**Deposit Return Scheme**

This will be coming into effect in Scotland 16th August 2023.

All plastic and glass bottles and cans will now be bought but you will have to pay a 20p deposit.

This deposit is refunded when you return the bottle/can to a retailer or an electronic vending machine.

For Newcastleton I can foresee a number of issues, and having spoken to the Costco who advise they would struggle to store any returns, then there will need to be further input from SBC.

If it becomes hard to return these then this just becomes an added tax on the rural community especially if the shops are unable to accept them or the nearest vending machine is in an area of population such as Hawick and will require additional travelling time for residents.

There are a number of councils, Fife being one, in Scotland who are looking to stop kerbside collection of recyclables as they are currently able to make some money from recycling these materials. When the DRS occurs and these cans, bottles are no longer in the recycling bin then this becomes an additional cost and when councils are looking at cost savings this again will impact rural communities like ourselves.

I would like to understand from SBC what impact this new regulation will have on rural communities such as Newcastleton.