

<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 6</b>
<b>17 JANUARY 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Gavin Eley, Cabinet member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	
Contact Officer(s):	Amy Nebel, Senior Waste and Recycling Officer	07920160024

**NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviews and provides comments on the impacts of the National Waste Strategy on Peterborough and offers advice, guidance and ideas to support the implementation of the food waste service to all flats in line with the requirements of the Simpler Recycling Plan.</li> <li>2. Reviews the work undertaken to date by the councils new Education Team and offers guidance and support as necessary.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report has been requested by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is brought to the Scrutiny Committee to provide an overview of the Governments current plans for Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and how these will impact the council. The report also provides an overview of the work of the councils new Education Team.

2.2 This report is for Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by the Council:

*3. Waste Strategy & Management*

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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#### 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 In October reforms to household and business waste and recycling collections were published through the Simpler Recycling Plan with the aim to boost recycling rates and protect the environment. The government's aim with this work is to create a new, simpler approach to recycling meaning that people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, whether at home, work or school, putting an end to confusion over what can and can't be recycled in different parts of the country. The impacts of Simpler Recycling for Peterborough in relation to the current published material are as follows:

Waste type	Government proposals	Impacts for Peterborough
Recycling (Green bin)	<p>All local authorities by 31 March 2026 will collect the required recyclable waste streams: glass; metal; plastic; paper and card; food waste; and garden waste.</p> <p>A simpler approach to recycling will mean people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, whether at home, work or school, putting an end to confusion over what can and can't be recycled in different parts of the country.</p> <p>The government is proposing new exemptions to make sure that waste collectors will be able to collect dry recyclables together in the same bin or bag.</p> <p>Local authorities will be required to collect plastic film as part of the plastic waste stream by 31 March 2027.</p>	<p>The government is proposing new exemptions to make sure that dry recyclables can be collected together in the same bin or bag. Therefore, this will have no impact for Peterborough as our collection process already supports this approach and collects all of the materials required comingled in the Green bin.</p>
Garden waste (Brown bin)	<p>Local authorities will continue to be able to charge for garden waste collections, as "the economic and environmental case is not strong enough to proceed" with the initial proposal to make them free.</p>	<p>No impact</p>
Food waste	<p>Weekly collections of food waste will be introduced for most households across England by 2026.</p>	<p>Expansion of food waste service to all flats will be required. Funding is expected to be available to support this where it is not already in place.</p>
Residual waste (Black bin)	<p>The government have specified that they 'expect a minimum service frequency for residual waste collections of fortnightly'.</p>	<p>No impact on current collections but this approach will limit the council's ability to collect residual waste on a less frequent basis in the future.</p>

- 4.1.1 **Collection frequency:** The government have specified that they 'expect a minimum service frequency for residual waste collections of fortnightly'. Whilst this is in line with our current collection frequency it prevents the council from considering the introduction of a 3 or 4 week collection cycle in the future.

Concerns have been raised by bodies such as the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC). Numerous studies show that the restriction of residual waste capacity is a key factor in influencing how residents use their recycling and food waste services and subsequently in increasing recycling rates without the need to undertake more collections and vehicle movements when the food waste is being collected weekly. However, the government has not specified the capacity of wheeled bins and therefore it would be possible for the council to consider a reduction in the size of residual bins in the future if evidence on a local level indicates that this would drive an increase in recycling.

- 4.1.2 **Extended Producer Responsibility:** The aim of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is to enable manufacturers to design packaging knowing it can be recycled across the nation, ensuring there is more recycled material in the products we buy and allowing the UK recycling industry to grow. Funding for the management of packaging waste through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme has been delayed, resulting in local authorities not receiving their first payment until December 2025. The intention as it is currently understood is that Local Authorities will receive the full net cost for managing separately collected in scope recyclable packaging and for the same in-scope materials in residual waste and street litter bins, with the first payment using estimated tonnage now expected in December 2025 rather than 2024. This income will include the value derived from the recycled material, which we already receive through our current Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) contract, so that is netted off from any payments we will receive.

After the initial year where estimates will be used, authority EPR payments will be made in arrears on a quarterly basis using the data from the equivalent quarter from the previous year. It remains unclear how residual waste in scope packaging will be accounted for in this process. It also remains unclear how much money authorities will receive and what service changes might be necessary to comply with the requirement for an "efficient and effective" collection service in the view of the scheme administrator. The scheme administrator is not yet in place. At this time (December 23) it is unclear how much money we will receive, what an efficient and effective service is and what classification of authority we will be categorised as which sets out what is expected of us for compliance. A set of defined authority types is to be published which included urban and rural, deprivation and similar metrics to define our funding, we will not be directly compensated for costs through evidence of our actual expenditure.

