

# Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022 - 2050



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# Foreword

The Government set a clear ambition to improve the environment within a generation in their 2018 Strategy; 'A Green Future: our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. How we manage our waste plays an important part in achieving this ambition as everything that we buy, use and eventually throw away has an impact on our environment.

The Leicestershire Waste Partnership (the County Council and the seven District and Borough Councils) work together to manage all of the household waste that is produced in Leicestershire. In this Strategy, the Partnership sets out how we will deliver recycling and waste management services up to 2050.

We are working towards reducing the amount of waste that is produced, increasing recycling, reducing carbon emissions to support net zero ambitions and keeping resources in use for longer. Additionally, we are pledging to reduce waste sent to landfill.

Depending on the funding that we receive from the Government, we are committed to introducing separate food waste collections across Leicestershire, offering garden waste collections to all residents, and expanding recycling collections.

We are also committed to reviewing our own purchasing activities and internal waste management services to lead by example.

But we can't do this alone. We need people to work with us to achieve these ambitions and we are committed to working with stakeholders, residents and communities to prevent unnecessary waste from being produced in the first place, to promote good recycling behaviour and support resource recovery to progress a circular economy. By working together, we can improve our environment, now and for the future.



# Local government financial statement

This Strategy has been published during a time of uncertainty in regard to the Government's progression of the implementation of the national Resources and Waste Strategy (Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England). The Resources and Waste Strategy was released on 18 December 2018 and sets out how Government will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy.

Three significant consultations took place during 2019 including Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England, a Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging. Further secondary consultations took place in early 2021 and subsequent changes from 2024/5 could include mandatory household food waste collections, restrictions on garden waste charging and the introduction of a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. At this present time Government has not released the outcomes from two of the consultations, therefore there remains uncertainty in regard to forthcoming legislation and future funding mechanisms.

All councils are facing challenging financial outlooks. The pressures of high inflation levels, coupled with an ever-increasing demand for core services, is presenting a challenge across the whole local government sector.

In acknowledgement of this some of the pledges contained within the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy are caveated and can only be implemented if sufficient ongoing additional funding is provided by Government to cover the costs incurred by both the waste disposal and waste collection authorities respectively.

# Executive summary

How we view 'waste' has changed; it is no longer only something to get rid of, but is considered a valuable resource, to be retained and reused, or avoided at all where possible. Using waste as a resource can help to reduce the raw materials needed for producing new goods, which has environmental, social and financial benefits. This updated Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS / the 'Strategy') reflects this global current thinking and describes the recycling and waste management services which will be delivered by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP)<sup>1</sup> from 2022 up to 2050. The Vision of the LRWS is:

*To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts.*

This vision is supported by specific Strategy objectives and a range of pledges and measures that sit alongside national policy changes - setting a direction for long term management of material resources for the benefit of the residents and communities of Leicestershire<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the Strategy includes:

- The policy framework - the current and future context for resources and waste management, considering local issues e.g. air quality, and global issues such as carbon reduction / greenhouse gas reduction and climate change.
- Strategy delivery - how resources and waste will be managed to achieve the vision and objectives, through the services provided by the LWP to its residents and communities and 12 pledges regarding commitments, actions and performance.

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<sup>1</sup> Leicestershire Waste Partnership comprises Leicestershire County Council and the seven District and Borough Councils. Leicester City Council is an associate member.

<sup>2</sup> Note that this Strategy does not cover Leicester City Council which is a unitary authority with its own waste collection and disposal arrangements.

The LRWS includes a focus on waste prevention (avoiding waste generation in the first place) and developing more initiatives on reuse of goods - both at the Household Waste and Recycling Centres and in the community. There are challenging targets around recycling and reuse, aiming to enhance Leicestershire's performance from current levels (around 44% recycling rate) to 65% by 2035, with the majority of progress made over the next five years through the Countywide implementation of weekly food waste collections, more consistent and effective recycling collections and, subject to Government guidelines and funding, potential changes to garden waste collections.

If the national 65% recycling rate is to be met the amount of residual waste (all general mixed 'rubbish') managed by Councils will need to fall from around 260kg per person to around 160kg per person by 2035. Furthermore, the management of residual waste in Leicestershire is also set to change with a pledge to reduce the amount of waste landfilled from current levels (of around 30%) down to 5% by 2025. This is substantially ahead of the new national target of 10% landfilled waste by 2035.

