

Environmental Excellence Panel

Agenda

Date

Thursday 24 January 2019

Members of the Environmental Excellence Panel

Mr J F Fisher
(Chairman)

Mrs J K Coplestone
Mr R F Grady
Mrs J Leggett
Mr I J Mackie
Mr G K Nurden
Mrs B H Rix
Mr V B Tapp
Mr J M Ward

Time

4.00 pm

Place

Trafford Room
Thorpe Lodge
1 Yarmouth Road
Thorpe St Andrew
Norwich

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If any member wishes to clarify details relating to any matter on the agenda they are requested to contact the relevant Head of Service.



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A G E N D A

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- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 [Minutes of meeting held on 8 November 2018](#) 3 – 6
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 [Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England – Summary](#) 7 – 10
To receive a briefing on the Strategy.
- 6 **Clean Air Strategy 2019**
To receive a verbal update on the Strategy.
- 7 **Date of Next Meeting**
21 March 2019

Trevor Holden
Managing Director

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Thursday 8 November 2018** at **4.00 pm** when there were present:

Mr J F Fisher – Chairman

Mrs J K Coplestone
Mrs J Leggett

Mr G K Nurden
Mr V B Tapp

Mr J M Ward

Also in attendance were the Interim Head of Housing and Environmental Services, Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects), Private Sector Housing Manager, Renewable and Energy Efficiency Officer and the Committee Officer (JO).

Mr Emsell was also in attendance for Minute no: 25 – Dussindale Centre Community Fridge – Update.

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Grady and Mr Roper.

23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minute no: 19 – Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order

The meeting was informed that the Top Dog, anti-dog fouling campaign, would be re-launched to coincide with the implementation of the Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order. The new legislation would be publicised in *Broadland News* and the Environmental Protection Manager would also be attending the Parish and Town Council AGM to advise on the Public Spaces Protection Order.

24 EXTERNAL FUNDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

The Panel was informed that money was available through the Council's Better Care Fund allocation for Disabled Facilities Grants and other health initiatives, match funded by the Warm Homes Fund, for the installation of first time oil fired boilers for those in fuel poverty in off gas areas.

It was estimated that up to 60 installations could be carried out with this funding, at a cost of around £8,000 - £9,000 per installation. The initiative had been approved through a Portfolio Holder Decision and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups, which covered the District had been consulted as part of the process.

A stock modelling survey would be used to target areas in the district, which would then be leafleted to inform residents of this opportunity. Funding was also available for 15-20 replacement gas boilers in low income households.

The above projects would put on hold the air source heat pump initiative detailed at the previous Panel meeting.

It was confirmed that the Warm Homes Team ran checks to ensure that residents could operate and maintain their boilers and there was also a grant available towards annual boiler services.

The Private Sector Housing Manager advised the Panel that the Council had surplus income, from sources such as the Switch and Save project, which could be used to refurbish the roof of the bunker at Thorpe Lodge into a wildlife friendly area for staff to enjoy. This would involve clearing the brambles that currently cover the bunker, installing railings and planting up the roof with native bee-friendly flora. The project was currently being costed.

25 DUSSINDALE CENTRE COMMUNITY FRIDGE – UPDATE

The Dussindale Centre Community Fridge was one of seven Community Fridges in Norfolk funded by Sainsbury's at a cost of £49,000, as part of its 'Waste less, Save more' campaign, which was launched in April 2018.

The original concept was for members of the public to bring in food that they were not going to use and did not want to see go to waste, but this had not been a successful means of stocking the fridges. However, stores were keen to dispose of food that they could not sell locally in order to reduce transportation costs and a number of stores and a wholesaler, as well as the local allotment association, were now contributing to the Community Fridge, which was proving to be extremely popular.

Food donated to the project had increased from 20 kg in April to 549 kg in October 2018, none of which had been wasted.

