



# Northumberland

## County Council

CABINET  
12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

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### REVIEW OF WASTE STRATEGY - KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE

**Report of the Executive Director of Place, Paul Johnston**  
**Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To outline the modelling and options appraisal work undertaken in 2018 in order to review and update the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2003 - 2020. The modelling work evaluates the current kerbside collection service delivered to Northumberland residents, and identifies and evaluates alternative approaches in order to 'shortlist' options for further, more detailed modelling and evaluation.

The Council currently sends residual (non-recyclable) waste to an Energy from Waste facility where it is burned to generate electricity for supply to the National Grid. This has helped to significantly reduce the Council's reliance on landfill disposal, with only 14.69% of all household and commercial waste being disposed of to landfill last year. However, the amount of household waste being reused, recycled or composted by the Council has plateaued in recent years, dropping slightly to 36.2% in 2017/18. As part of its waste strategy review the Council is therefore keen to progress improvements in its waste recycling services, such as consideration of kerbside glass recycling and food waste collections with an ambition to achieve a +50% recycling rate.

On 17th December 2018 the Government released '*Our waste, our resources, a strategy for England*' which sets out how England will minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. The Council must align its proposals with the actions that will be taken now and the longer-term policy direction set out by Government. This report outlines the key issues in the new Government waste strategy that are of most interest to the Council's review of future waste collection and disposal arrangements.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- 1) notes the key findings of the waste service modelling work that has been undertaken to date;
- 2) approves the selection of the preferred options that will go forward to the next stage of more detailed modelling and evaluation, namely:-
  - option 2c : four weekly glass collections with the option of introducing plastic Pots Tubs & Trays as well as food waste collections at a later date so that at least a 50% recycling rate is achieved, and
  - option 4 : kerbside sort (multi-stream) recycling with food collections.
- 3) approves slippage of £14,000 from the anticipated year end underspend within Local Services and accepts the £21,000 funding contribution from WRAP in order to fund the overall cost of £35,000 associated with undertaking the further modelling and evaluation work.
- 4) demonstrates that the Council is leading by example and undertakes an audit to identify measures to cut its paper consumption and improve paper recycling, as well as removing the use of single-use plastics where possible to do so.

## **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the draft Corporate Plan for 2017-2021:-

- 'Enjoying' - We want you to love where you live
- 'Thriving' - We want to attract more and better jobs

## **Key Issues**

The County Council has significantly improved the overall environmental performance of its waste management services since the adoption of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Northumberland 2003 - 2020. However, as the existing strategy runs until 2020 it needs to be reviewed and updated in light of changing circumstances and new Government policy.

The Council has secured free consultancy support to undertake some detailed modelling and evaluation of possible different options to improve its recycling services. The first stage of this modelling work has been undertaken and it is recommended that two 'preferred' options are subject to further more detailed modelling and evaluation prior to a final decision being taken by Cabinet on the preferred future recycling arrangements that will be implemented in the County. The options being considered include kerbside collection of glass, plastic pots, tubs and trays and food waste.

The preferred recycling options that would be subject to further modelling by the Council align well with the policy direction in the Government's new waste strategy 'Our waste, our resources, a strategy for England' which sets out how England will minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. The 'Strategy' is wide

ranging and sets out actions to be taken now with longer term policy commitments in line with the Government's '25 Year Environment Plan'. Further consultation is proposed by the Government on some key issues that will need to be taken into account when undertaking the modelling work, in particular a 'core set' of materials that should be recycled and the availability of funding from 'Extended Producer Responsibility' obligations to support both the capital infrastructure costs and on-going revenue costs of operating any new recycling arrangements/services.

It is considered that in order to demonstrate its environmental leadership the Council should undertake an audit to identify measures to cut its consumption of and improve its recycling arrangements for paper and phase out the use of single use plastic products, where possible.

The County Council will also have early dialogue and work in co-operation with its Combined Authority partners, North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council and Newcastle City Council, regarding future waste strategy and infrastructure requirements.

## **1. Background**

The Council has made significant progress in both implementing the action plan and delivering the key objectives of its Municipal Waste Management Strategy since its adoption in 2003. Large scale investment in new waste management infrastructure through the Council's Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract has delivered a step change to divert waste away from landfill disposal through increased reuse, recycling, composting and energy recovery. A diverse range of collection services, standards and charges have also been harmonised following the move to unitary authority status.

