

# Public Document Pack

## Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 16th September, 2019

6.00 pm

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### AGENDA

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

To welcome those present to the meeting and to receive apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

To Receive any Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN**

**2**

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th June 2019**

To approve as a correct record and to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2019

**minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2019**

**3 - 4**

**4. Waste and Recycling**

To receive a report of the Director of Environment and Operations on Waste and Recycling, a key corporate priority.

**Recycling and Waste Disposal  
Appendix 1 A to Z of how to recycle  
Appendix 2 Summary of consultation on Recycling**

**5 - 19**

**5. The Work of the Executive and Key Corporate Priorities.**

To Discuss how the committee will progress its work programme.

Date Published: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Denise Park, Chief Executive

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

**Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.**

**Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.**

MEETING: **PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE:

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)

## **Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Present: Councillor Rawat (Vice Chair) in the Chair, Councillors Khan, Z., Oates, Hardman, Marrow, McGurk, Batan, and Sidat.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members present to the meeting and submitted apologies from Councillor Khonat.

### **2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **3. Corporate Priorities and the Corporate Plan.**

The Committee discussed the way that they were proposing to work for the municipal year and the issues that they would look at. The Committee received a presentation on the role of Scrutiny and the Corporate Priorities. The Corporate Priorities were agreed by the Policy Council at its meeting in December and had been refreshed in March this year. There are 8 main priorities which are:-

- Supporting young people and raising aspirations
- Safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable people
- Reducing health inequalities and improving health outcomes
- Community pride in a vibrant place to live and visit
- Connected communities
- Clean and safe environment
- Strong growing economy to enable social mobility
- Supporting our town centres and businesses
- Transparent and effective organisation.

The Committee were informed that the role of the Executive Member was to deliver decisions that sought to ensure that these priorities were delivered. The Executive Members reported to the Executive Board on a quarterly basis on performance in delivering the corporate priorities and that these were used to identify where improvement or intervention was necessary. It was proposed that these reports would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to enable members to understand progress. The Committee would also

receive reports that gave information where performance that was not meeting expectations. Executive Members would be invited to attend the Scrutiny Committee to enable progress to be reviewed and outline actions to be taken. Executive Members would also be invited to discuss proposed Service developments with the Committee and seek their input where appropriate to policy development.

Resolved-

1. That the Corporate Priorities as agreed at the Council Forum in March 2019 be the main focus for the year.
2. That the Committee meet with the Executive Members outside the Committee to look in depth at the portfolio priorities that feed into the corporate priorities and how these were being progressed when data is available.
3. That the Committee receive quarterly progress reports on the performance of the portfolios.
4. That the Committee expect the Executive Members to come to the Committees and undertake pre-decision scrutiny where appropriate to help add value to the decision making process.
5. That the Committee will look at issues raised by the portfolio holders that contribute to corporate priorities that arise during the year.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair at the meeting where the minutes were confirmed.

**Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

**Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Report of the Director of the Environment and Operations.**

**Waste and Recycling.**

## **1. Background**

Members have agreed to focus on the Corporate Priorities as the work programme for the year with Members seeking to add value to the work of the Executive and work with them on the delivery of these. This report sets out progress on the Kerbside Recycling Project and the Waste Disposal Contract which as members will appreciate is one of the key areas of service delivery to residents of the borough and contributes to the corporate priorities.

The report also sets proposed developments of the recycling service and the Government strategy with regard to waste and recycling and work that is ongoing

## **2. Kerbside recycling contract**

The Kerbside recycling contract with Biffa is due to end April 2020. A soft market testing exercise was undertaken with nine companies in October/November 2018. This helped to determine the tendering specification for the contract.

The tendering process was a two stage process, three bidders responded to the tender at stage 1, with two companies being progressed to stage 2 of the process.

Unfortunately neither of these two companies submitted a bid at stage 2 of the tendering process. One company cited that they had decided to focus their efforts on two other contracts that they had recently won in the south of England. The other company cited their inability to secure a waste transfer station facility close to the borough in time for the commencement of the contract.

As a result, the Council has decided to take on the collection of recyclates which will include the TUPE transfer of the Biffa staff at the end of their contract and the provision of a new fleet of refuse collection vehicles for the delivery of the service. An initial meeting with the Biffa staff was undertaken on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

A tender for the receipt, haulage and processing of the recyclates once they have been collected is being advertised in September 2019 with bids to be returned in October 2019.

