

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

2016/17 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 2016/17.

Information and Advice

Background

1. Members will recall approving the 2015/16 Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan in September 2015. The County Council is required to draft an annual recycling and composting plan, a condition introduced by Defra as part of the Revised Project Plan (RPP) approval process, to detail how year on year progress will be made to achieve the 52% recycling/composting rate by 2020 in the PFI Contract. This target is also aligned with the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020.
2. Figure 1 below shows how recycling rates have plateaued in recent years across the districts and highlights why it is essential that recycling rates across the districts are equalised if we are to achieve the targets noted above. Whilst Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood are both expanding their green waste collection services in 2016/17, significant improvements are also needed elsewhere across the County, and particularly in Bassetlaw.

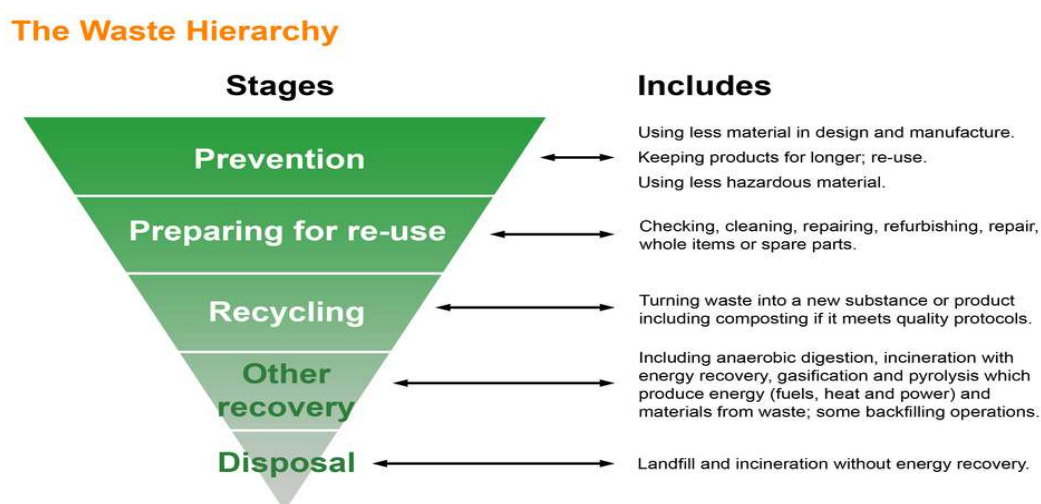
Figure 1.

	Ashfield DC	Bassetlaw DC	Broxtowe BC	Gedling BC	Mansfield DC	Newark & Sherwood DC	Rushcliffe BC
2010/11	34%	23%	43%	37%	41%	26%	54%
2011/12	34%	23%	42%	37%	39%	26%	51%
2012/13	34%	22%	41%	36%	36%	24%	51%
2013/14	33%	21%	40%	37%	38%	26%	51%
2014/15	33%	19%	39%	36%	36%	27%	49%

3. The 2015/16 plan was structured around the waste hierarchy and focussed on individual actions and campaigns within each stage. As the plan was published in autumn 2015 it allowed for analysis of the final 2014/15 tonnages and recycling rates.
4. The 2016/17 Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan (Appendix 1) will not have access to the previous year's data as the final performance figures will not be available until autumn 2016. The 2016/17 plan has therefore taken a slightly different format and has focused on major actions and investments alongside close partnership working with district partners and Veolia.
5. The major actions and investments in the 2016/17 plan are formed around the following:
 - The Ashfield Green Waste Incentive Scheme;
 - The expansion of the Newark and Sherwood garden waste collection service;
 - Recycling Centre service changes including access and changes to the acceptance and charging for inert materials;
 - A focus on contamination as well as the future potential of expanding and introducing new services.
6. The Ashfield Green Waste Incentive, approved by Finance and Property Committee in November 2015, will be implemented from April 2016 across the district. This will involve giving all Ashfield households a free garden waste collection for 2 years combined with households receiving a new, smaller residual bin with the old residual bins being repurposed for garden waste collections. This free service, combined with reduced residual capacity is expected to achieve a shift of green waste and dry recyclables out of the residual stream which will increase recycling rates and make significant financial savings through disposal.
7. The Newark and Sherwood district garden waste collection service will be expanded from April 2016 to cover the whole of the district. This will increase the capture rate of garden waste and move some of this out of the residual stream aiding the recycling rate for Newark and Sherwood and saving the County Council money on disposal costs.
8. Discussions continue with Bassetlaw District Council to identify affordable and deliverable improvements to recycling performance in future years, and the outcome of the two initiatives noted above will help inform that dialogue going forward.