However, the waste management landscape has changed since the Council's Waste Management Strategy was adopted in 2003. The composition and quantity of waste is changing in response to consumer habits, technology, legislation and other economic drivers; for example there has been a significant decline in newsprint due to changes in technology and a significant increase in cardboard packaging (as a result of more on-line shopping), the packaging industry has also made progress in the 'light-weighting' of packaging, improving its recyclability and reducing unnecessary packaging. As the Council's current Municipal Waste Management Strategy runs until 2020, it is appropriate that we review our current arrangements in order to respond and adapt to current and impending changes, such as waste quantities, composition, Council's Strategic Plan & Corporate Objectives, financial context, environmental performance, new technology, end markets and new Government waste policy, legislation and targets.

In 2018 the Council secured free consultancy support as part of a Government funded programme to improve consistency in recycling services across England and has worked with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Ricardo Energy & Environment to explore the feasibility of the Council separately collecting food waste; additional plastic packaging materials in the form of pots, tubs and trays (PTT); and glass from households within Northumberland. The key aims being to increase household waste recycling, reduce residual household waste, and to meet corporate and national recycling targets.

The major drivers for change that will impact on the collection and disposal of household waste in Northumberland, include:

- the expiry of the Council's current waste strategy in 2020;
- the reduction in recycling & composting performance from 40% to 36% since 2013/14;
- continued reduction in local authority budgets;
- the Government's recently published '25 Year Environment Plan' and 'Resources and Waste Strategy';
- impacts from the EU Circular Economy Package to be adopted to some extent into UK legislation (55% recycling by 2025 and separate collection of 'biowaste' by the end of 2023);
- potential impacts from revisions to packaging obligations;
- changes in the secondary materials markets (e.g. impact from Chinese import restrictions); and
- the wide ranging and uncertain impacts of Brexit, including legislative reform, trade barriers, labour shortages, and enforcement of environmental standards.

## 2. Options Appraisal

An 'options appraisal' study has now been undertaken to compare the relative performance and costs (both collection costs and disposal costs) of an agreed range of future kerbside household waste collection options. These options include different operational arrangements for the size/type of waste containers used, mix of materials and frequency of collections. Operational and financial data was used to produce a 'baseline model' to replicate as closely as possible the Council's current household waste collection service. The results of the modelling in terms of cost and recycling performance are shown in Appendix 1.

## 3. Key Findings

The modelling outputs and the subsequent options appraisal have established the following key findings:

- The current recycling collection arrangements represent the lowest cost option for the Council.
- The inclusion of pots, tubs & trays (PTTs) and cartons (all options excluding baseline): introducing PTTs and cartons into the existing kerbside collections increases the recycling rate by approximately 2%, incurring £240k of annual net cost. It should be noted that there would also be a financial impact through the waste PFI contract due to need for changes to the waste sorting plant/equipment at the Materials Recycling Facility that has not been included within the cost modelling data at this stage. Furthermore, in the wake of the import restrictions imposed by China and resulting impact on both demand and material quality requirements there is considerable market uncertainty for this material. **Further modelling and evaluation to be undertaken of this option to enable the Council to adopt a 'watching brief' and consider inclusion of PTTs in its kerbside collections in response to improved security and value of end-markets and/or in response to the outcome of the Government consultation.**

