

1.0 Analysis of Q.2 Strategy Objective Literal Responses

1.1 Response Rates

Table 1. Responses Coded by Objective

	# Responses
1 - Objective 1:Changing behaviour	44
2 - Objective 2:Reduction first	28
3 - Objective 3:Segregation at source	59
4 - Objective 4:Compost hierarchy	16
5 - Objective 5:Residual waste as a resource	13
6 - Objective 6:Delivering the strategy	8
7 - Objective 7:Working in partnership	6
8 - Objective 8:Closing the resource loop	10
9 - Objective 9:Depollution of the waste stream	4
10 - other comments	18
Total - including others	206

1.2 Objective 1: Changing Behaviour

This section received the second highest number of comments reflecting the importance with which it is viewed by respondents. A number of comments reinforced the view that clearer communication about recycling schemes is important:

“I think education is probably the most important thing, and making people aware of just what they can do to deal with waste more effectively. Very often, people simply don't know!”

“Re. educating people on waste issues. I recycle using my kerbside box (Forest of Dean) however I am unsure whether envelopes can be put in it (due to the glue and plastic windows) and I am going to phone the council. Also I get muddled by the different days and frequency of collections for green bins, recycling box and household waste. Make it simpler please!”

“Clearer guidelines should be given about how to recycle to prevent corruption of large containers of carefully sorted recyclables through people simply not knowing for example that they shouldn't put tetrapaks in with their cardboard recyclables”.

“It should be a requirement that the Council Tax payers receive reports of achievements and success rates relative to targets, previous rates and other counties etc.”

Another theme that emerged clearly in the comments was the idea that business needs to play its part:

“Supermarkets should be compelled to provide recycling facilities for all packaging that they sell.”

“We really need to get business to do more. In most office there is not real facilities for recycling and it is not encouraged. I have seen in cafes very thing is just put into general rubbish plastic bottles, cardboard etc.”

“Manufacturers should be responsible for reducing the packaging they use or it should be bio-degradable!”

A number of respondents also felt that there should be some form of reward for those who make the effort to reduce their waste:

“There should be a reduction in Council Tax for those people who recycle. I usually only put my bin out once a fortnight because I recycle as much as I can. Some people don't seem to care at all so they should be penalised.”

“Rather than bringing in a strategy, that any additional household rubbish that goes out to the bin men, you have to pay for. Why don't the people who recycle (like myself & my family), get rewarded or some sort of credit for doing it. The more appealing recycling is to the public, then surely the more likely they are to want to do it more often. With this sort of strategy, will also limit the amount of rubbish that goes out to the bin men, & end up on landfill sites & pollute the atmosphere.”

1.3 Objective 2: Reduction First

Again in this section the need for business to play a part came out strongly. Packaging waste was the overriding concern to come through in the comments:

“The key thing is to tackle waste at source - i.e. packaging. If there was less, more environmentally packaging it would be the single biggest benefit to the environment.”

“Waste is in my opinion a crime, against humanity and the planet. I do all I can to reuse or recycle wherever possible, and I think that all packaging should be 100% recyclable... “

“The emphasis has to be on reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place principally in penalising excess packaging and reducing junk mail. Royal Mail are being rewarded for pushing ever increasing quantities of unaddressed mail through our letterboxes.”

"... but shops should be made to reduce packaging , judging from my neighbours wheelie bins."

"Clamp down on the businesses that produce waste packaging - the supermarkets. Almost all supermarket products have unnecessary packaging. No item requires more than one layer of packaging. Refuse planning permission for new or extended supermarkets unless they commit to all products having only one layer of packaging, that must be recyclable or reusable."

"Minimisation of waste occurring in the first place has got to be the highest priority. Also you should be working with the supermarkets in particular about using recyclable materials rather than non recyclable packaging and sourcing goods locally rather than importing food stuffs, the packaging for transport argument is significantly reduced. Also there seems to be excessive packaging on a lot of goods which could be reduced significantly."

"By far my greatest source of waste is excess packaging from suppliers. I suggest local and national government work hard to either reduce this or make arrangements for it to be recycled at point of purchase e.g. return the packaging to the supermarkets, or to the supplier if delivered. It is not the council's duty to impose, but to encourage."

1.4 Objective 3: Segregation at Source

This was the objective that attracted the most comment. If one message came through most forcefully from the consultation it is that residents want to be able to recycle plastic bottles and cardboard, both of which are high volume materials:

"Councils must provide kerbside cardboard and especially plastics recycling. This is by far the biggest waste item in most houses. Councils must also recycle all plastics not just the (profitable) bottles."

"...The majority of our waste is card & plastic (mostly milk cartons). Why have you back-tracked on collecting these from home?"

"Get more funds for kerbside recycling to be able to take cardboard, plastic, batteries & tin foil."

"Would be nice to be able to put plastic and cardboard out at doorstep collection, when!! Please."

"More needs to be collected kerb side. Cardboard, plastic bottles, food waste, etc."

"In Oxfordshire kerb side boxes take plastic, not just bottles but plastic wrappers. They collect old used batteries to recycle. All cardboard. Its terrible that you don't collect these. I have to go and drive around to recycle this stuff. If everyone has to do that it's again a waste of resources and energy."