Anyone could use the Community Fridges and it was emphasised that the scheme was not modelled on a food bank, which required a professional referral from the care services, but simply sought to prevent good food from being wasted. The Community Fridge at Dussindale was open 9 – 5pm six days a week and on average was used by up to 20 different people every day.

The Panel noted that a Community Fridge was reliant on volunteers to collect the food from the suppliers if it was to be successful, and commended Mr Emsell for the hard work he was putting into the scheme at Dussindale.

The Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects) advised Members that the Council had some funding for more Community Fridges and if they wished to discuss launching one in their Ward or wanted to discuss any other aspects about the scheme they should contact her directly.

26 SUMMER INTENSIVE RECYCLING MONITORING – RESULTS

Members were advised that a Recycling Monitoring Project was held over July – September 2018.

Five additional temporary members of staff were employed over this period to carry out the work, which covered 41 areas in total. Visual inspections were made of 7,170 grey bins, 4,090 in rural areas and 3,080 in urban areas.

The main contaminants were soft plastics, tissues, non-recyclable hard plastics and non-rinsed items/ food waste. Other contaminants included textiles, metal, garden waste, nappies, sanitary items and bagged items.

As a result of the monitoring a total 1,916 leaflets had been left informing residents what could and could not be recycled. One hundred and thirty red tags were left for grey recycling that was deemed so contaminated that it was uncollectable. A total of 732 personalised letters were sent to residents informing them of a problem relating specifically to their bin.

Following this work, 776 properties revisited in rural areas had improved the quality of their bins to a satisfactory level by the end of the summer monitoring. Only one grey recycling bin required follow-up action after the summer.

In urban areas 883 of the properties revisited had improved the quality of their bins to a satisfactory level by the end of the summer monitoring. Only six grey recycling bins had needed follow up action after the summer.

Overall 99.57 percent of the initial 1,666 properties, which required a revisit responded positively to a combination of the intervention techniques (leaflets, letters and red tags). This resulted in the recycling quality in these bins being satisfactory by the end of the summer period and no further action required.

By the end of the monitoring period out of the 7,170 properties initially monitored, 7163 properties were classed as satisfactory by the end of the period with no further action required. Some 2,017 routes were revisited – these routes had all improved compared to the previous visits.

The Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects) advised the Panel that this targeted approach had been a very effective means of improving contamination rates and would be a worthwhile exercise to undertake again next year.

In response to a query, Members were advised that areas to be monitored were selected following discussions with refuse crews and analysis of the audits carried out by the Materials Recycling Facility. Members had been informed if their Wards were being monitored and it was also publicised in Broadland News.

The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy should be published before the end of the year and was expected to place an onus on producer responsibility. The Panel would be provided with an update on the Strategy at its next meeting, if it was released on time.

Members were also advised that the aim of the new waste collection contract, which should commence in 2021, was to allow food waste to be collected across the whole District.

27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24 January 2019

The meeting closed at 5.37pm

OUR WASTE, OUR RESOURCES: A STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND – SUMMARY

Background

The Resources and Waste Strategy

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf. Was published in late 2018, sits alongside government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#). It also fits in with the recently published [Bioeconomy Strategy](#), and the [Clean Growth Strategy](#) which sets out how the UK is leading the world in cutting carbon emissions to combat climate change and driving economic growth.

Key headlines - subject to consultation

- Businesses and manufacturers to pay the full cost of recycling or disposing of their packaging waste under government's Resources and Waste Strategy
- Consistent recycling for every household to drive up recycling rates and supporting comprehensive and frequent collections.
- Food waste – 'ensuring that every householder and appropriate businesses have a weekly separate food waste collection
- Mandatory food waste prevention targets for businesses, to crack-down on food needlessly going to waste
- Compulsory electronic tracking of waste to clamp-down on illegal movements of waste at home and abroad, and tougher penalties for rogue crime operators

The Government says the move will overhaul England's waste system, putting a legal onus on those responsible for producing damaging waste to take greater responsibility and foot the bill.