The net effect of the measures within the LRWS is a reduction in the amount of carbon (as measured in CO2 equivalents) in the range of 5,000 -10,000 tonnes of CO2 eq. each year from the collection and management of wastes and resources in the County. This is equivalent to taking between 1,800 – 3,600 cars off the road, in terms of annual emissions savings.

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# 1. Introduction

## What is a Resources and Waste Strategy?

This document is the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS) for the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP). The partnership comprises Leicestershire County Council (the Waste Disposal Authority) and the seven Leicestershire Waste Collection Authorities (the District and Borough Councils). Leicester City Council manages its waste via separate arrangements as a Unitary Authority.

This LRWS is an update to the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy which has been in place since 2002 and was reviewed and updated in 2006 and 2011 respectively.

The LRWS describes the recycling and waste management services which will be delivered by the LWP up to 2050. The Strategy sets out:

- The policy framework - the current and future context for resources and waste management, considering local issues e.g. air quality, and global issues including carbon reduction / greenhouse gas reduction and climate change.
- The vision, aims, and objectives - what the LWP wants to achieve in terms of resources and waste management.
- Strategy delivery - how resources and waste will be managed to achieve the aims and objectives, through the services provided by the LWP to its residents and communities.

How we view 'waste' has changed; it is no longer only something to get rid of, but is now considered a valuable resource, to be retained and reused, or avoided at all where possible. Also, the adverse impacts of raw material inputs e.g. the resources we use, are becoming increasingly apparent, meaning now more than ever raw materials need to be used efficiently and conserved. Using the resources from waste can help to reduce the raw materials needed for producing new goods, which has environmental, social and financial benefits. This updated LRWS reflects this global current thinking.

The Strategy covers services for managing municipal solid waste (MSW). MSW is all the waste

collected by the local authorities in the LWP<sup>3</sup>. This includes household, commercial and street cleansing wastes, and wastes taken to the Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

As Waste Collection Authorities, the District and Borough councils have a legal duty to collect municipal waste and Leicestershire County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), has a legal duty to treat, manage and dispose of MSW. The WCAs and WDA work in partnership, recognising that joint working on planning the collection, treatment (composting, recycling, and recovery) and disposal of waste supports efficient service delivery for residents and communities, including businesses.

This Strategy runs up to 2050, however it will be reviewed regularly at appropriate periods during this time. Reviews are needed to make sure the Strategy remains current and in line with national guidance.

## How is the service delivered?

All districts in Leicestershire currently have household collections of recycling, residual<sup>4</sup> and garden waste. Food waste is not currently collected district wide by any WCA; however some have either collected this in the past or have trialled weekly food waste collections over the last few years, including Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council. North West Leicestershire District Council have been successfully trialling a food waste collection since November 2019, and continue to do so.

### Recycling

How recycling is collected is broadly consistent across the LWP. Six of the Districts collect all recycling material together in one container (typically a wheeled bin), this is often referred to as a 'commingled collection' and is collected every two weeks. Residents in North West Leicestershire District on the other hand, are provided with a mixture of bags and boxes to separate out key recyclable materials, which are then placed in different compartments on a specialist vehicle. This is often referred to as a 'kerbside-sort' or 'multi-stream' collection. Examples of the containers for each District and Borough council are shown below.

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<sup>3</sup> It also applies to similar wastes collected by other parties; however this is not under the control of the local authorities.

<sup>4</sup> 'Residual' waste is 'black bin' waste that is not separated, so is mixed waste or 'general rubbish'.





Commingled collections for:  
 Blaby District Council,  
 Charnwood Borough Council,  
 Harborough District Council,  
 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council,  
 Melton Borough Council and  
 Oadby & Wigston Borough Council



Kerbside sort  
 or multi-stream  
 collections for  
 North West Leicestershire  
 District Council

All of the commingled recyclable materials collected from residents are currently sent to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Leicester. At this facility, recycling is separated using a combination of manual and automatic sorting processes to sort material streams before being baled and sent for reprocessing.

North West Leicestershire District Council has its own arrangement for processing recycling (which is already separated on the vehicle as it collects from households). Their recycling is transported to a depot in Coalville. Here, the materials are unloaded from the collection vehicles and tipped into dedicated bays where further separation is used where needed. For example, magnets are used to separate the metals from the plastic. Once baled, the collected recyclables are sold on, and this can be directly to reprocessors.

