

Waste Strategy Update – Future Design of Waste Services

Date: 20th July 2023

Report of: Chief Officer (Environmental Services)

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment and Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- As part of the Board's programme of work in 2022/23, a joint inquiry into Waste Services was undertaken with Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.
- Most of the detail of this work was conducted through a joint working group, which reported to the respective Boards.
- The detail provided to the working group included information on the carbon impact of how environmental services are delivered in Leeds and the results of a comprehensive composition analysis of the types of waste being presented by residents in their black and green bins. Guest representatives from the materials recovery/sorting industry (HW Martins) also provided evidence and advice to the working group on challenges they face in sorting different materials and sourcing sustainable recycling markets.
- The Board also received updates on the national Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) and the Environment Act (2021), and related consultation exercises being undertaken by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- At the Board meeting in March 2022, Members agreed that *"Given the outstanding information required to inform further scrutiny of the future design of local waste services it is recommended that the successor board progresses scrutiny of these matters in the next municipal year"*.
- Following discussion at the October 2022 meeting of the working group, Members agreed at the November 2022 meeting of the Board that *"...any future Leeds Waste Strategy would need to ensure it fulfilled the requirements of the Government's National Resources and Waste Strategy – the final details of which have yet to be confirmed"*.
- This report provides a further update on the critical progress of the RWS and requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021); in particular the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, consistency of collections (inc separate food and garden collections) and the proposed national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).
- The report also provides a summary of current national timelines associated with the new requirements. A presentation will also be made to the Board of a draft, potential timetable for implementation of the new requirements in Leeds, assuming availability of resources. It is important to stress that this is not a proposed strategy/plan at this stage, but is provided to help shape thinking and make clear the interdependencies and risks between the national/local strategy, legal requirements/restrictions, funding and infrastructure capacity.

This includes information on a proposed trial of kerbside glass collection in Leeds whilst we await national updates.

- The report provides information on new financial pressures created by the changes to how items of waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) must be processed/treated and the announcement by Government of the intention to remove the ability for councils to charge for the acceptance/disposal of household “DIY” waste.
- The report takes the opportunity to provide an update on the refuse service route review.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to comment on and note:

- a) the updated national position in relation to implementing the national Resource and Waste Strategy and requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021), and how that affects the options available to deliver changes to how household waste is managed in Leeds;
- b) the current national dates for the implementation of the new requirements on councils set out in the Environment Act (2021) and that could translate into options and a timeline for Leeds;
- c) the proposed glass collection pilot;
- d) the additional resources required to meet the recent changes made/announced in relation to how Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) waste is treated and plans to remove the ability for councils to charge for household “DIY” waste.
- e) the update provided on the current refuse route review

What are the main issues to be aware of and consider?

National context – update on the key strands of the Resource and Waste Strategy

Environment Act (2021)

1. The Act received Royal Assent in November 2021. The key sections of the Act (found in Part 3 of the Act) that will have the greatest impact of how household waste is managed in Leeds are:
 - Producer responsibility obligations and responsibilities for disposal costs.
 - Deposit schemes.
 - Separate collection of household waste.
2. Each of these key sections have significant implications in terms of new ways waste will be collected and processed which will impact on the consumer/householder, the producers of packaging, the bodies that collect waste (e.g. councils), those who sort the waste and those who actually recycle/use the separated materials.
3. DEFRA is still working through the detail and interdependences within and between each of these three key areas. Several online, DEFRA webinar/briefing sessions have taken place during 2023 with councils and producers; including the establishment of a Local Authority Engagement Forum. Leeds City Council also offered up time and resource to help DEFRA with their development of financial modelling and understanding of how councils account for

costs relating to the collection and processing of household waste. A number of DEFRA/LCC sessions have subsequently taken place this year and Leeds financial/tonnage data is being shared with DEFRA.