Chapter One – Sustainable Consumption

Lays out how DEFRA will:

- Invoke the 'polluter pays' principle and extend producer responsibility for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market
- Stimulate demand for recycled plastic by introducing a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic
- Harness the potential of extended producer responsibility for other product types
- Set minimum requirements through eco-design to encourage resource efficient product design
- Manage chemicals sustainably and address barriers to reuse and recycling posed by their use, through a Chemicals Strategy
- Develop a model for realising resource efficiency savings, working with businesses through 'resource efficiency clusters'

Chapter Two – Helping consumers take more considered actions

Lays out how DEFRA will:

- Incentivise consumers to purchase sustainably
- Provide consumers with better information on the sustainability of their purchases
- Ban plastic products where there is a clear case for it and alternatives exist
- Address barriers to reuse
- Support the market for remanufactured goods
- Encourage appropriate disposal of used products
- Lead by example through procurement and the Greening Government Commitments

Chapter 3 – Resource recovery and waste management

This chapter sets out how DEFRA will:

- Improve recycling rates by ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable materials is collected from all households and businesses
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill by ensuring that every householder and appropriate businesses have a weekly separate food waste collection, subject to consultation
- Improve urban recycling rates, working with business and local authorities
- Improve working arrangements and performance between local authorities
- Drive greater efficiency of Energy from Waste (EfW) plants
- Address information barriers to the use of secondary materials
- Encourage waste producers and managers to implement the waste hierarchy in respect to hazardous waste

Chapter 4 – Tackling waste crime

This chapter sets out how DEFRA will:

- Improve the transportation, management and description of waste by reforming existing regulations
- Strengthen intelligence sharing and engagement to tackle illegal activity
- Prevent illegal activity being hidden through waste exemptions by reforming the existing regime
- Mandate the digital recording of waste movements, subject to consultation
- Create a Joint Unit for Waste Crime
- Toughen penalties for waste criminals
- Increase awareness of waste regulations and publicise positive work of enforcement bodies as they tackle waste crime

Chapter 5 – Enough is enough: cutting down on food waste

This chapter sets out how DEFRA will:

- More effectively redistribute food to those who need it most before it can go to waste
- Consult on annual reporting of food surplus and waste by food businesses
- Consult on legal powers to introduce mandatory targets for food waste prevention

- Publish a new food surplus and waste hierarchy
- Promote awareness of the issue by appointing a new food waste champion
- Support cross sector collaboration through the Courtauld 2025 agreement

Chapter 6 – Global Britain: international leadership

This chapter sets out how DEFRA will:

- Promote the goals of our Resources and Waste Strategy internationally
- Drive international political commitments through the ground-breaking Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance
- Support developing nations to tackle pollution and reduce plastic waste, including through UK aid, private/public partnerships and sharing of expertise
- Improve the quality of plastics exported for recycling through the Basel and Stockholm Conventions
- Tackle international barriers to a circular economy
- Establish cross-government oversight of the UK's natural resource security

Chapter 7: Research and innovation

This chapter sets out how DEFRA will:

- Support further investment and innovation in resource efficiency, working with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) on our Areas of Research Interest
- Launch a call for evidence on the development of standards for bio-based and biodegradable plastics
- Provide government funding for innovation and seek ways to support further investment in resource efficient technologies, including through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund
- Support the Waste and Resources Action Programme
- Encourage innovative waste treatment technologies that create transport fuels through the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO)

