

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

25 September 2019

National Waste Strategy

Recommendation(s)

1. The Warwickshire Waste Partnership is asked to note the report and consider the impact for the partnership.

1.0 Consultations to inform the national waste strategy

- 1.1 In February 2019 Defra released three consultations seeking views from industry and relevant parties to inform the Resources and Waste Strategy for England.

- 1.2 The consultations were:

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging waste
- Deposit return scheme (DRS) for beverage containers
- A consistent set of materials to be collected for recycling by local authorities

- 1.3 The Warwickshire Waste Partnership submitted a joint response to these consultations.

- 1.4 The Government commits that further work to develop policy proposals in all three areas will be undertaken in parallel ensuring they form a cohesive packaging of measures.

- 1.5 This report provides a summary of Government's initial feedback on the responses to the consultations, which highlight some of the Government's current stances on various topics and policy areas. Links to the full feedback are provided in Appendix A.

2.0 Extended producer responsibility (EPR)

- 2.1 Government intends to introduce an extended producer responsibility system for packaging in 2023 and will be seeking to introduce the powers to extend the current producer responsibility systems via the Environment Bill.

- 2.2 Government expects to consult on the final proposals in 2020.

- 2.3 The following table shows some key proposals from the consultations and the proportion of agreement with that proposal from all responders:

Proposal	Agree
Producers should fund the costs of collecting and managing household and household-like packaging waste	74%
Packaging for commercial / industrial applications should be out of scope	60%
Producers should pay to fund local authorities to provide a recycling collection service	77%
Producers should pay to fund local authorities to recycle the packaging waste collected	91%
Producers should pay to fund local authorities to manage household packaging in residual waste	81%
Producers should fund national communications campaigns	90%
Producers should fund local communications campaigns	88%
Producers must label their packaging as recyclable or not recyclable	90%

- 2.4 The majority agreed that payments to local authorities for collecting and managing household packaging waste should be based on provision of collection services that meet any minimum requirements and the collection of a common set of packaging materials.

3.0 Deposit return scheme (DRS)

- 3.1 The Government will seek general primary powers in the Environment Bill to introduce a deposit return scheme for beverage containers.
- 3.2 The Government will consider analysis and evidence from commissioned research projects when determining the exact scope and model of a DRS.
- 3.3 The indication is that the Government are leaning towards an 'all in' scheme where containers of any size are included, as opposed to the alternative model of a 'on the go' system, intended to capture only smaller containers (say below 750ml).
- 3.4 The Government will hold a second consultation in early 2020 on the regulatory framework for introducing a DRS for drinks packaging through secondary legislation, including more detailed proposals for the nature of any scheme.
- 3.5 Following the second consultation the DRS would be introduced from 2023.

4.0 Consistency

- 4.1 The executive summary states that Government recognises the potential new costs for local authorities arising from these proposals. LAs will therefore receive additional resource to meet any new net costs arising from the policies when implemented. This includes both net up front transition costs and net ongoing operational costs.

Dry recycling

- 4.2 Government will seek to amend legislation to require all English local authorities to collect at least the following dry materials from 2023:
- Glass bottles and containers
 - Paper and card
 - Plastic bottles
 - Plastic pots, tubs and trays
 - Steel and aluminium tins and cans
 - Food and drinks cartons under consideration
- 4.3 Government will consider carefully how this steer will interact with proposals for a deposit return scheme.
- 4.4 The final makeup of the core set of dry materials for collection will depend on final decisions regarding a reformed packaging producer responsibility scheme.
- 4.5 Government will legislate for reviewing and amending the core set of materials.

Food waste

- 4.6 Government will legislate to ensure that, by the end of 2023, every local authority provides householders with a separate food waste collection.
- 4.7 Government's preference is that this should be a separate weekly collection of food waste and not mixed with garden waste. However, it is clear that further consideration is needed with respect to local circumstances.
- 4.8 Government will give further consideration to the costs and benefits of providing free caddy liners as standard for food waste collections.

Collection of garden waste

- 4.9 Government will give further consideration to the costs and benefits of this service before making a final decision on whether garden waste collections should be free of charge or whether charging should be a matter for local decision making.

Separate collection of dry materials

- 4.10 Government continues to support separate collection of dry materials as the default to achieve high quality recycling, in particular separating glass and fibres. However Government recognises that in some circumstances separate collection is not necessary to achieve high quality or is not technically, economically or environmentally practicable (TEEP).

4.11 Government will work with the sector to ensure suitable guidance is provided on the application of separate collection provisions to achieve high quality recycling. This will include consideration of requirements related to the collection of packaging waste arising from proposals for packaging extended producer responsibility.

Minimum service standards

4.12 Government will work with local authorities and other stakeholders to prepare statutory guidance on minimum service standards for waste and recycling.

Further consultation

4.13 Consultation on consistency of collections and minimum service standards guidance would take place later in 2019 or early 2020.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 Not yet known.

6.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

6.1 Further consultations on EPR, DRS and Consistency are expected in early 2020.

6.2 Future timescales will be notified to the partnership as they become available.

Background papers

1. [Partnership meeting 20th March report](#)
2. [Partnership responses to consultations](#)

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

Other members:

Appendix A - Full feedback from consultations

Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/packaging-waste-changing-the-uk-producer-responsibility-system-for-packaging-waste>

Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme-drs-for-drinks-containers-bottles-and-cans>

Consistency in recycling collections in England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-and-recycling-making-recycling-collections-consistent-in-england>