

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT****2015/16 WASTE REDUCTION, RE-USE, RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING
PLAN****Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval to the County Council's Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan for 2015/16.

Information and AdviceBackground

1. The County Council through its statutory role as Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) controls the recycling, reprocessing, treatment and disposal of around 400,000 tonnes of waste per annum. The majority of this waste is managed through a long-term PFI contract with Veolia as amended by Veolia's Revised Project Plan (RPP) on 24th February 2015.
2. The Council also has a long term contract (joint with Nottingham City Council) with FCC (Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas, formerly known as Waste Recycling Group or "WRG") for the use of lines 1 and 2 at Eastcroft Energy from Waste (EfW) plant to dispose of circa 60,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum. All of these contracts operate together, at an annual cost of ~£32m.
3. The seven Nottinghamshire district and borough councils are Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) and are responsible for collecting the waste produced by the householders of Nottinghamshire and delivering it to a delivery point as directed by Nottinghamshire County Council, as WDA, for subsequent recycling, composting, treatment or disposal.
4. Nottinghamshire's spend is the 4th lowest spend per head of population of the 25 authorities in our CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) family group, see Figure 1.

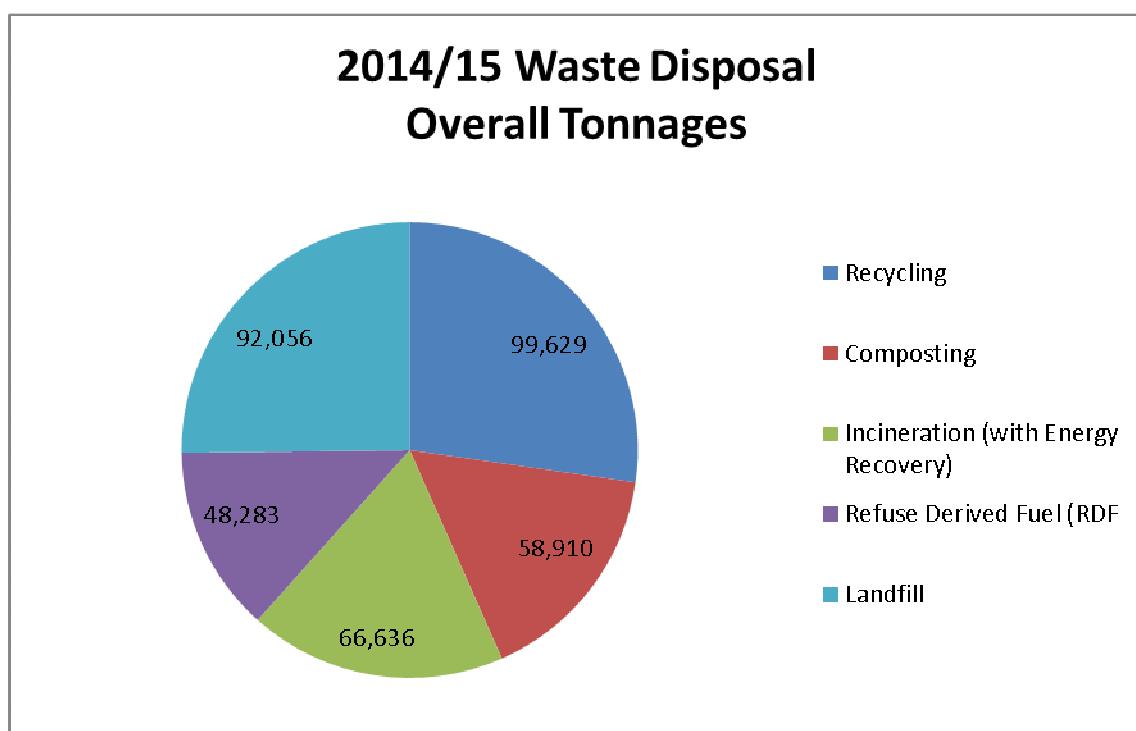
Figure 1

Rank	Waste Disposal Authority	Total Waste Expenditure per head	Rank	Waste Disposal Authority	Total Waste Expenditure per head
1	Staffordshire	26.05	14	Kent	45.32
2	Lincolnshire	27.90	15	Cambridgeshire	46.13
3	Hampshire	30.61	16	Essex	46.55
4	Nottinghamshire	31.34	17	Derbyshire	46.67
5	Warwickshire	35.10	18	Suffolk	47.28
6	Northamptonshire	36.03	19	Norfolk	48.38
7	Oxfordshire	36.08	20	Surrey	48.47
8	Hertfordshire	37.44	21	Worcestershire	51.23
9	Buckinghamshire	37.76	22	East Sussex	52.54
10	Gloucestershire	40.78	23	Lancashire	60.00
11	Leicestershire	41.30	24	Cumbria	66.09
12	North Yorkshire	43.30	25	West Sussex	69.45
13	Devon	43.99			

source: CIPFA Statistics 2013-14
Actuals

5. The Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan (Appendix 1) focusses on household waste, which excludes 31,000 tonnes of non-household waste, consisting of inert materials collected at the Recycling Centres and trade waste collected by the district councils. A breakdown of household waste disposal methods in 2014/15 is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2