4. For the various new requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021) to become “live” the Government must publish a Commencement Notice. This will make clear the date(s) from which each section of the Act is required to take effect from and adhered to and should be accompanied with the necessary details on such things as how/when associated funding will be calculated/provided, what data councils will be required to provide and any approval processes available to delay/phase/exempt the introduction of new collections. There is also further, critical detail awaited on the results of consultation on each new requirement that will make clear what is allowed/not allowed, examples of which are covered in section 5 below.
5. The following is a brief summary of where we understand each of the key elements to be:

A. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme

The DEFRA response to consultation on EPR published in March 2022 stated: *Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR) will move the full cost of dealing with packaging waste from households away from local taxpayers and councils to the packaging producers (applying the ‘polluter pays principle’), giving producers responsibility for the costs of their packaging throughout its life cycle. This will encourage producers to reduce their use of packaging and use packaging which is easier to recycle. Producers will pay more for less sustainable packaging, incentivising packaging that uses less material and is easier to recycle. Producers will also be expected to meet ambitious new recycling targets and use clear unambiguous labelling of recyclability to make it easy for consumers to do the right thing.*

Household packaging is defined as anything that may be removed from a household, including large bulky packaging from white goods in addition to smaller everyday grocery packaging. Initially, companies will have to report on aluminium, steel, glass, wood, plastic, paper, cardboard, fibre-based composites and other materials like industrially biodegradable packaging.

DEFRA has been working with producers and from January 2023 required those producers who fall under the scheme to collect/record data by packaging type and recyclability so that 6-monthly returns can be made to DEFRA, by October 2023. There are some difference in requirements depending on whether a producer is classified as a small (25-50 tonnes of packaging per year) or large producer (50+ tonnes).

Current DEFRA advice to UK organisations/producers states: *As soon as we can, we will give you an indication of what the material fees will be in 2024. These will vary depending on the materials you report. From 2025 the waste management fee will also vary depending on how easily the packaging can be recycled. Your fee will be lower if you use packaging that is easier to recycle.*

In order to start collecting fees, DEFRA intends to appoint a national scheme administrator, who as well as collecting the fees will be responsible for the distribution to councils to pay for the net costs of collection and processing. It is not clear what stage the appointment of the scheme administrator is at or when councils can expect

to start receiving EPR payments, although in theory that should be from 2024/25 (delayed from 2023/24).

B. Separate collection of household waste (Consistency in household recycling)

The Environment Act (2021) set out a requirement for councils to offer separate kerbside collections of the following waste streams:

- (a) glass (a new requirement);
- (b) metal;
- (c) plastic;
- (d) paper and card;
- (e) food waste (a new requirement);
- (f) garden waste (a new requirement).

For waste streams (a) to (d) the Act states that recyclable household waste in two or more recyclable waste streams may be collected together where:

- it is not technically or economically practicable to collect recyclable household waste in those recyclable waste streams separately, or,
- collecting recyclable household waste in those recyclable waste streams separately has no significant environmental benefit (having regard to the overall environmental impact of collecting it separately and of collecting it together).

The Act does also allow for the option of combining (co-mingling) the collection of food and garden waste. However, it stipulates that food waste must be collected at least once a week. This has caused some criticism from those councils who are already successfully operating a fortnightly, co-mingled garden and food waste collection service.

Glass: The Government would appear to remain committed to funding the cost of “new burdens” that the Environment Act (2021) bring for kerbside glass collections, mainly through the income that the EPR scheme will create but also assuming processing costs will be reduced by the value of the sorted glass. Though it is not clear if funding for collection infrastructure (e.g. refuse wagons or bins/containers) would be provided where it is already in place and budgeted for.

Food: In 2021 the Government announced a separate, ringfenced budget to “implement free, separate food waste collections in every English local authority from 2025, supporting the near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill by 2028”. The amounts published by the Treasury in 2021 were £300m for 2023/24, and a further £100m for 2024/25. Details on when that funding will be available have still to be confirmed, together with, crucially, how it will be calculated and what it will cover. It is worth noting that in Leeds we do not send any food to landfill from household collections.

Garden: In relation to garden waste collections, a House of Commons briefing paper published in June 2023 stated: *In the UK Government’s February 2019 Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England, it asked for views on whether households generating garden waste should be provided with access to a free collection service with a minimum fortnightly collection of 240 litre capacity. The July 2019 Executive summary and government response said that*

the Government would give further consideration to the costs and benefits of these measures before making a final decision. A further consultation in 2021 sought views on introducing a more limited garden waste collection service of 240 litre containers with fortnightly collections, but only throughout the growing season. Local authorities would retain powers to charge beyond this (for example, for increased collection frequency or increased capacity). A Government response has not yet been issued.

