

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: TUESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020  
 title: REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLANS  
 submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
 principal author: ADRIAN HARPER – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek views of Members about a request from Lancashire County Council relating to Reduction and Recycling Plans

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Lancashire County Council have written to all collecting authorities requesting our action plans for "Reduction and Recycling". See attached briefing paper from LCC.

2.2 At the Opstrat meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, LCC Service Development Manager discussed the possible outcomes from the Environment Bill 2019-20 and how methods can be implemented to reduce the amount of non-recyclable/residual waste.

The Bill was introduced to the House of Commons and given its first reading on 30<sup>th</sup> January. MPs considered the Bill at its second reading on 26<sup>th</sup> February (at the time of writing there is no conclusion)

A request was made for each district to put together a list of their intentions in response to the Bill, and what steps they would like to take to reduce residual waste by 13<sup>th</sup> March. Concern has been expressed at the timescale for this request as any proposals will need some form of political sign off.

Also, whilst the Environment Bill has provided some indication of the likely changes to collection requirements there is still a considerable level of uncertainty especially around funding mechanisms, hence it makes it difficult to evaluate.

Officers at the meeting committed, where possible, to provide some feedback to the strategy group for consideration

2.3 Summary of the Environment Bill

To make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment, and waste and resource efficiency.

Changes to the way waste is collected and processed/disposed may include separate weekly food waste collections by 2023; charges for green waste to be revisited; deposit return schemes to be investigated; taxes on packaging and increased producer responsibility; potential ban on single use items

- 2.4 What is a Reduction and Recycling Plan?  
The aim of the plan is not just to increase recycling, but to also reduce presentation of non-recyclable residual waste. The Lancashire Waste Partnership strategy group have done a comparator exercise with high performing districts and it has shown that Lancashire is out-of-step, with all districts offering too much residual waste capacity. It is not for LCC to make decisions on behalf of districts regarding their collection schedules and the arrangements for the future hence the request for below.
- 2.5 What is in a Reduction and Recycling Plan  
Current position? targets for 2025,2030,2035?  
Residual bin size and frequency of collection?  
Preferred separate weekly food waste collection method?  
Collection of materials not within the core set eg textiles, batteries?  
New financial arrangement with LCC rewards or Penalties.  
Possible changes to how materials are collected?  
Any bulky changes which drive up recycling or drive down fly tipping?  
To be completed by 13<sup>th</sup> March
- 2.6 What is NOT in an RRP  
Costing of the options is not required at this stage, government has indicated it will provide financial support for changes but not provided any detail.  
RRP's will help districts and Lancashire prepare for the challenges, funding will be the next stage of the conversation
- 2.7 Next steps  
Summaries of the RRP for each district will be fed back to the full LWP on 26<sup>th</sup> March.  
The LWP can then consider where next in developing a new Lancashire strategy
- 3 ISSUES
- 3.1 There is very little opportunity to carry out a meaningful exercise to enable the council to evaluate the impact of any proposals.
- 4 RISK ASSESSMENT
- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – None identified at this stage other than officer time.
  - Technical, Environmental and Legal – To comply with the new Environment Bill should it become legal.
  - Political – This will be welcomed by the public who genuinely want to recycle more. And send less to landfill.
  - Reputation – This rise in the rate of recycling and the reduction of landfill rates can only be good for the authority.
- 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**
- 5.1 Approve that officers investigate fully the issues outlined above and bring a supplementary report to committee for approval.

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For further information please ask for Adrian Harper on 01200 414523.

REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 25.02.20