- Glass collections (stage 1, options 2a & 2c): increases the recycling rate by approximately 1.2%. Incurs an annual net cost of c. £264k when collected separately. Some residents will welcome the opportunity to recycle more materials at the kerbside, the glass is kept separate from the high value paper & card and does not require a modification to the material recycling facility. **Preferred option for further detailed modelling.**
- Separate-fibre such as paper & card (stage 1, 3a & 3b): increases the recycling rate by approximately 1.2% and improves the quality of the paper and card collected. Incurs an annual net cost of c. £140k. Requires significant resident involvement and displaces paper & card with glass in the recycling bin which would involve a significant financial impact through the waste PFI contract due to need for major changes to the waste sorting plant/equipment at the Materials Recycling Facility that has not been included within the cost modelling data at this stage. **Not a preferred option for further detailed modelling.**
- Food waste collection (stage 1; options 1b, 2b and 3b): significantly increases the recycling rate but results in an annual net cost of approximately £2m which is not viable. **Not a preferred option for further detailed modelling.**
- Food waste collection & reduced residual collection frequency (stage 2 option 2b; stage 3 option 2b): reduced residual waste frequency improves recycling performance and partially offsets increased cost. Not financially viable. **Not a preferred option for further detailed modelling.**
- Food waste collection, reduced residual frequency & kerbside sort (stage 2 option 4, stage 3 option 4): significantly increases the recycling rate which is cost neutral compared to the baseline. Requires a new fleet of vehicles to deliver the service, new bins, sustained support and guidance to residents, and the financial impact on waste PFI contract and provision of the Material Recycling Facility is unknown. **Preferred option for further detailed modelling.**

#### 4. Preferred Options

The clear theme which stands out as offering the best return on investment in terms of pound spent per recycling percentage point gained, and to enable the Council to move towards compliance with impending recycling targets, is kerbside sort (multi-stream) collections including food and reduced residual waste collection frequencies (stage 2 option 4, and stage 3 option 4). However, these options require significant engagement from residents (i.e. greater segregation of waste, more containers & more complex collection calendars), are contractually challenging given the Council has long term (17 year) obligations still in place with the waste PFI contractor, and requires new fleet, bins and staffing configurations. Therefore, a pragmatic and progressive way forward is to undertake further detailed modelling of:

- option 2c: four weekly glass collections with the option of introducing plastic pots, tubs and trays as well as food waste collections at a later date so that at least a 50% recycling rate is achieved, and
- option 4: kerbside sort (multi-stream) recycling with food collections.

A watching brief will be maintained in respect of the potential to include the collection of mixed plastic 'Pots, Tubes & Trays' within the kerbside recycling arrangements, so that

consideration can be given to extending the range of materials that are being targeted for recycling if changes to end-markets, legislation and cost make this viable.

## 5. New Government Policy - 'Our Waste, Our Resources: a Strategy for England'

On 17th December 2018 the Government released 'Our waste, our resources, a strategy for England' which sets out how England will minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. The 'Strategy' is wide ranging and sets out actions to be taken now with longer term policy commitments in line with the Government's '25 Year Environment Plan'. The headline proposals within the Strategy that influence the Council's review of future waste collection and disposal arrangements are listed below and discussed in further detail within Appendix 2:

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** to ensure that that producers pay the full net costs of managing packaging waste at end of life in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle. It should be noted that the Government's strategy document also provides a commitment to local authorities that, *'New duties will be assessed to account for new burdens, and funded appropriately'*.
- **Deposit Return Schemes** whereby consumers are charged a deposit up-front when buying a single-use container, which is redeemed when the empty container is returned.
- **Local Authorities to collect a consistent 'core set' of dry recyclable materials** - the details of which will be determined following further consultation.
- **Food Waste** - propose that every household and appropriate business should receive a weekly, separate collection of food waste (the proposal being subject to consultation).
- **Garden Waste** - free garden waste collections for households with gardens, subject to consultation.

Government consultation on the measures included within its strategy will take place in 2019 and will inform future changes to the Council's waste strategy. In the meantime, the options being considered by the Council support the strategy's aims and, if implemented, would secure a significant increase in recycling performance in Northumberland.

## 6. Next Steps

It is clear from the Government's new waste strategy that the Council's existing waste recycling services will need to change in order to increase our overall recycling performance and to implement the separate collection of food waste for anaerobic digestion. The modelling work already undertaken by the Council has enabled us to identify some preferred options for how these changes could be made. In order to move from this theoretical assessment to a more detailed evaluation involving actual operational and contractual considerations of the two main options, with the preferred option then being evaluated for its detailed implementation requirements, it will be necessary to undertake further modelling and analysis to identify:

- income projections and risks in respect of the recyclable materials;
- the actual as opposed to theoretical modelled costs of implementation;

- financial implications and deliverability of amendments to the existing PFI contract; and;
- review of the existing waste collection infrastructure and fleet.

