

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	26 April 2023
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member (Climate Emergency and Environmental Services)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jo Oliver, Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>NATIONAL RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	To update members on recent progress by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the Resources and Waste Strategy and the implications for Tameside Council.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That members note the report and that a further report will be submitted when more detail on funding and the consistency framework for household waste collections is known.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	Reducing the tonnes of waste sent for disposal and increasing the proportion recycled is a priority in the Corporate Plan. The new schemes detailed below should help us deliver on this priority.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The introduction of a deposit return scheme for beverage containers and the roll out of food waste collections to all properties will help in achieving targets in the council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)</b>	<p>This report provides an update on the proposed National Waste Strategy and the implications for Tameside. Whilst the proposals are likely to have financial implications, there is not yet sufficient detail from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The report outlines the four main components of the strategy.</p> <p><u>The introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for beverage containers</u></p> <p>This potentially reduces the volume of bottles and metal containers from our current roadside collections, which, in turn could reduce Tameside's recycling rates. This would have an impact on recycling rebates paid to the Council via the Waste Levy.</p> <p><u>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging</u></p> <p>Local Authorities will potentially receive financial support for the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of packaging with payments based on DEFRA modelled costs (yet to be confirmed). Initial details of the model are expected in spring 2023 with guidance on how local authorities will be assessed for efficiency and effectiveness expected in summer 2023.</p> <p><u>Collection of food waste on a separate, weekly basis</u></p> <p>The Council has expressed a preference to continue with weekly comingled food and garden waste collections. This will be subject to the TEEP (Technical, environmental, economically practicable) assessment referenced in sections 4.3 to 4.5. If</p>

Tameside meets the criteria of the assessment, there is a proposal to offer a co-mingled food and garden waste collection service to the remaining 12% (approximately 12,000) properties that aren't currently in receipt of such collections. The Council would potentially qualify for New Burdens funding from the government to support the additional roll out of these collections. It is not clear at this stage what level of funding the government will provide, if this will include revenue costs as well as capital investment, or whether the funding will cover the full cost of these additional collections.

#### Consistency framework for household waste collections

This is yet to be published, however, indications are the Framework will set a minimum collection frequency for all waste streams. Potential financial implications will be modelled once further detail is confirmed by DEFRA.

#### **Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

It is important that consideration is be given to the duties and future regulations brought in by Environment Act 2021. For instant s.50 which relates to power of Secretary of State to make producer responsibility regulations;

Section.54 of the said Act relates to the power to make regulations relating to deposit schemes and s.57 amends the Environment Protection Act 1990 in relation to separate collection of household waste and weekly collections of food waste. It also refers to the issuing of guidance following consultation which will need to be considered.

The Council will also need to consider future due diligence in consultation with GMCA once the proposals are more fixed in relation to any of the existing contracts for waste disposal and whether there needs to be procurement of any new contracts depending on the Council's requirements (with appropriate advice from STAR Procurement) in order to achieve best value.

In addition the report states that the consultation paper has not yet be issued by the Government and therefore we need to ensure that whatever systems are put in place are in direct compliance with these.

#### **Risk Management:**

It is possible that some of dates for implementation may be delayed by government. With a large number of local authorities going out to procurement at the same time this may increase prices and result in delays in supply of vehicles and containers. Further detail on the TEEP (Technical, environmental, economically practicable) assessment required to demonstrate our current system of collecting food and garden waste is the most suitable has yet to be published.

#### **Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Jo Oliver, Head of Waste Management



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The four main elements of the Resources and Waste Strategy are;
- The introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for beverage containers,
  - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging,
  - The collection of food waste on a separate, weekly basis, and
  - Consistency framework for household waste collections.
- 1.2 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have recently provided further information on the deposit return scheme, extended producer responsibility for packaging and the requirement to collect food waste separately and weekly. The approach taken by Defra is to look at each area separately and to release consultation responses as they become available. This means we do not have a complete picture on the impacts and how each element will interact on others.

