

# Climate Change Working Group – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Overview of future Government  
direction in regards to waste  
management and service provision

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# Agenda

- Introduction to the Resources & Waste Strategy (2018)
- Progress in delivery of aspirations
  - Consultation 2019
  - Consultation 2021
- Implications for HPBC
- Greening our fleet



# Introduction to the Resources & Waste Strategy (2018)

Government published its new Resources and Waste Strategy on 18 December 2018.

The strategy outlines a series of commitments and areas for further consultation aimed at reducing waste and promoting resource efficiency, including the elimination of avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

Its two overarching objectives are to maximise the value of resource use; and minimise waste and its impact on the environment.

# Introduction to the Resources & Waste Strategy (2018)

All policies in the strategy contribute towards at least one of five 'strategic principles':

1. To provide incentives, through regulatory or economic instruments if necessary and appropriate, and ensure infrastructure, information and skills are in place, for people to do the right thing;
2. To prevent waste from occurring in the first place, and manage it better when it does;
3. To ensure that those who place products on the market which become waste, take greater responsibility for the costs of disposal – the 'polluter pays' principle;
4. To lead by example, both domestically and internationally; and
5. To not allow our ambition to be undermined by criminality.

# Introduction to the Resources & Waste Strategy (2018)

The Strategy also seeks to deliver ‘five strategic ambitions’:

- To work towards all plastic packaging being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
- To work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
- To eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan;
- To double resource productivity by 2050; and
- To eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

# Introduction to the Resources & Waste Strategy (2018)

The strategy proposes a number of key changes which will be pivotal to change the face of waste management in future. This includes:

- Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system (Enhanced producer responsibility – EPR) -
  - A major review of producer responsibility regimes for packaging, WEEE and batteries to shake-up the funding of the collection and processing of waste so that more money is paid into the system by obligated businesses enabling infrastructure improvements to be made.
- Plastic Packaging Tax –
  - A new tax on businesses that produce or import plastic packaging which use insufficient recycled content.
  - The tax will set a rate that provides an economic incentive for businesses to use recycled material in the production of plastic packaging, thus creating demand to in turn stimulating increased levels of recycling and collection of plastic waste, diverting it from landfill or incineration.
  - The strategy proposes that Businesses will have until April 2022 to adapt their processes before the introduction of the tax.

# Introduction to the Resources & Waste Strategy (2018)

- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland –
  - Packaging recycling rates demonstrate that there are significant improvements to be made in drinks container recycling.
  - Drinks container litter is a serious issue which needs targeted policy action to overcome, with disposable containers, or parts of them, regularly featuring among the most commonly found items on UK beaches.
  - This proposal which is proposed to be introduced by 2023 seeks to address these issues by introducing a financial incentive to the public to increase recycling rates and appropriate waste management of drinks containers of materials including plastics but also glass, cans etc.
- Consistency in recycling collections in England –
  - what materials should be collected for recycling,
  - from which types of premises,
  - how and at what frequency.
  - Seeking to increase recycling performance nationally and remove inconsistencies.

# Progress in delivery of aspirations 2019 consultation

In Spring 2019 Government undertook initial consultation on these four main areas of the strategy's aspirations, results were published in Autumn 2019 confirming further consultation would occur on the detail linked to the proposals.

This further consultation was expected in Spring 2020 which then didn't occur due to the pandemic.

# Progress in delivery of aspirations – consultation 2021

In April DEFRA launched further consultation on the EPR and DRS schemes the deadline for responses is 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

In May DEFRA also issued the consistency consultation, the deadline for which is 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The pandemic has delayed this second round of consultation and as result some of the original timeframes are being reviewed in the new consultation documents.

DEFRA have suggested a timeline of implementation from 2023, to be operational by the start of 2024 for many of their proposals. Once implemented these will increase the quantity and quality of recycling, encourage closed-loop recycling, simplify messaging and guidance for residents & businesses, and reduce the amount of litter.

# Implications for HPBC

- The collection services we offer to business and residents will need to change to meet the obligations of the strategy which will be enshrined in the Environment Bill.
- What we know for definite is:
  - Government are confirming that any costs incurred by LA's to change services will be borne via new burdens and that we will not be worse off as a result of the need for change,
  - Waste management in the UK will be funded very differently in future, with producers paying for the impact of their products,
  - every LA or waste collector will have to provide its residents and businesses with a mandatory, weekly food waste collection,
  - Every LA or waste collector will have to collect from its residents and businesses: glass bottles and jars, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays, steel and aluminium cans, foil and tubes. Consideration is being given for flexible plastics and films to be introduced at a later date,
  - Materials should be collected separately from each other and from residual waste.

## What is not yet confirmed and is being consulted on:

- What materials will be permitted to be collected together i.e. plastic and metals.
- Timeframes for the changes to be implemented

# Greening our fleet

- We operate 97.5 vehicles of which:
  - 23 are used by AES in delivering the waste and recycling services,
  - 35.5 are used by AES in delivering street cleaning and parks functions (we have 3 shared vehicles used 50:50 by SMDC & HPBC)
  - 32 are used by our Housing Repairs and caretakers team,
  - 5 are used by Carelink,
  - We have one mayors car and a van which was historically used by the Revs and Benefits team
- We also have 13 mowers, 4 tractors and 1 digger in use by AES for grounds maintenance duties.
- An application has been submitted to the Energy Saving Trust to review our fleet and make recommendations as to how we can meet our aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030. We hope this work will be completed in 2021.

# Greening our fleet

Until we have a strategy in place we will:

- In any fleet procurement exercises ask for prices/options of alternative fuel options as well as diesel,
- Work with AES to consider options to green our fleet, reduce fuel usage and reduce carbon emissions. Activities already being undertaken include:
  - Trailing an electric RCV and an LCV,
  - Undertaking a fuel additive trial,
  - explore options for conversion of some vehicles to run on cooking oil,
  - Review outcomes of a hydrogen trial being undertaken by ANSA (AES shareholder)

# Thank you for listening

## Any questions?