The Council has not incurred any financial cost for the options appraisal and modelling work undertaken to date by WRAP and Ricardo Energy & Environment. WRAP proposes to make a further funding contribution of £21,000 and seeks additional funding from the Council of £14,000 in order to complete the following tasks in the estimated timescales:

Stage 1 - Estimated duration 4 months

- Detailed modelling of preferred options
- Develop outline business case
- Undertake detailed review of Waste PFI Contract
- Assessment of treatment facilities required to deliver new arrangements

Council decision on whether to progress to Stage 2 - via report to Cabinet. Duration 1 month.

Stage 2 - Estimated duration 3 months

- Final business case
- Communications plan
- Mobilisation and implementation plan

The aforementioned timescales are based on some of the tasks being undertaken concurrently and that our Waste PFI Contractor proactively engages with the process when discussing the need for and implications of changes to the services and facilities provided under the PFI Contract. It will be beneficial to accommodate a review period once the outcome of the consultations arising from the Government's '*Our waste, our resources; a strategy for England*' are known, to ensure that the Council's 'preferred option' can be aligned with Government's priorities. Once the stage 2 tasks are completed, the Council will then need to consider the business case for implementation of new recycling services. The communication, mobilisation and implementation plan will inform the timescale required to start delivering the new service to residents should the business case be approved. It should be noted that there is a significant lead-in time for the procurement and delivery of new refuse collection vehicles and containers of ~9 months.

The County Council will have early dialogue and work in co-operation with its Combined Authority partners, North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council and Newcastle City Council, regarding future waste strategy and infrastructure requirements.

## **7. Summary**

The Council is currently providing cost effective waste recycling and disposal solutions to residents which are compliant with current legislative requirements. It is anticipated that further, more detailed modelling will confirm that a relatively low-cost investment in separate glass collections would help improve recycling performance and offer good value for money. Commissioning WRAP and Ricardo Energy & Environment to take a more

detailed look at both a new glass collection service and a more comprehensive and fundamental change in the way the Council provides future collection and recycling services, will enable the Council to consider what changes it wishes to make to its waste services in order to meet future legislative requirements and targets that arise from the Government's '*Our waste, our resources; a strategy for England*' consultation process. It will also enable the Council to more robustly quantify the costs and contractual and operational issues associated with the delivery of these new waste services, placing it in a much stronger position when lobbying for or bidding to Government for funding to meet these new burdens.



## Implications Arising out of the Report

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Policy</b>   | The Council will need to review and update its Municipal Waste Management Strategy which ends in 2020 and take into account the policy direction and targets identified in the Government's new waste strategy for England published in December 2018.   |
| <b>Finance and value for money</b>  | <p>The cost of undertaking the additional modelling and evaluation work is £35k, of which WRAP have agreed to fund £21k with NCC funding the remaining £14k from the anticipated underspend within Local Services.</p> <p>The cost of implementing and operating any new waste services will be identified from the modelling work. The Government's new waste strategy gives a commitment that the cost of new burdens will be met.</p> |
| <b>Legal</b>  | None at this stage.  |
| <b>Procurement</b>  | None at this stage.  |
| <b>Human Resources</b>  | None at this stage.  |
| <b>Property</b>   | None at this stage.  |
| <b>Equalities</b><br>(Impact Assessment attached)<br>Yes No X N/A<br><input type="checkbox"/> | <p>The preferred options will be subject to an equalities impact assessment as part of the modelling process which will be taken into consideration prior to any decision being made on the final option to be implemented.</p>  |
| <b>Risk Assessment</b>  | <p>The volatility of end markets for recyclable materials and impact of Brexit on trade and access to end markets is a significant risk factor for the financial sustainability of recycling services.</p> <p>Any contractual implications for the Council's long term Waste PFI Contract arrangements will need to be carefully considered as part of the options evaluation work.</p>  |
| <b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>   | The Government's new waste strategy identifies improved enforcement activity to tackle waste and environmental crime as a high priority.   |
| <b>Customer Consideration</b>   | Any proposed changes to waste services will include a detailed and comprehensive programme of engagement and awareness raising activity prior to their implementation.   |
| <b>Carbon reduction</b>   | Improved recycling performance supports carbon reduction.  |
| <b>Wards</b>  | All  |

