

Waste Management Strategy for Solihull Status Update 2019/20

Solihull's Municipal Waste Strategy spans the period 2010 to 2020. A review of the Strategy was carried out in 2015 to assess targets and objectives to ensure that they were still relevant and to take into account any changes in Policy and Legislation that would influence the direction of the Strategy.

The 2015 review concluded that the targets and objectives were still relevant to how we aspire to manage waste and recycling in Solihull as outlined in our vision statement (below).

SOLIHULL'S STRATEGY – VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to manage Solihull's municipal waste as a resource that can be utilised for environmental benefit through a service that contributes to a cleaner, greener Borough. To provide a high quality, inclusive service that encourages residents of Solihull to fully engage in the opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle wastes, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the Borough and to minimise the amount of residual waste left over. To recover energy and materials from the residual waste and minimise disposal to landfill. To work in partnership with other authorities, community groups and the private sector where there are demonstrable benefits in doing so. To deliver an efficient waste management service that represents best value and provides a sustainable and customer focussed operation.

As part of the 2015 review we also committed to key actions which were:

- Continue to engage with our residents, providing them with information regarding the recycling service and what we can recycle.
- Review the feasibility of collecting food waste along with our other kerbside services
- Review the collection frequency of refuse collections
- Review operations and facilities provided at Bickenhill Household Waste Recycling Centre
- Carry out a review of the Strategy in 2019

We are on track with all of the additional actions that we committed to in 2015 and have completed the reviews that we committed to.



Review of Solihull's Waste Strategy

As the current Waste Strategy period comes to an end in 2020, we made a commitment to review and update the Waste Strategy in 2019/20. However we have taken a Member supported decision to delay the review of our Waste Strategy as we are currently in a period of emerging change with regard to the responsibilities of Local Authorities in relation to sustainable resource management.

A key driver for change is the Waste Strategy for England – **Our Waste Our Resources – A Strategy for England**. The document was published in December 2018 and sets out the Governments ambitions for the management of resources in England.

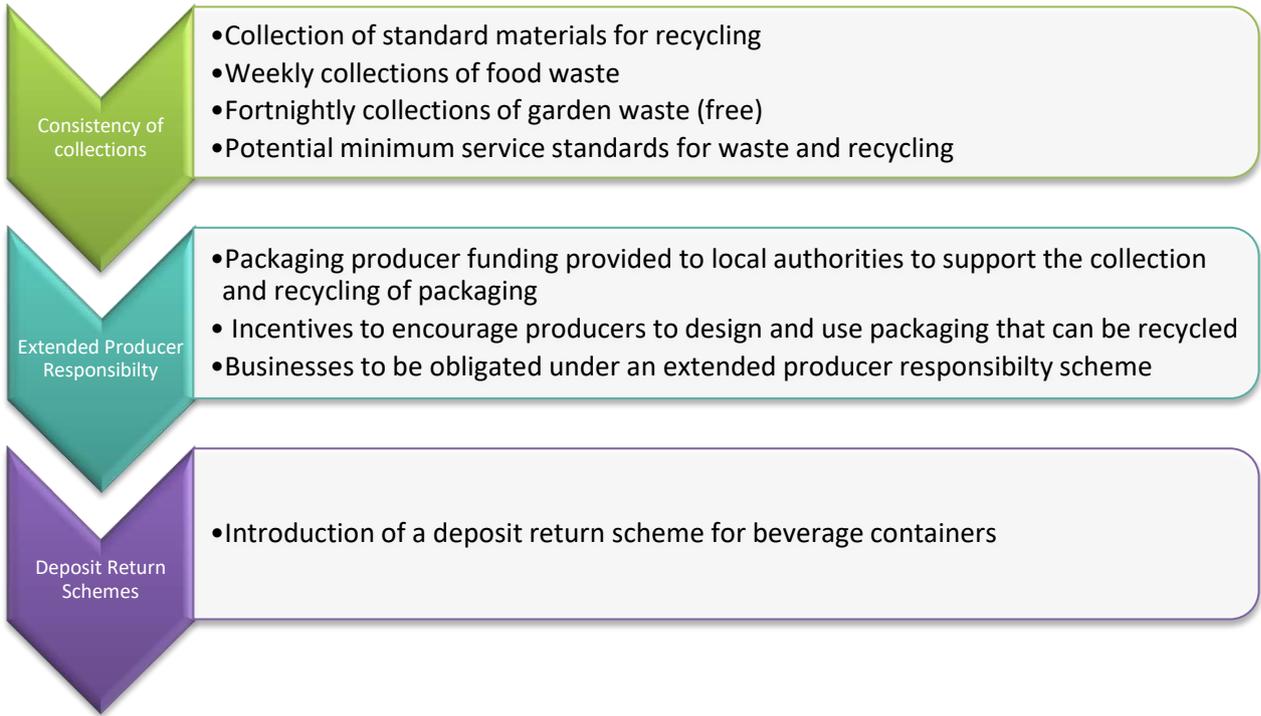
The Strategy sets out clear principles for the management of waste and resources – however the detail underpinning these changes is yet to be decided and will be subject to consultation and then changes in legislation. A series of consultations were held in 2019, and further consultations will also be carried out in 2020.