There was also some comment in this section supporting restrictions on residual collection:

"I think if you put out more rubbish that a wheelie bin can hold then the householder should be charged extra, and the kerbside bins (made bigger) collected every week and normal bins collected every other week. Gloucestershire should recycle more. I put out the tin wrappers off small cakes but they always get left behind as does the foil from the turkey!!"

"I think that it would be good to reduce refuse collections to fortnightly to encourage recycling..."

"I feel you should limit all household to having no more than 1 rubbish bag a week collected."

Some respondents felt that different bins or collection systems would improve recycling rates:

"Have larger kerbside collection bins where you can put more items in (plastic bottles & card etc.)"

"More collections from peoples homes would increase the amount people recycle - people are generally lazy and either cant or wont go to recycling places."

"Home recycling needs to have better designed large bins with different compartments for various wastes. this is the way forward, as people will not save plastic bottles, for example, for a month and then drive five/ten miles to there "local" recycling centre or cart them all to Tesco etc. if we had these specially designed bins and collections I, as would most people, be recycling nearly, if not all, of my household waste."

1.5 Objective 4: Compost hierarchy

Respondents were generally supportive of home and community composting:

"I still think composting can, for the majority, be done in people's gardens - for flats in cities there should be compost collections to sites on the outskirts of cities allied to garden centres."

"Home Composting needs wider promotion. When all the effort seems to be behind reducing waste where is the sense in providing large wheelie bins for residents to fill with waste that largely was not entering the waste stream prior to green bins? What is the cost to the environment of collecting greenwaste - lorry miles? Does it make environmental sense?"

"We need more: ... Community composting/shredding."

"Community composting schemes should be encouraged (advice/funding)."

There was also some support for providing subsidised compost bins:

“The Council should offer low cost 'green cones' for household food waste...”

“I recently asked whether there were any plans for local councils to offer subsidies for compost bins such as the Green Johanna, this is a compost bin that allows people to dispose of all food wastes as well as green material. The bin is offered by a number of councils in the UK, therefore it must be available to our own councils in the area....”

“...Subsidy on home food composters for those who have gardens.”

“I am keen to compost as much as I can at home. I would like to use a 'Green Johanna' composter however its cost is prohibiting me. Can the council subsidise its cost at all?”

A number of respondents however also felt there should be kerbside collections of organic waste:

“Should have more recycling bins for garden waste.”

“I would like a green bin for recycling garden waste and cardboard. This system operates in parts of South Glos (e.g. Wickwar) where the green bin is collected once a fortnight. At the moment I compost what I can at home but have to take some garden waste and all cardboard to the tip which is inconvenient and wastes petrol.”

“All biodegradable waste should be collected separately and treated locally.”

“Green waste should be composted and sold to the public.”

1.6 Objective 5: Residual waste as a resource

Respondents generally felt that some form of treatment of residual waste was preferable to landfill.

“Yes I agree that treating left over rubbish is a good idea as long as the treatment itself is not hazardous to the environment.”

“I just believe that everything possible should be done to limit the amount of waste going to landfill,...”

“...And treating left over rubbish to get value from it is OK, as long as it's not difficult to do so. The real issues are not the general ones, in section 1, which most people will agree on, but the detailed practical, operational issues of "HOW do we recycle?"”

“Treating rubbish instead of burying it is most important....”

However there was no clear consensus regarding the preferred form of treatment. A number of comments supported incineration:

“And what's so wrong with burning? Apart from the NIMBY's argument, what's happening with the Sharpness furnace idea?”

“...An alternative must be found for Landfill. Incineration is the best option and has been done in countries such as Germany and Denmark for many years. The heat residue from the plant can be used for heating purposes.”

“We would like to see less landfill and more incineration in a controlled environment (i.e. heat exchange & minimal pollution) Especially disposable nappies etc.”

On the other hand a similar proportion expressed reservations about incineration:

“Of course we should do the above in Gloucestershire, but what do you exactly mean by 'treating leftover rubbish to get value out of it'?, this may well mean I am agreeing to incineration processes, which I am most definitely against.”

“I do not support incineration as a means of reducing left over rubbish as this produces vast amounts of CO2 which is 'locked up' in solid waste at the moment. There are other methods of treatment that reduce volume without burning it.”

“Thermal waste - generating gas to be burnt could be a good idea, but not direct burning of waste because burning releases toxins into the atmosphere. Toxins land on soil and are also ingested by people, and concentrations are very heavy in breast milk, particularly first time mothers (breast feeding is being encouraged by midwives as being best practice but it has a serious downside).”

1.7 Objective 6: Delivering the strategy

A couple of comments related to the fact that the strategy itself will amount to little unless it is put into practice:

“All of the above are very worthy statements and it would be virtually impossible to disagree with them. The devil is in the detail.”

“Its all well and good making the above statements putting it into practice is a whole new ball game as you seem to be some 20 years behind Germany in doing this.”