It is not clear if/how the cost of expanding a free garden waste collection service would be funded as a “new burden” or if those councils that are currently charging for collections would receive funding for the loss of income.

In terms of timescales (for the commencement of the consistency of collection regulations set out in the Act and associated funding), the June 2023 House of Commons briefing paper also stated: *The Government published a further consultation, Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England on 7 May 2021, confirming the exact types of materials that would be included in household recycling collections. A Government response has not yet been published and we do not yet know when any regulations will come into force.*

C. Deposit Return Scheme

DEFRA undertook a second consultation on the delivery of a Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers between March and June 2021. The Government response was published in January 2023. The response stated that: *“we will be finalising the regulations and appointing the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO). We are aiming for the regulations to be in force by end of 2023 and the DMO appointed by summer 2024. We propose to include in the regulations a commencement date for DRS of 1st October 2025. This is a stretching target date. We would like to continue to work with industry to assess the feasibility of this date as more detail is developed on the implementation phases of the scheme, including as part of the DMO application process”.*

Following the consultation, the DRS for England will not now include glass (glass will be part of the EPR packaging scheme and managed through the consistency of kerbside collections requirements); it will be for single use, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and steel/aluminium cans (restricted to bottles/cans of between 50ml-3 litres). Indications are that DEFRA are looking at a deposit value in the region of 20p per container/item.

As well as improving recycling rates for these items, the aim is to reduce litter, and to combat the effects of plastic pollution.

In terms of impact for Leeds, we will need to factor in the reduction in plastic bottles and drinks cans from our green bins and the effect on the net cost of the recycling materials sorting contract (though that depends on how the EPR calculations are made/adjusted to consider income from recycling materials). Possibly from halfway through 2025/26, but with little degree of certainty at this stage.

6. As the above updates demonstrate, there remains significant uncertainties about timescales and a lack of required detail about how funding will be allocated to councils to meet new burdens and what flexibilities may be possible to meet local circumstances/needs. This is something that was highlighted in the National Audit Office (NAO) report published in June 2023 on “the Government’s resources and waste reforms for England”; which concluded that

“a lack of clarity has made it hard for businesses and local authorities to prepare for the changes they will need to make”.

7. A good example of why more certainty and detail about the requirements and funding is required in order to plan and implement changes in Leeds is that the current timescale for the delivery of new refuse wagons is 18-24 months from order. With the cost of an E-RCV (electric powered wagon) being in the region of £500k, and the fleet requirement to introduce separate glass and food collections expected to be about 35 extra wagons, that cost alone would be £17.5m. That excludes the recruitment of staff (including LGV drivers), purchase of several hundred thousand bins/containers and depot expansion requirements. On this the NAO report concludes *“local authorities do not yet know how payments through the extended producer responsibility scheme will affect their overall funding. This could mean that many local authorities start the process of procuring new lorries and bins at the same time, once the funding implications are clear. This could put pressure on supply chains and mean it takes longer than Defra expects for all local authorities to collect waste as required”.*
8. Appendix A provides a summary of the known national timescales for the implementation of the new requirements/schemes. It is also hoped to present to the Board at the meeting a theoretical timescale for the introduction of new kerbside collection services in Leeds to meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021. This is not a proposal or existing strategy/plan; it is provided to help inform the Board about the likely timescales involved, and to demonstrate the interdependencies and scale of work involved, as well as making clear what order things need to happen and so where delays will have knock on effects.
9. Appendix B provides current estimated costs associated with the various options that modelling work has produced. These need to be treated as ball-park figures and there is still more work to do in developing each delivery model. But this provides the Board with some perspective in the range of costs associated with the options that will require funding. It should be noted that the costs provided do not include any site and support infrastructure requirements that expansion of fleet numbers would bring. For example, if separate city-wide monthly glass and weekly food collections were introduced, that would require an additional 40 wagons and so would need additional depot facilities and fleet maintenance resource/facilities. DEFRA are unable to provide clarity on whether new/expanded depot related costs will be covered through EPR or consistent collections payments, which could run into several million pounds of extra costs. The fleet costs are based on current diesel fuelled wagons; should electric fuelled versions be purchased (given the vehicles will be in service beyond the zero carbon 2030 ambition) then the capital costs will rise (about £200-250k more per vehicle plus charging infrastructure) but the running costs reduce.
10. Also included in Appendix B for information/context is the current cost of providing the free garden waste collection service (delivered to 217,000 households).
11. Information provided to the Board during the earlier waste inquiry showed how waste flows would be affected as the different elements of consistent collection requirements were delivered. This included the prediction that the amount of residual waste presented in the black bins across Leeds would reduce by around 28%. Although the financial modelling provided takes into account savings that will be made in waste disposal costs by shifting waste from the black bin to separate recycling bins/collections, no assumptions or calculations have been made for either the reduction in frequency of collection or size of black bins in the future. DEFRA have yet to publish any guidance or information on whether they will be making any assumptions on this; for example deducting what they calculate the