## Garden waste

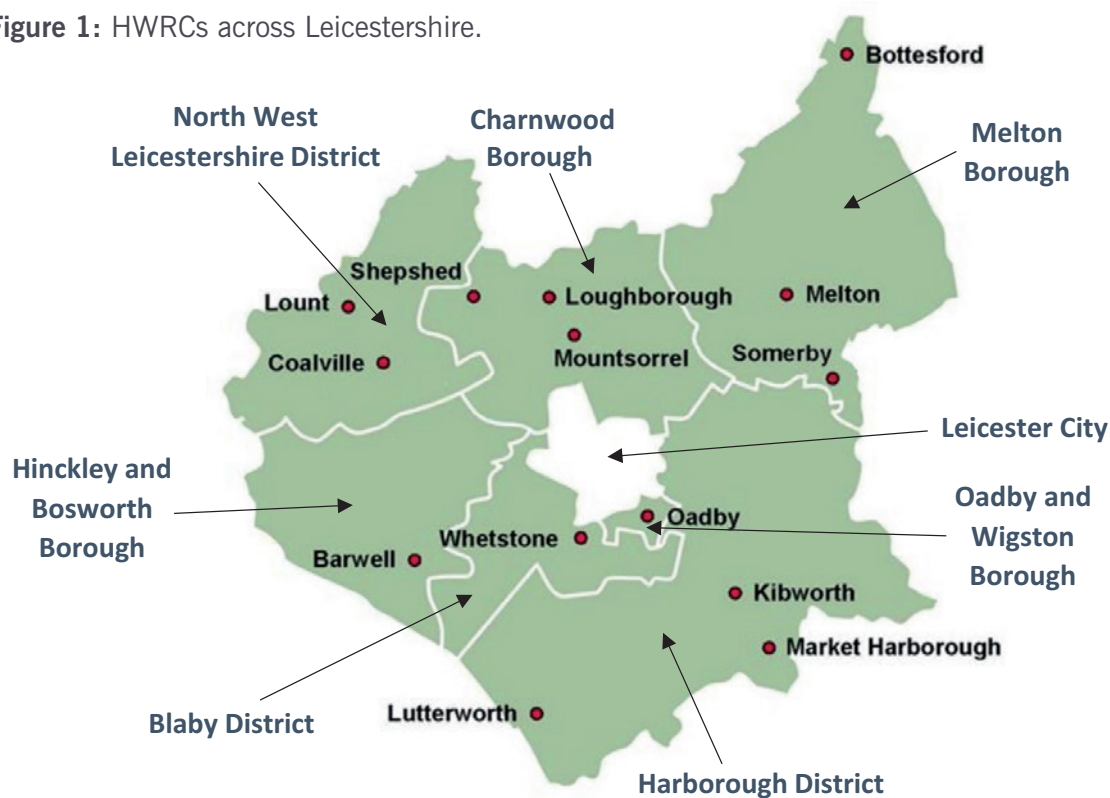
Unlike recycling and residual waste, the collection of garden waste is a non-statutory service and is a discretionary service provided by Local Authorities. As such, Local Authorities are able to provide this service for free, or to ask residents to pay for its collection. All authorities in the LWP charge for the collection of garden waste, except for North West Leicestershire District Council who offer this service for free. Residents wishing to have their garden waste collected typically pay an annual subscription fee which covers the cost of a wheeled bin, vehicles and crew that collect garden waste.

Residents are also encouraged to use other methods to dispose of garden waste. Firstly, via home composting garden waste (cuttings, trimmings, plants, branches and other garden waste which can be composted). Alternatively, residents can also take their garden waste to any of the Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

## Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)<sup>5</sup> are provided for residents to dispose of any bulky or additional waste and recycling which cannot be collected through the kerbside collection. There are fourteen HWRCs located across Leicestershire, as shown in the image below. These sites are managed by Leicestershire County Council.

