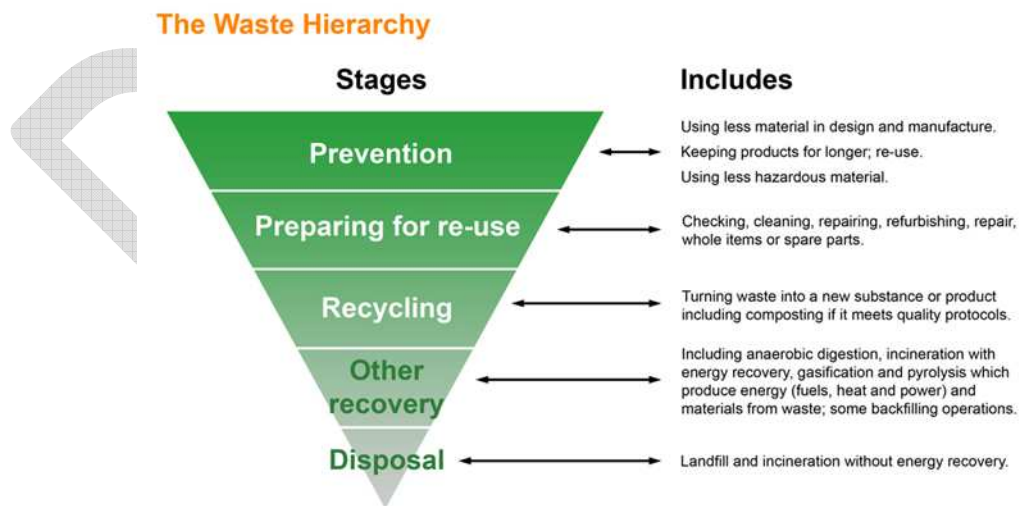


**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
WASTE REDUCTION, RE-USE, RECYCLING  
AND COMPOSTING PLAN  
2016/17**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 2016/17 Nottinghamshire County Council Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan is the second annual plan following the 2015/16 version, which was published in September 2015. The plan continues to set out the Council's approach to achieving the PFI contract target of recycling and composting 52% of household waste by 2020 alongside achieving an overall tonnage reduction. This target aligns with the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020 and the proposed target of recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2030.
- 1.2. A subsidiary document will be published during the autumn of 2016 when the performance data is available which will analyse the success and impact of the 2015/16 plan. This plan will primarily focus on the major actions and investments that are likely to take place during 2016/17 and their expected impact alongside a summary of other smaller scale, regular actions.
- 1.3. Emphasis will be placed on close partnership working with the district and borough councils who make up the Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) with the County who represent the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). By focussing on major actions that provide a benefit to both the WCA and WDA there should be significant buy in and a greater chance of success.
- 1.4. The Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan for 2015/16 will have actions grouped in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy as shown below.

Figure 1 – Waste Hierarchy



- 1.5. Whilst this plan is primarily concerned with recycling and composting it is important to consider all stages of the waste hierarchy in order to look at how the recycling and composting elements fit within the whole of waste management. Each stage will be looked at in detail and will highlight what plans Nottinghamshire County Council have for each element.