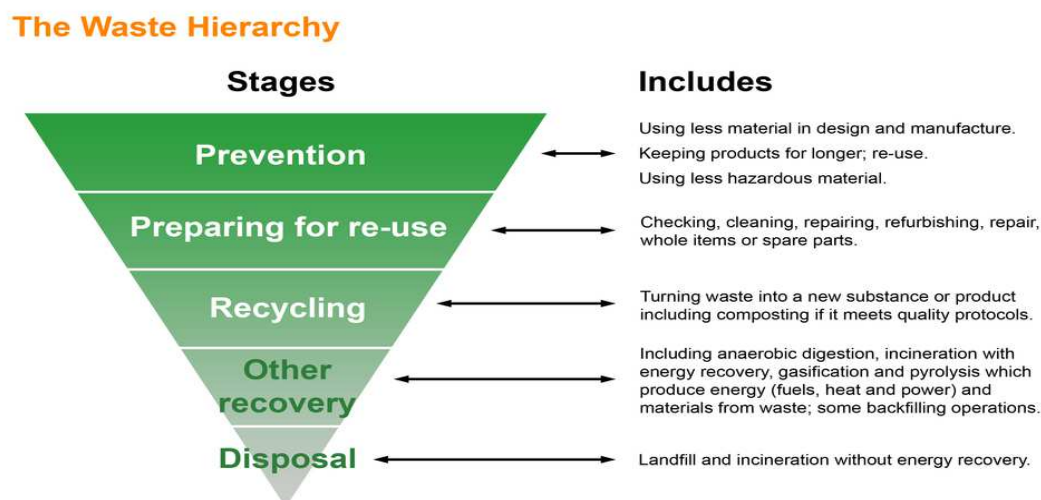
6. Recycling performance has plateaued at both local and national level in recent years and current performance in Nottinghamshire is 43%. 43% is below the national average for county councils, although performance on landfill diversion (which includes incineration with energy recovery) is above average.
7. Recycling performance in Nottinghamshire comprises County Council performance at the Recycling Centres and district council performance through their recycling and composting collections. District recycling performance varies between 21% and 51% and is detailed in Figure 3.

Figure 3

Recycling / Composting Rate	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nottinghamshire Overall	43.4%	42.8%	42.7%	43.2%	43%
Ashfield DC	34%	34%	34%	33%	34%
Bassetlaw DC	23%	23%	22%	21%	21%
Broxtowe BC	43%	42%	41%	40%	40%
Gedling BC	37%	37%	36%	37%	37%
Mansfield DC	41%	39%	36%	38%	36%
Newark & Sherwood DC	26%	26%	24%	26%	28%
Rushcliffe BC	54%	51%	51%	51%	51%
Recycling Centres	72%	75%	80%	80%	79%

8. Moving waste up the hierarchy from disposal, to recovery, recycling (including composting), reuse and prevention requires partnership working with the WCA. It potentially delivers incremental financial savings, alongside environmental benefits; therefore it is both fiscally and environmentally sound to seek to reduce the amount of waste produced in the County and ensure the waste produced is treated as effectively as possible. The waste hierarchy is set out in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4



Recycling and Composting Plan

9. Under the EU Waste Framework Directive, there is a statutory target for the United Kingdom to recycle/compost at least 50% of household waste by 2020. The Government is committed to meeting the EU target, but based on current local authority rates there is concern that the target will be missed. This will be a challenge for the new Government. At this stage, no proposals have been made for responding to this, however, the County Council has made representations to Defra that statutory performance targets are needed to drive improvements, and these will need to include both WCA and WDA in two-tier areas in order to bring about the required service changes. The County Council also has a 52% recycling/composting target by 2020 in the Waste PFI Contract.
10. On 24th February 2015, as part of Defra's approval for the RPP Contract amendments, Defra introduced a condition for the Council to develop an annual recycling and composting plan, which details how the Council will make year on year progress to achieve the 52% recycling/composting target by 2020, as set out in the Final Business Case dated 11th May 2006.
11. To fulfil this requirement, the Waste and Energy Management Group has developed the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2015/16, which is included as Appendix 1 for approval. This goes beyond the basic recycling and composting plan required by Defra in order to ensure a holistic approach to waste management across the County.

