVID19. 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 and the final Strategy will be presented to DASWC in 2021, following formal approval by the individual Authorities. 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 to:

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

The draft report can be found in Appendix 1

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.

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

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
- Increase the use of carbon friendly fuelled vehicles for transporting waste e.g. electric, hydrogen, over the period of the Strategy
- Develop opportunities for local reprocessing with stakeholders – by 2030

Waste reduction and reuse

- Reduce the waste collected per head to 416kg per year by 2030 through
 - a) Community engagement and
 - b) Operational service policies e.g. reducing residual waste collection capacity
- Achieve a 20% reduction in food waste by 2025 from 2015 baseline
- Increase the amount of waste reused to 2% by 2025 and 5% by 2030

Recycling

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

Miscellaneous

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

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

The Strategy is focussed on reducing, reusing and recycling waste all of which will lead to reduced environmental impact. There is also a focus on reducing the carbon impact of the waste management services with the aim of contributing to the net zero carbon targets. As a result the strategy will contribute to the Exeter City Council's strategic programmes of tackling congestion, promoting active and healthy lifestyles, provide value for money and contribute to a well-run council.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

There are no significant risks associated with the Strategy.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The approval of this strategy for consultation has no impact on the carbon footprint of the authority. However the strategy itself (if adopted) would have many positive impacts which are included in section 8.

13. Are there any other options?

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 that it would be unhelpful to delay further. It is anticipated that this Strategy will be in line with national policy as it develops further.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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