

Paper (L)

Key Policies

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1. Introduction

1. This Joint Municipal Waste Management strategy (JMWMS) represents a forward looking vision towards a more sustainable future for Wiltshire. It is the foundation to taking a major step forward in true partnership working within the County. Although, on the surface, the main partners are the District Councils and the County Council, there are others who, with their involvement, are essential to turn vision into reality. These include contractors, developers of new technology, community groups and householders as a whole, who we are expecting to normalise recycling in order to achieve higher recycling rates and greater sustainability in waste management. It is hoped that all partners will play an important role in regional self-sufficiency and proximity for waste, as well as embracing the development of more sustainable waste management practices across household, industrial and commercial waste streams.

2. All Wiltshire local authorities (WWP) will work together so as to inform and influence the necessary changes required to deliver our vision. Although councils will acknowledge the aspiration for Wiltshire to be self-sufficient where possible, they will also acknowledge the environmental benefits behind the proximity principle. Therefore, the artificial device of a County boundary will not constrain local choice. Within this context, Wiltshire County Council as the waste disposal authority will seek to achieve waste management systems, which would handle the waste produced in county, however will accept that there may be some import and export of waste between Wiltshire and nearby counties.

3. All councils in Wiltshire are responsible for monitoring their performance standards through Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). Clearly, there are critical links between BVPIs for waste management services and targets, and principles and policies upon which this Strategy is built. Taking this into consideration it is likely that the policies below will effect significant changes in the way waste is managed in Wiltshire. Key Policies include:

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- 1. Work with the Wiltshire Waste Partnership (WWP) to Maintain and improve the capacity for managing household and commercial waste in Wiltshire by re-use, recycling and recovery.*
- 2. Increase the levels of public participation in recycling and minimisation schemes.*
- 3. Improve collective working via the WWP to ensure the best net benefit to householders.*
- 4. Understand how emerging technologies could manage waste more sustainably.*
- 5. Facilitate the potential development of facilities for the treatment of residual waste from household and commercial streams.*
- 6. Develop closer working practices to address commercial waste streams*
- 7. Work in partnership to optimise the procurement, delivery and success of new services.*
- 8. Give consideration to the local and regional planning context of waste management.*
- 9. Recognise the needs, and contributions, that other stakeholders have in developing the Strategy.*
- 10. Improve communication and working with local community organisations*

2. Key Policies

2.1 Work with the WWP to maintain and improve the capacity for managing household and commercial waste in Wiltshire by re-use, recycling and recovery

1. As levels of recycling continue to increase in Wiltshire it is acknowledged that there is a shortage of waste management capacity required under Government Best Value legislation. In addition it should be recognised that opportunities need to be open to commercial waste producers to recycle the wastes they produce. At the moment these opportunities are minimal. In particular it is noted that small traders tend not to have access to recycling services because of the relatively small quantities of waste that they produce. In order to address waste management capacity the following actions are required:

- A countywide infrastructure will be developed and supported by all involved to treat increasing recyclates
- Opportunities provided to recycle commercial wastes
- Promote markets for recyclables
- Enable the community to contribute more widely to sustainable waste management
- Increase green waste collections at the kerbside
- Promote and develop the use of home composting, particularly for kitchen and other biodegradable wastes.
- Improve the public's access to plastic recycling
- Outlets should be sourced for WEEE etc.

2.2 Increase the levels of public participation in recycling and minimisation schemes.

1. Public participation is a key factor, though it tends to be ignored in favour of increasing the range of materials chosen to be recycled. **Wiltshire will concentrate on normalising recycling activities so it becomes part of everyday life.** It is important for Wiltshire to understand that if recycling targets are to be reached then they not only

need the collection systems to target the correct wastes but also householders to actively take part. Actions proposed include:

- attitudinal waste research towards normalising recycling
- Continuing to reinforce a 'common message' information and education system across the county linking to national campaigns
- Engaging all parts of the community to promote sustainable waste management including; schools, business, special interest groups and community groups
- Increasing access to kerbside recycling, and improve the range of materials that will be collected for reuse and/or recycling
- 95% of households to have access to kerbside collection by 2006/07

2.3 Improve collective working via the WWP to ensure the best net benefit to householders

1. A co-ordinated approach is required between the Waste Collection Authorities and Waste Disposal Authority to ensure that collection and waste management systems are complementary. It is also essential that a 'common message' is provided to ensure that the public participate to a high level. Actions proposed include:

- Agreeing a Joint Strategy through the WWP
- Promoting all waste related activities under the WWP
- Encouraging sharing of resources and best practice through the WWP
- Developing existing and future waste collection and management systems in co-ordination to ensure they complement each other

