

Consultation on the Implementation of the Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators Directive

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Leader Councillor George Clements
Portfolio Holder Councillor Geoff Blackwell
LEAD OFFICER: Head of Leisure and Environmental Services Keith Parker
REPORT AUTHOR: Waste Services Manager – Janice Carrol

Summary and Recommendation: This report seeks Executive's approval to make a formal response to the Consultation on the Implementation of the Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators Directive

It is recommended that:

- a) A response be made in line with the points outlined in paragraph 2.1 below.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This consultation seeks views on options for implementing the requirements of Directive 2006/66/EC on Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators in the UK. Similarly to early consultations on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) the Government are seeking the views of local authorities and producers, distributors, collectors and recyclers of batteries and accumulators and items containing batteries and accumulators, on possible approaches for implementing provisions in the Directive relating to the production and sale of new batteries and accumulators, and the collection, treatment, recycling and disposal of waste batteries and accumulators. Responses to the consultation will inform Government decisions on the content of legislation to transpose the Directive into national law. Response are requested by 13 March 2008.

1.2 The main aims of the Directive are to:

- a) Restrict the use of mercury and cadmium in batteries;
b) To achieve a 25% collection rate for portable batteries by September 2012 and 45% by September 2016.

- c) To achieve a 100% recycling rate for automotive batteries (by prohibiting their landfill and incineration)
- d) To introduce 'producer responsibility' obligations
- e) Establish industry management standards

- 1.3 The consultation paper is highly technical in nature and is primarily aimed at the manufacturers, retailers and potential recyclers of batteries. It's worth noting that there are no facilities in the UK at present able to recycle alkaline manganese or zinc carbon batteries which make up 80% of the total weight of batteries on the market.
- 1.4 Like the WEEE Directive the Batteries Directive seeks to place responsibility and the cost of recycling batteries on the producers and distributors, not local authorities. The consultation paper also recognises the practical constraints of collecting batteries, especially in rural authorities, given that total volumes will be low. At the same time it also advocates early engagement with local authorities who are well placed to facilitate a network of collection options in, for example, public buildings.

2 CONCLUSIONS

- 2.1 The consultation paper poses a number of specific and technical questions, mostly outside the area of expertise of officers. Given the papers focus on producers, distributors and recyclers it is therefore proposed that the Council's formal response is limited to three areas ie
- The Council welcomes the principle that those who place batteries on the market should be responsible for arrangements to meet recovery targets.
 - That the challenging nature of recycling in rural communities has been recognised is welcome, and
 - That early engagement with local authorities is to be encouraged, pointing out that the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership is a ready made vehicle for such engagement in this County

3. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 3.1 There are no direct financial impacts of this report and only indirect HR implications via participation in the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 4.1 This report directly supports the Corporate Plan's consultation objectives.

List of Appendices: None

List of Background Documents: Consultation Paper URN 07/1701. (a copy has been deposited in the Members Room)

List of Consultees: Corporate Team

Corporate Team, Deputy Leader Councillor George Clements Portfolio Holder
Councillor Geoff Blackwell

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	Improved recycling of batteries will lead to greater environmental sustainability.
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	Indirect effects on human health as fewer toxic materials are placed in landfill.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Section 151 Officer Comments	None
Monitoring Officer Comments	The report has no Monitoring Officer implications.