



**NAWDO press release: Delay to the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging.**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

[Start]

NAWDO is disappointed by the delay to extended [producer responsibility (EPR)] that the government has announced today. EPR is a vital component of the wider reforms of the waste and resources sector that were set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy, and this delay throws further doubt on how and if those reforms will be taken forward.

This is particularly true for the Consistency agenda, on which there has been no government response to the second consultation that closed more than two years ago. Local authorities face increasing financial pressures from the disjointed approach that has been taken to policy delivery from different government departments and need to see this approach changed.

Today's decision does nothing to provide local authorities with the certainty required in relation to future funding arrangements and system requirements to make the right investment decisions. This uncertainty will have a similar impact on the rest of the supply chain that are expected to provide the vehicles, containers, treatment capacity and other resources needed to deliver the necessary system change.

NAWDO urges the government to not delay any further the release of the Consistency consultation response despite this delay to EPR, so that local authorities can get on with planning for future service changes before the expiring of contracts and fleets forces short term decisions to be made. This will only lead to a delay in residents receiving the improved services they deserve and the sector's ability to contribute to achieving net zero targets.

NAWDO Chair, Sam Horne, stated 'local authorities stand ready to implement the Collections and Packaging Reforms but can only do so with the right legislative and financial levers in place. We are keen to work with DEFRA to ensure that implementation is done as quickly as is practicably possible and ensure the right environmental and social outcomes are achieved.'

[End]



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WASTE DISPOSAL OFFICERS

**About us:**

*NAWDO, the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers, is the primary network and voice for local authorities with statutory responsibility for waste treatment and disposal. NAWDO was formed in 1992 and its members include London Boroughs, Metropolitan, Unitary, Joint Waste Disposal Authorities, Waste Partnerships and County Councils from all UK regions (except Scotland) to keep up to date with the fast-changing waste and resources industry. Through NAWDO local authorities are provided with presentation on regional, national, international and strategic forums and groups to inform, influence and collaborate with key stakeholders and policy makers. NAWDO is entirely run by volunteers and through its Policy and Advisory (P&A) Committee it sets the direction of the organisation with member engagement. With over 80 members NAWDO represents around 80% of all local authorities with waste disposal duties in the UK. NAWDO holds quarterly meetings where its members, central government, regulators, waste industry and other affiliated groups discuss and debate challenges and current developments in the waste and resources industry, helping shape and influence (future) decisions and policy. It also provides an online forum where members can openly discuss and debate current and relevant issues facing senior officers with waste treatment and disposal portfolios.*

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