2.4 Understand how emerging technologies could manage waste more sustainably

1. The management of waste is generally confined to 'tried and tested' methods and technologies. However, experience and expertise in new biological and thermal recovery technologies is developing fast. Wiltshire will keep abreast of the progress towards emerging waste management technologies. Such technologies include the following:

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- Recovery and treatment of biological waste where soil improver/compost can be produced, the recovery of dry recyclables from mixed waste, a reduction in the biological activity of the waste, and a reduction in the weight, moisture content and bulk density of the waste
- Emerging technologies for the treatment of biological waste and in-vessel composting systems are suitable for a wide range of organic wastes including mixed green garden waste and kitchen waste, and include anaerobic digestion mixed-waste processing and mechanical biological treatment (MBT).

2.5 Facilitate the potential development of facilities for the treatment of residual waste from household and commercial streams.

1. The JMWMS will aim to achieve 45% (municipal) recycling. However this will leave up to 55% of the waste produced to be managed by a recovery or disposal technique of some kind. The diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill means that a proportion of this remaining residual waste going to landfill will reduce over time. When selecting methods to treat waste, it is therefore important that Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) should be followed¹. This should ensure that the most sustainable waste management method is chosen. Although at this present time there are no restrictions on the amounts of commercial waste sent to landfill, the strategy will endeavour to include the residual wastes created by the commercial sector based on what could be expected to remain if recycling and recovery targets are to be met.

- Wiltshire will deliver the necessary facilities to ensure compliance with relevant EU directives.
- Wiltshire will endeavour to provide a recovery option for commercial wastes.
- Wiltshire will pursue options to recover and recycle commercial waste streams

¹ Will be superseded by Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

2.6 Develop closer working with the commercial waste sector

1. The commercial sector produces a great deal of waste. It is therefore imperative as more challenging recycling and recovery targets are introduced that Wiltshire targets the recyclable waste streams from this sector.

- Wiltshire should consider how best to put in place policies and services that will support the management of commercial wastes alongside household waste
- Provide collection systems for recyclables from such producers
- Wiltshire will provide waste related guidance to commercial waste producers

2.7 Work in partnership to optimise the procurement, delivery and success of new services

1. Effective partnerships will be a key factor in procuring and delivering successful new waste services. If a seamless service is to be delivered across the county, closer partnership working will be essential.

2. Therefore the message which needs to be echoed across Wiltshire is that councils can no longer work in isolation from one another or from stakeholders. Partnership working is central to the achievement of sustainable waste management and will enable us to meet challenging targets and performance standards. It is paramount that the WWP recognises the need for a new approach to waste management, and are committed to working together.

2.8 Give consideration to the local and regional planning context of waste management

1. Waste facility development in Wiltshire will be guided by the Waste Local Plan (WLP), eventually to be replaced by Local Development Documents (LDD), and by the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the South West Regional Waste Strategy (RWS).

2. It is clear that Wiltshire will need to adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy, Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) eventually to be replaced by

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), regional self-sufficiency in the provision of facilities, and dealing with waste near to its point of production (the proximity principle). The WLP provides guidance on sites that may be suitable 'in principle' for waste management use and sets the policy framework within which waste management development will be considered. Until the LDDs are in place, the adopted WLP will continue to play this role and support sustainable waste management and the achievement of waste management targets. The RWS provides a long term target for household waste recycling, set out at least 50% by 2020 (expressed as 45% MSW).

2.9 Recognise the needs, and contributions, that other stakeholders have in the development of the Strategy

1. Though local authorities are responsible for the management of household waste in Wiltshire, there are a number of other organisations that have an influence on waste management such as the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) and the Environment Agency.

- WWP will work with the Wiltshire Waste Forum, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Hills Minerals and Waste and GOSW to achieve a JMWMS for Wiltshire that is consistent with the Regional Strategy.
- Community sector reuse and recycling infrastructure will be used such as Refurbiz
- All stakeholders will examine and develop methods for spreading best practice.
- Wiltshire local authorities (WWP) will lead by example in the way they manage their own waste arisings.

2.10 Improve communication and working with local community organisations

1. The community can provide valuable waste management activities particularly, for the reuse of waste materials. These can complement the activities of local authorities and the waste industry. Often community groups can target niche markets that operate at a local level which are otherwise difficult to enter. WWP recognises the benefits that promoting community group activities can bring and it is important that they play a role in the waste management network in Wiltshire.

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- WWP will work with its community areas on aspects of waste management.
- WWP will work to enhance the role the community makes to sustainable waste management
- WWP will work alongside the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to assist community bids for external funding and operations where they support the goals of the waste strategy.
- WWP will work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to promote community waste management activities