**Figure 1:** HWRCs across Leicestershire.



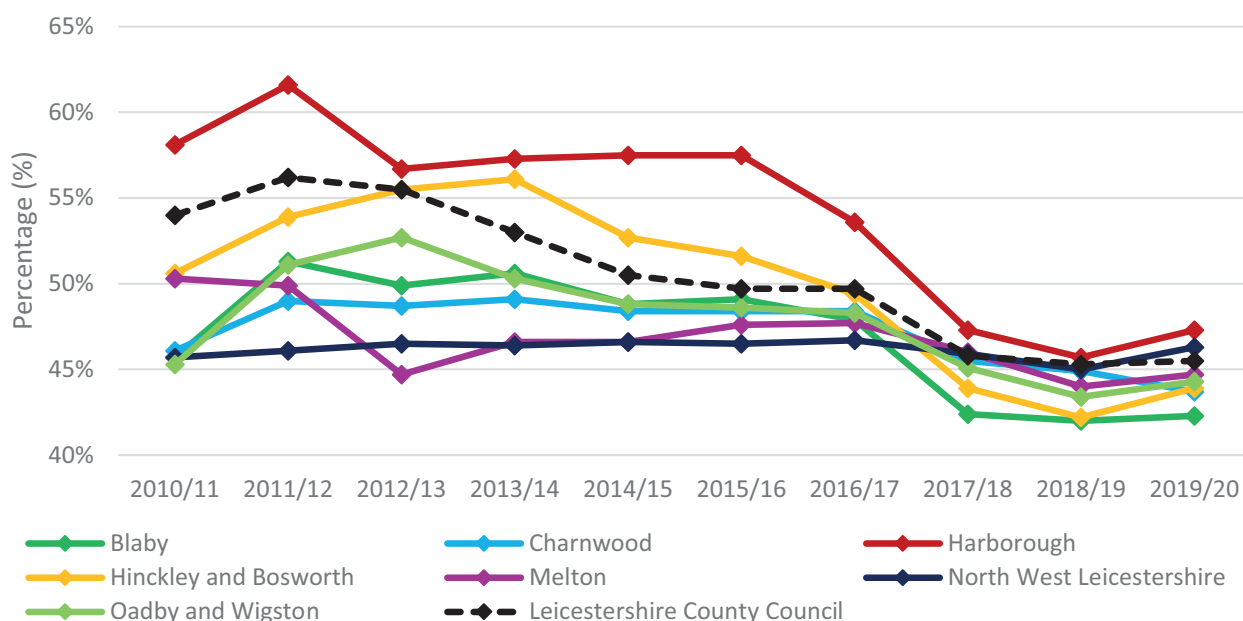
The HWRCs take a wide range of items which can be sent for reuse, recycling or disposal. Opening hours and the waste accepted varies across each site. Leicestershire residents are generally able to use these sites for free. Some charges may apply for specific materials, including hardcore and rubble, tiles, plasterboard and asbestos. Vans, pick-ups and cars with trailers, and any vehicle bringing asbestos, chemicals or liquid paint, require a permit to visit the sites.

In 2019/20, the combined reuse, recycling and composting performance was 45.5% for household waste from collections at the kerbside and from the HWRCs. This is lower than the UK's target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020. The average for England within the same period was 43.8%, meaning that Leicestershire did perform above national average, despite the fall in overall performance shown below. A key reason for the fall, shown in Figure 2, was not that householders were recycling less, but that a facility which was extracting extra recycling from residual waste had closed.

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<sup>5</sup> Locally in Leicestershire known as Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) or historically known as 'the tip'.

**Figure 2:** Current and historic recycling rates for Leicestershire Councils 2010/11 - 2019/20.



Although the recycling rate is above the national average, the amount of waste sent to landfill (the least desirable outcome) was 31.8% in 2019/20, this is much higher than the average landfill rate for local authorities in England, for the same time period (8.5%). Both reducing the waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling are key elements of this Strategy (see section 3).

## Who delivers the collection services?

The collection of waste and recycling is the responsibility of the District and Borough Councils. The delivery of this service can be managed in several ways; in-house (the Council run the collections using their staff), via a Local Authority Trading Company (a type of publicly owned 'arms length' company), or by outsourcing the service to a private contractor (also known as contracting out the service). At present, four of the District and Borough Councils operate this service in house (Blaby, Hinckley & Bosworth, North West Leicestershire and Oadby & Wigston) and three are outsourced to the private sector (Charnwood, Harborough and Melton). Collection service contracts typically last between 7 and 10 years.