**Background papers:**

'Our waste, our resources, a strategy for England' HMSO 17 December 2018

Northumberland County Council Service Review - Consistency. WRAP Final Report, 30 April 2018

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

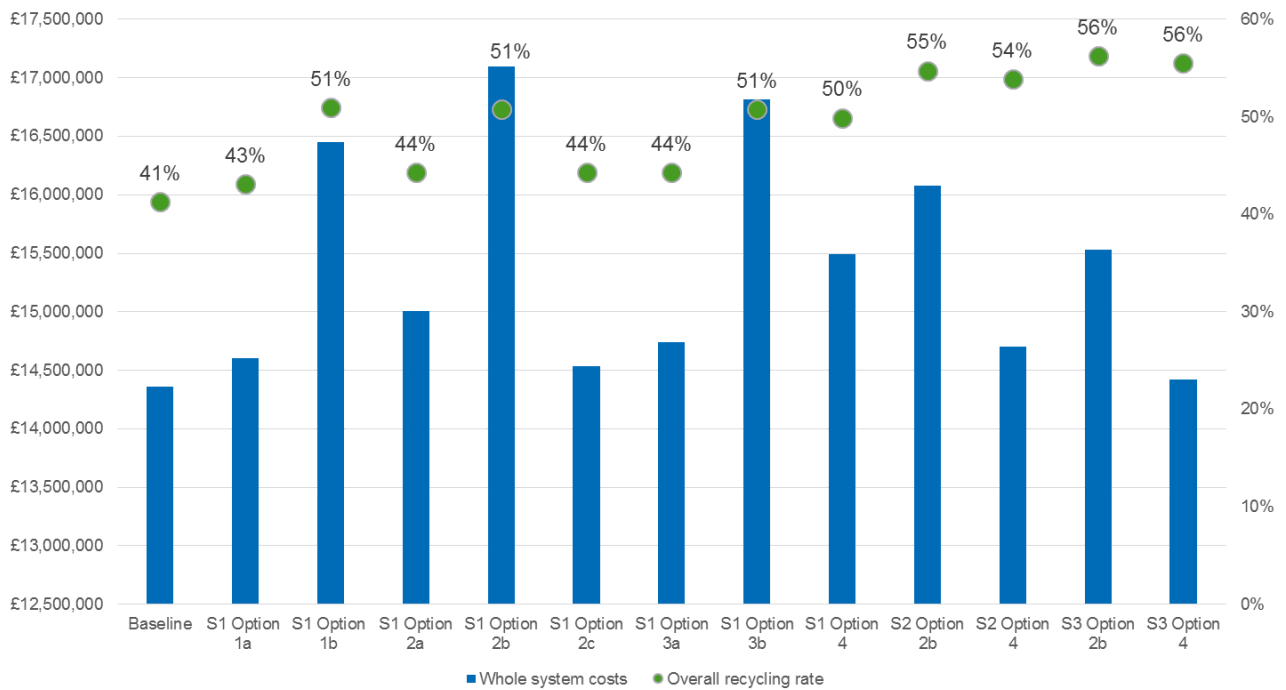
|                          | initials |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Finance Officer          | AM       |
| Monitoring Officer/Legal | n/a      |
| Human Resources          | n/a      |
| Procurement              | n/a      |
| I.T.                     | n/a      |
| Director                 | PJ       |
| Portfolio Holder(s)      | GS       |

