



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 June 2019

Report of: Councillor Dr Peter Moseley

Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operational



Resources and Waste Strategy Consultations

For the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the recent consultations relating to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England and receive an overview of the response.

Report Author

Ian Yates, Assistant Director, Commercial and Operations



01476 406201



i.yates@southkesteven.gov.uk

Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Competitiveness	Regulatory	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Anne-Marie Coulthard, Head of Environmental	29 May 2019
Approved by:	Gary Smith, Corporate Director, Commercial and Operations	31 May 2019
Signed off by:	Councillor Dr Peter Moseley, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations	3 June 2019

Recommendation to the decision makers

- It is recommended that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the responses to the first round of consultations relating to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy.**

The Background to the Report

1.1 In December 2018 the Government published its Resources and Waste Strategy for England. This wide ranging and comprehensive review sets out the Government's ambitions to leave the environment in a better condition for the next generation. This will require changes in how we produce and consume products and materials, as well as how we treat and dispose of them at end-of-life. The topics covered in the strategy include:

- Promoting a circular economy
- Recovering resources and managing waste
- Better quantity and quality in recycling
- Consistent dry recycling collections
- Separate food waste collections
- Better partnership working between councils
- Amending the recycling credit system
- Reviewing Household Waste Recycling Centre provision
- Need for new treatment facilities
- Research and innovation
- Support for innovation

1.2 The Government has committed to undertake consultations on many of the key elements over the next year. The proposed timescale and key milestones are detailed at Appendix 1.

1.3 The most recent consultations which closed on the 13th May were:

- Reforming the packaging producer responsibility regulations
- Measures to accelerate consistency in recycling for householders and businesses
- Introducing a deposit return scheme for drinks containers
- Tax on plastic packaging

1.4 The consultations were targeted at different sectors as there are potential impacts for all organisations and residents.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received

2.1 In a two-tier arrangement such as Lincolnshire, the Districts are the waste "collection" authorities and the County Council are the "disposal" authority. As a result, close working arrangements are required. To support this, the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) brings together representatives from each Authority to determine the joint working plans.

2.2 Last year all partners endorsed a new Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. This sets out the 10 key objectives that the partnership plans to focus upon. In respect of the Government consultations, the LWP agreed to submit a joint response.

2.3 Discussion focused on the consultation areas which directly affected the partnership organisations; the standardisation of recyclable materials; the provision of weekly separate food waste collections and the provision of free garden waste collections.

- 2.4 The proposals in terms of the funding to support Authorities with any additional financial burdens associated with the proposals were welcomed. In respect of mandatory food waste collections, SK agreed that the collection frequency should be a minimum of weekly and made separately i.e. not mixed with other waste streams. In addition, the provision of food waste caddie liners was supported by SK as direct experience resulting from the food waste trial showed that this improves participation. The proposal to standardise the items that can be recycled was also supported. The LWP response to the consultation is at Appendix 2.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Partners could submit their own individual responses to the consultations.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 As can be the case, some questions were interpreted differently by different partners. Any specific variations in responses will be detailed during the meeting.

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

- 5.1 Due to the timing of these consultations it was not possible to bring the draft response before the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee before the Government's deadline.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that where timescales allow, future consultation responses will be considered by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to submission.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive further Government consultations and be appraised of any responses from Government and their implications.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The consultation itself does not have any financial implications, however, the impending Government response may result in new legislation which may have financial future impacts. These impacts will need to be considered as appropriate.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Debbie Muddimer, Section 151 Officer

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 The Council is not required to respond to Government consultations. However, they provide an opportunity for Members to influence future Government policy and legislation.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Shahin Ismail, Head of Legal

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 None identified

10 Risk and Mitigation

- 10.1 No direct risks have been identified as a result of responding to the consultation.

11 Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 None identified

12 Other Implications (where significant)

- 12.1 None identified

13 Background Papers

13.1 [Resources and waste strategy for England](#)

13.2 [Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire](#)

14 Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1 – Consultation Timetable and Key Milestones

14.2 Appendix 2 – LWP consultation response (due to the size of the document it is only available electronically)