

Waste and Recycling Committee

Date: 22 July 2020

Subject: Resource and Waste Strategy Update – Part A

Report of: Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Team

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of England’s Resource and Waste Strategy (Our waste, Our resources) along with four recently published consultations on key components of the strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members of the Committee are recommended to:

- i. note the report, and reconfirm delaying the development of our Waste Strategy until there is more clarity on the direction of England’s Waste Strategy.

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Risk Management – considered in the body of the report

Legal Considerations – considered in the body of the report

Financial Consequences – Revenue – considered in the body of the report

Financial Consequences – Capital – considered in the body of the report

Number of attachments included in the report: 1 – Appendix A, Our Waste, Our Resources, Strategy Overview

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The Strategy can be found here:

[Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England](#)

All four consultations can be found here:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/resource-and-waste-and-plastic-packaging-tax-consu-1>

Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/consultation-on-consistency-in-household-and-busin>

Reforming the Packaging Producer Responsibility System:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/consultation-on-reforming-the-uk-packaging-produce>

Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme>

Plastic Packaging Tax:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/plastic-packaging-tax>

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution (paragraph 14.2) or in the process (paragraph 13.1 AGMA Constitution) agreed by the AGMA Executive Board:	Yes / No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN	
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 18th December 2018 Government published its long awaited Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, which in the main sets out Government's interpretation of the European Union's (EU) Circular Economy (CE) package (EUCEP).

2. OUR WASTE, OUR RESOURCES: A STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND

2.1 Set out at Appendix A is a comprehension overview of the Strategy, of which the headlines are set out below.

2.2 Following the publication of the Resource and Waste Strategy on 18th December 2018, four consultations were released on 18th February 2019, covering:

- Consistent Collections;
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS); and
- Plastic Packaging Tax.

2.3 The consultation deadlines were 12th May 2019 for the Plastic Packaging Tax and 13th May 2019 for the rest of the consultations. Given that there was no other Committee meeting scheduled prior to those dates, the responses were approved through a delegated decision undertaken by the Chair of the Committee and Executive Director, Waste and Resources.

2.4 A summary of the consultations along with the Authority's position was considered by the Committee on 19th July 2019.

3. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Following the first round of consultation government have proceeded with the Environment Bill to enable the primary legislation to go through the parliamentary process.

3.2 Environment Bill

3.2.1 In terms of the focus of the waste and resources element within the draft bill, its primarily focuses on a deposit return scheme, recycling and extended producer responsibility, explaining the Bill will introduce a series of measures that will fundamentally change the way government, businesses and individuals produce and consume products.

3.2.2 The aim through the bill is to maximise resource efficiency, minimise waste, and move towards a more circular economy. The new legal powers will allow government to set resource-efficiency standards for products to drive a shift in the market towards products that are lasting, can be repaired and can be recycled. The bill will also allow clear labelling to enable citizens to make fully informed purchasing decisions.

- 3.2.3 The legislation looks to ensure that those who place packaging on the market will take more responsibility for the costs any waste of that packaging imposes; according to the 'polluter pays' principle. Government looks to achieve this through introducing powers to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for packaging waste to incentivise recyclability in its design with producers being responsible for 100% of the net costs rather than about 10% of costs they currently pay.
- 3.2.4 Where waste cannot be avoided, government are looking to make it simpler for everyone to recycle through a unified approach to recycling across local authorities with a consistent set of materials will need to be collected from all households and businesses in England, with clearer labelling on packaging.
- 3.2.5 The Environment Bill will also introduce powers that will enable the implementation of a deposit return schemes.
- 3.3 The details of the above will form part of the second round of consultations (DRS, EPR & Consistency) which will that form part of secondary legislation and statutory guidance. It was expected that the second round of consultations would have published early this year but they have been delayed due to the pandemic. It's now expected that they will be released later this year.

3.4 **Plastic Packaging Tax**

- 3.4.1 After a large number of responses received to the first consultation to inform the development of the new tax, government have confirmed they intend to proceed with the implementation of the tax.
- 3.4.2 The tax aims to provide a clear economic incentive for businesses to use recycled material in the production of plastic packaging and create greater demand for recycled plastic thus stimulating increased levels of collection and recycling of plastic waste.
- 3.4.3 The second consultation on the Plastics Packaging Tax was released by Treasury in February, however responses to that consultation has been extended to September. Having reviewed the consultation, it is recommended that the Authority does not respond to this consultation as it is aimed towards industry.

4. **NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 It is envisaged that through the second round of consultations, the Authority will have a clearer picture, although not definitive, as to what will be the minimum requirements within the statutory guidance. Subject to that level of clarity, the process to commence work to develop Greater Manchester's Resource and Waste Strategy could begin. Whilst timings of when this process could commence, development of the Strategy will have to undertake a number of stages. These are:

Stage	Activity
1.	Respond to second round of consultations
2.	Once second round/England's Waste Strategy is finalised undertake analysis. Emerging principles to go to SOG and Waste Committee
3.	Draft Tender for TEP (if required) & SEA
4.	Draft Outline of Waste Strategy (Principles to be agreed with SOG & Waste Committee)
5.	Procure TEP & SEA
6.	Go out to consultation
7.	Analyse of consultation responses
8.	Analyse SEA Analysis
9.	Conclusions of Consultation and SEA to SOG/Waste Committee
10.	Go to Overview & Scrutiny
11.	Draft Waste Strategy
12.	Go out to consultation – if required
13.	Formal approval by Districts
14.	Final Strategy to Waste Committee & CA