

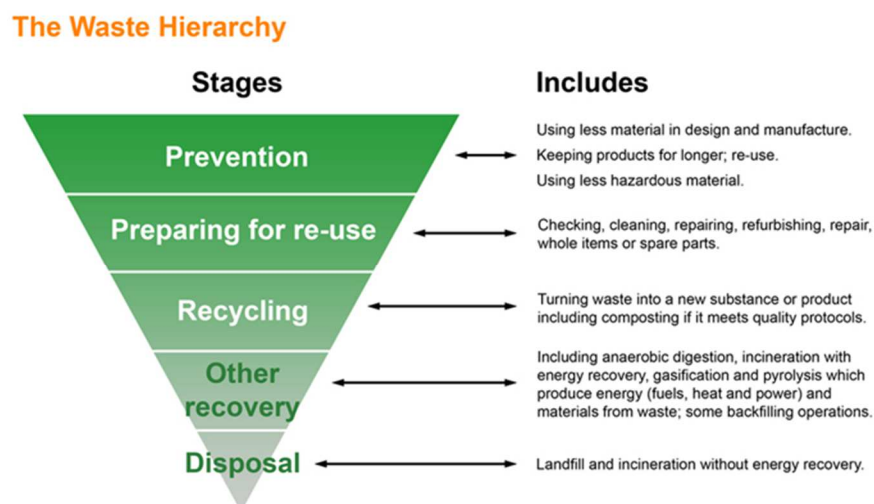


**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
WASTE REDUCTION, RE-USE, RECYCLING
AND COMPOSTING PLAN
2017/18**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 2017/18 Nottinghamshire County Council Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan is the third annual plan and builds on the proposals agreed in the 2016/17 plan. Defra require the County Council to provide an annual recycling plan to detail how year on year progress will be made in order to achieve the PFI waste contract target of recycling and composting 52% of household waste by 2020 alongside achieving an overall tonnage reduction. This is a target that aligns with the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020 and recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2030.
- 1.2. The results of the 2016/17 plan will be covered in the Waste Management Annual Outturn Performance Report which will be published during the autumn of 2017 and made available via the County Council website. This plan will primarily focus on the key actions and investments that are likely to take place during 2017/18 and their expected impact alongside a summary of other smaller scale, regular actions.
- 1.3. Emphasis will be placed on close partnership working between the County who represent the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) and the district and borough councils who make up the Waste Collection Authorities (WCA). By focussing on key 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 2017/18 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 either directly or via a dedicated transfer station 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 reprocessing.
- 2.2. Within the PFI contract there are a number of targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which include 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 and composted by 2020 was set to align with the European Commission’s Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020. Despite the uncertainty around the impacts of “Brexit” it has currently been assumed that this 50% target will be retained in the future, although how it will be enforced remains unclear.
- 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 2016/17 will be published in the Waste Management Annual Outturn Performance Report document during autumn 2017 when tonnage figures for all elements of household waste have been finalised. The recycling rates for all WCA and Nottinghamshire as a whole can be seen in figure 2 below.

Figure 2 – Recycling Rates

	ADC %	BBC %	BDC %	GBC %	MDC %	N&SDC %	RBC %	Recycling Centres %	Overall %
2010/11	34	43	23	37	41	26	54	72	43
2011/12	34	42	23	37	39	26	51	75	43
2012/13	34	41	22	36	36	24	51	80	43
2013/14	33	40	21	37	38	26	51	81	43
2014/15	33	39	19	36	36	27	49	79	43
2015/16	32	39	20	36	35	30	49	79	43

- 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 already undertaken by 6 of the 7 WCA, with Bassetlaw introducing their own in 2017.

- 2.6. Within the County there are currently 12 recycling centres that accept household waste from Nottinghamshire residents. In 2015/16 approximately 89,000 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 2016/17 figures.
- 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, charities, community groups and other organisations by appointment throughout the year. In 2015/16 over 5,500 litres of paint were redistributed to members of the public and various groups and organisations.

3. Brief summary of 2016/17 Actions and Investments

- 3.1. Several of the 2017/18 key actions and investments will build on those introduced in 2016/17 which included the following;

Ashfield Green Waste Incentive Scheme

- 3.2. The Ashfield Green Waste Incentive provided all residents of the Ashfield District with 2 years of free garden waste collections. Alongside this households had their standard 240 litre residual bin replaced with a smaller 180 litre version, the old residual bins were then repurposed as garden waste bins. The combination of a free garden waste collection coupled with a smaller residual bin should help residents think more carefully about what they put in their general waste and lead to a significant increase in the recycling rate for the district.
- 3.3. The capital and revenue costs associated with the scheme in the first 2 years were funded by the County Council on an 'invest to save' basis with these costs being recouped via significant savings made in waste disposal costs. It was anticipated that the scheme would achieve a 1.8% increase in the overall recycling rate for Nottinghamshire.