Chapter 8 – Measuring progress: data, monitoring and evaluation

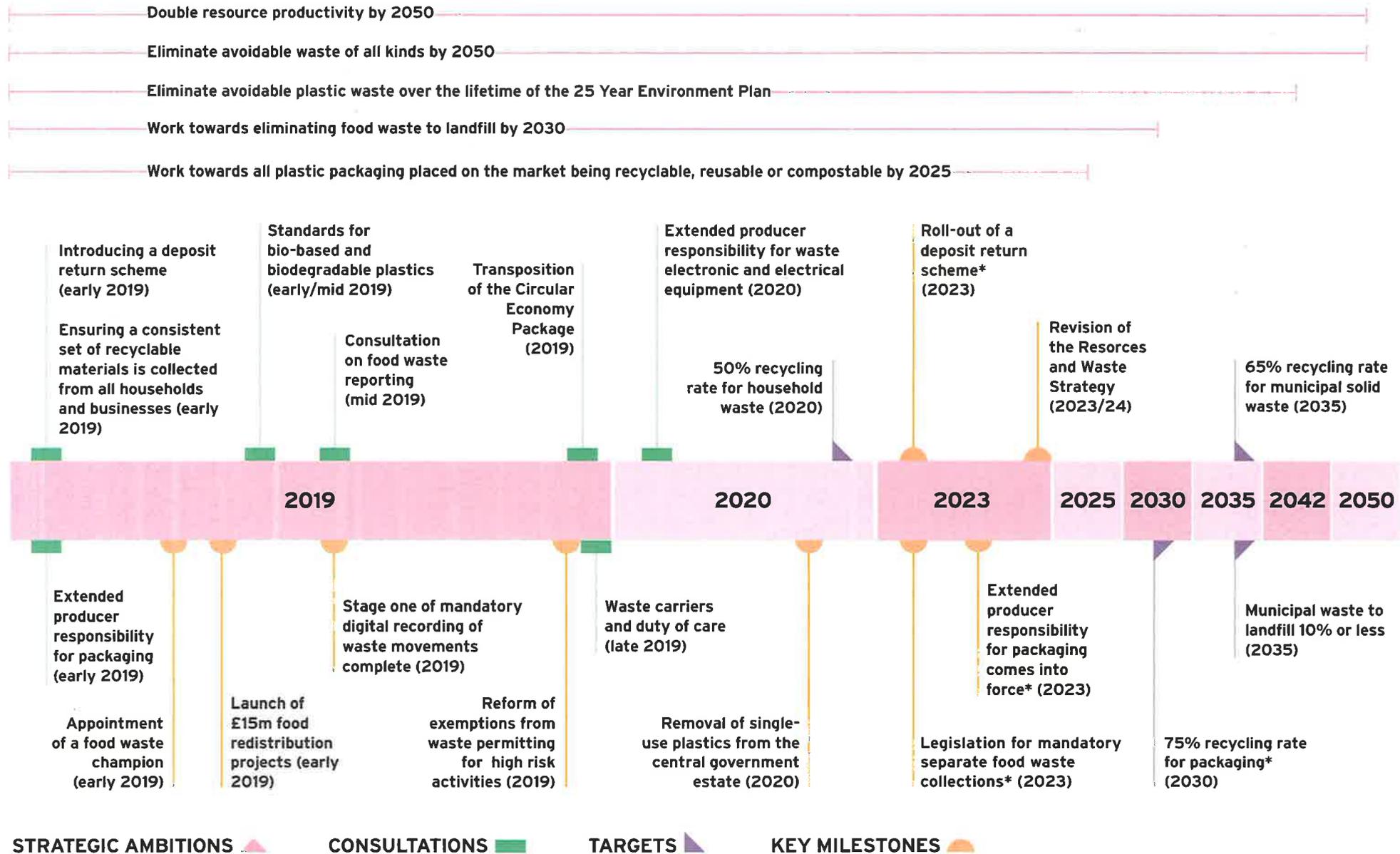
This chapter sets out how we will:

- Work with our partners and stakeholders to develop new approach to data on resources and waste
- Move away from weight-based towards impact-based targets and reporting, focusing initially on carbon and natural capital accounting
- Maintain the coverage and quality of local authority-collected waste and improve data collection to meet future needs
- Work with tech firms to develop innovative digital solutions for tracking waste, and consult on options to mandate the digital recording and sharing of waste movement data

Next steps

A key milestone programme is attached.

KEY MILESTONES



*subject to consultation