residual collection cost savings should be from future EPR/consistency payments to councils, and if so whether there would be transitional considerations/arrangements.

Glass collection pilot

12. Although it remains unclear as to how and when future collections would be supported by Government under New Burdens/EPR funding, it is proposed to begin a trial covering between 16-20,000 households spanning four areas of the city with differing demographics and delivery challenges.
13. Funding has been allocated in the Waste Strategy budget to meet the anticipated net annual cost of £220k (which includes anticipated disposal savings of £70k). The cost should reduce if it runs into a second year as some of the £220k is to pay for the initial comms and engagement necessary.
14. Work has taken place to identify suitable areas and an independently conducted composition analysis has taken place to establish the baseline across these areas (ie the amount of glass currently being presented in the black and green bins by the households in those areas).
15. The four wards containing trial areas are Horsforth, Killingbeck and Seacroft, Farnley and Wortley, and Wetherby. Ward Members in each of these wards have proactively expressed support for a pilot to be undertaken and the service will be working closely with each set of ward members in the development and delivery of the trial.
16. The next stage of work is to identify and agree a defined area within each ward of about 4-5,000 households that would partake in a trial. Ward members will be involved in that work.
17. A delivery model is still being worked on, with information/learning from other councils already delivering glass collections. The proposal is for the trial to be a Monday to Friday service, collecting glass from the kerbside on a 4-weekly frequency. The trial will probably build in a capacity day to provide a contingency for issues faced as a new, trial service is rolled out and we learn more about the reality of participation and presentation rates. Currently the favoured approach is to use a smaller size wheely bin, but options for box/container collections are still being explored. A micro feasibility trial is underway to test use of smaller sized wheely bins and that 4 weekly collections are realistic in meeting demand. It is likely that collections would start no earlier than 9am to mitigate against the noise concerns. It is important to stress that participation will be optional for households within a trial area, no one will be forced to have a new, glass bin.
18. There is no planned implementation date at this time, but it is hoped to begin the pilot in 2023.

Additional changes to waste disposal requirements

19. Whilst we await the clarity required to move forward with the waste strategy for Leeds, two significant changes to how councils must manage waste have been made/announced by DEFRA. Both have significant extra costs associated with them. They are:

A. *Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs):*

This relates to items that have unacceptable levels of POPs found in fire retardant materials in items such as sofas/settees and upholstered chairs; such as those

collected through the bulky item service, at Household Waste and Recycling Centres and found in flytipping. Revised Environment Agency guidance has been published that requires the disposal of these items through a much more rigorous process, in order to reduce the risk of the pollutants entering the living environment. In reality this means that these items now cost between £250-300 a tonne to process instead of around £110/tonne. Any other items presented for sorting/disposal with the “POP items” will also have to be processed at that higher rate. For Leeds, if we did not separate out these items it would mean an annual increase in costs of £4.7m to dispose of our waste. Even if we do manage to separate out all items, it will still cost an extra £1m a year to dispose of these items. Work is ongoing to ensure as much of the waste we collect/manage is separated out and the financial impact kept as near to the £1m as possible.

