

Appendix 2 – Public consultation details

Public Consultation

- 10 Following a stakeholder mapping exercise, a public consultation commenced on 31 January 2022 and ran for 12 weeks until 25 April 2022.
- 11 The full suite of documents for public consultation comprised of;
 - a) The Draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy
 - i. Describes the approach the LWP would take in delivering recycling and waste management services from 2022 – 2050
 - ii. Contains the vision, objectives and pledges that sit alongside forthcoming national changes
 - iii. Includes 11 pledges covering; leading by example; waste prevention; reuse; food waste collections; alternative fuels; garden waste collections; consistent collections; extra materials for recycling collections; the national recycling target of 65% by 2035; communications to target recycling behaviour and reduction of waste sent to landfill
 - b) The Draft Options Appraisal Report
 - i. Explores the current and alternative ways of delivering the wastes services, the associated costs and the recycling rates that could be achieved as well as considering potential implications of upcoming national policy changes
 - ii. Provides evidence behind the pledges within the draft Strategy
 - c) The Draft Environmental Report – from the SEA process
 - i. Considers the environmental impacts of the alternative ways of delivering the Strategy
 - ii. Involved a five week statutory consultation period from July 2021 and received input from Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency
- 12 In addition to the above, a consultation summary document outlining the main aspects of the Strategy was available to view.
- 13 The consultation documents were available online via the County Councils 'Have Your Say' webpage and signposted from Partner websites. Hard copies were available upon request
- 14 The consultation comprised a survey (predominately online) consisting of tick box questions and open comments. Questions sought views on the vision, objectives and pledges within the draft Strategy and asked a series of questions on waste prevention, reuse and recycling behaviours.

- 15 A wide range of communications were used to promote the survey utilising online and printed media. Presentations were given to specific groups and an online forum and workshop was delivered by Community Research, an independent research marketing firm.
- 16 The quantitative and qualitative responses to the online questionnaire and responses from groups and organisations to the public consultation are presented in the Consultation Report August 2022 which is available on request.

Public Consultation Findings

Have Your Say Survey

- 17 A total of 5233 responses to the online survey were received. Almost two thirds of the respondents were female (63%). Compared to the known population of Leicestershire (Census 2011) this shows that females were overrepresented and males underrepresented. Almost half (45%) of respondents were aged between 45-64 years. Underrepresented age groups in respect to population include 15-24 years old and those over the age of 85 years.
- 18 The majority of the respondents were supportive of the vision with 83% in agreement;

"To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts"
- 19 83% of respondents also agreed with the pledges and an analysis of the open text comments revealed that fly-tipping was the most common issue, followed by residents wanting more pressure placed on producers to make their packaging recyclable and products more easily repairable. Other comments referred to increasing education and engagement so people have a better understanding of link between waste and climate change.
- 20 In regard to behaviours, 38% of respondents said that they currently compost at home with 70% expressing an interest in taking part in reuse activities such as using an online platform for selling goods and taking items to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).
- 21 For food waste collections, respondents were generally positive on the introduction of food waste collections (65% of respondents stated they did not see any barriers to participating in a weekly food waste collection service) but there were concerns raised of how it works in practise e.g. smells and hygiene.
- 22 Evidence shows that delivering the highest recycling rates and reducing carbon emissions can best be achieved by restricting general rubbish capacity (either through distributing smaller bins or collecting the waste less frequently)

alongside adding more recycling services including weekly food waste collections. Respondents were asked which service configuration they would prefer. Overall, the option of a fortnightly collection with a smaller bin size was more favourable (39%) than a three-weekly collection with a current size bin (16%).

- 23 Overall, the majority (64%) of the respondents agreed with the draft Strategy to some extent.

Other Consultation Activity

- 24 A company called Community Research were commissioned to explore residents' views of the draft Strategy. An online forum was conducted with 25 Leicestershire residents taking part and completing a series of tasks including polling questions, discussion boards and self-filmed videos.
- 25 Key conclusions included that the vision and strategy resonated with residents and addressed many of their concerns; and that residents are enthusiastic about greater engagement in reducing waste and recycling and recognise the key role they have to play.
- 26 Presentations were provided to various groups in order to capture their views and these included Leicestershire Equalities Group, Leicestershire Parish Clerks and County Youth Council for Leicestershire.