## Bulky waste

Across the County, residents can arrange for the collection of larger items - this is known as a bulky waste collection. Each District and Borough Council has its own service in place for its residents. This service is chargeable (price varies per Council), often with a minimum collection fee. The types of items that can be collected include domestic furniture, appliances (televisions, fridges, freezers, washing machines), beds etc.

## Trade waste

Some District and Borough Councils also offer a collection service from businesses in their area, this is known as a trade waste collection. An overview of the trade waste services is provided below.

Council	Waste types collected	Other characteristics
<b>Blaby District Council</b>	General Waste Mixed Recycling Glass Only	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.
<b>Charnwood Borough Council</b>	General Waste	Weekly (or multiples of weekly) collections of residual waste. Intention to start mixed recycling collections soon.
<b>Harborough District Council</b>	General Waste Mixed Recycling	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.
<b>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth Borough Council</b>	General Waste Mixed Recycling	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.
<b>Leicestershire County Council</b>	N/A	LCC run a trade service at Whetstone Waste Transfer Station (WTS) which includes an outlet for general waste and also source separated waste such as cardboard, green waste, wood and inert waste.
<b>North West Leicestershire District Council</b>	General Waste Mixed Recycling	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.

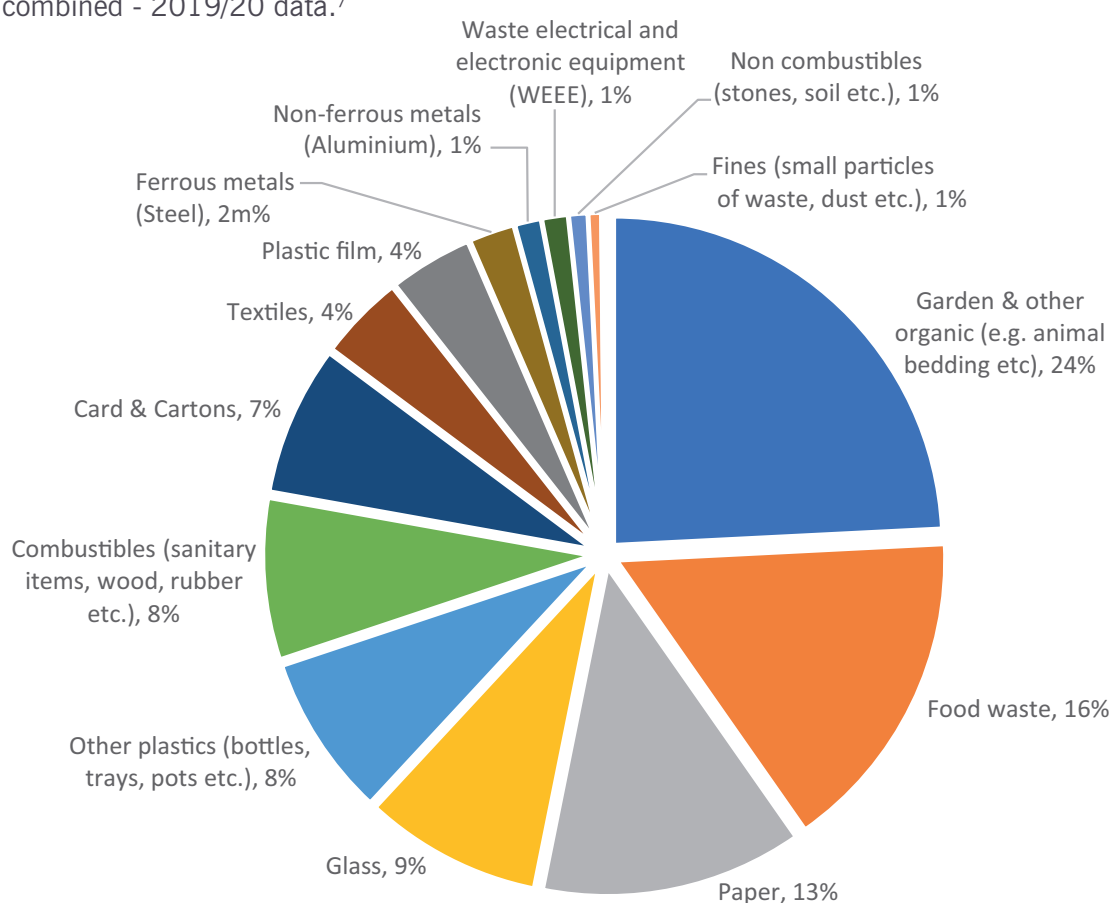
## What is in your bins?

