

Bath & North East Somerset Council Emerging Themes for Resources Waste and Litter Strategy 2020-2030

1. Background

The Council is writing a new strategy for Waste and Litter. We would really appreciate your responses to our questions in Section 4 of this report, as well as any ideas of your own you may have.

Some context both Nationally and locally is helpful.

Much is changing in the industry and nationally. We have also resolved to declare a climate emergency and provide the leadership to enable the Bath and North East Somerset district to be carbon neutral by 2030.

This is not for the council to deliver on its own. We will coordinate, with the whole of B&NES business and residents helping to make it happen.

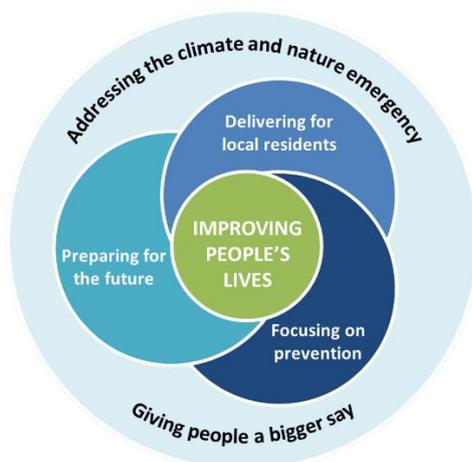
Progress will be possible through a cultural shift – looking at ways of working which are currently engrained:

- How to reduce our carbon impact through less miles and less fuel
- We use an estimated 175,000 gallons of fuel every year. We drive over 670,000 miles. We need to reduce this through making routes and journeys more efficient and only carry them out where necessary. We need to cut emissions and be bold.
- Reuse as much as possible to retain valuable resources
- How to prevent, reduce or recycle food waste

2. Local and National Drivers

There are many drivers for our strategy:

2.1 B&NES Council priorities



2.2 Resources and Waste Strategy for England

The Resources and Waste Strategy for England was launched towards the end of 2018 by the government. Whilst this is yet to become legislation, it will have a significant impact when it does. It is expected to become legislation in 2021 to be implemented in 2023.

The aim of the strategy is to:

- Reinvent how we design, produce and sell things
- Rethink how we use and consume things
- Redefine what's possible about reuse and recycling
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In the government's words: 'This strategy sets out how we plan to double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050'.

Whilst there are several proposed changes, there are three main ones:-

Consistency of waste and recycling collections

To make recycling easier and less confusing for residents, the government wants to introduce legislation to standardise recycling and waste collections. They also want to improve recycling information on packaging to help customers make more informed choices when choosing packaged products. The proposed standard collections would be a minimum of:

- weekly food waste
- fortnightly compostable garden waste (in growing season)
- glass bottles, jars and containers
- paper and card
- plastic packaging
- steel and aluminium tins and cans
- fortnightly residual waste

We are in an excellent position in the sense that we already have our collections set out in this way.

Deposit refund scheme

To tackle litter and improve recycling on-the-go, the government proposes a national Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers. This includes plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans. Customers buying a drink could reclaim the deposit added to the cost of the drink, by returning the bottle or can.

As more information becomes clear, plans can be set out regarding the implications and actions required.

Changes to producer responsibility

Producer responsibility is where the manufacturers of products (that end up as waste, such as packaging) pay for their collection and disposal. This change has far reaching implications – in its extreme, it could mean the Council has responsibility for collecting a very small range of waste items, therefore significantly reducing the cost to it.

Producers themselves will be creating better packaging which will either be reduced or recyclable. The knock-on effect will be less residual waste as they are recycling more packaging.

Street cleansing and litter will also be impacted as producers will be responsible for any recyclable packing. This doesn't currently include cigarette ends but more work is being done on this with tobacco companies.

Government says there will be full net cost recovery – so this is a big incentive for producers, such as those making cat food sachets which are not currently recyclable.

2.3 Recycling

Proposing to increase from 58% to 68% by 2030.

2.4 Reuse

Proposing to increase from 120 tonnes a year to 240 tonnes a year by 2030.

3. What can we do to achieve our goals?

This is the part where we need your help. Please look at Section 4 below, these are the themes and actions we have identified and would welcome your feedback. Those marked with an * show where residents are likely to have the most direct impact.

Some of the questions you might ask yourself are:

- Where there is an *, do you think you can contribute? Can you make a difference?
- Do you support what is being suggested?
- Do you feel strongly positively or negatively about any of them?
- Can you add any ideas of your own or further suggestions to an existing idea?
- Do you have any clarification questions which would help you to know if you are supportive of the idea?

4. Emerging Themes and Actions

Please read through each section. Specific questions then follow each section, which is where we would really appreciate your responses.

* where residents could have the most direct impact

Prevention

- *Prioritise education and awareness raising. Helping consumers make informed choices. Sharing information about waste and resource issues as part of public interest in the global climate emergency
- *Increased partnership working for both delivery and supporting community initiatives

- *Greater sponsorship explored due to more big business involvement – early partnerships
- *Use of CCTV use as part of a crack-down on litter in high footfall areas. Ability for residents to upload CCTV/dashcam footage- wall of shame. Proactive media campaign.
- *Feedback highest volumes of things being thrown away to producers to see how reuse or other prevention can help
- *Learning from innovation elsewhere in the UK and the world
- *Restrict – e.g. single-use plastic
- Being ahead of the game! Funding opportunities, bids, initiatives so that we are managing the changes coming rather than reacting to them
- Preparation for the new government strategy for 2023 once it is clear what this will entail
- Fleet review to consider electric replacement where possible and inform new methods of service delivery
- Optimal routing for all services using new in-cab technology