9. A number of Recycling Centre changes are being implemented during 2016/17 including a simple registration process for residents, which was approved as part of the 2014 budget savings, to use our Recycling Centres which will restrict use by out of county residents, deliver significant disposal savings and help to reduce the overall waste arisings for the county.
10. Updated acceptance criteria for certain other non-household wastes are also being implemented, as agreed in the 2015 budget, in order to allow the County Council to continue to offer an effective service, whilst mitigating against rising waste disposal costs.
11. Focusing on reducing contamination in the dry recycling stream will be a big priority for 2016/17. This will be done through a variety of communications channels and public engagement to help ensure the correct materials are being collected within the right waste stream, this will in turn aid recycling rates and reduce disposal costs.
12. There are a number of other ongoing, regular actions and investments that form the basis for the 2016/17 Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan. These are laid out against the waste hierarchy which can be seen in figure 2 below.

Figure 2.



13. Actions in relation to preventing waste in the first instance are an important part of the plan and help to bring down overall waste arisings and reduce disposal costs. Actions included within the plan include home composting schemes and Love Food Hate Waste engagement through events and communications.

14. Preparing for re-use stops waste from being sent for disposal and a great example of this comes in the form of the Community RePaint scheme which redistributes unwanted reusable paint that has been deposited at the County Council's Recycling Centres to community groups, charities and individuals that would have otherwise been sent for treatment.
15. A variety of actions revolve around recycling initiatives, particularly ensuring the input of materials at the Materials Recovery Facility is maximised and meets the specification. This will be achieved through ongoing communications campaigns such as 'Are you Bin Smart' as well as education through the Recycle for Nottinghamshire Education work. Business cases and feasibility studies around new and improved services will also continue to be undertaken to establish the next steps towards the 50% target by 2020.
16. It is also important to highlight how waste that can't be re-used or recycled is dealt with. The 2016/17 plan highlights the residual waste that goes to the Eastcroft and Sheffield energy from waste facilities as well as the new agreement for residual waste from Mansfield and Ashfield that is currently going to the Alfreton waste transfer station where it is turned into Refuse Derived Fuel rather than being sent to landfill. Beyond March 2017 a longer term solution is being sought.
17. All districts, Veolia and Defra have been consulted through Joint Officer Board members and where appropriate, their comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the plan.
18. The final 2015/16 tonnage and recycling performance figures will form the basis of a subsidiary document in autumn 2016 when the final performance data is available. Within this document the previous year's plan will be analysed and used to inform future plans.
19. The 2015/16 plan is available on the County Council's website and once approved the 2016/17 will also be published.

Other Options Considered

20. 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

21. 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.
22. 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

23. 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

24. None

Legal Implications

25. The actions contained within the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2016/17 will contribute to the EU Waste Framework Directive target of recycling/composting 50% of household waste in Nottinghamshire by 2020.

Implications for Service Users

26. Whilst there are no implications for service users as a direct result of the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2016/17, the actions within the plan should contribute to improved waste and recycling services.

Recommendation

27. That Committee:
 - I. Approve the County Council's Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan for 2016/17.

Jas Hundal
Service Director, Transport, Property and Environment

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (SLB 03/02/2016)

Environment and Sustainability Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report

Financial Comments (SES 02/02/16)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Divisions

All