- 4.2 **Recycling performance:** The Councils Waste and Recycling Team continually review schemes delivered by other authorities to identify if improvements can be made in Peterborough. Evidence shows that of the top 10 performing councils, all of them collect food waste and six collect dry recycling comingled with glass, metal, paper and card, and plastics in a single bin. The other four have 'twin stream' systems with paper and card collected separately from other materials.

As referenced above, the notable difference is that all of the top 10 performing authorities have restricted the residual waste capacity by reducing the size of the residual waste bin. This suggests that existing collection systems are producing the strongest results, with the service provided in Peterborough being very similar to high performing authorities bar the restriction of residual waste as we provide a 240 litre bin collected fortnightly. As a result, we have a higher kg of residual waste per household, 600.87kg compared to an average of 383.14kg from the top 10 performing Councils.

2021/22 Top 10 Performing Councils	Waste Recycled (%)	Residual waste per household (kg)	Residual waste capacity
Three Rivers District Council	63.50%	359.6	140 litre bin fortnightly
South Oxfordshire District Council	62.70%	360	180 litre bin fortnightly
St Albans City and District Council	62.40%	356.8	180 litre bin fortnightly
Vale of White Horse District Council	61.90%	347.2	180 litre bin fortnightly
East Devon District Council	61.00%	324.7	180 litre bin fortnightly
Stockport MBC	60.30%	352.7	140 litre bin fortnightly
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	60.10%	518.6	180 litre bin fortnightly
Rochford District Council	59.90%	407.3	180 litre bin fortnightly
South Gloucestershire Council	59.90%	420.8	140 litre bin fortnightly
Tandridge District Council	59.90%	383.7	180 litre bin fortnightly

Peterborough City Council	Waste Recycled (%)	Residual waste per household (kg)
2021/22	38.90%	600.7
2022/23	40.10%	554.73
2023/24 to date	42.48%	416.97

4.2.1 **Education Team:** The newly appointed recycling education team are already making a positive impact with plans in place for interventions to target a number of known issues including:

- Interventions and education at flat blocks where residents misuse the bins and regularly struggle with high levels of contamination and low recycling performance. As such, the education team have visited 56 flats locations across the city to date.
- A schools and early years education programme has been developed with 17 visits undertaken already during November and December at local nurseries, groups and schools. A further 19 visits for early 2024 are already scheduled.
- During Recycling Week in October an intensive communications campaign was undertaken, the highlight being when the Cathedral was lit up green with Recycling Rita and Hungry Harry to spread the recycling message.
- Social media activity including a Christmas carol video sung by children at Barnack Primary School was promoted on the council's social media channels in the run up to Christmas.

As a result, the recycling rate for April – November 2023 is 42.48% compared to 38.23% during the same period in 2022/23. As a reminder, each 1% increase in recycling equates to a net financial benefit to the council of c.£70k.

4.3 **Next steps:** Officers will continue to prepare for the implementation of a food waste recycling scheme to all flats in the city, currently only 15-20% of flats have the facility to recycle food waste.

In addition to this the Education Team will continue to increase the activity they undertake across the city and welcome suggestions for activity from the committee.

## **5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 **The Economy & Inclusive Growth** – Introduction of Simpler Recycling Plan provides the clarity required to ensure the council is delivering the required service and residents understand what is required of them and what they can expect of the council in order to ensure their household waste is dealt with in a sustainable way.

Carbon Impact Assessment - this report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

**Sustainable Future City Council** - Introduction of the Simpler Recycling Plan and our alignment with the plan will ensure that residents understand 'how we work', 'how we serve' and 'how we enable' by making sure expectations can be clearly managed and we provide sustainable waste management services in the future.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The council have not undertaken any consultation in relation to the material contained within this report.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 7.1 It is anticipated that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee comments upon the detail contained within this report.

## **8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 To inform the Climate Change and Environment Committee on the current national position on waste and recycling.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 This report is for noting only therefore there were no alternatives considered.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **10.1 Financial Implications**

Funding for the management of packaging waste through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme has been delayed, resulting in local authorities not receiving their first payment until December 2025. Delays in funding will not impact the council's forecasted budget position because due to the uncertainty as to the value of the payments it was not possible to include this in the overall position.

### **10.2 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

### **10.3 Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications in relation to this report.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 Link to further information about Simpler Recycling: [Government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/simpler-recycling)

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 N/A

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