

Report on	Rethinking Our Resources Consultation Response
Date of Meeting	11th June 2024
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director - Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval to submit a response to the DAERA consultation on Rethinking our Resources: Measure for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 incorporates several actions for the decarbonisation of the waste sector and in particular sets out a clear requirement of achieving at least 70% of waste recycled by 2030. In addition to this requirement, amendments made in 2020 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 (WCLO) introduced new municipal recycling targets - for households and businesses who produce waste similar to households. The WCLO requires NI to achieve a 65% recycling rate for municipal waste by 2035 and a 10% cap on the amount of waste going to landfill by the same year.
2.2	DAERA is now seeking views on how Northern Ireland can take steps towards improving the quality and quantity of household and non-household municipal recycling, how to improve reductions in food waste, how to cut landfill rates and how to get businesses on board to increase recycling rates. The aim of this consultation is to bring forward new policy options for the DAERA Minister and questions focus on issues such as how new measures might best be implemented, considering views on practicality, economic barriers and how the future of recycling in Northern Ireland might look.
2.3	An abridged version of the consultation is provided as an appendix and a full copy of the document is available via the below link: Rethinking Our Resources - Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI (daera-ni.gov.uk)
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The consultation was launched on 7th March with a closing date of 30th May 2024. However following representations from the local government sector DAERA agreed to extend the deadline for responses by a further four week period to 27th June 2024.

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>The consultation document is split into 10 parts (with 26 proposals) as detailed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction</i> 2. <i>A call to action</i> 3. <i>Support for change, building on success and our legislative framework</i> 4. <i>Policy rationale</i> 5. <i>Funding</i> 6. <i>Stakeholder engagement</i> 7. <i>Audience</i> 8. <i>Part 1 - Proposals 1 to 12 - to improve commonality in Collections from Households</i> 9. <i>Part 2 - Proposals 13 to 26 - to improve recycling of Non-Household Municipal Waste</i> 10. <i>Responding to the Consultation</i> <p>Each individual proposal seeks a response through a series of questions (over 100 in total) and a detailed response has been prepared to each as provided in the appendix.</p> <p>Whilst most of the proposals would have an impact on local Councils to some degree here are three in particular which, if implemented, would have a major impact on the waste management service/operations of Mid Ulster District Council; as listed below:</p> <p><i>Proposal 1:</i> <i>To restrict the residual waste capacity for households in Northern Ireland to a maximum of 90 litres per week, delivered either via a 180 litre wheeled bin collected fortnightly or a 240 litre wheeled bin collected every three weeks. Councils would decide on the most appropriate methodology for their own circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>Proposal 5:</i> <i>The default position for collection of dry recyclables from households is in four separate streams.</i></p> <p><i>Proposal 10:</i> <i>Revisions to household food waste collections to increase capture rates and improve the diversion of food waste from disposal should be introduced, ensuring all householders, including those living in flats, can recycle more and in time have access to separate, weekly food waste recycling collections.</i></p> <p>The above proposals do not align with the current “three bin” commingled service provided by Mid Ulster District Council and there would be major cost/implications in implementing the separate collections model proposed by DAERA. We have therefore prepared a supplementary response to our main consultation response to further detail our concerns and provide evidence based arguments in relation to our current system performance. One of the main points in our response is that we contend DAERA should set the recycling targets to be achieved but let individual Councils decide on how best to achieve the targets i.e. they should not be mandating particular collection systems.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p>

	<p>Financial: The costs of system change are as detailed in the consultation response provided.</p>
	<p>Human: The implications for employees are as detailed in the consultation response provided.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: There are risks, reputational and potentially monetary, in not achieving recycling targets.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report and to approve the submission of the consultation response to DAERA as outlined by the deadline on 27th June 2024.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Rethinking our Waste Consultation document (abridged version)
6.2	Appendix 2 – Rethinking our Waste MUDC Consultation response (Annex A)
6.3	Appendix 3 – Rethinking our Waste MUDC Supplementary response (Annex 1)