Questions:

- **Do you think businesses should get involved in helping to reduce waste? How might they do that?**
- **Do you think people would be interested in more information about how to recycle, where waste goes? What might be useful?**
- **What things do you throw away most which could be reused?**

Reduce

- *How to reduce the number of miles we are travelling to collect waste – e.g. residents in rural areas volunteering to have collections less often if not needed
- *Further promotion of re-useable/real nappies
- *Focus on reducing food waste being thrown away
- *Education, home composting, plastic reduction, etc. Realising that there is so little left to put in the black wheeled bin that it doesn't need putting out as often
- Savings and efficiencies – as financial pressures increase, considering all options to reduce the cost and volume of black bin waste
- Tailoring of services to greater/lesser need
- Integration with planning requirements - new build processes to insist on internal/external recycling space, and better bigger infrastructure for new build estates. Developers to provide containers

Questions:

- **How could we reduce the number of miles we drive to collect waste?**
- **Have you ever used real nappies? What might encourage people to use them rather than disposable nappies?**
- **Do you put out your food waste? What would help you to throw less food away?**
- **Is your black bin full when you put it out?**
- **Do you home compost? If not, why? Would anything help to encourage you?**

Reuse

- *Raised importance of reuse as national measures change from recycling % to carbon impact
- *Reuse & repair – maximising through community networks
- Prevention work using data from Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC aka 'the tip') to reuse more e.g. small kitchen electricals as there are currently high volumes which get recycled

Questions:

- **Do you buy second-hand furniture, electricals, etc.?**
- **What would make it easier for you to donate or set aside items for reuse?**
- **Would you visit the new reuse shop when it is built?**

Recycle

- *Residents not throwing their recycling into their black bin - potential fines or stopping collecting in extreme cases
- *Targeted education and increased campaigning. Reinvestment into awareness raising material – tackling any confusion, maximising use of existing service provision
- *Reviewing recycling box provision – effectiveness of lids, nets etc. to reduce littering
- *Focus on 26% of the existing black bin contents which is food. 65% is the recycling target for 2035 nationally, but aiming at 68% by 2030 within B&NES (58% now)
- *Residents to sort black bags at HWRCs if they have recycling in them, prior to putting them in the landfill container
- Introduction of in cab technology to improve the efficiencies of the collection services
- Collection – consider options for future service containment and frequencies
- The focus will be on change in the context of climate emergency – making recycling part of what every resident does and the norm. If you live in B&NES you need to recycle, and it's not something you can opt out of. Reinvesting in education and campaigning and maximise opportunities to make our systems easy to understand so that more people recycle all the materials that they can
- Target of 68% recycling by 2030 (58% now)
- Comparing recycling across B&NES and giving credit where improvements are made, as well as encouraging those not recycling as much
- Commercial waste - closer working with business as it becomes compulsory for them to separate certain waste types.
- Identifying any opportunities to recycle items we don't currently recycle

Questions:

- **Do you recycle? If not, why?**
- **How do you think we could increase the amount people recycle or encourage people to recycle who don't?**
- **What could we do to make it easier to recycle?**
- **Do you think we should have ambitious targets to recycle more?**
- **Would you like to know how the area you live compares with others, in terms of recycling?**

Improving Place

- *Finding new and innovative ways to reduce litter
- In Cab technology helping identify when assisted customers are not putting their waste out, and flagging to our Older Peoples Service to follow up in case there is something wrong
- Review of litter bin provision to determine the best placement, sizes, approach to collection etc.

Question:

- **Do you think we should take more action to reduce litter?**

Tackling Environmental Crime

- *Name and shame fly-tippers. Promote use of dash-cam footage and CCTV
- *Focus on Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) to improve the presentation of waste
- *Finding ways to reduce the domestic and commercial waste in litter bins
- Fly-tipping and litter enforcement enhanced and increased – clear message
- Zero tolerance with fly-tipping and where there is evidence, every case is investigated
- More cases through magistrate's courts to increase the level of fine as proportionate
- Awareness raising and education to show the impact of litter on the environment (e.g. cigarette butts)

Questions:

- **Do you agree with naming and shaming fly-tippers?**
- **Do you agree with zero tolerance with fly-tipping?**
- **How do you think we could prevent large amounts of household waste being put in litter bins?**
- **Do you think people are aware of the impact of littering e.g. damage to marine life through putting cigarette butts down drains?**
- **How can we increase the awareness of litter impact?**

Infrastructure

- Depot completion by 2023 and forward planning of operational efficiencies and processes to be changed
- Increased sorting/baling infrastructure to maximise quality and income from materials recycled
- Review opening times of HWRC to fit public needs and keep within existing budgets

Questions:

- **Would you be interested in knowing more about the new waste depot being planned?**
- **Can you suggest ways in which we could make HWRC ('tip') opening times fit public needs without incurring additional cost?**

Community Initiatives

- *Help people who want to do more – e.g. provision of low-cost equipment such as litter pickers and bags
- *Community initiatives – how we can support, add value and sustain these
- *Increasing volunteers to help spread good practice
- Create greater support in the council for volunteer coordination

Questions:

- **Would you make use of free equipment such as litter pickers and bags?**
- **Do you agree with the community supporting litter picking and other waste initiatives?**
- **How could the council make it easier for people to volunteer?**

5. How to give feedback

Please answer the questions as well as adding any ideas of your own, and email to the address below. Please respond by 28th February 2020.

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6. What's Next

All comments will be taken into consideration as we pull together the detail of the strategy which will be implemented later this year.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to feedback your comments.