## **2. Current Status of Recycling in Nottinghamshire**

- 2.1. All 7 WCA currently collect mixed dry recyclables including paper, card, tins, cans, plastic bottles as well as yoghurt pots and margarine tubs. These materials are taken directly to the PFI Contract Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Mansfield where they are sorted and separated through a variety of methods and processes then baled and sent for recycling.
- 2.2. Within the PFI contract there are a number of targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which includes a progressive increase in recycling and composting rates across the life of the contract. An ambitious target of achieving 52% of Household Waste being recycled by 2020 was set to align with the European Commission's Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020.
- 2.3. Recycling rates in Nottinghamshire have plateaued in recent years, as they have nationally, further emphasising the need for a well formulated strategy. The recycling rate for Nottinghamshire in 2015/16 will be published in the subsidiary document during autumn 2016 when tonnage figures for all elements of household waste have been finalised.
- 2.4. Each WCA has its own distinct demographic make-up and challenges with regards to achieving increased recycling rates. As with the County and national picture, recycling rates in all the districts have remained pretty constant over the last 5 years and in several cases have even seen a slight fall.
- 2.5. Alongside the collection of recyclable materials highlighted above, several WCA offer additional kerbside collection services including garden waste and glass collections. Whilst only 3 districts undertake kerbside collections of glass it should be noted that several others collect significant tonnages through their network of 'Bring Banks.' Garden waste collections are undertaken by 6 of the 7 WCA with Bassetlaw in discussions with the County Council over how to implement a scheme of their own.
- 2.6. Within the County there are currently 12 recycling centres that accept household waste from Nottinghamshire residents. In 2014/15 approximately 86,000 tonnes of waste (including inert materials) was collected at the County's recycling centres, and of this around 80% was recycled. The recycling centres consistently send high levels of household waste for recycling and it is expected that these high levels will be maintained on the release of the 2015/16 figures in autumn 2016.
- 2.7. The recycling centres accept a wide range of materials including standard dry recyclables collected at the kerbside such as paper, card, tins etc. but also other materials and items such as metals, electrical goods, garden waste, wood, engine oil and car batteries. 4 of the sites (Beeston, Calverton, Newark and Warsop) also accept paint which, where it is suitable for re-use, is made available free of charge to members of the public at designated paint nights and to charities, community groups and other organisations by appointment.

throughout the year. In 2014/15 15,315 litres of paint were redistributed to members of the public and various groups and organisations.

### **3. Key Actions and Investments for 2016/17**

- 3.1. A number of key actions and investments will form the basis to the 2016/17 plan. These will be defined as those that are likely to have the biggest impact be this on the recycling rate, reductions in overall tonnage or significant waste disposal cost reductions.

#### Ashfield Green Waste Incentive

- 3.2. Ashfield District Council will be implementing a green waste incentive scheme from April 2016 across the district. This will involve giving all Ashfield households a free garden waste collection for 2 years with a view to diverting garden waste out of the residual waste stream in order to increase recycling rates and decrease waste disposal costs for the County Council. To complement this and maximise the effectiveness of the scheme residents will receive a new, smaller residual bin with the old larger ones being repurposed and utilised for garden waste. The added restriction of less residual capacity should help residents consider carefully what waste goes into what bin and is expected to have the added benefit of diverting dry recyclables out of the residual stream as well as garden waste.
- 3.3. The invest to save project is being funded in the first 2 years by the County Council who will cover the purchase of the new residual bins alongside covering the revenue costs associated with starting up and running the project during 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- 3.4. Ashfield District Council will reintroduce the garden waste collection charge from April 2018 where it is hoped that a significant number of new households will retain the service leading to a sustainable increase in recycling rates and ongoing savings through disposal.
- 3.5. The project is expected to have significant impacts upon the recycling rate of Ashfield and the County as a whole. Based on the modelling of diverted green waste and dry recyclables, additional green waste and reductions in residual waste it is predicted that the long-term Ashfield recycling rate would increase by around 11% with a potential further 3% during the free garden waste collection period. The expected impact upon the overall recycling rate for the County is an increase of 1.8% during the free collection period and 1.4% beyond that. Whilst various assumptions have been made these are considered to be conservative.
- 3.6. The project is fully supported by the leaders, executive members and chief executives of both the County Council and Ashfield District Council and represents close partnership working that offers significant benefits for both parties.
- 3.7. The project also offers the opportunity to implement a similar model to other district councils that might be interested and discussions will continue with those parties that wish to further consider a similar project.

<b>Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Increase by 1.8%</b>
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Newark and Sherwood Garden Waste Scheme Expansion

- 3.8. Several areas of the Newark and Sherwood district already have a paid for garden waste collection. These collections are undertaken by Newark and Sherwood District Council, Mansfield District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council who also administer the scheme. Many areas of the district, particularly the more rural parts, don't currently have a garden waste collection service.
- 3.9. From April 2016 Newark and Sherwood District Council will be expanding the service to be made available to those parts of the district not previously covered. Letters have been sent out by the District Council informing residents of this expansion and how to join the scheme. This expansion will continue to be administered by Rushcliffe Borough Council.
- 3.10. Nottinghamshire County Council is supporting the expansion and will benefit from savings via disposal costs. It is important that this expansion works for both the District and County Council's in order to help drive up the recycling rate for the District and County alike.