Newark and Sherwood Garden Waste Service Expansion

- 3.4. During 2016/17 Newark and Sherwood District Council expanded their garden waste collection service to the whole district. This was supported by a financial contribution from the County Council which is expected to be recouped through savings in waste disposal costs. It was predicted that the expansion of the scheme would increase the overall recycling rate for Nottinghamshire by between 0.1 and 0.5% with potential for bigger increases going forward.

Recycling Centre Access Scheme

- 3.5. The Recycling Centre Access Scheme was launched in March 2016 allowing Nottinghamshire residents to register their vehicles online or by phone via the customer service centre, to be used at the county's 12 Recycling Centres. Research has shown that significant amounts of waste originating outside of the county was being disposed of at Nottinghamshire's Recycling Centres. The scheme was implemented to be free and easy for Nottinghamshire residents and means they don't have to take any identification to the Recycling Centres or display any physical permit in their vehicles. Whilst the scheme isn't expected to have any impact on the overall recycling rate it should make significant financial savings through waste disposal.

4. Key Actions and Investments for 2017/18

- 4.1. A number of key actions and investments will form the basis to the 2017/18 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. Following the key actions and investments there will be a brief summary of the ongoing actions as aligns with the waste hierarchy.

Launch of Bassetlaw Green Waste Collection Service

- 4.2. Bassetlaw District Council are for the first time, launching a kerbside collection service for garden waste. This will be a chargeable scheme in the same way as other districts and boroughs. Initial planning indicates there will be one round collecting five days per week from the outset commencing for March 2017. It was anticipated that around 3-5 tonnes per day would be collected with the biggest take up expected in the urban areas of Worksop and Retford, although the final details of numbers and distribution are not known at this point.
- 4.3. The County has supported Bassetlaw District Council through a financial contribution to allow for the implementation of the scheme. It is expected that not only will this improve the overall recycling rate but it should also help to reduce disposal costs by moving garden waste out of the residual waste stream. Whilst the impact on the overall recycling rate is expected to be very modest during the first year of the service it is expected that this will grow substantially over the years leading to a significant rise in the recycling rate for the district of Bassetlaw as well as the county as a whole. Modelling suggests that year 1 would see a 2% increase in Bassetlaw's recycling rate and an increase of 0.1% for the overall county figure.

Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2017/18 – Increase by 0.1%

Year 2 of Ashfield Green Waste Incentive Scheme

- 4.4. Building on the introduction of the Ashfield Green Waste Incentive Scheme that was introduced in March 2016 will be a key element of the 2017/18 activities. Data from the first months of the scheme have been very encouraging showing large increases in garden waste alongside an overall fall in residual waste, against a county wide trend of increasing waste arising, as well as a noticeable rise in the amount of dry recyclables being collected. This has resulted in a significant rise in Ashfield's recycling rate of around 10% alongside financial savings to the County Council in line with modelled assumptions to offset the initial set up and operational costs.
- 4.5. April 2017 will see the commencement of year 2 of the project and it is hoped that the shifts in waste treatment and disposal across the district are continued. April 2018 will potentially see the reintroduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste however it is hoped that a significant number of households will continue to utilise the service. Prior to the

introduction of the free service there were around 16,000 households on the chargeable scheme and it is anticipated that an additional 9,000 households can be retained (total 25,000 paying customers) following the reintroduction of the charge, as households realise the value of the garden waste scheme. In order to maximise the number of households retaining the service Ashfield will be concentrating on encouraging sign-ups well before April 2018.

Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2017/18 – No additional increase but maintain the existing increase of 1.8% as predicted in the 2016/17 plan.

Build on the Success of the Newark and Sherwood Garden Waste Collection Expansion

- 4.6. During 2016/17 Newark and Sherwood expanded their garden waste collection to cover the whole district which had previously been restricted to specific areas. As the scheme becomes more established it is hoped that subscriber numbers continue to increase and build on the great success of the first year which saw the number of subscribers to the scheme more than triple, rising to over 4,000 from 1,268 in 2015/16.

Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2017/18 – No additional increase but maintain the existing increase of 0.1 – 0.5% as predicted in the 2016/17 plan.