## **3. Waste disposal contract**

The current waste disposal contract on behalf of the Council ends in April 2020. This contract has recently been tendered and two companies have submitted bids to

dispose of the Council's household waste. A report is being prepared for Executive Board to award the contract.

The new contract will see a target of at least 70% of the general waste sent to energy from waste facilities rather than landfill, with financial penalties in place should the contractor's performance go below 65% diversion from landfill for a sustained period for each of the 3 minimum years of the contract. There is also an option to extend the three-year contract for up to a further three years.

Pending award, the contract will not see costs for the disposal of waste increase next year, as would have been the case with the existing contract, which is increased by inflation and landfill tax rises each year.

Officers from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Lancashire County Council have been discussing the option of a joint procurement between the two Councils for the disposal of waste from 2025 when the County Council's current contract comes to an end. A joint procurement process could realise efficiency savings for both Councils.

#### **4. Waste and recycling performance**

It is important that the Council raises awareness and actively engages with and supports residents to enable them to better manage and minimise their waste and improve their understanding and participation in recycling.

In order to assist with this, the council has established a new role of Environmental Education Officer, with funding identified from within the existing service. The Environmental Education Officer will work with schools, community groups and residents to increase awareness and participation in waste avoidance, waste minimisation and recycling. The post holder will also manage and support the volunteering programme for the community litter pickers, of which there are over 1,150 registered volunteers and the 'Your Call' clean up events.

An A to Z of recycling items has been produced that is also very shortly to be placed on the council's website, please see appendix 1.

#### **5. Government Consultation - Waste Strategy**

The Government has undertaken a consultation with Councils across England on its Resources and Waste Strategy (2018) for Local Authorities.

The council along with all other councils in England is awaiting clarity on the future direction of waste and recycling, as there are expected to be developments with recycling, such as the Extended Producers Responsibility scheme and also the Deposit Return Scheme, which will help develop collection requirements for waste and recycling into the future.

A summary of the impact of some of the elements of the consultation is appended to this briefing note (appendix 2).

## **6. Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended

- To note the report and the information presented to members
- Consider how they wish to work with the Executive Member to ensure that the Corporate Priorities are worked towards and achieved.
- Consider what further information they wish to see before the Committee and how they can add value to the process.

Martin Eden  
Director of Environment and Operations  
September 2019

## APPENDIX 1 – New A to Z of how to recycle or dispose of safely your household items

<b>A to Z of how to recycle or dispose of safely your household items</b>	
An A to Z of what materials you can recycle or dispose of in Blackburn and Darwen and where you can do it.	
Anything we have missed? Please let us know at <a href="mailto:cleansing@blackburn.gov.uk">cleansing@blackburn.gov.uk</a>	
<u>Item</u>	<b>Best recycling or disposal method</b>
<b>A</b>	
Aerosols including deodorant and body spray, hairspray, air freshener and polish (only if they are empty)	Grey bin
Aluminium foil and foil trays (need to be clean)	Grey bin
Aluminium cans – need to be clean	Grey bin
Anti-freeze - hazardous waste	Household waste centre
Appliances	Bulky waste service, household waste centre
Asbestos	Household waste centre
Ash from BBQs incl disposable BBQs	Burgundy bin, Household waste centre (Note : important dose with water first to stop fires !
<b>B</b>	
Baking tray / tin – need to be clean	Grey bin if clean
Batteries	Small electrical collection, some shops or household waste centre
Bicycles	Donate, bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Board Games	Donate
Books	Donate
Bottles and jars – need to be clean	Grey bin
Bread wrappers / bags	Burgundy bin
Bric-a-brac	Donate, household waste centre
Bricks	Household waste centre
Brushes, rollers and mops	Household waste centre
Building material	Household waste centre
Bubble wrap	Donate, burgundy bin
Buttons	Donate, burgundy bin
Branches and twigs	Brown bin
<b>C</b>	
Cans (food and drink cans) – need to be clean	Grey bin
Car batteries	Household waste centre
Carbon monoxide monitor	See electrical items
Cardboard	Grey bin - make sure they are squashed down
Carpets and rugs -	Bulky waste collection, household waste centre



