

# Newcastle City Council Waste Strategy



**Stage 2: What people think  
of our proposed actions  
October 2018**

This summary presents the findings from stage two of our consultation about the proposed Newcastle City Council Waste Strategy. We ran a survey on Let's talk Newcastle Online between 23 September and 31 October. People could also complete the questionnaire in a paper format and return it to us. We had two responses via paper, two via email from the Newcastle Green Party and Plastic Free Jesmond (their responses have been included in this analysis, and their detailed proposals passed to staff involved in designing service delivery for consideration in detail), and 269 online responses. This gives us 273 responses in total. The questionnaire had 13 questions about the strategy's proposed actions, and asked respondents to give us some information about themselves such as age, gender and where they live.

### **What did people think? A summary**

Most respondents to the survey thought that the packaging industry was most responsible for ensuring that the right things were recycled, and that central government should pass legislation to tackle waste.

They thought "buying only what you need" was most important when thinking about how they could reduce their household waste and there was a need to avoid buying products with excess packaging, and support people without gardens to compost food waste at home.

Nearly three-quarters of people in the survey said that they would be likely to use a separate food waste collection service, and the majority said that having two recycling bins and incentives for individual households to increase recycling would help them to reduce waste and recycle more. They commented that they would like us to provide more extensive recycling options and better information about what can be recycled.

When asked about which actions would be most or least important to help us reduce the cost to the city of waste collection & disposal and promote waste minimisation & recycling, people in the survey said that they thought that having individual recycling bins and more action on contaminated bins was most important, and several people commented that they did not think communal bins were a good solution.

Nearly all respondents said that they agreed that the Planning Authority should work with developers to move towards new developments having a target to enable recycling of 65% of their waste. When we asked participants: "when we assess new technologies for treating waste and decide whether to use them, which of the following ways of assessing them do you think are the most and least important

ones?", 'environmental' and 'technical' criteria were rated as important by the largest percentages of respondents.

When we asked people which areas we should prioritise when working to influence national government for more or changed regulation, the most popular option was "Introduce a requirement for householders and businesses to store their bins within their property after collection".

Nearly all respondents said that they agreed that businesses should have the facilities to recycle and be expected to reduce their waste and recycle as much of their waste as possible, in the same way that residents are asked to use their domestic bins.

Finally, when we asked people if they had any further comments, the most common themes in their responses were: "we need better education for people about waste and its impact", "the council should provide better information about what can be recycled, and more extensive recycling options" and "manufacturers should be responsible for disposing of packaging".

## What people told us

People who took part in the consultation said that:

- **Who is responsible for ensuring the right things get recycled?** The largest percentages of people who took part said that "the **packaging** industry" (79%) and "the **council**" (76%) were completely or mostly responsible for ensuring that the right items are recycled. When they commented on this, the most common themes were: "central government should pass legislation to tackle waste", "work with industry to minimise packaging waste" and "work with universities to ensure students know what can be recycled".
- **Which actions are most important for reducing household waste?** The largest percentages of people who took part said that "**buying** only what you need" (93%) and "reducing **food waste**" (86%) were "important" or "most important" to them when thinking about how they could reduce their household waste. When they commented on this, the most common themes were: "people need to avoid buying products with excess packaging" and "we need to support people without gardens to compost food waste at home".
- **Would you and other members of your household use a separate food waste collection service?** 73% of people who took part said they would be **likely** or very likely to use this service.

- **Which actions would help you to recycle more and reduce waste?** The largest percentages of people who took part agreed or strongly agreed that “having **two recycling bins**” (60%) and “**incentives for individual households** to increase recycling” (58%) would help them to recycle more and reduce waste. People who commented on this suggested that what would also help would be the council offering a more extensive range of items that can be recycled and providing better information on what can be recycled.
- **Which of the actions below do you think are most or least important to help us reduce the cost to the city of waste collection & disposal and promote waste minimisation & recycling?** The largest percentages of people who took part said that “More action on ‘**contaminated**’ bins” (83%) and “individual recycling bins, where people do not already have these” (70%) were “important” or “most important” to them when thinking about how we could reduce the cost of waste collection and disposal and promote waste minimisation and recycling. People who commented on this said that what would also help with this would be the council providing better information about what can be recycled, and that they doubted communal bins would be a solution.
- **To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Planning Authority should work with developers to move towards new developments having a target to enable recycling of 65% of their waste?** 91% of people who took part said they agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal.
- **When we assess new technologies for treating waste and decide whether to use them, which of the following ways of assessing them do you think are the most (or least) important ones to be sure we are achieving this?** The largest percentages of people who took part said that “**environmental**” (97%) and “**technical**” (94%) criteria were “important” or “most important” to them when thinking about how we should assess new technologies for treating waste. People who commented on this said that we need better education about what waste and its impact, that options must be seen to be credible, and there needs to be a nation-wide approach to solving waste-related problems.
- **We could work to influence national Government for more or changed regulation on all of the areas below - which do you think we should prioritise (or not)?** The largest percentages of people who took part said that “introducing a requirement for householders and businesses to **store their bins** within their property after collection” (67%), and “make **littering regulation** and enforcement between the local authority and police more consistent and fair” & “more police assistance to tackle fly-tipping” (both 58%) should be either an “essential” or “high” priority.

- **Should businesses have the facilities to recycle and be expected to reduce their waste and recycle as much of their waste as possible, in the same way as residents are asked to use their blue, green and brown bins?** 95% of people who took part replied that they **agreed** or strongly agreed with this.
- **Do you have other comments?** The most common themes in people's concluding comments were that we need better education for people about waste and its impact, the council should provide better information about what can be recycled and more extensive recycling options, and that manufacturers should take responsibility for disposing of packaging. Another comment was that we should focus on reducing and reusing waste, not only on recycling.

## About the people who took part

People who took part in the survey had the following characteristics:

- **Individual or organisation:** 95% of responses were from residents, with the remainder coming from local businesses, landlords and voluntary sector organisations (including the Newcastle Green Party and Plastic-Free Jesmond).
- **Ethnicity:** 81% described themselves as White British.
- **Sexual orientation:** 75% of those who gave their sexual orientation were heterosexual.
- **Gender:** Respondents were evenly split between male (47%) and female (48%), with 5% preferring not to describe their gender.
- **Employment status:** 45% were employed full-time.
- **Age:** The largest single percentage of people who took part were aged 56-65 (29%).
- **Location:** The ward with the highest number of respondents (of those who gave their postcode) was Parklands, with 15 out of 124 people who gave their location being resident here.