Monitoring and targeted enforcement of Recycling Centre Access Scheme

- 4.7. The Recycling Centre Access Scheme was launched 21 March 2016 to restrict the usage of the County's 12 Recycling Centres to Nottinghamshire residents only. Research showed that there are large amounts of cross border waste being delivered to the County's sites, particularly at those close to the County boundaries. This additional waste is costing the County Council significant amounts in waste disposal costs.
- 4.8. The scheme works by having Nottinghamshire residents register through the County Council website where their identity is validated to confirm they live in the County. Once this has been done they are then free to add their vehicles to the system for use on the sites.
- 4.9. Following the initial launch of the scheme a wide ranging communications campaign was undertaken to encourage as many Nottinghamshire residents as possible to sign up to the scheme and register their vehicles for use on the site. Posters, leaflets and other materials were printed to hand out on the sites as well as lamp post banners throughout the county alongside regular promotion through social media and partner channels such as district and borough council publications. The target for the first year of the scheme was to achieve 100,000 sign ups. As of December 2016 there had been 120,000 individuals signed up to the scheme with over 160,000 registered vehicles.
- 4.10. To allow the system to bed in and to encourage as many sign-ups as possible, a light touch approach towards enforcement has been undertaken to allow residents every opportunity

to register. Despite this light touch approach early data have shown Recycling Centre tonnages have reduced compared to the previous year against a trend of increasing waste arisings. During 2017/18 enforcement of the Recycling Centre Access Scheme will be stepped up to ensure the sites are being used by Nottinghamshire residents only. Busy periods will be highlighted and checking will be supported by the County Council's Environmental Compliance Officers.

Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2017/18 – Negligible but with significant financial savings and reductions in overall tonnage.

County Wide Recycling Contamination Campaign

- 4.11. Contamination of kerbside recycling has, in recent years, become an increasing problem, both within Nottinghamshire and nationally. The Waste PFI contract has a target of no more than 5% contamination on average on collected kerbside dry recycling. Contamination levels throughout the County have increased in recent years and the average is now around 10% highlighting the need for action.
- 4.12. The County Council, in partnership with Veolia and the WCAs will explore developments with the aim of tackling the contamination problem. Such initiatives are set to include a review of enforcement processes at the kerbside and reviewing the input specification at the Mansfield MRF. Initial work will build on a sampling project undertaken in Mansfield during 2016, which was a targeted campaign, focussing on an area with high contamination rates, providing the residents with a range of educational materials, placing stickers on bins and if necessary rejecting contaminated bins.
- 4.13. To support the above actions it is intended that a countywide communications campaign will be undertaken to educate residents by focussing on the key contaminants that are found in the dry recycling bins, these being food, nappies, glass, and textiles. The overall approach to the campaign will be consistent but will be tweaked accordingly for each contaminant in order to get across the most appropriate message with each one having a dedicated period of focus during the year. A variety of approaches and mediums are being investigated including bin stickers, posters, videos as well as the usual channels of social media and county and district publications.

Expected impact of action on recycling rate for 2017/17 – Negligible but with significant financial savings and reductions in overall tonnage.

5. Prevention

- 5.1. These measures are taken before a 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 2016/17 plan will continue through 2017/18.

Home Composting

- 5.2. 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.

Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW)

- 5.3. Love Food Hate Waste forms a key element of waste prevention and is promoted at various events. The LFHW cook book was recently updated with new recipes, submitted by Nottinghamshire residents, and will continue to be circulated at events as well as be available to download online. In addition to this, signposting to the LFHW website from the Council waste and recycling webpages will continue.

Communications and Signposting

- 5.4. 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 subscriber numbers standing at over 8,200 (January 2017). 'Emailme' continues to be promoted through a variety of ways including signs at Recycling Centres, bus shelter adverts and lamp post banners as well as promotional campaign materials.

Estimated Impact of actions on recycling rate for 2017/18 – Increase by <0.1%

- 5.5. A summary of the actions and investments in relation to prevention of waste can be found in figure 2 on page 15 of this plan.

6. Preparing for Reuse

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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 surplus or unwanted 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 sorted by type and colour and made available to members of the public, community groups and charities by appointment, free of charge.
- 6.3. Follow up work 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.
- 6.4. 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.

Estimated Impact of actions on recycling rate for 2017/18 – Increase by <0.1%

- 6.5. A summary of the actions and investments in relation to re-use of waste can be found in figure 2 on page 15 of this plan.

7. Recycling

- 7.1. 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.

