

Waste Management Options of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership**Strategy Review (2010)****Introduction**

The options proposed to be considered as part of the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy are identified in this section. These were discussed in a workshop recently held at Beaumanor Hall containing representatives from Leicestershire districts and external Stakeholders and the following represents the options considered important for consideration in Leicestershire. They are listed and briefly described in the order of the waste hierarchy.

Waste Prevention options

The options to be considered as part of the Strategy Review

Food Waste Prevention

The negative environmental impacts of food waste in Leicestershire are produced from the landfilling of residual waste and in particular the associated greenhouse gas emissions. The interim and long term PFI procurements in Leicestershire aim to reduce landfilling of residual waste however there remain environmental burdens from the unnecessary generation of food that becomes waste. This waste could be avoided through better purchasing / cooking habits and through the transport and treatment of the food waste arising. The Leicestershire Waste Partners have actively participated in the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, which is centred on food waste prevention. This is an activity that could be continued through local campaigning, generation and distribution of materials to encourage smarter shopping and meal planning, recipes for leftovers etc.

Junk Mail Prevention

The Mailing Preference Service (MPS) exists to facilitate removal of junk mail from delivery to those residents that register with the service. The profile of this service could be raised across the County via promotional campaigns, leaflet drops etc. In addition, campaigns / materials can be developed to encourage prevention of free newspapers / magazines. Other unaddressed mail however will still be delivered unless the householder registers with the Royal Mail to be removed from such services. This could be a targeted element of campaigns / promotions

Home Composting / Digestion

The composting of vegetable peelings / fruit and garden waste at home yields environmental benefits as the materials do not arise as a waste to be collected and transported prior to composting and then the compost transported again for application to land. The benefit of home composting, where an extensive garden waste collection service is present, is that emissions associated with transport element are reduced and a resource of compost is made available to be utilised by the householder. Digesters are enclosed units that can process meat and fish and other cooked wastes. This increases the potential diversion from the waste stream, but they are more difficult to install, and may not be appropriate for all property types. Both composters and digesters are currently promoted by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership

Environmental Champions

Following on from the successful Leicestershire Master Composter scheme where volunteers are trained to promote home composting practices, a wider scheme could be

adopted encompassing a broader range of environmental themes such as re-use, other waste prevention initiatives and link with key messages such as **act local : think global**.

Real Nappies

The support and promotion of using real (cloth, or 'reusable') nappies in preference to disposable nappies will reduce the waste arisings from this source. Typically around 2 - 3% of household waste comprises disposable nappies. There are a variety of measures that could be taken forward to promote the uptake of real nappies, including promotional campaigns, nappuccino mornings, incentives and subsidies for real nappy packs and support for nappy laundry services. Leicestershire County Council provide a £30 cash-back for the purchase of reusable nappies, and there is also a trial service available to residents of the County. All of the partners of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership are supporting members of the Leicestershire Real Nappy Network that runs events promoting washable nappies.

Lobbying Government / Business

The Leicestershire Waste Partnership could place a higher priority on lobbying Government and working with local retailers / producers on reducing the amount of waste through measures to reduce packaging and partnerships to develop this area of resource management.

Kitchen Waste Disposal Units

The use of kitchen macerators / grinders, also known as waste disposal units could be explored with a view to processing food wastes through the waste water sewerage system rather than as a solid waste management issue.

In-house Waste Prevention

The Leicestershire Waste Partners could lead by example, through respective environmental policies, and the implementation of in-house waste prevention initiatives could be explored and delivered. This could include both the Councils and their partners (public and private sector) and be delivered through, for example sustainable procurement, environmentally friendly office practices (e.g. double sided printing, not printing materials unless necessary, etc.)

Schools Waste Prevention

The Partnership currently adopts a proactive stance in this area and supports the Sustainable Schools framework, Eco Schools and has established a Waste Certificate as part of wider behavioural and sustainable development education. Explore the development of further educational and promotional material to emphasise the importance of waste prevention, supported by initiatives facilitated by Leicestershire Waste Partnership such as schools composting activity etc.

Commercial Waste Prevention

To provide support to commercial waste generators on waste prevention and associated issues, to facilitate initiatives and develop partnerships where appropriate.

Charging for Green waste collection

At present two of the Partner authorities charge for the collection of green waste. There is the potential for implementing a charge for green waste collections in other areas and therefore further incentivising alternative options such as home composting / digestion.

Enforcement at Recycling & Household Waste Sites (RHWS)

Additional measures may be applied at Recycling & Household Waste Sites to prevent non-household waste entering the household waste stream, although Leicestershire County Council has a lengthy track record of enforcement measures at RHWS.

Restriction on Residual Waste Capacity

The potential for reducing overall household waste arisings through incentivising a change in purchasing behaviour through restricting the capacity available to householders for collection / deposit of residual waste. This could be delivered by limiting capacity of containers for residual waste, moving to alternate week collection (reducing frequency of collection) and / or restrictions at Recycling and Household Waste Sites.

Re-use options

The options to be considered as part of the Strategy Review.

