

# **WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL 9th November 2021**

**The Environment Bill – Implications for Waste  
and Recycling Collections**

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# What is the Environment Bill?



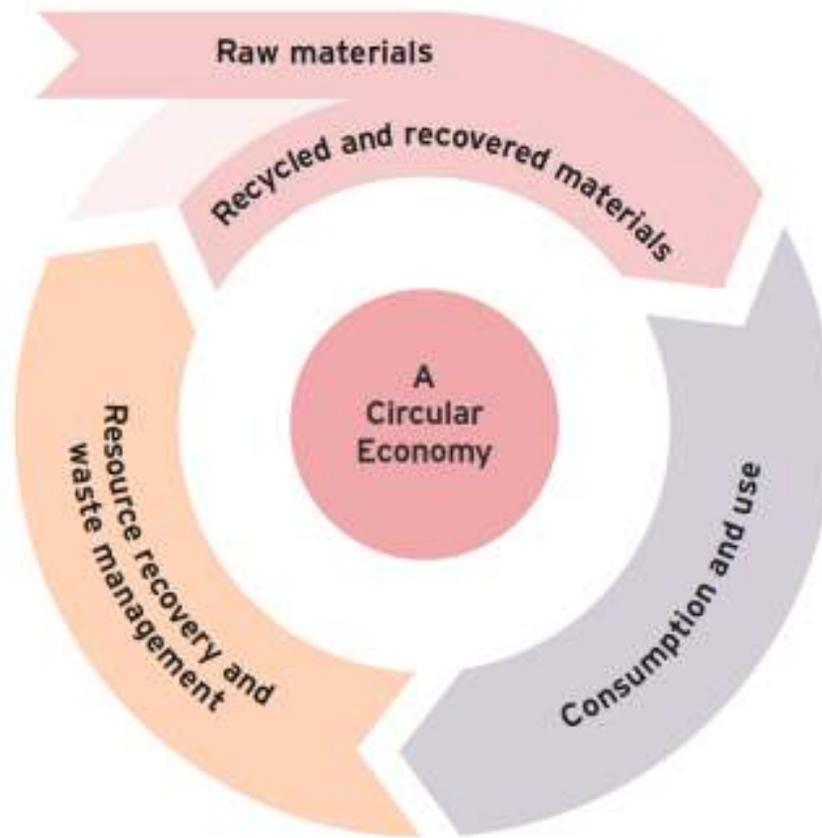
A Bill to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.

# Waste and Resources Strategy for England



The strategy sets out how we will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England.

# A Circular Economy



# The Waste Hierarchy



1. **Prevention:** Using less material in design and manufacture.  
Keeping products for longer; reuse.
2. **Preparing for Reuse:** Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing,  
whole items or spare parts.
3. **Recycling:** Turning waste into a new substance or product.  
Includes composting
4. **Other recovery:** Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with  
energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy
5. **Disposal:** Landfill and incineration without energy recovery

# Recycling and Composting Targets



- **Existing Target:** 50% preparation for reuse and recycling target set out in Article 11 of the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC) by 2020
- **Environment Bill:** Target: Recycle 65% of household waste by 2035 and to allow a maximum of 10% municipal waste going to landfill in the same timeframe.

# Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) 1



UK consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles, 9 billion drinks cans and 5 billion glass bottles a year. The reported recycling rates are 70%

Consumers are charged a deposit up-front when they buy a drink in a single-use container. This can be redeemed when the empty container is returned.

# Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) 2



Issues for Charnwood include:

- The loss of valuable materials from the household recycling scheme. Making cost recovery more difficult.
- Confusion for residents. On the go v All in
- Bin searching. Residents causing litter by looking in bins for containers. May cause littering around bins.
- Possibility of reduced litter from containers

# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



- The key principle of EPR is that producers cover the full net cost (taking account of revenue from the sale of materials for recycling) of managing their packaging at end-of-life.
- By adopting the 'polluter pays' principle, packaging producers will be responsible for the costs of collection, transport, sorting, treatment and disposal of packaging waste. Additionally, producers should be responsible for funding consumer communication campaigns and the clean-up costs of littered and fly-tipped packaging items.
- Potential new funding stream to cover the costs of packaging waste. It is not known how much this could be and how it will be distributed.

# Improving quality by source separating dry recycling materials



- Proposal looks at separating glass and paper/card.
- 2 alternative collection methods proposed, twin stream & multi stream.
  - More expensive collection methods.
  - Capital costs of new receptacles
  - More complicated collection for residents
  - Manual handling issues for residents and operatives.
  - The benefits of higher quality recycling are realised by the Waste Disposal Authority. There is currently no method of benefit sharing.
  - Vehicles that may not be optimised for new collection methods.
  - TEEP Exemption

# Collecting a Core set of dry recycling materials



- The Govt will mandate that a core set of recyclable materials will be collected.
- Charnwood already collects all of the materials on the suggested core list.
- The core list would be updated over time and may result in changes over the longer term.

# Weekly Separate Collection of Food Waste



- Proposed legislation for the weekly separate collection of food waste from 2023.
- 51% of local authorities in England collect food waste separately
- Food Waste is thought to account for 30 to 40% (by weight) of the residual waste bin
- Additional annual revenue costs of £1m+ per annum (estimated.)
- Capital costs of approx. £1m to £1.4m (estimated.)
- Uncertainty around the capacity of Anaerobic Digestion facilities
- “Govt will ensure that local authorities are resourced to meet new costs arising from this policy including upfront transition costs and ongoing operational costs.”

# Proposals for Collecting Garden Waste (Free of Charge)



- The Govt are considering whether households generating garden waste should be provided with access to a free collection service.
- Minimum fortnightly collection service of a 240-litre capacity throughout the growing season.
- Uncertainty around the level of financial support from the Govt.
- The main issues for Charnwood are:
  - The loss of income from subscribers. This is currently approx. £1.4million.
  - The increased contractual costs of collecting from every household. Increased cost £650k per annum (estimated.)
  - The additional capital costs of containers for 35,000 households. At a bin cost (delivered) of £30 this would cost £1.05 million (estimated)

# The Financial Benefits of Recycling more 1



- Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) Responsibilities (LCC)
  - Treatment and disposal
- Waste Collection Authority (WCA) Responsibilities (CBC)
  - Collection

# The Financial Benefits of Recycling more 2



Scenario (figures are indicative):

- CBC introduces a weekly food waste collection at a cost of £1m+ per annum
- CBC manages to collect approx. 50% of the estimated food waste current in the black bins. (4,800 tonnes)
- LCC's cost of disposal for food waste is £20 per tonne
- LCC's cost of disposal for residual waste is £105 per tonne
- LCC make a saving of £408,000 per annum.
- The Govt. funding formula for CBC is uncertain at the current time.