The average composition of what a Leicestershire resident puts in their bins each year is shown in the pie chart below. What this illustrates is that the vast majority of items that are disposed of can be prevented, reduced, reused or recycled in some way. This isn't just the materials that we are familiar with recycling like paper, card, metals, glass and plastic, but also other materials like food waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which can be collected separately and have their resource value recovered.

Separating these additional materials for recycling can help contribute towards achieving 65% recycling, the national recycling target for 2035, set by Government<sup>6</sup>.

Furthermore, other items may be reused to prevent them becoming waste at all. This is preferable to recycling, and options such as using washable nappies, reusable water bottles for drinks and refilling containers with goods from a refill shop or station to avoid new packaging all help conserve resources and avoid packaging and other wastes. There is more on this in sections 3 and 4 of this Strategy.

**Figure 3:** Waste composition of all bins (residual, recycling and garden) combined - 2019/20 data.<sup>7</sup>



<sup>6</sup> This is included in the 2020 Circular Economy Package (CEP).

<sup>7</sup> Data may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## 2. What is the proposed strategy for Leicestershire?

**This section explains the direction envisaged for the LRWS and includes a summary of influences (both national and local) that have shaped its development.**

The Strategy focuses on municipal waste that is waste generated by households and similar wastes from businesses and commerce. It explores different options to reduce the amount of waste arising in the first place (see ‘the waste hierarchy’ described later in this section), and then to manage the remaining material in a way that gives benefit from its resource value.

The management of the residual waste (the remaining waste left for disposal) is managed by long term contracts. Whilst there are different ways to manage this waste, the Strategy takes the position that the prime aim is to avoid waste going to landfill. When new contracts are to be let for managing residual waste, they should review the latest options available and adhere to the principles of this Strategy for subsequent decision making on residual waste management technologies.

The vision and objectives of the LRWS are explained below.

### Our strategic vision

The overarching vision of the LRWS is:

*To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts.*

Key aspects of this vision, like what we mean by a circular economy and the waste hierarchy are explained in more detail later in this section of the Strategy.

# Our objectives to deliver the vision

To achieve the vision outlined above, the following objectives have been developed, and grouped into themes. These are all important guiding principles for the service as a whole and are not in order of priority.

## **Deliver services in accordance with circular economy principles**

**Objective 1:** Manage materials in accordance with circular economy principles, except where costs are prohibitive, or where the environmental consequences can be demonstrated to be negative.

**Objective 2:** As local authorities, set an example by preventing, reducing, reusing, recycling and composting our own waste and use our buying power to positively encourage sustainable resource use.

## **Reduce the climate change / carbon / air quality impact of waste services in Leicestershire**

**Objective 3:** Reduce carbon emissions from Leicestershire's waste management services.

## **Deliver services that are financially sustainable and equitable across the Partnership**

**Objective 4:** Consider the whole life financial, social and environmental impact, and deliver quality services designed to allow flexibility, innovation and improvement.

**Objective 5:** Promote the economic and employment opportunities of sustainable waste management where this is consistent with circular economy principles. Consider local / regional supply chain and markets for recycle and other secondary raw materials.

## **Delivery of high quality waste services for the residents of Leicestershire**

**Objective 6:** Work together to adapt and deliver coordinated services and infrastructure for waste services with lower environmental impacts.

**Objective 7:** Aim to reduce and manage residual waste within the County where this is consistent with the proximity principle and to manage all other waste at the nearest appropriate facility by the most appropriate method or technology.

## Work in partnership with local communities across Leicestershire

**Objective 8:** Work with the community and businesses to raise awareness about environmental matters (including climate change, energy and resource management) and increase participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives and link to national campaigns.