Support of Re-use / Refurbishment – via Bulky Waste collections

A variety of examples of good practice exist in the UK as regards re-use of goods, including: separate collections of re-usable goods from the household by third sector groups, and; sorting of council collected bulky waste collections by third sector groups with a view to refurbishment / reuse / resale of usable items. The Leicestershire Waste Partnership promote and work in partnership with a range of furniture re-use groups at present. Charging for Council bulky waste collections could also provide an incentive for use of community services for furniture reuse.

Support of Re-use / Refurbishment – via Recycling & Household Waste Sites (RHWS)

A variety of examples of good practice exist in the UK as regards re-use of goods, including: reception points at RHWSs for the deposit of reusable electrical goods, paint, reusable wood, furniture, toys, bicycles etc. All RHWSs in Leicestershire accept a wide range of recyclables including some items that are re-used where practicable such as paint, mobile phones, shoes and textiles. Re-use auctions have increased re-use at sites in the County.

Re-use campaigning

A wide variety of initiatives are promoted through local campaigning on reuse, examples include:-

SWAP Days - Free exchange services for re-usable goods can be facilitated through LWP or third sector run 'SWAP days' where a venue is provided and the event promoted to allow attendees to bring along goods for free and pick up other items of interest to them. Remaining goods could either be sorted by a third sector organisation or disposed of by the County Council.

Freecycle - a web based group to which members of the public can advertise free items of unwanted goods for collection. It provides a community service and helps avoid unnecessary waste of goods. The Leicestershire Waste Partnership has established the Leicestershire Freeuse site, which operates in a similar manner. This may already be considered a good practice local example of re-use.

In-house Waste Re-use

The Leicestershire Waste Partners could lead by example, through respective environmental policies, and the implementation of in-house waste re-use initiatives could be explored and delivered. This could include both the Councils and their partners (public and private sector) and be delivered through, for example sustainable procurement, environmentally friendly office practices (e.g. removal of single use cups, milk sachets etc. use of glass milk bottles, rechargeable battery units, repair and maintenance contracts for equipment).

Schools Waste Re-use

As part of wider behavioural and sustainable development education, activities to emphasise the importance of waste re-use, supported by initiatives facilitated by Leicestershire Waste Partnership such as schools swap days, book / CD / game reuse etc.

Lobbying Government / Business

The Leicestershire Waste Partnership could place a higher priority on lobbying Government and working with local retailers / producers on reducing the amount of waste through measures to encourage re-use and partnerships to develop this area of resource management.

Re-use Hub

To explore the development or facilitation of dedicated infrastructure for re-use, for example through partnership working on training, refurbishment, storage / sorting or retail space.

Recycling & Composting options

The options to be considered as part of the Strategy Review.

Separate Food Waste Collection & Treatment

The options and potential for separate food waste collection from households to be sent for either specialist composting or anaerobic digestion will be considered in the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Commingled Food and Garden Waste Collection & Treatment

The options for commingling food waste with green waste and composting or digesting the organics at a specialist treatment facility will be considered as part of the evaluation. Expanding the range of dry recyclables collected at the Kerbside The option of expanding the range of recyclables collected by all Waste Collection Authorities in the LWP will be explored in addition to the current service (which already comprises the main recyclable material groups). The additional materials considered will be:-

- Other non ferrous metals: Aerosols, foil
- Plastic film, other plastics
- Tetrapaks
- Batteries
- Textiles
- Small WEEE

Improve RHWS performance

Options for improving the (already high) recycling performance from the Recycling and Household Waste Sites will be explored. Impact of the interim residual waste treatment process on recycling. The estimated recycling contribution from the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant will be considered in the appraisal of overall options.

Green waste charging

The impact of charging for green (or 'garden') waste collections will be considered in terms of the impact on recycling rates in addition to the overall waste arisings impact

Trade waste recycling

The contribution / impact of increased trade waste recycling activity will be appraised in the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Litter recycling Also known as 'Recycling on the go', will be considered as part of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy, for example through strategic location of recycling bins on the street.

Recycling of street cleansing material

Specific measures for composting or recycling of street cleansing wastes including gully emptying will be appraised as part of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Incentivising recycling through container capacity

The measures that may be adopted to incentivise recycling through the balance of recycling capacity to residual waste capacity will be considered as part of the appraisal. This will include alternate week collections (AWC), restrictions of size of residual bin, restrictions at Recycling and Household Waste Sites.

Improved participation and capture through increased frequency

The impact of moving from fortnightly to weekly recycle collections will be assessed through the options appraisal to derive an estimate of improved recycle yield.

Improving kerbside performance through communications

The use of door knocking and other communications techniques to optimise the performance of the current collection systems will be assessed as part of the MWMS.

Develop bring banks

To consider the potential for improved recycling performance through bring banks and mini recycling centres, either as regards to the range or quantity of materials collected via this route.

Lobby Government on Recycling Issues

To lobby Government on aspects such as producer responsibility, packaging measures, and wider recycling related issues will be explored as part of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.