

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

#### RECYCLING

#### 1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update on current recycling offer and recycling rates being achieved within North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To inform the panel of upcoming changes to waste legislation and its impact on kerbside recycling
- 1.3 To update key stakeholders on current recycling rates within North Lincolnshire, current initiatives to improve rates and the future of resource and waste policies.

#### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) latest recycling rate (22/23) was 50.3% - whilst this was slightly lower than our 21/22 rate of 51.9% - it still saw NLC sit higher than the national average of 45%.
- 2.2 NLC currently offers a comprehensive separated kerbside sort offer to its residents that shows in our reported figures.
- 2.3 Our impressive recycling rate is always counterbalanced by our high overall collected tonnage figures though there has never been an established link between the two.
- 2.4 Waste Services annually links into national campaigns to raise the awareness of recycling certain targeted materials – successful campaigns in recent years have been based around home composting, food waste reduction and Small WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment).
- 2.5 Key changes to Government “Resources and Waste” Policy that will impact on local authority approach to Kerbside collections.
  - 2.5.1 Update on kerbside recycling plans issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 [Government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/2023-10-25-kerbside-recycling-plans).

This policy is referred to as **Simpler Recycling** and has been long anticipated and needed to clarify the expectations of UK Govt moving forwards. It is currently expected to be introduced after the introduction of the EPR policy in October 2025.

2.5.2 **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is a UK Govt policy aimed to incentivise producers to design packaging that is easy to recycle by ensuring that they (the producers) pay towards the full net cost of managing their packaging once it becomes Waste. The introduction of this policy has now been deferred until October 2025.

2.5.3 **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** is a UK Govt policy aimed at incentivising members of the public to return drinks containers to store / deposit location in return for remuneration. This is currently expected to be introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Not applicable – this report is for information.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Not applicable – this report is for information.

### 5. **IMPLICATIONS (RESOURCES, POLICY, RE-DESIGN)**

#### 5.1 **Simpler Recycling / Food Waste**

5.1.1 Weekly food waste kerbside collections expected to be introduced on / after October 2025. Update states these can be separate collections (food caddy) or co-mingled with garden waste (brown bin) as some LA's currently do. UK Govt still guaranteeing new burdens money for capital expenditures (vehicles / containers) – the introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections is seen as a key element in raising the recycling rate across England, with the ambition of achieving 55% by 2025 and 65% by 2035.

5.1.2 Dry mixed recyclables – These can continue to be co-mingled or separated at source by residents. Opportunity to review NLC current burgundy bin, blue and green box collection system.

#### 5.2 **Extended Producer Responsibility**

5.2.1 When introduced the EPR policy has the potential to change the types of packaging producers are placing onto the market and therefore being collected as waste. These will hopefully be easier to recycle but could impact on our kerbside collection in terms of make up and disposal routes.

5.2.2 This will have to be considered in any future kerbside collection planning as well as all future disposal contract specification.

5.2.3 All NLC current recyclables disposal contracts due to run to mid-October 2025. Many other Local Authorities considering options in this regard, do we commit to new long term contracts or seek to extend existing arrangements due to the uncertainty on impact around simpler recycling, EPR and DRS being the main consideration.

### 5.3 **Deposit Return Scheme**

5.3.1 DRS has the potential to dramatically alter kerbside collections when it is introduced. With the introduction of a cash deposit values placed (*20p per container was the original value in the delayed Scottish DRS scheme*) on single-use drinks containers, people will likely be incentivised to recycle their drinks bottles and cans, reducing litter and plastic pollution.

5.3.2 This could see a large reduction in tonnages presented for collection at the kerbside for disposal of drinks bottles and cans.

5.3.3 We also currently gain a healthy income from aluminium and steel cans which would diminish, if not disappear, when DRS is introduced.

5.4 All three policies outlined above have the potential to alter the landscape of kerbside collections greatly for North Lincolnshire and all other Local authorities. North Lincs is well placed to embrace these changes and use them as opportunities to change how we approach kerbside collection and disposal in the years ahead.

## 6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 Not applicable - this report is for information.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable - this report is for information.

## 8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Not applicable.

## 9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That this briefing report is noted.

### **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – None.**