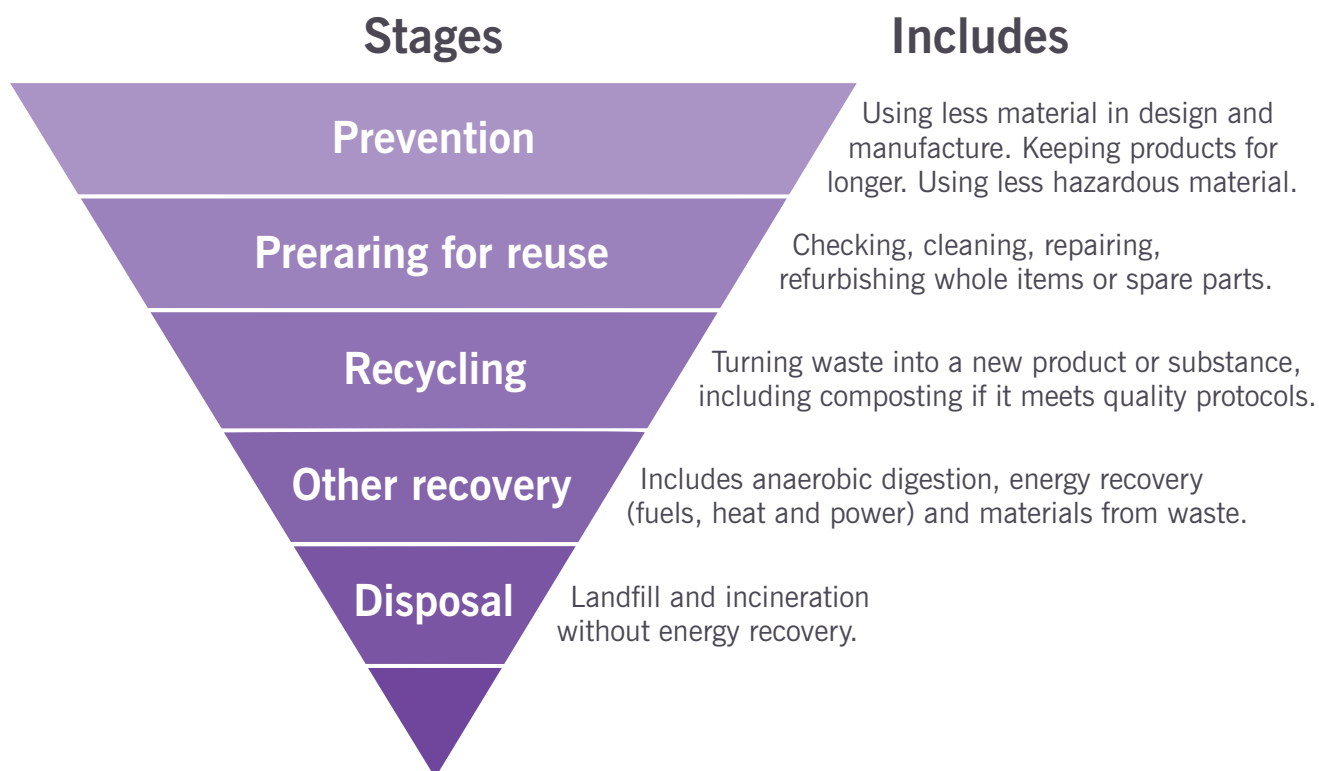
**Objective 9:** Lobby and work with others, in pursuit of the Partnership's vision of sustainable waste and resource management.

The Strategy also includes a number of pledges setting out specific actions to support and achieve these objectives, these are presented in section 3.

## National policy and influences

A guiding principle of managing waste and resources is the 'waste hierarchy', this is shown below with definitions as to the meaning of each level. The most beneficial method is 'prevention' of waste and the least beneficial 'disposal'. This Strategy sets out Leicestershire's intentions on each level.

**Figure 4:** The Waste Hierarchy (2011).





## Resources and waste strategy for England

“Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England” (2018), is focussed on improving recycling quality and increasing recycling rates from households and businesses. It includes substantial reforms to municipal waste collection and management services, including requiring the separate collection of food waste from households. It also puts a greater responsibility on producers of goods and packaging to play their part in dealing with the products at the end of their life. New measures proposed include Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging materials (EPR)<sup>8</sup> and the introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for single use drinks containers. This is explained in more detail in section 3. These measures are likely to have a significant impact on the services delivered in Leicestershire and who pays for them. The direction of the national Strategy has had a major influence on the LRWS.

