



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	29 JUNE 2021
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES MARGARET WALLACE
TITLE OF REPORT:	RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY CONSISTENCY IN COLLECTIONS CONSULTATION
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Elected Members with an overview of the potential impacts to the Council's waste and recycling collection services arising from the proposed changes to national waste policy set out in DEFRA's Consistency in Collections Consultation.
- 1.2 To obtain Policy and Resources Committee approval to submit the response to the Consistency in Collections Consultation by the deadline of 4 July 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The draft Ryedale District Council submission to the DEFRA Consistency in Collections Consultation at Appendix A (which is still a working document) is noted.
- (ii) Any amendments made to the draft consultation responses prior to submission on the deadline date of the 4 July will be made following consultation with the Chair of Policy and Resources.
- (iii) The potential financial impacts of all the proposed changes becoming legislation from 2023/24 are noted and provision is included in the financial strategy to include additional revenue implications and capital investment. These are expected to be offset by additional funding but at this stage this cannot be confirmed.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 DEFRA have been consulting on a series of significant reforms affecting the waste sector in England, with phased introduction starting from 2023 through to 2030, which are open to a range of stakeholders including local authorities, residents and businesses.

- 3.2 There have been four consultations running and three responses have been submitted on the consultations on the Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Scheme and the Waste Prevention Programme.
- 3.3 The fourth and most significant consultation on Consistency in Collections proposes a series of fundamental changes cover consistent collections of household and household-like waste in England. It is specifically at local authorities which will impact on the current waste and recycling collection services provided by the Council from 2023.
- 3.4 This consultation was published on 7 May 2021 with a deadline for submission of 4 July 2021 and comprises a total of 108 pages and 79 questions. The 8 week consultation period is extremely tight given the complex nature of all the proposals and the significant changes that they are likely to have on local authority services.
- 3.5 Submitting a response to the consultations is not a legal requirement however responses are encouraged to the questions that can be answered to inform future government decisions on waste policy.
- 3.6 The consultation is split into two parts. The first part covers measures to improve the quality and quantity of household recycling. The second part covers measures to improve the recycling of non-household municipal waste from businesses and non-domestic premises.
- 3.7 The whole of part one is applicable to local authorities as it directly impacts and changes household waste operations and covers the following main areas:
- Consistent collection of dry recycling materials
 - Separate collection of food waste
 - Separate collection of garden waste
 - Exemptions from separate collection requirements
 - Statutory and non-statutory guidance
 - Non-binding performance indicators
 - Recycling credits
- 3.8 Part two mirrors part one but it is in relation to non-household waste with the aim being to ensure consistency in collections from the home, school or at work and covers:
- Consistent collection of dry recycling materials
 - Separate collection of food waste
 - Possible exemptions for micro businesses
 - Future commercial waste procurement/zoning options
 - Exemptions from separate collection requirements
 - Compliance and enforcement
- 3.9 In principle there is support for all the proposed changes that DEFRA is consulting on and this is reflected in the answers to the questions. However due to the significance of these major changes to national waste policy it is absolutely essential that they are phased in to enable the opportunity to review and evaluate properly, to see what is working well or not so well, to learn lessons and measure effectiveness along the way which will then ensure there is the ability to change and improve to ensure the ultimate objectives are achieved and delivery on the ground for our citizens and businesses citizens is right first time.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly related to this report and submission of the

Council's response to the consultation. A significant amount of work will be required to plan for these policy changes which are expected to be implemented from 2023.

- 4.2 If the Council does not submit responses to the consultations there is a risk that this will be queried later by members of the public.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Ryedale District Council plan;
- Our Environment, Sustainable, Safe and Clean- A Safe Place to Live. We will increase our recycling rate in line with emerging national policy, including by promoting recycling awareness, investing in our mini-recycling centres, exploring the possibility of recycling a wider range of materials and working with more trade and garden waste collection customers.
- 5.2 Following the publication of the Resources and Waste Strategy in December 2018, a series of consultations were undertaken by DEFRA in 2019 on the implications of the Waste Strategy. At the time it was expected that further consultations would take place early in 2020 however these have been delayed until now.
- 5.3 There has been no subsequent postponement of the proposed timelines to implement changes to waste policy in England which does mean that the timescales for change are aggressive and reforms due to start from 2023 which is the same timescale for proposed Local Government Reorganisation changes; both representing unprecedented challenges for waste and recycling services.
- 5.4 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee have had the link to the consultation document with details of the proposals and the questions being asked.
- 5.5 There are a series of extensive questions the majority of which can be answered however there are also some questions that are not relevant to local collection authorities or there is insufficient detail to be able to fully assess the impact of the proposals and submit informed responses to some of the questions. The consultations are therefore asking for the questions that can be answered to be submitted, there is not a requirement to answer all questions.
- 5.6 Developing options for increasing recycling in Ryedale have been delayed pending the publication of the Resources and Waste Strategy and proposed national policy changes to waste and recycling services. On 28 June 2018 a motion to Council was referred to Policy and Resources Committee which called to action an increase in recycling performance within a 2 year period and the introduction of an awareness campaign for residents to encourage more recycling (Minute Number 21).
- 5.7 The Council approved additional funding proposals to increase recycling on 11 April 2019 based on the current recycling service provided to residents. A series of improvements will be implemented during 2021 which have been delayed due to the challenges of delivering waste and recycling services during the covid-19 pandemic.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 DEFRA published the Resources and Waste Strategy in December 2018 which sets out an ambitious plan in line with the 25 year Environment Plan to become a world leader in using resources efficiently, reducing the amount of waste we create as a society and increasing recycling performance.