Cartons (e.g, tetrapaks) including UHT, soya and goat's milk, fruit juice and sauces – need to be clean	Grey bin
Carrier bags	Many supermarkets now have recycling points for carrier bags, burgundy bin
Cassettes	Burgundy bin
Catalogues	Grey bin
Cat litter	Burgundy bin
Cat food sachets	Burgundy bin
CDs	Donate
Chipboard	Household waste centre
Children's toys	Donate
Christmas and birthday cards	Grey bin
Christmas trees	Household waste centre, bulky collection, brown bin
Clingfilm	Burgundy bin
Clocks and watches	Donate
Clothing, textiles and shoes	Donate, household waste centre, * kerbside textile collections, textile banks
Coat hangers	Donate, household waste centre, burgundy bin
Coffee grounds	home compost
Cooking pans, trays and utensils	household waste centre, donate (if clean and good condition)
Cooking oil	Small bottles of used cooking oil can go in your burgundy bin, larger quantities can go to the household waste centre
Computers and PCs	Household waste centre
Cookers	Bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Crockery and cutlery	Donate
Crisp packets	Burgundy bin
Curtains	Donate, textile bank
<b>D</b>	
Directories phone	Grey bin
Dishwashers	Bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Disposable nappies	Burgundy bin. There are alternatives e.g reusable nappies
Dog food sachets	Burgundy bin
Drinks cans – need to be clean	Grey bin
Drinks cartons – need to be clean	Grey bin
DVDs	Donate , household waste centre
DVD players	Donate, household waste centre
<b>E</b>	
Egg boxes (plastic and cardboard)	Grey bin
Egg Shells	Burgundy bin
Electrical goods	Donate, household waste centre

Engine oil	Household waste centre
Envelopes	Grey bin
<b>F</b>	
Fat / Oil for cooking	Household waste centre, burgundy bin if small bottle
Flowers and plants	Brown bin
Foil - kitchen and aluminium – need to be clean	Grey bin
Food waste	bag up and put in burgundy bin
Fridges and freezers	Household waste centre, bulky item collection service
Frozen food bags	Burgundy bin
Furniture	Donate, bulky item collection service
<b>G</b>	
Garden chemicals	household waste centre, donate
Garden waste	Brown bin
Gift wrap	Grey bin
Glass bottles and jars– need to be clean	Grey bin
Glasses (drinking glasses) – need to be clean	Donate or grey bin
Glue	Burgundy bin
Grass cuttings	Brown bin
Guttering	Household waste centre
<b>H</b>	
Hairdryers	Donate, kerbside collection*, household waste centre
Hedge clippings	Brown bin
<b>I</b>	
Irons	Donate, kerbside collection*, household waste centre
<b>J</b>	
Jewellery	Donate
Jiffy bags	Reuse or burgundy bin
Junk mail	Grey bin
<b>K</b>	
Kitchen waste	Bag it up and put it in the Burgundy bin
Kitchen roll tubes	Grey bin
Kitchen roll/ tissue	burgundy bin
<b>L</b>	
Lamps	Donate, kerbside collection*, household waste centre
Leaflets	Grey bin
Leaves	Brown bin
Light bulbs	Small electrical collection, household waste centre or burgundy bin
<b>M</b>	

Magazines	Grey bin
Margarine tubs – need to be clean	Grey bin
Mattresses	Bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Medicine	Return unwanted or out of date medicine to your nearest pharmacy for safe disposal
MDF	Household waste centre
Microwaves	Donate, household waste centre
Mirrors	Donate, household waste centre
Mobile phones	Small electrical collection, household waste centre
Milk bottles (plastic and glass) – need to be clean	Grey bin
Musical instruments	Donate
<b>N</b>	
Nappies	Burgundy bin. There are alternatives e.g reusable nappies. Please make sure to put nappies in a bag before putting in the bin.
Newspapers	Grey bin
<b>O</b>	
Oil (cooking oil)	Small bottles of used cooking oil can go in your burgundy bin, household waste centre
<b>P</b>	
Pans	Donate
Paper	Grey bin
Paper, shredded	Grey bin
Paint	Household waste centre
Pesticides - see hazardous waste	Burgundy bin
Pet litter	Burgundy bin
Phone directories	Grey bin
Pillows	Donate, household waste centre or burgundy bin
Pill trays with foil	Burgundy bin
Plant pots and seed trays	Reuse or burgundy bin
Plants	Brown bin
Plasterboard	household waste centre
Plastic bottles including drinks and detergents– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic bakery trays– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic cake decoration pots– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic dessert pots– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic egg boxes– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic fruit punnets– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic handsoap dispensers– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic ice cream tubs– need to be clean	Grey bin