## **2. DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS)**

- 2.1 The government published its consultation response in late January 2023 and this set out the how the scheme is likely to work. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, steel and aluminium cans between 50ml and 3 litres will be included in the scheme. Glass bottles are not included. The deposit rate is yet to be set but is likely to be 20p per container. A commencement date of 1 October 2025 has been set.
- 2.2 Containers will include an identification marker that can be read at the scheme return point. Retailers selling in scope containers will be obliged to host a return point and receive a handling fee. Small retailers may apply for an exception from hosting a return point. The government is looking at additional permitted development rights for reverse vending machines. Local authorities can separate out any containers in its waste stream and redeem the deposit on them, provided they meet the quality required for return i.e. the QR or barcode is readable. This will be technically challenging.
- 2.3 The implications of the scheme for Tameside are the diversion of PET bottles and metal drinks cans away from kerbside collections. This will in turn reduce the income levels we receive via the Waste Levy and our reported recycling rate. It is not possible to put any figures to the impact but if a similar scheme goes ahead in Scotland as expected this summer it will provide real world data that can be used to model expected outcomes. There is likely to be some confusion with the public on what types of container will be part of the deposit return scheme. It is expected the scheme will reduce the amount of litter and may even encourage people to litter pick their area in order to redeem deposits.

## **3. EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKING (EPR)**

- 3.1 Extended Producer Responsibility will see local authorities receiving financial support for the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of packaging with payments based on modelled costs. Defra is running a series of workshops and webinars with local authorities so the modelling accurately captures costs flows within waste collection and disposal authorities. Payments will be based on efficient and effective collections and processing of waste and recycling by local authorities. Defra is also engaged with the packaging industry who will be charged according to the amount of packaging materials they place on the market as this will be used to provide financial support to local authorities.
- 3.2 The first issue of the model outputs is expected in spring 2023 with guidance on how local authorities will be assessed for efficiency and effectiveness expected in summer 2023.

## **4. COLLECTION OF WEEKLY SEPARATE FOOD WASTE**

- 4.1 The Environment Act requires waste collection authorities to collect separate food waste each week from **all** households by 2025. At Tameside we currently collect food waste weekly comingled with garden waste from approx. 88% of properties. Properties such as flats and those on the rural collection round do not receive a food or garden waste collection.
- 4.2 Defra contacted GMCA as the waste disposal authority in late January 2023 to gather information on the impact of introducing weekly separate food waste collections on residual waste treatment contracts. This was so Defra could detail which waste collection authorities required Transition Arrangements and they could be named in the Regulations thus delaying implementation of separate food waste collections. The GMCA waste disposal contract ends in 2034. The deadline to submit support for Transition Arrangements was 9 March 2023 so it was not possible to take the decision through our usual governance process.
- 4.3 Tameside had two options; to support the application for Transition Arrangements and delay any changes to food waste collections until 2034 or look to introduce weekly food waste collections to all properties by 2025 and rely on a TEEP (Technical, environmental, economically practicable) assessment to demonstrate our current collection method is the most suitable for Tameside.
- 4.4 Following discussion with the Leader and Chief Executive on 9 March 2023 it was agreed we wish to continue with our weekly comingled food and garden waste collections. Tameside along with Stockport and Trafford councils have opted to rely on TEEP and not apply for Transition Arrangements. We believe we have a strong case that our current collection arrangements deliver a good capture rate of waste food from households and is the most economic and practical way for collections to take place in our borough. The government is due to issue a consultation document on TEEP and this will be used to develop our case for remaining on our current comingled food and garden waste service and rolling out the same service to other properties. The Council will qualify for New Burdens funding from the government to support the roll out of food waste collections to the remaining 12% of properties who do not currently receive them. It is not clear what level of funding the government will provide and if this will include revenue costs as well as capital.
- 4.5 From discussions with Defra it was not clear that if we had opted for Transition Arrangements funding would still be available in 2034 to roll out a food waste collection service to all our remaining properties. It is also uncertain if a TEEP assessment could be made to continue with our existing comingled food and garden waste collection arrangements and we may have been forced to move to weekly separate food waste collections, which would require a significant number of additional vehicles and new bins for food waste.

## **5. CONSISTENCY FRAMEWORK FOR HOUSEHOLD COLLECTIONS**

- 5.1 Defra has yet to publish a consultation response to this but we are told this is imminent. This is expected to set a minimum collection frequency for all waste streams, include dates for when pots, tubs and trays (PTTs) and flexible plastic wrapping will need to be collected from the kerbside and if councils can continue to charge for separate garden waste collections.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 There will be significant changes in how and what recycling we collect from households in the next few years and how we receive funding to provide this service. By opting to roll out food waste recycling to more households this links into our Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 As set out at the front of the report.