Business Cases and Feasibility Studies

- 7.2. 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 ongoing work will be done to look at options around increasing glass collections.
- 7.3. 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

- 7.4. Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education was launched in autumn 2015 aiming to continue engagement with groups, both children and adults throughout 2017/18. Schools that have not previously been engaged will be targeted and where possible will be encouraged to visit the Mansfield MRF and have direct involvement with the Schools Waste Action Club Education Officer.
- 7.5. A new lesson plan has been developed to focus more on the recycling and contamination based 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.
- 7.6. The Konflux Theatre Company will again be employed to deliver a recycling message to schools through an educational drama workshop on recycling. The children will learn a play that will then be delivered to the rest of the school and invited parents and carers in order to spread the recycling message. The Schools Waste Action Club Education Officer will visit the participating schools before the theatre group visit to deliver a recycling assembly in preparation for the workshop.
- 7.7. 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.

Estimated Impact of actions on recycling rate for 2016/17 – Increase by <0.5%

7.8. A summary of the actions and investments in relation to recycling of waste can be found in figure 2 on page 15 of this plan.

8. Other Recovery

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. The new Contract Waste Transfer Station (WTS) located at Kirkby in Ashfield is due to be fully operational from March 2017 and residual waste from the Mansfield and Ashfield districts will be delivered there. This waste will be shredded, baled and wrapped and utilised as a refuse derived fuel (RDF) in Germany until 2020. Thereafter the Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 (FM2) plant near Castleford will be used, ensuring this waste is diverted from landfill.
- 8.3. 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, an agreement that allows for the acceptance of up to 68,000 tonnes of residual waste. Residual waste from Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw District Councils will continue to be sent to the Sheffield Energy Recovery Facility. Both the Eastcroft and Sheffield facilities provide heat as part of district heating schemes directly to homes and businesses within the vicinity.

9. Disposal

- 9.1. 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 2017/18, less than 10% of household waste will have been sent to landfill, a figure that stood at 29% in 2014/15. Veolia will continue to use their own out of county landfill sites for the small amounts of residual waste from the recycling centres.

10. Delivery

- 10.1. 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 introduction of a kerbside garden waste collection in Bassetlaw and the second year of the Green Waste Incentive project with Ashfield District Council are great examples of this, and promise to offer improved services for residents whilst generating increased recycling alongside medium to long-term financial benefits.

- 10.2. 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.

11. Impact on Performance

11.1. 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 2018 when the full figures for 2017/18 are finalised.

Figure 2 – Impact on Performance Summary

	Action/Investment	Expected Increase in Recycling Rate	Other Impacts
Major Actions and Investments	Garden Waste Kerbside Collection in Bassetlaw	0.1%	Significant financial savings over the life of the scheme.
	Continuation of the Ashfield Green Waste Incentive project	Maintain 1.8% increase predicted in 2016/17 plan	Significant financial savings over the life of the scheme
	Build on the success of the Newark and Sherwood garden waste expansion	Maintain 0.1 – 0.5% increase predicted in 2016/17 plan.	Significant financial savings over the life of the scheme
	Recycling Centre Access Scheme – Full Enforcement	Negligible	Significant financial savings and improved access to recycling centres for Nottinghamshire residents
	Contamination communications campaign	Negligible	Significant fall in the levels of contamination
Prevention	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.		
Reuse	Community Paint Reuse Scheme	<0.1%	Financial savings through waste not being sent for disposal.
	Furniture Reuse Scheme		
Recycle	Business Cases and Feasibility Studies	<0.5%	Financial savings from waste diverted from residual to dry recycling and green waste.
	Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education		
Other	Waste to District Heating Schemes	None	Reduction in waste going to landfill.
	Mansfield & Ashfield Waste to RDF		

12. Challenges and Pressures

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. There are currently no statutory targets set by UK central 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 particularly in light of the uncertainty around the EU referendum result. 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.
- 12.3. 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.
- 12.4. 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.
- 12.5. Population increases and movements will also impact on the success of this plan. Sizeable population increases are expected in Nottinghamshire in line with housing growth, and will certainly lead to an increase in overall tonnage. 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.

13. Summary of Key Actions and Priority Areas

- 13.1. 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 introduction of the green waste collection service in Bassetlaw alongside the ongoing Ashfield scheme, offer the biggest potential for increases in recycling rates. These coupled with the expanded Newark and Sherwood service becoming more established should allow 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.
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. Driving home the message around contamination through a county-wide campaign should help to stem the increasing levels of contamination that is happening across all districts.