Other comments put forward the view that the Council should take a proactive approach and lead the way:

“As a local government leader, Gloucestershire Council should pride itself on developing leading principles in waste 'resource' management and recovery. Used materials are no longer seen as waste. They are, or should be viewed as a resource that can be used to develop new products, markets and benefit the environment. The council has a social, environmental and political

responsibility to provide services that encourage the use of used materials as a resource...

"Use Government recycling Target as a minimum value aim to exceed this as much as possible."

1.8 Objective 7: Working in partnership

Comments here related to a perception of a lack of a common approach between Gloucestershire Local Authorities:

"The strategy is great - a shame each district council has a different approach."

"All districts should adopt the same policies as some areas don't take stuff that others do."

"The council should provide a service that recycles everything that can possibly be recycled regardless of whereabouts in the county you live! why do people in one part of the county get cardboard or plastic collected with their recycling but not other parts-it's appalling and the confusion deters people when you should be helping people to recycle as much as possible!"

"...Councils should learn from each other, if one council can collect certain things why not to find out how they do it and make it possible for people to recycle almost everything."

1.9 Objective 8: Closing the resource loop

The most common concern voiced in relation to this objective was the issue of the location of processing facilities and the impact of transport:

"Transportation of collected waste across distances must be taken into account when considering best waste management strategy. Burning up diesel fuel in trucks used to carry waste for many miles clearly produces emissions that may be counter-productive to the goal of reducing greenhouse gases from landfill. The siting of waste treatment plants must be considerate of the local environment, as well as be near to the largest centres of waste generation in the County."

"Location and transportation must be considered when choosing where and what to recycle."

"Whenever collecting for recycling, composting etc concentrate processing plants as close as possible to population centres, thus avoiding thousands of unnecessary lorry miles and all the environmental issues that go with road transportation."

"Care needs to be taken to ensure that more resources are not used than are saved by recycling. i.e., cost of transportation against burial of waste."

“Facilitate the treatment/dealing of waste at a local (parish) level.”

1.10 Objective 9: Depollution of the waste stream

Only four comments were received in relation to this objective covering a range of responses:

“If a house uses just ten low energy bulbs, they have enough mercury to pollute 3,000 litres of water, why do you not mention this on the site. Fluorescent light, by nature of mercury evaporation, gracefully degrades the lighting efficiency over time, you do not mention this. A normal filament lamp produces efficient light, and provides a source of heating effectively at a constant rate during its life, and produces no attributable toxins when extinguished.”

“Where do we put spent batteries, and broken computer peripherals? I'm sure I should not put a scanner and a broadband modem just in the dustbin. Make it easier for people to find out these things.”

“Safe recycling of computer equipment and peripherals to third world countries i.e. advice on or access to securely deleting hard disks. Possibility of safely retrieving component parts of old computers, electrical equipment etc to be re-used - extract precious metals - re-use plastics, metal etc...”

“Please can we start 'recycling' domestic household batteries. Also other chemicals like old paintpots & brushes in fact anything that shouldn't go in landfill.”

1.11 - Other comments

A number of respondents were opposed to the idea of Gloucestershire accepting waste from outside the County:

““Managing Waste” has become a major problem for individual households-we need the encouragement of the authorities but are discouraged by apparent facts that rubbish is actually “imported” into Hempsted from outside the County!”

“Why do we have to take waste from Bristol - apart from the money involved -if our landfill site is getting full?”

“Stop taking waste from outside the area, i.e. Bristol.”

“There is no point in the people of Gloucestershire recycling waste if Gloucester council are disposing of rubbish generated by Bristol City Council, which we see being brought here frequently.”

Several respondents also made the comment that Commercial waste should be considered as well as household waste:

“One thought I had is about the fact that business waste cannot be taken to the local tip for recycling. I think a good idea would be to

provide a scheme whereby local companies could pay for a authorisation card (like a credit card) which entitles them to take certain waste i.e. cardboard to the tip, on entering the tip this card could be checked by the caps there and if it is in date the waste could be left. This way we would be utilizing the existing infrastructure and the waste is already sorted.”

“Reduce the charges for local tips (mainly commercial vehicles I think). Present charges encourage fly-tipping.”

“The amount of waste that can be recycled from packaging - e.g. shops and empty bottles that are disposed of from pubs REALLY needs to be tackled. It is all well and good recycling domestic waste, but the kerbside collection of glass for example from pubs & other licensed premises SHOULD be recycled in the same way - surely it cannot be that difficult to do????????”

One respondent made the comment that wheeled bins create negative street scene impacts:

“Whilst agreeing with the objectives, care must be taken to minimise any impact on the residential areas. In particular, enforced use of wheeled bins MUST be resisted as these just get left at the front of many houses (every terraced house !) and are just an eyesore. Additionally, despite what some experts are saying, any food waste MUST be collected weekly otherwise you will have lost the support of the house owners from the start.”

Finally, a respondent noted that we need to be thinking about these issues in the wider sustainability context:

“Forgive me if this is included in your strategy - George Monbiot made the point eloquently - everyone needs to think like a member of a community, not as a consumer, which is in opposition to so many political aims - silly things like economic growth. I train my children to think hard about their 'footprint' on their world, and that everything they do has consequences. Again, politically this is unpalatable. The consumer society is unsustainable.”