Plastic margarine tubs– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic ready meal trays– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic sauce pots– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic spray bottles from detergent and cleaning products– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic tubs from laundry capsules– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic tubs from personal care products (for example creams and hair gels) – need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic yoghurt pots (rinse and remove foil lids) – need to be clean	Grey bin
Pot noodle pots– need to be clean	Grey bin
Plastic vitamin and supplement pots	Grey bin
Carrier bags	Burgundy bin
Buckets	Burgundy bin
Pipes	Burgundy bin
Toys	Donate
Polystyrene packaging	Burgundy bin
Clingfilm	Burgundy bin
Inner wrap from cereals	Burgundy bin
Bread wrappers	Burgundy bin
Frozen food bags	Burgundy bin
Plant pots	Reuse or burgundy bin
Pill trays with foil	Burgundy bin
Food sachets (eg. powdered sauces)	Burgundy bin
Plastic chairs	Donate, household waste centre
Plastic toys	Donate
Polystyrene	Burgundy bin
Pots and pans	Donate or burgundy bin
Prams and pushchairs	Donate
Printer cartridges	Burgundy bin
Pyrex glass including jugs and cooking dishes	Burgundy bin
Pizza boxes – need to be clean	Grey bin if not food or grease residue on them
<b>Q</b>	
Quilt	Donate, household waste centre
<b>R</b>	
Radiators	household waste centre
Radios	small electrical collection
Records, audio tapes, CDs	Donate
Refrigerators	Bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Rabbit bedding	Brown bin

<b>S</b>	
Sanitary products	Burgundy bin. There are reusable alternatives available in your local healthcare shops
Scrap metal	Household waste centre
Sewing machines	donate, household waste centre
Shoes	Donate or household waste centre
Small electrical appliances	Kerbside collection*, donate, household waste centre
Sofas	Donate, bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Soil	household waste centre
Spectacles	Many opticians will recycle used spectacles
Steel cans – need to be clean	Grey bin
Straw and hay	Brown bin
<b>T</b>	
Takeaway food containers:	
Chip/burger trays	Burgundy bin
Plastic takeaway containers– need to be clean	grey bin
Foil take away containers– need to be clean	grey bin
Tea bags	home compost, burgundy bin
Television sets	Donate, bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Tetrapaks – need to be clean	Grey bin
Textiles	Donate, textiles collection
Timber	household waste centre
Infant milk and formula tins	grey bin
Baby food tins– need to be clean	grey bin
Pet food tins– need to be clean	grey bin
Tissue/ Toilet roll	Burgundy bin
Toilet and Kitchen roll tube	Grey bin
Tools	Donate
Toothpaste tubes	Burgundy bin
Towels	Burgundy bin
Trees loppings	brown bin, household waste centre
Toys and games	Donate
Tyres	Household waste centre
TVs	household waste centre
<b>V</b>	
Vacuum Cleaners	Donate, bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Vacumm - contents of	Burgundy bin
Vegetable peelings	Burgundy bin
Video recorders	Donate, Household waste centre

<b>W</b>	
Washing machines	Bulky item collection service, household waste centre
Wet wipes	Burgundy bin
Water Butts	Donate
Weeds	Brown bin
Window glass	Household waste centre
Wood	Household waste centre
<b>Y</b>	
Yellow pages	Grey bin
Yogurt Pot- need to be clean	Grey bin
*kerbside collection service - if you leave a small electrical item next to your grey bin on recycling day, it will be collected.	

## APPENDIX 2

### **Consistency in recycling collections in England: executive summary and government response – July 2019**

The consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England closed on 13 May 2019. There were a total of 1,713 responses to the consultation. The respondents belonged to the following groups: local authorities; individuals; businesses; business representatives/trade bodies; retailers; waste management companies; packaging producers; produce manufactures; charities and social enterprisers; consultancies; academic researchers; and those who did not categorise themselves or chose other.

#### **3.1 Part 1: Measures to improve the quantity and quality of household recycling collected by local authorities**

**Consultation Proposal 1:** All local authorities should be required to collect a core set of dry recyclable materials at kerbside from houses and flats

Proposal 1 from the consultation was overwhelmingly supported by both individuals and stakeholders. The vast majority of respondents also agreed that all local authorities should collect the core set of 6 types of dry materials, including plastic pots tubs and trays. Respondents expressed a range of views on the challenges of delivering this service to all households. Rural areas, flats and dense urban areas were highlighted as particularly challenging.