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## Appendix 1



| Options            | Residual     | Recycling  | Food  |
|--------------------|--------------|--|---|
| Baseline           | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly, partially comingled paper and card, cans, plastic bottles                     | None  |
| Stage 1, Option 1a | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly, partially comingled paper and card, cans, plastic bottles, PTT and cartons    | None  |
| Stage 1, Option 1b | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly, fully comingled paper and card, cans, plastic bottles, PTT, cartons and glass | Weekly separate collection                      |
| Stage 1, Option 2a | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly, two stream (incl. PTT and cartons) – glass as separate stream                 | None  |
| Stage 1, Option 2b | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly, two stream (incl. PTT and cartons) –glass as separate stream                  | Weekly separate collection                      |
| Stage1, Option 2c  | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly, two stream (incl. PTT and cartons) and four-weekly glass as separate stream   | None  |
| Stage 1, Option 3a | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly two stream (incl. PTT, cartons and glass) – fibres as separate stream          | None  |
| Stage 1, Option 3b | Fortnightly  | Fortnightly two stream (incl. PTT, cartons and glass) - fibres as separate stream          | Weekly separate collection                      |
| Stage 1, Option 4  | Fortnightly  | Weekly multi-stream (fibres; cans, plastic bottles, PTTs & cartons; and glass)             | Weekly co- collected                            |
| Stage 2, Option 2b | Three weekly | Fortnightly two stream (incl. PTT and cartons) – glass as separate stream                  | Weekly separate collection                      |
| Stage 2, Option 4  | Three weekly | Weekly multi-stream (fibres; cans, plastic bottles, PTTs & cartons; and glass)             | Separate weekly co- collected with multi stream |

|                    |             |  |   |
|--------------------|-------------|--|---|
|                    |             |  | dry recyclables   |
| Stage 3, Option 2b | Four Weekly | Fortnightly two stream (incl. PTT and cartons) – glass as separate stream      | Weekly separate collection                                    |
| Stage 3, Option 4  | Four weekly | Weekly multi-stream (fibres; cans, plastic bottles, PTTs & cartons; and glass) | Separate weekly co-collected with multistream dry recyclables |

## Appendix 2

### 'Our waste, our resources, a strategy for England' - Key Issues for NCC's Waste Strategy Development

On 17th December 2018 the Government released 'Our waste, our resources, a strategy for England' which sets out how England will minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. The 'Strategy' is wide ranging and sets out actions to be taken now with longer term policy commitments in line with the Government's '25 Year Environment Plan'. The headline proposals within the Strategy that influence the Council's review of future waste collection and disposal arrangements are discussed below:

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** - ensuring that producers pay the full net costs of managing packaging waste at end of life (N.B. including the collection of packaging waste). Local authorities will be resourced via EPR to meet new net costs arising from the policies in the Strategy including upfront and transitional costs and ongoing operational costs. Timescales - consultation in 2019, legislate in 2021, operational reform in 2023.
- **Deposit Return Schemes** - consumers are charged a deposit up-front when buying a single-use container, which is redeemed when the empty container is returned. The consultation exercise will look at how the scheme might sit alongside other measures to boost recycling and how it will operate. The impact on the current kerbside collection arrangements provided by the Council, which includes steel and aluminium cans and plastic bottles is unknown at this stage. These materials have significant value and a reduction in the volume collected by the Council could adversely affect our income streams. However, there is an assurance from Government through the 'Strategy' that *'new duties will be assessed to account for new burdens, and funded appropriately'* - how this financial impact will be assessed is not yet clear. Timescales - consultation in 2019, roll out deposit return scheme subject to consultation in 2023.
- **Collect a consistent set of dry recyclable materials, subject to consultation.** The Government proposes legislation to (a) specify a 'core set' of materials to be collected; (b) determine which collection systems drive quality; (c) introduce non-binding performance indicators for local authorities and (d) introduce minimum service standards to improve the quantity and quality of what is recycled. Consultation will seek views on what the 'core set' will be, the collection system that preserves material quality and determining when separate collection is necessary, and whether non-binding performance indicators for the materials collected will improve both quality and quantity<sup>1</sup>.

The Council does not currently collect pots, tubs and trays and tetra-paks at the kerbside. Inclusion of these items within the 'core set' may help stimulate stable outlets for these materials that do not exist at present. Glass is not collected at the

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<sup>1</sup> The Strategy states that *'New statutory responsibilities for local government would be subject to an assessment of new burdens'*

kerbside in Northumberland to preserve the quality of the dry recyclables but is collected at 'bring sites'. This report recommends that the Council engages WRAP to consider in further detail the collection of glass at the kerbside separate to the current mixed (comingled) materials, and to maintain a watching brief over pots, tubs and trays. Timescales - consultation is in line with the extended producer responsibility in 2019, with legislation and operational reform subject to discussions at spending review.