- 6.2 The Resources and Waste Strategy focuses on known problems with effective solutions that reduce reliance on single-use plastics, cut confusion over household recycling, tackle the problems of packaging and food waste.
- 6.3 The goal is for at least 65% of municipal waste by weight to be recycled by 2035 and eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030.
- 6.4 The Resources and Waste Strategy has 8 chapters and Chapter 3 sets out how the government will achieve the following which is the focus of the Consistency in Collections consultation:
- Improve recycling rates by ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable materials is collected from all households and businesses
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill by ensuring that every householder and appropriate business has a weekly separate food waste collection
 - Improve urban recycling rates working with business and local authorities
 - Improve working arrangements between and better support performance of local authorities
 - Drive greater efficiency from Energy from Waste plants
 - Address barriers to the use of recycling materials
 - Encourage waste producers and managers to implement the waste hierarchy in respect of hazardous waste
- 6.5 It should be noted that regardless of whether or not the Council, as a body, decides to provide a response, individual Elected Members may respond to the consultation in their own right as a range of stakeholders have been invited to submit responses to the consultations including residents and businesses.
- 6.6 Officers have drafted responses which are attached in Appendix A for Ryedale District Council based on the potential impacts the proposed changes are likely to have on our current waste and recycling services and for our residents and businesses. The deadline for submission is 11:59pm on Sunday 4 July 2021.
- 6.7 A summary of the proposed implementation dates is given in the table below:

2023/24	Extended producer responsibility for packaging comes into force	From October 2023 when it is proposed funding local authority net costs of waste collection for packaging waste starts
2023/24	Legislation for mandatory separate weekly food waste collections for households and businesses	Implementation of a new weekly collection service from 2023/24 which will require new vehicles, equipment, capacity and infrastructure
2023/24	Roll-out of a deposit return scheme	This will impact on the materials presented at the kerbside for recycling and current rounds
2023/24	Introduction of a free garden waste collection service	Offering this service to all 26,000 properties will require new vehicles, equipment and capacity.
2023/24	Additional dry recyclable materials to be collected from households	Aluminium foil, food trays, tubes, metal jar lids and food and drink cartons - capacity and quality issues
2023/24	Businesses to be offered the same dry recycling collections as households	This will require new vehicles, equipment and capacity. Food waste collected as part of new service.
2026/27	Plastic films to be added to household recycling collections	

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There are no financial implications directly related to this report and current consultation.

A preliminary evaluation of the future potential financial impact of the proposals has been undertaken by finance to provide an indication of the significance of the changes. The indicative impact on the revenue budget is estimated to be in the region of £2.59m per annum and the capital investment is estimated to be in the region of £2.22m. *These indicative figures do not include investment in technology or building infrastructure to support service delivery or variances in market values or tonnages. They also assume the garden waste service operates all year round with no closedown in winter.*

Provision will need to be made in the financial strategy to include the potential additional revenue implications and capital investment on the basis that the proposed changes become legislation from 2023/24. These are expected to be offset by additional funding but at this stage this cannot be confirmed.

A significant amount of further work is required to plan for these changes and to ensure there is sufficient capacity to implement all the changes from 2023/24.

b) Legal

There is no legal obligation to respond to the consultation, but that a formal decision should be made by elected members on whether or not to do so.

c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)

Whilst changes to waste legislation will have significant impacts on waste and recycling collection services, there are no specific implications relating to this decision. The consultation does not have any effect on climate change however further work will be required to consider and understand the environmental impacts of any changes.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

8.1 Any amendments or comments should be submitted to Beckie Bennett no later than 12 noon on Thursday 1 July to enable time for consultation with the Chair of Policy and Resources for approval to meet the deadline for submission of 4 July 2021.

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Background Papers: **Environment Plan**
Resources and Waste Strategy
Waste Management Plan