Given the strong support for greater consistency, the 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 – including drinks bottles, condiment bottles, jars
- paper and card – including newspaper, cardboard packaging, writing paper
- plastic bottles – including clear drinks containers, HDPE (milk containers), detergent, shampoo and cleaning products
- plastic pots tubs and trays
- steel and aluminum tins and cans

Government will consider carefully how this steer will interact with government proposals for a deposit return scheme, as a complementary way of driving up increased recycling rates for some specific material types.

**Consultation proposal 4: All English local authorities to provide kerbside properties and flats with access to at least a weekly separate collection service for food waste, including provision of containers and liners.**

80% of individual respondents and 72% of stakeholder responses (including 68% of local authorities who responded) agreed that there should be at least a weekly collection of food waste. 64% of individual respondents and 61% of stakeholders who responded agreed that food waste should be separately collected from garden waste.

Whilst a majority of local authorities also supported this view, a significant minority supported the option of mixed food and garden waste collections. 66% of individuals and 56% of stakeholders agreed that free caddy liners should be provided to householders.

There were a significant number of local authorities and waste management companies that were of the view that there were circumstances where it would not be practical to provide a separate food waste collection. Many respondents, in both individual and stakeholder categories, cited flats and densely urban areas as particularly problematic for food waste collections. Stakeholders also cited the need for suitable infrastructure for collection of additional food waste and also for its treatment (e.g. anaerobic digestion capacity).

Given the support for separate food waste collection, government will legislate to ensure that every local authority provides householders with a separate food waste collection. 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. The government will therefore give further consideration to the costs and benefits of providing free caddy liners as a standard for food waste collections.

### **Consultation proposal 5**

This asked questions about the support that local authorities would need to deliver weekly food waste collections. There was interest in a broad range of support including financial, communications, contractual and technical. Government will take these comments into consideration as they develop the next steps of these proposals and as we prepare for implementation of changes to achieve greater consistency in recycling collections.

### **Consultation proposal 6**

This suggested that authorities currently using in vessel composting to process mixed food and garden waste should have separate food waste collections but be able to mix the food waste with garden waste at kerbside (for example, collected together in the same vehicle) or at a later stage to allow continued use of in vessel composting treatment. Views on this were relatively balanced. However, the most significant concern raised was that separate collection of food waste only to be mixed later might undermine public confidence in recycling and in efforts to separate the food waste when it could have been collected mixed with garden waste. Government will give further consideration to arrangements for food waste collection in these circumstances.

**Consultation proposal 7** collection of garden waste: Whether households generating garden waste should be provided with access to a free collection service with a minimum fortnightly collection of 240 litre capacity.

80% of individuals agreed with the proposals for a free garden waste collection for households with gardens. By comparison, only 38% of stakeholders agreed with this proposal, including only 20% of local authorities. The most common concern raised by local authorities and others was the financial implications of providing a free service and the potential loss of income this might represent. Some respondents also commented that a free garden waste collection could mean that those without gardens were supporting a subsidised service for those with gardens.

With respect to the details of service provision, the majority of respondents agreed that the service should be fortnightly with a capacity of 240 litres and with further garden waste collections above that amount being chargeable.

Garden waste contributes significantly towards progress on meeting weight-based recycling targets. It is also important from an environmental perspective that this material is recycled or home composted, rather than sent to recovery or landfill. Whilst government retains the view that a free collection would be the most effective way of ensuring this, it is noted that stakeholder respondents were generally not supportive, with particular opposition from local



authorities. Government will therefore give further consideration to the costs and benefits of this measures, 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.

### **Consultation proposal 8: measures to promote separate collection of dry materials.**

70% of individuals agreed with proposals to promote separate collection of materials where this was necessary to achieve high quality. Just under half of stakeholders supported changes in current arrangements. Only 23% of local authorities supported the proposal on separate collection, while the majority of all other stakeholder groups, including waste management companies, were in favour of the proposal. Arguments against changing current arrangements focused on lack of space for containers especially in heavily urban areas and houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs). Some respondents also highlighted the costs of introducing separate collection being a barrier and some highlighted reports and studies on musculoskeletal risks from lifting and carrying in multi stream systems. Some respondents also commented on the lack of clear guidance. Some evidence was provided to support these concerns and we will review this as part of developing the next steps proposals.

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). Moreover, as proposals on reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system develop producers will be increasingly concerned to ensure quality in materials collected for recycling.

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 our proposals for packaging extended producer responsibility. Government will also work with the Environment Agency and local authorities to monitor the effectiveness of this guidance in driving high quality recycling.