12. In 2014/15 the County Council's recycling rate was 43.37%¹ which falls significantly below the level that is likely to be required to meet the 52% by 2020 target in the PFI Contract. It is therefore imperative that a well formulated recycling and composting plan is developed to help achieve this ambitious target.
13. The plan initially focusses on measures to increase recycling performance in 2015/16, because the Council is required to submit an annual plan to Defra, however it also identifies the current shortfall on achieving the County's 2019/20 recycling/composting target of 52%, including suggested district recycling performance levels to collectively achieve the target. Challenges and barriers to achieving this are also highlighted within the plan.
14. Whilst this plan is primarily concerned with recycling and composting it has considered all stages of the waste hierarchy as the Council strives to move waste up the hierarchy, and away from landfill.
15. The Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2015/16 will be a public document and as such will be published on the Council's website. The plan will be developed over time, with annual reviews of previous year's measures and new measures identified for the following year, up until 2019/20.

Increasing Recycling Performance

16. Increasing recycling performance across the county will require a collaborative approach between the County Council and district councils, to identify and deliver service changes. This will require both capital and revenue investment in order to deliver changes to the collection/disposal arrangements, which will be difficult in the current financial climate. However, moving waste up the hierarchy, away from landfill, will deliver savings in disposal costs, which could be used to offset the investment required.
17. In 2015/16 the Plan identifies a number of measures to increase recycling performance to an estimated 44%, including:
- growth of existing chargeable kerbside green waste collections;
 - the introduction of chargeable kerbside green waste collections in Bassetlaw; and
 - increasing the quantity and quality of recyclable material captured at the Mansfield Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) through communications campaigns and widening the specification of materials accepted.

¹ 2014/15 is not final.

18. The above will be supported by a range of activities including education campaigns and feasibility studies to consider other measures for 2016/17 and beyond.
19. Each WCA has its own distinct demographic make-up and challenges with regards to achieving increased recycling rates. Figure 5 has been used to identify the current shortfall in recycling tonnage and suggested district recycling performance levels to collectively achieve an overall recycling rate of 52% by 2020. There is limited scope to improve the performance of the Recycling Centres, which are already exceeding the PFI Contract target; however Veolia continue to look for new opportunities.

Figure 5

District	2014/15 Recycling Rate	Suggested Performance Level	Recycling Tonnage Required	Shortfall Tonnage
Ashfield	34%	45%	20,521	-4,847
Bassetlaw	21%	40%	16,331	-7,630
Broxtowe	40%	45%	17,694	-1,962
Gedling	37%	45%	19,563	-3,456
Mansfield	36%	45%	19,231	-4,046
Newark and Sherwood	28%	40%	17,280	-5,041
Rushcliffe	51%	55%	24,069	-1,763
All Recycling Centres	79%	80%	53,332	-734
TOTAL	43.37%	52%	188,020	-29,478

20. The County Council consulted the district councils through the Joint Waste Management Committee and have fed relevant comments into the plan and is now looking forward to working innovatively with them to improve performance and deliver a wider range of recycling opportunities for residents.

Other Options Considered

21. As part of Defra's approval for the RPP Contract amendments, Defra introduced a condition for the Council to develop an annual recycling and composting plan. There are other options which could have been included in the plan which would improve recycling performance however these initiatives are currently not being

considered as they are not deemed economically viable at this time (e.g. food waste).

Reasons for Recommendations

22. Defra require the County Council to develop an annual recycling and composting plan, which details how the Council will make year on year progress to achieve the 52% recycling/composting target by 2020.
23. The Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan fulfils this requirement and sets out actions to help achieve the United Kingdom target of recycling/composting at least 50% of household waste by 2020, and the PFI contract target of recycling/composting 52% of household waste in Nottinghamshire by 2020.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

25. Whilst there are no financial implications as a direct result of the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2015/16, some of the actions identified in the plan will require investment. Some of this investment can be offset through savings achieved in disposal costs as waste is moved up the waste hierarchy. Each action will need to be costed and appraised before a decision to implement it is made. These decisions are outside of the scope of this report, and will feed into the Council's annual budget setting process as appropriate.

Legal Implications

26. The actions contained within the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2015/16 will contribute to the EU Waste Framework Directive target of recycling/composting 50% of household waste in Nottinghamshire by 2020.

Implications for Service Users

27. Whilst there are no implications for service users as a direct result of the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2015/16, the actions within the plan should contribute to improved waste and recycling services.

Recommendation

28. That Committee:

- I. Approve the County Council's Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan for 2015/16.

Jas Hundal

Service Director, Transport, Property and Environment

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Mick Allen, Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

Constitutional Comments (HD 21/05/2015)

The recommendation falls within the delegation to Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Financial Comments (TMR 21/05/2015)

There are no immediate financial implications as a result of this report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Divisions

All