B. Removal of charging for household “DIY” waste:

Following a consultation, the Government recently announced its intention to remove the ability for councils to charge as pay as you use fee for residents wanting to dispose of “DIY waste” at council recycling and waste sites. The guidance published by DEFRA makes clear that this will be restricted to a nationally defined fair use policy and be only for residents bring their own DIY waste (i.e., not waste produced by a tradesperson at their home). DEFRA have said that the required regularity amendments will be made later in the year, together with further details on implementation. The annual cost to Leeds City Council of this change is estimated to be between £400-600k; being the loss of income and the cost of disposing of the additional waste expected to be presented once charging is removed.

Refuse Service Review

20. As previously reported to the Board, a significant number of actions have been successfully progressed in relation to the overall review of the service; including End of Day reporting improvements, investment in and updating of in-cab technology, the build and move to a new centralised depot and office with improved ways of working, city wide route review and implementation for garden waste collections (brown bins) and delivery of a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce access issues.
21. The remaining task is to complete the city wide review, redesign and delivery of new kerbside residual (black bin) and dry recycling (green bin) routes.
22. The various staff, union and Member engagement, consultation and data/information gathering processes and technical modelling work are almost complete, and the first draft of the new routes will shortly be produced.
23. These maps need to be sense checked with operational staff, to provide final opportunity to identify any anomalies thrown up by the routes generated by the routing software.
24. The maps will then be provided to all ward members to look at, with further opportunity to comment before they are considered as final versions.
25. The service will provide a number of options for ward members to see/comment on the final draft maps – including drop in sessions at the Civic Hall, provision of hard or electronic copies/links, a Teams meeting, or attendance at an existing ward member meeting. This is planned for August/September.

26. Providing there are no significant reasons not to, the intention is to look to introduce the new routes in late Autumn.
27. As the majority of households will experience a change in collection day, a communications strategy is in place for the period leading up to the route changes. We are also legally obliged to write to all households to inform them of the change in collection day(s).
28. In the meantime, the service will continue to ensure extra capacity is provided for routes that experience heavier presentation of waste and that would otherwise struggle to complete the day's work. Extra resource will also continue so that new housing developments receive a black and green bin collection service.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:
Have ward members been consulted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

29. This update mainly provides the Board with further information on the current position of the Government's implementation of the national Resource and Waste Strategy, with a focus on the critical areas that will inform council and producers of packaging on how future obligations set out in the Environment Act 2021 will be met.
30. The update also provides further thoughts on options that may be available to deliver the required legislative changes in Leeds, including indicative timescales and current best net cost estimates.
31. No proposals are presented in this report. However, the views of the Board are sought on the scenarios/options presented, within the context of the requirements of the Environment Act 2021, what we know about how and when funding will be made available and what is deliverable in Leeds.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

32. This report is an update on previous information provided to the Board and Working Group as part of its Waste Services inquiry.

What are the resource implications?

33. There are no immediate resource implications at this time with regards new kerbside collections to meet new national requirements. However, an estimate of the future resource implications are provided in Appendix B, which as detailed within this report will be subject to clarification of availability of funding by Government.
34. However, it is worth noting that the ongoing development of the various delivery models/options and provision of information requested by and offered to DEFRA requires significant resources from the Waste Review and Strategy Project Team and other senior managers within the service.
35. The £220k annual net cost of the proposed glass collection pilot will be met from the existing Waste Strategy budget.

36. The resource implications of the Government changes in how upholstered furniture items must be disposed of and in being able to apply a “pay as you use” policy for “DIY waste” are estimated to be in the region of £1.5-2m a year.

What are the legal implications?

37. There are no specific legal implications associated with this report at this time.
38. However, as set out in the report the council will have a responsibility to meet the legislative changes set out in the Environment Act 2021, subject to the publication of a commencement notice and associated details on implementation

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

39. There are no specific risk management issues associated with this report.
40. However, as set out in the report there remains uncertainty about the level of funding that will be provided by Government to meet the new requirements created in the Environment Act 2021.
41. The Government is still saying that new funding for councils will be provided, through the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme and separate funding for food collections. But there is a risk of a gap between funding and actual cost and which is currently unquantifiable.
42. There is a further potential related risk that will need considering in decision making ahead of any clarity provided by the expected commencement notice and accompanying detail, and that is that DEFRA may decide not fund retrospectively any costs (e.g. infrastructure costs such as fleet and bins) incurred before the commencement date or additional future liabilities/costs created due to decisions the council makes between the environment Act 2021 being approved and the commencement date. This is a risk with the glass collection pilot – for example the £360k capital cost of purchasing 20,000 bins may not be considered a new burden by DEFRA when future calculations are made to fund infrastructure costs.
43. To help understand and manage this risk, the council is engaging fully with DEFRA through webinars and the Local Authority Engagement Forum, working directly with DEFRA to help them understand the financial data councils hold and seeking advice/guidance through our nominated DEFRA liaison contact.

