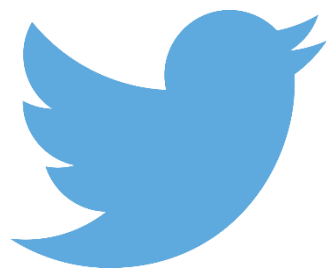


Be part of the conversation!
Follow APSE on Twitter and LinkedIn



@apseevents
@apsenews



**@APSE - Association for
Public Service Excellence**

APSE's Response (based on members comments) to '*Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England*' which makes up part of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy (2019) proposals

- Focus Group held on 27 March 2019 to discuss implications of Government's Resources and Waste Strategy proposals.
- Area of main focus was the '*Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England*' this having most immediate relevance to local authority service provision.
- Other areas briefly discussed where the Deposit Return Scheme , the Plastics Tax and the Extended Producer Responsibility proposals.
- APSE promised to send responses of attendees and wider network to Government as part of consultation process – which closed on 13th May 2019.
- Response sent 23 April 2019
- APSE has also prepared comprehensive briefing note on the response

Response summary

Collecting a **core set of materials for recycling**: (Glass bottles and containers, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays and aluminium tins and cans)

- General consensus and achievable.
- Concerns raised about flats and HMO's producing more materials if simpler recycling system.
- Possibility of increase in residual waste if not all current materials are recycled.
- Possibility of extra materials – food, drinks cartons and plastic bags and film.
- No deviation, uniformity across England and need for national communications campaign.
- Consider environmental impacts of not collecting materials such as batteries.

Promoting greater recycling collection consistency

- Technically possible and desirable but would require appropriate funding.
- Most councils collect garden and food waste together (ease and space issues).
- Government view that separate collection generates higher food waste yields and food and garden waste could be mixed later at waste station appeared to make job twice as difficult.
- Homes generating garden waste given free fortnightly 240 litre bin/sack for recycling collection – can charge for extra waste. View was we should be promoting home composting and if still too much waste charge could be imposed.
- Lack of emphasis on promoting waste reduction by supporting home composting. And also food re-use in the home.
- Further concern about separate collections – space and anti-social behaviour,
- Agreed with standardised coloured bins but introduced nationally at same time.
- Statutory guidance on minimum standards – but no to 2 weekly residual a s3 weekly more likely to promote greater recycling levels.
- Concern about public acceptance as separate collections will increase sorting responsibilities for many residents
- Need for regular assurances that changes being imposed are making a difference.

Sustainable end markets/Performance indicators/ new metrics

- **Sustainable end markets** – concern raised about need for local/regional reprocessors – proximity principle and affordability of delivering materials as well as environmental impacts.
- **Non-binding performance indicators** – agreed in principle but if non-binding will all local authorities give them the same priority. Performance needs to take into account demographics and levels of deprivation so a not to penalise those councils with significant problems.
- **New metrics** – agreement and suggestions included amount of CO₂ avoided by tackling certain waste types e.g. garden/food, also volumes, as large numbers of plastics collected but have little weight value.
- **WRAP and Recycle Now** – Felt rebranding is necessary, with clear and sustained messaging - progress and success is a key message.



Greater Partnership working

Agreed with the view that working with other local authorities to collect waste has benefits:

- Sharing of costs
- Consistency of collection
- Likelihood of large amounts of better quality materials.
- More attractive offer to reprocessors.
- Wider catchment for recycling messages regards consistency
- Development of high cost shared facilities
- Concern about current contractual arrangements and political differences

www.apse.org.uk

GMWDA

Greater Manchester
Waste Disposal Authority



Support for other public bodies, business and other organisations

- Regarding increasing recycling from those establishments producing municipal waste via legislation, was accepted with no exceptions unless physically impractical (i.e. space restrictions). Did agree that minimum weight threshold regarding amounts produced.
- Felt voluntary requirements have not worked and legislation required, further shown by introducing Extended Producer Responsibility proposal.
- Same view regards food recycling – ‘sufficient food waste’ was seen as at least a 240 litre waste bin as most collections would probably fall to local authorities.
- Agreed that data should be provide by public bodies, business and other organisations in order to prove they are complying with requirements.

APSE Comment – Areas of support

- Resource and Waste Strategy provides a clear direction of travel for future waste management.
- Consistency in collections, plastics tax, deposit return scheme and extended producer responsibility - *'circular economy'*
- One area where more could be done is with regards to waste minimisation and re-use regarding municipal waste – behaviour change.
- Comments received by APSE from focus group and wider network shows good deal of support with provisos
 - required funding being made available as promised.
 - Time for transitions is realistic.
 - Assistance with re-negotiating existing contracts is available.

APSE Comments – Areas of concern

- Achieving consistency in collections could need complete re-alignment of current collection infrastructure, including bin types/colours, collection rounds and staff rotas, vehicle fleet type etc. – time and finance required.
- Ability to deliver comprehensive on-going communications strategy across England to inform, educate and inform proposed changes, reasons and benefits.
- Need to achieve consistency across whole of UK.
- Loss of income through introduction of Deposit Return Scheme.
- Impact of reduced waste to waste treatment facilities with contractual agreed levels of waste.
- Impact of Brexit.
- World recycling markets.
- Need for improved UK reprocessing infrastructure.

NEW MUNICIPALISM

Delivering for local people and local economies

Contact details

Wayne Priestley, Principal Advisor

Email: wpriestley@apse.org.uk.

Association for Public Service Excellence

3rd floor, Trafford House, Chester Road,
Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0RS.

telephone: 0161 772 1810

web: www.apse.org.uk



GB 11409



GB 11132



GB 14074