<b>Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Increase by &lt;0.5%</b>
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Restricting Recycling Access to Nottinghamshire Residents Only

- 3.11. Due to the proximity of many of the County's Recycling Centres to the borders of neighbouring authorities, a significant number of users of the County Council's RC's are out of county users. This additional waste drives up the figures of waste per head for the County as well as a big increase in disposal costs. In 2014/15 around 85,000 tonnes of waste was deposited at the County's Recycling Centres so cutting out of county users should have a significant impact on overall tonnages and therefore associated disposal costs as well as improving waiting times for Nottinghamshire residents.
- 3.12. The County's Full Council approved the implementation of a scheme to restrict access to non-Nottinghamshire residents back in 2014 as part of the budget savings. A number of solutions were considered including the expansion of the existing permit scheme that exists for vans, pick-ups and cars with trailers which was implemented in 2009. It was decided however that a digital solution that doesn't require the production of a physical permit would be preferable.
- 3.13. The solution settled on will involve Nottinghamshire residents who wish to use any of the County's 12 Recycling Centres to register on the new County Council's 'Self Portal' from which they will be able to access a number of services. In order to access the sites an address validation check will be run to return a confidence rating of how likely it is that an individual lives at the address they register with. The process is instant and once passed allows the resident to register their vehicles using their registration number. Site staff with

the help of the County Council's Environmental Officers will then be able to check vehicles against the database by inputting registration numbers into handheld devices. In the initial stages of the scheme individuals will not be turned away but will be provided with information about how to register.

- 3.14. After an initial grace period, any vehicle that is checked and found not to be registered despite having previously been given information on how to do so, will be notified to the County Council, or in the case of out of county users, advised to use their own local authorities sites.

**Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Negligible but with significant financial savings and reductions in overall tonnage.**

Changes to the Disposal of Inert Materials

- 3.15. Inert materials and plasterboard are not considered household waste and there is no legal obligation for the County Council to accept these materials. Despite this the County is working on a solution to ensure these materials can still be deposited through a combination of the Recycling Centre network and a number of the Waste Transfer Stations within the County. A modest charging structure is likely to be implemented that will be based on vehicle types, this will ensure that a proportion of the disposal cost of these materials are covered allowing for their continued collection.

**Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Negligible but with significant financial savings and reductions in overall tonnage.**

- 3.16. A summary of the major actions and investments can be found in figure 2. on page 14 of this plan.

#### 4. Prevention

- 4.1. These measures are taken before substance, material or product becomes waste ensuring there is less waste in the first instance. A number of actions and investments aimed at waste prevention that covered in the 2015/16 plan will continue through 2016/17.

##### Home Composting

- 4.2. Home Composting continues to be encouraged through the sale of discounted home composting bins as part of the National Framework Agreement with Straight Ltd. In addition to this home composting continues to be promoted through local media such as parish council newsletters and where possible, taking opportunities to promote through district councils. Home composting advice is also provided at public events including the County Show in Newark which is attended by around 50,000 people.

##### Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW)

- 4.3. Love Food Hate Waste forms a key element of waste prevention and is promoted at various events, particularly the Robin Hood Festival where it is hoped a stand will once again be secured in partnership with Veolia. The previous year proved to be successful and the display and activities will be honed for 2016 to ensure even more people are effectively engaged. The LFHW cook book and recipe cards will continue to be handed out at events, and alongside this, signposting to the LFHW website from the Council waste and recycling webpages will continue.
- 4.4. 2015 saw a successful trial of the 'Cookery Club' which engaged with 6 families at Oaktree Primary School in Mansfield. The families took part in food waste reduction workshops over a 4 week period. Various recipes and techniques were explored that would help them reduce their food waste. This successful trial will be expanded in 2016 and will engage with more families in schools across Nottinghamshire.