- **Food Waste - every household and appropriate business has a weekly, separate<sup>2</sup> collection of food waste subject to consultation.** Timescales - consultation in 2019, operational reform from 2023. The Council, along with all local authorities in the north east does not collect food waste separately from residual waste. The collection of food waste is however, included in the two preferred options selected for detailed analysis. The Council does not consider an implementation target of 2023 to be realistic, given that a suitable anaerobic digester plant does not exist in the north east and identifying a suitable site, securing planning, grid connections (gas or electricity) procuring its construction and operation are complex and time consuming activities. However, the Council will explore whether Newcastle and North Tyneside Councils have any desire to progress anaerobic digestion for food waste as part of their future plans, as the joint procurement of an anaerobic digester serving the sub-region would offer significant economies of scale<sup>3</sup>. Implementing food waste collections and the necessary collection, transfer and treatment infrastructure would involve significant capital expenditure and significant additional on-going revenue costs. There would also be significant implications for the Council's Waste PFI Contract, with reductions in the volume, and changes to the composition and calorific value of the residual waste being processed at the Energy from Waste facility. The Strategy states that *'New duties will be assessed to account for new burdens, and funded appropriately'*.
- **Garden Waste - free garden waste collections for households with gardens subject to consultation.** This proposal has the potential to inflict a significant financial burden on the Council. Residents can currently opt in to garden waste collections and pay an annual subscription of £36 per annum. The Council currently accrues income of over £1 million revenue per annum which would be lost under this proposal. Furthermore, the service is currently only used by around 17% of Northumberland residents. Providing a free service to all residents with gardens would massively increase the cost of delivering the collection service and also generate additional processing and treatment costs. Apart from the financial burden, providing free garden collections provides no incentive to residents to compost at home which is the most sustainable and beneficial solution. However, again the Government Strategy states *'New duties will be assessed to account for new burdens, and funded appropriately'*.

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<sup>2</sup> The Strategy states that *'Separate food waste collection also leads to higher yields of food waste collected than if it is captured mixed with garden waste'*

<sup>3</sup> The Strategy states that *'Anaerobic digestion represents the best environmental outcome for food waste that cannot be prevented'*

The Government's Strategy also addresses a number of issues that do not significantly affect the development of a new waste strategy for Northumberland but directly affect the way some waste services are currently provided:

- **Reuse at household waste recovery centres** - there is an opportunity to identify and segregate good quality products that are suitable for reuse at household waste recovery centres. Government will amend waste regulations to clarify the duty to reuse, and consider setting reuse targets for local authorities. Existing reuse arrangements at Northumberland's household waste recovery centres are limited due to the lack of space. Closer working with charities and voluntary organisations may help push up reuse rates by removing the items for re sale off site. By the end of 2025 Government will have consulted on whether to widen the scope of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme to new waste streams including textiles, mattresses, furniture, carpets, certain construction materials and tyres. All these waste streams are collected at household waste recovery centres and some are collected through the bulky collection service. Applying the 'polluter pays' principle to these waste streams could reduce the Council's collection and recycling/ disposal costs.
- **Opening arrangements and charging at Household Waste Recovery Centres (HWRCs)** - Government wants to ensure that these services continue to be accessible for householders, that small scale DIY waste generated by householders without specialist skills is not charged for, and to investigate the role of sites to collect hazardous household waste and textiles by 2025. Whilst the Council reduced the opening arrangements at 5 out of the 12 household waste recovery centres in 2016, it still maintains a very comprehensive and highly accessible network of facilities located across the county. The Council has introduced a charge for inert DIY waste, soils and rubble in 2015 taken to its HWRCs as these materials are not classed as household waste. The HWRCs do accept certain types of hazardous waste including gas bottles, used engine oil, fridges and TVs, but not cement bound asbestos or garden and household chemicals which are collected direct from households via a specialist hazardous waste collection company engaged by the Council, as this is considered to be more appropriate as it avoids the health and safety risks associated with households having to transport hazardous materials in their own vehicle. The Council will maintain its current service provision g arrangements pending the outcome of Government consultation on this issue.
- **Businesses - the Government will take action to ensure that business present recycling and food waste separately from residual waste.** The Council currently provides a trade waste collection service and offers a financial incentive to businesses to segregate their waste for recycling. Further intervention is welcomed to encourage greater segregation by businesses.