### **3.1.3. Standardised collection**

#### **Consultation proposal 9: bin colour standardisation**

This sought views on England moving to standardised colours for waste containers for different material streams. There was strong support for this proposal from individuals, but less support from stakeholders, with less than half overall showing support for moving to standardised bin colours and just 30% local authorities supporting the proposal. Where there was support for this proposal, it was generally suggested that changes should be phased in (either as contracts allowed for or as containers were replaced). The costs of changing to standardised colours were highlighted as a particular concern. A range of options were discussed to reduce costs, including stickers and numbering systems.

Whilst there are clear benefits to having standardised bin colours and there is support for this, it is also clear that there are practical concerns about implementation and whether this should be mandated or not. Government will give this further consideration as we develop the next steps on consistency.

#### **Consultation proposal 10 statutory guidance on minimum service standards for recycling**

There was strong support for having statutory guidance on service standards in recycling. This was supported by over 90% of individuals and 70% of stakeholders. 54% of local authorities also agreed with this proposal.

A wide range of comments were made on the content of guidance and the approach to review. Many comments highlighted the need for some local flexibility to take account of local circumstances, as well as the need for guidance to be set out best practice and encourage waste collectors to drive innovation and improvement in service delivery. Proposal 10 also suggested that the statutory guidance should set a minimum service standard for residual waste collection of at least alternative weekly. 77% of individuals agreed with this approach, whereas only 43% of stakeholders supported this approach with local authorities strongly opposed.

Given the overall support for proposal 10, government will work with local authorities and other stakeholders to prepare statutory guidance on minimum service standards for waste and recycling.

### **Consultation proposals 11 – 13 communications and end markets**

Proposals 11 to 13 covered measures to improve communications on recycling. This included commitments to continue working with Recycle Now, and to improve information on end destination of recycled materials. Unsurprisingly, there was strong support for improving and increasing communications, particularly on greater transparency for end destination of recycling. Funding, in particular, was seen as an important requirement to enable effective communications. This, alongside national and local communications campaigns and clear on-pack labelling were all seen as important. This supports views expressed in the parallel consultation on reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system where there was strong support from respondents for a mandatory obligation on producers to label their packaging as recyclable or not recyclable. There was also strong support for using producer fees for communications campaigns at both a national and local level.

The need to have reliable end markets for recycling was also recognised by the majority of individual and stakeholder respondents.

Through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), government will continue to work with the sector to develop good practice on communications and, in particular, explore ways to promote transparency on the end destination of materials. A number of suggestions were offered to improve stability in end markets for recycling, including support for government investment in processing infrastructure and building reprocessing capacity in the UK. Other respondents also stated that the proposed changes to achieve greater consistency would go a long way to improve investor confidence in recycling.

**Consultation proposal 14** introducing non-binding performance indicators for local authority waste management

**Consultation proposal 15** alternatives to weight based metrics

Over 60% of individuals and stakeholder responses were in favour of the development of non-binding performance indicators. 60% of local authorities also supported this proposal.

There was also support for having indicators based around yield for different material streams and for residual waste and there was general support for this approach as well. Government will work with local authorities on the development of these indicators and seek to trial them over the next few years, alongside taking forward other measures in this

consultation. In particular, given government also intend to reform the UK packaging producer responsibility system for packaging, as government will work to ensure that the metrics devised will also support the efficient functioning of that system wherever appropriate.

70% of stakeholder respondents supported the proposal to develop alternatives to weight based metrics, with slightly fewer agreeing that these should ideally sit alongside current measures of recycling. Individuals were also supportive of this approach; however, many did not express an opinion. A number of alternative metrics were proposed and government will consider these further as we develop metrics for this area.

**Consultation proposal 16** support for greater collaboration and partnership working between authorities.

This proposal was broadly supported by stakeholders and individuals alike. There was general support for having greater collaboration and partnership working between local authorities. Respondents identified a range of barriers that might prevent collaboration including local political differences; lack of alignment on policies or contractual arrangements and timescales and also an absence of clear incentives. Some also identified legal and practical barriers, such as topography and demographics, as well as resources required to make partnership working effective. Suggestions were made for how government could support greater collaboration between local authorities, including government providing practical support such as tools and guidance, or facilitating space for discussion between local authorities. Issues around two-tier arrangements were also discussed and suggestions made to review the recycling credits scheme.

Government has already committed to reviewing the recycling credit scheme and will take this forward alongside reforms to the UK packaging producer responsibility system and funding arrangements arising from that. Government will review comments made on partnership working in more detail and take this forward with local authorities and other bodies, such as WRAP and the Local Government Association (LGA).