The Strategy includes three key areas which will have an impact on how we manage our resources at a local level in Solihull, these are:

- **Consistency of collections**
- **Extended Producer Responsibility**
- **Deposit Return Schemes**

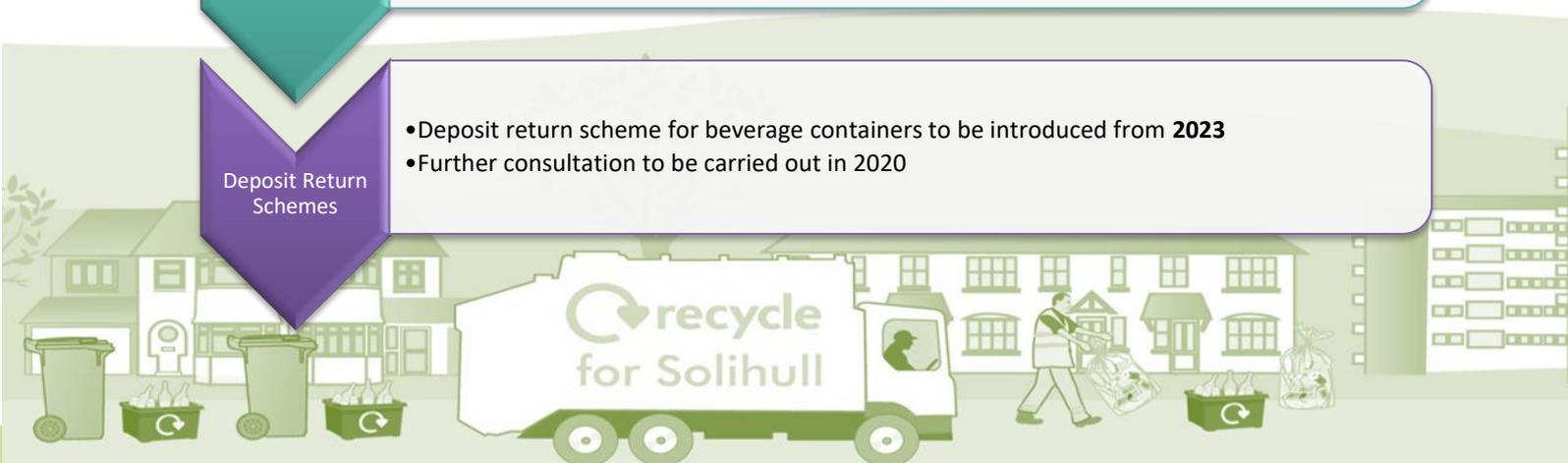
The following figure provides a summary of what the Strategy and subsequent public consultations have proposed regarding potential changes to waste collections and management in England.





Current Status

Following the consultations in 2019, some decisions have been made on changes to future policy. There have been delays in progressing the enabling legislation - the Environment Bill through Parliament, however we currently understand the position regarding some Strategy elements to be as follows:



The details around how Local Authorities will be expected to respond to the legislative changes are still unclear and it is unlikely that it will become clear until further consultations have been completed and subsequent guidance/legislation issued.

We have therefore taken the decision to delay the review of Solihull's Waste Strategy until such time that future obligations and legislative requirements are clear so that we can respond accordingly.

In the interim we remain committed to working towards the targets and objectives established in Solihull's current Waste Strategy.

