

REPORT FROM: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES

TO: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

DATE: 15TH JANUARY 2024

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WASTE REFORMS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an update on the recent introduction of simpler recycling collections and the impact on Pendle as a Waste Collection Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information within the report be noted.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

1. Members are fully advised on the upcoming changes that will impact on the Borough.
2. To provide Members with reassurance that Officers are working to ensure the Council meet local and national targets around reuse, recycling and composting.

ISSUE

1. Household recycling rates in England have increased from 11% in the 2000 to 2001 to 42% in 2021 to 2022. Though this is positive it is noted that in more recent years household recycling rates have 'plateaued' at around 42% to 44%. To address this, the government repealed EU-derived waste collection requirements and look to introduce improved and simplified requirements through the Environment Act 2021.
2. There are three key waste reforms within the Environment Act, Extended Producer Responsibility on Packaging (EPR) Deposit return schemes and collection consistency (now simpler recycling).
3. Under the new requirements of simpler recycling:
 - By 31st March 2026, all local authorities in England must collect the same recyclable waste streams for recycling or composting from households. The recyclable waste streams include paper and card, plastic, glass, metal, food waste, and garden waste.
 - By 31st March 2025, all non-household municipal premises in England (such as businesses, schools and hospitals), must make arrangements to have the same set of

recyclable waste streams (with the exception of garden waste) collected for recycling or composting, and must present their waste in accordance with the arrangements.

4. Under the new legislation, waste collection authorities in England must arrange a weekly collection of food waste for recycling or composting from households by 31st March 2026.
5. All non-household municipal premises in England must arrange for the separate collection of food waste by 31st March 2026 but they are not required to have weekly collections.
6. Micro-firms will have extra time to bring in the new requirements for dry recyclable waste streams (excluding film) and food waste – they must comply by 31 March 2027.
7. A micro-firm includes any producer of non-household municipal waste with fewer than 10 full time employees.
8. Non-household municipal premises, except micro-firms will be required to arrange for the collection of the dry recyclable waste streams (excluding plastic films) by 31 March 2025.
9. The earlier date for non-household municipal premises reflects the greater flexibility in commercial collection contracts, as well as the fact that commercial collections are not dependent on the delivery of Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging funding.
10. Within the new guidance plastic film to be collected by 31 March 2027.
11. The Government conceded that the economic and environmental case is not strong enough to proceed with the proposal to require waste collection authorities to introduce a free minimum garden waste collection service and though Local Authorities will be required to provide a garden waste collection service where it is requested, they can continue to choose to charge for this service.
12. The Government will include in statutory guidance that the minimum service standard will be that by 31st March 2026 all local authorities provide a fortnightly collection for residual waste (alongside a weekly food waste collection).
13. For Pendle simpler recycling will mean that we have to work towards introducing new kerbside collection schemes for food waste from both commercial and domestic properties by the given deadlines.
14. Pendle will have to review resources levels to react to possible fluctuations in participation rates brought on by the introduction of bring back deposit return scheme and a later shift back to recycling from home as the deposit return scheme becomes accessible via apps.
15. Pendle working within a two tier system will need to be mindful of the County Council's capabilities to manage comingled and newly separated materials through their current material reclamation facilities. The County Council is already advising that significant investment will be required to handle plastic film, tetrapak and food waste.
16. Pendle will face challenges created by an anticipated national increase in demand for vehicles, caddies and liners.
17. More locally we may see challenges in recruiting and retaining drivers and labourers to deliver new schemes as those around us seek to deliver their own schemes.

18. Pendle considered the challenges and the lack of news on funding at the Council's Executive meeting on the 20th July 2023 and with Members approval the Assistant Director Operational Services is working towards the completion of a (TEEP) Technically Environmentally Economically Practicable assessment for submission to the Secretary of State if required.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: We await Government announcement of what new burden funding will be provided to support the introduction and continued delivery of a weekly food waste collection in Pendle. The estimated capital investment for vehicles, caddies and liners is currently in excess of £2,500,000. Ongoing revenue costs are expected to exceed £1,000,000 annually.

Legal: None arising directly from this report. The TEEP assessment is likely to be challenged by DEFRA / Secretary of State.

Risk Management: Significant financial and environmental impact created by the number of additional resources required in order to collect and transfer waste to Farington.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES: None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.