##### Communications and Signposting

- 4.5. Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to promote a variety of campaigns and services that aim to reduce waste including the Real Nappies Campaign and the Mailing Preference Service. 'Email me' is the County Council's email service that can be tailored by individuals to provide the information they're interested in. The Waste and Recycling service has continued to grow its numbers since it started in April 2014 with current subscribers numbers standing at 6,918 (January 2016). 'emailme' continues to be promoted through a variety of ways including signs at RC, bus shelter adverts and lamp post banners as well as promotional campaign materials.

<b>Estimated Impact of actions on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Increase by &lt;0.1%</b>
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4.6. A summary of the actions and investments in relation to prevention of waste can be found in figure 2. on page 14 of this plan.

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## 5. Preparing for Reuse

- 5.1. These measures involve checking, cleaning or repairing components or products that have become waste so that they can be used without any other type of processing. Products and/or components salvaged in this way are thus removed from entering landfill or being disposed of in other ways.
- 5.2. There are 4 recycling centres in Nottinghamshire (Beeston, Calverton, Newark and Warsop) that offer a Community RePaint, paint reuse scheme whereby Nottinghamshire residents can deposit unused paint. The paint is then assessed for usability and sorted by type and colour with the paint being unsuitable for reuse being sent for treatment in the appropriate manner. The reusable paint is then made available to members of the public at specific public open days and to community groups and charities by appointment, free of charge.
- 5.3. Follow up will be done with community groups who have accessed the service to highlight how the free paint has made a difference and allow for case studies to be developed.
- 5.4. The Furniture Reuse Network indicates that each year around 10 million items of furniture are thrown away and that 3 million of these could easily be reused. There are a number of furniture reuse schemes within the county and these will be promoted via the Council website as well as signposting to any relevant district council sites.

<b>Estimated Impact of actions on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Increase by &lt;0.1%</b>
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- 5.5. A summary of the actions and investments in relation to re-use of waste can be found in figure 2. on page 14 of this plan.

## **6. Recycling**

- 6.1. This represents any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. Recycling and composting activities will compile the majority of this action plan in order to move towards the 52% target by 2020.

### Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and Communications Campaigns

- 6.2. The MRF in Mansfield processes around 52,000 tonnes of recyclable waste a year as part of the PFI contract and ensures good quality materials are sorted, baled and sent for recycling. In order to ensure that high quality recyclables are produced as part of the process it is not only necessary to collect as much dry recycling as possible but to also ensure that the correct materials are being input in the first place. Loads that enter the MRF that contain materials that shouldn't be included are considered to be contaminated, a certain level of contamination is to be expected but in recent months there has been a rise in the levels of contamination.
- 6.3. In order to ensure higher capture rates of dry recyclables and ensure as low a level of contamination as possible the County Council and Veolia will continue to undertake communications campaigns and sampling. The 'Are you Bin Smart' campaign will continue to run and associated materials will be disseminated through a variety of channels including Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education, events, through district councils and targeted mailing.
- 6.4. To further support the drive towards increasing the amount of dry recyclables collected and to reduce the levels of contamination Veolia are running a sampling project in the Mansfield District. Sampling commenced on both recycling and residual loads from the Forest Town and Bull Farm areas in October 2015. This will continue throughout 2016/17 alongside specific and targeted marketing materials in order to get the message across to residents of these areas. Each marketing technique will be done in isolation to see what, if any, impact it has on the levels of contamination in the dry recycling and the amounts of dry recyclables found in the residual loads that could have otherwise been recycled.

### Business Cases and Feasibility Studies

- 6.5. The County Council will continue to look at how capture rates can be maximised through new initiatives and partnership working with the district councils. Glass remains a material that is found in relatively large amounts in the residual waste stream and a feasibility study will be done to see what could help improve the capture rates of this.
- 6.6. Consideration will continue to be given to other schemes and collections should there be a feasible business case in particular for the garden waste collection schemes. Food waste collections will not be ruled out but there is currently no compelling business case due to

the costs surrounding collection and disposal along with the lack of suitable sites for disposal.

#### Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education

6.7. Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education was launched in autumn 2015 aiming to continue engagement with groups, both children and adults throughout 2016/17. Schools that have not previously been engaged will be targeted and where possible will be encouraged to visit the MRF and have direct involvement with the Schools Waste Action Club Officer.

6.8. A new lesson plan is being developed to focus more on the recycling message with a view of encouraging children and their families to make sure they're recycling everything they can at home and to help focus on reducing the levels of contamination within the recycling waste stream. This helps tie in the Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education aims with the overall business objectives of the County Council's Waste Management Team.

6.9. The Konflux Theatre Company will again be employed to deliver a recycling message to schools through an education through drama workshop on recycling. The children will learn a play that will then be delivered to the rest of the school to spread the recycling message.

6.10. The County will continue to look for ways to work in partnership with the districts around education, promoting MRF visits, school engagement and work with local groups for various ages.

<b>Estimated Impact of actions on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Increase by &lt;0.5%</b>
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6.11. A summary of the actions and investments in relation to recycling of waste can be found in figure 2. on page 14 of this plan.

## **7. Other Recovery**

- 7.1. Whilst the main focus of this strategy document is to increase the recycling rate, it is still important to consider how waste that isn't being reused or recycled can still be moved up the waste hierarchy.
- 7.2. The Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) at Newark and Worksop are now fully operational allowing the residual waste for Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw to be deposited close to the point of collection before being moved on for further treatment at the Sheffield Energy Recovery Facility (ERF). This ensures that around 60,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum is diverted away from landfill.
- 7.3. Residual waste from the boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe will continue, subject to availability, to be sent to the Eastcroft Energy from Waste facility in Nottingham. This agreement allows the facility to accept up to 68,000 tonnes of residual waste. Both the Eastcroft and Sheffield facilities provide heat as part of district heating schemes directly to homes and businesses within the vicinity.
- 7.4. The residual waste from the Mansfield and Ashfield districts currently goes to the Alfreton WTS where it is used to produce Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) through a shredding and sorting process. This agreement is a temporary measure until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Beyond this a longer term solution is being sought with a soft market test exercise being undertaken to consider the available options.

## **8. Disposal**

8.1. Whilst every effort is being made to ensure as much waste as possible is reused, recycled and recovered it is currently inevitable that a certain proportion will still be disposed of without any recovery. Despite this the amount of waste being sent to landfill in Nottinghamshire has fallen dramatically due to the various energy recovery agreements and it is estimated that in 2015/16, less than 10% of household waste will have been sent to landfill, a fall from 29% in 2014/15. The sole remaining active landfill site in Nottinghamshire, Staples landfill, is predominantly used for the residual waste during periods of unavailability at the Eastcroft EfW facility. Veolia will also use their own out of county landfill sites for the small amounts of residual waste from the recycling centres.

## **9. Delivery**

- 9.1. In order to deliver an increase in recycling towards 52% by 2020 and at the same time make significant financial savings against a backdrop of tighter public sector budgets it is essential that innovative collaboration with district partners is undertaken. The Green Waste Incentive project with Ashfield District Council is a great example of this and promises to offer an improved service for residents whilst generating increased recycling alongside medium to long-term financial benefits.
- 9.2. The County Council will continue to look to work collaboratively with the district councils and Veolia to secure this improved performance and continues to engage with them through regular meetings through the Joint Waste Management Committee (JWMC) and Joint Officer Board (JOB) meetings. In addition to this Recycling Officer meetings remain another collaborative forum that can be utilised on an ad hoc basis to ensure better sharing of ideas and resources at an officer level and delivery of communications campaigns.

## 10. Impact on Performance

10.1. Figure 2 summarises the new and ongoing actions and investments and their expected impact on the County's recycling rate alongside any additional benefits. The success of these will be reviewed in autumn 2017 when the full figures for 2016/17 are finalised.