Does this proposal support the council’s 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

Appendices

44. Appendix A – Summary of existing known national timescales for new requirements. Including theoretical timeline to introduce consistent collections across Leeds (this part to be provided as a late item if available).
45. Appendix B – Approximate costs to introduce different collection models/options, as a guide only. Also includes the cost of providing the citywide free garden collection service for comparison/context.

Background papers

46. The following are links to useful/background papers/reading:

[2019 - DEFRA Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England - Defra - Citizen Space](#)

[2021 - DEFRA Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

[2021 - DEFRA consultation on packaging and packaging waste: introducing Extended Producer Responsibility - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[2021 - DEFRA consultation on introduction of a deposit return scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[2021 - Gov Legislation - Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[2022 - LCC Scrutiny Board - Future of Waste Services: Interim Statement of Progress March 2022 \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

[2022 - DEFRA guidance on extended producer responsibility for packaging: who is affected and what to do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[2023 - Commons briefing note on household waste collection in England and Wales \(parliament.uk\)](#)

[2023 - A Guide to the Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - Anthesis \(anthesisgroup.com\)](#)

[2023 - National Audit Office report on the government's resources and waste reforms for England - National Audit Office \(NAO\) report](#)

[2023 - DEFRA consultation response to "when construction waste should be treated as DIY waste and be free for disposal as household waste" - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[2022 - Env Agency - identify and classify waste containing persistent organic pollutants \(POPs\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF EXISTING KNOWN TIMESCALES FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS

The key implementation/commencement dates from DEFRA for each main category of waste stream have evolved and can currently be summarised as:

- A. **Separate food collections** – The initial 2019 government consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England set out a timescale leading to implementation of separate food waste collection in 2023. Ringfenced capital funding was announced in the 2021 budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. As part of further consultation undertaken by DEFRA in 2021 on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England the proposed commencement date was still being described as 2023. The results of the 2021 consultation have still to be published, including the detail of how this would be delivered and funded (revenue and capital) and any confirmed/revised implementation date. A revised implementation date of April 2025 is however being widely quoted within the waste industry.
- B. **Separate garden waste collections** – The initial 2019 government consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England included a call for views on the implementation of mandatory free, separate, garden waste collections, but gave no specific timescales. The requirement for councils to offer a separate, kerbside garden waste collection was however included in the Environment Act 2021. DEFRA's 2021 Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England consultation revised proposals to limit mandatory free garden waste collections to the "growing season" and one bin per household per fortnight. A response to this consultation has not yet been published nor any implementation/commencement timescales.
- C. **Extended Producer Responsibility scheme (packaging including glass)** – DEFRA's 2021 Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England consultation stated "we are consulting on the feasibility of EPR being introduced through a phased approach starting in October 2023". A response to this consultation has not yet been published. However, DEFRA also published separate, specific consultation in 2021 on Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging, the response to this was published in 2022 which included the update that DEFRA "will now implement EPR in a phased manner from 2024, rather than 2023, focussing on payments for household packaging waste and packaging in street bins managed by local authorities, with such payments being determined from 1 April 2024". In addition DEFRA stated "we will introduce modulated fees based on recyclability from 2025, rather than 2024".
- D. **Deposit Return Scheme (PET plastic bottles and steel/aluminium cans)** – In March 2021, DEFRA published consultation on the "Introduction of a deposit return scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland". The consultation stated DEFRA "currently anticipate that the scheme would launch in late 2024" and included glass in the list of materials to be included. However the consultation response published by DEFRA in January 2023 revised the implementation date to 1st October, 2025 and removed glass from the scheme.