Figure 2 – Impact on Performance Summary

	Action/Investment	Expected Increase in Recycling Rate	Other Impacts
<b>Major Actions and Investments</b>	Ashfield Green Waste Initiative	1.8%	Significant financial savings over the life of the scheme.
	Expansion of Newark & Sherwood Garden Waste Scheme	<0.5%	Increased financial savings
	Restricting Recycling Centre Access to Nottinghamshire Residents Only	Negligible	Significant financial savings and improved access to recycling centres for Nottinghamshire residents
	Implementation of Charging Structure for Inert Materials	Negligible	Significant financial savings and cutting down of trade waste.
<b>Prevention</b>	Home Composting	<0.1%	Reduction in overall waste arisings. Financial savings through waste not collected.
	Love Food Hate Waste Actions		
	Communications and Signposting including emailme, Real Nappies Campaign and Mailing Preference Service.		
<b>Reuse</b>	Community Paint Reuse Scheme	<0.1%	Financial savings through waste not being sent for disposal.
	Furniture Reuse Scheme		
	Good Wood Programme		
<b>Recycle</b>	MRF and Communications Campaigns	<0.5%	Financial savings from waste diverted from residual to dry recycling and green waste.
	Business Cases and Feasibility Studies		
	Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education		
<b>Other</b>	Waste to District Heating Schemes	None	Reduction in waste going to landfill.
	Mansfield & Ashfield Waste to RDF		

## **11. Challenges and Pressures**

- 11.1. The aim of achieving the ambitious recycling target of 52% by 2020 comes against a backdrop of various pressures and challenges on both a local and national level.
- 11.2. There are currently no statutory targets set by the central UK government for recycling rates and whilst there is the overarching EU Waste Framework Directive target, this lack of direct targets could be contributing to the slowing down or plateauing of recycling rates. It is therefore imperative that a suitable strategy and approach is determined in order to best encourage both individuals and district and borough councils as a whole to work towards encouraging an increase in recycling. At this stage central government is considering how to address this challenge. The County Council has expressed a preference to statutory targets for all local authorities and not just WDA because in a two-tier area such as Nottinghamshire, engagement with WCA is critical to success.
- 11.3. The economic downturn in recent years has meant that there has been a lack of financial help in order to help achieve an increase in recycling. This has meant that it has been difficult to implement schemes that require significant infrastructure or revenue streams. Whilst the economic picture has improved in the last couple of years it is unlikely that major new funding streams will be made available. Once again this means that innovative approaches need to be implemented alongside positive partnership working within the WCA.
- 11.4. National and local political changes have the potential to impact on the success of any reduce, re-use, recycle and composting plan through the setting or removal of statutory targets or increases and decreases in national and local budgets. National changes could also lead to landfill bans on certain waste types and/or an increase in Landfill Tax.
- 11.5. Population increases and movements will also impact on the success of this plan. Sizeable population increases will likely lead to an increase in overall tonnage and significant population movement into an area could lead to a fall in recycling rates as new residents in the area may not be familiar with the recycling services on offer.



## **12. Summary of Key Actions and Priority Areas**

- 12.1. As discussed above, the approach to increasing the overall recycling rate for the County will focus around several key actions and investments whilst still maintaining ongoing initiatives and building on previous hard work. The changes to the green waste collections in Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood offer the biggest potential for increases in recycling rates as these services will now reach greater numbers allowing for greater capture of green waste whilst simultaneously achieving a reduction in residual waste through diverted compostable and recyclable waste and making residents think about what they put in their residual waste through reduced capacity.
- 12.2. Changes to the recycling centre services should provide significant financial savings which in turn protects other waste services and projects. This will be done whilst maintaining a high level of service for Nottinghamshire residents, and in the case of restricting access to the sites, may mean slightly improved waiting times and availability of site staff.
- 12.3. Driving home the Bin Smart message through various avenues will also be key to encouraging higher rates of recycling and reducing contamination. This message will be delivered through the Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education umbrella as well as at events and through targeted engagement such as the trials in Mansfield.