## Waste prevention programme for England

Waste prevention activity reduces the amount of waste which is generated, and the Government’s view on how this can be achieved is set out in the Waste Prevention Programme for England, “Prevention is better than cure: the role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy” (2013). Key actions for Central Government include setting a clear direction, leading by doing, driving innovation, and ensuring that information regarding waste prevention is available to all. In March 2021, a consultation on a revised Waste Prevention Programme for England was held. The consultation document outlines how waste prevention could be achieved through transforming product design, making it easier for consumers to make sustainable choices or purchases and aligning policy with a circular economy approach (see below).

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<sup>8</sup> The National Strategy also raises the potential for further producer responsibility measures including for textile wastes (e.g. to help tackle ‘fast fashion’ impacts), bulky waste (e.g. mattresses, carpets) and other waste streams.

## Net zero carbon

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world and is driven by rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (which include gases such as carbon dioxide and methane). This results in global heating, rising sea levels and changing patterns of rainfall. These changes can increase the risk of flooding, heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires. To overcome this, the Government has committed the UK to achieving net zero by 2050. This means that there will be an equal balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere, through planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture. The waste management sector is estimated to have contributed around 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2019<sup>9</sup>. These emissions can be addressed through minimising the quantity of waste sent to landfill (which is a large contributor of methane emissions), and by applying the waste hierarchy (prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery).

## Circular economy

In a Circular Economy, we see a transition away from a take-make-dispose ideology to a more circular system in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible. This is achieved through maintaining the maximum value when in use, and then recovering and repurposing material at the end of its life. The EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) introduces a revised legislative framework, identifying steps for the reduction of waste and establishing an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling. This has been largely incorporated into UK Government strategy and policy and key elements within “Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England” (2018).

## Clean growth strategy

The Clean Growth Strategy was published in 2017 by HM Government, which aims to increase national income while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the UK’s 2050 net zero goal. The Strategy highlights that the UK waste sector has contributed to significant falls in carbon, with the large reduction in waste being sent to landfill resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions. 12.5% of the UK’s energy was generated from ‘renewable sources and waste’ in 2019. The incineration of waste (Energy from Waste or ‘EfW’) made up 13.3%<sup>10</sup> of the renewable energy generated.

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<sup>9</sup> Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021). 2019 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures.

<sup>10</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/datasets/ukenvironmentalaccountsenergyconsumptionfromrenewableandwastesources](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/datasets/ukenvironmentalaccountsenergyconsumptionfromrenewableandwastesources)

## Air quality

Air quality is used to describe the condition of our air, it can be negatively impacted by a number of pollutants including sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Road transport is a contributor to poorer air quality, demonstrated by the fact that it accounted for 33% of nitrogen oxide emissions across the UK in 2019. The impact of waste management activity on air quality is most likely to arise through transport impacts, for example, when collecting household waste and recycling and the transport of this to transfer, recycling, treatment and disposal facilities. However, alternative fuels for Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs, or 'bin lorries') are coming into the market which will help to reduce the impact that the waste management sector has on air quality, this is because these fuels are cleaner and have a lower environmental impact in comparison to diesel. A pledge on alternative (low emission) vehicle fuels is included in section 3.

## Local policies and influences

The LRWS will be implemented in the context of local policies, which both shape and affect it. The proposals in this Strategy have been developed in consideration of these policies, in order to check that the Strategy can be practically implemented and that it either complements or does not diverge from the wider aims of the LWP member authorities, as set out in other relevant policies.

The types of policies influencing the Strategy include the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (the Local Plan). For waste, the Local Plan aims to provide adequate facilities for waste management and mineral extraction/processing facilities within Leicestershire to meet identified needs. The current plan runs from 2019 to 2031. The Local Plan includes Leicester City; Leicester City Council is not within the LWP, but both parties cooperate to deliver plans which affect a wide geographic area.

Further policies and plans considered during the Strategy update cover a wide range of environmental and social issues, such as carbon management, climate emergency declarations and net zero ambitions, community strategies, air quality management, biodiversity and transport. It is important that, to the extent possible, the LRWS is aligned with these other documents. This is specifically addressed by an Environmental Report (see below) which gives more consideration to the local policy influences.

## Supporting documents

This LRWS is not developed in isolation; it is supported by research, analysis and consultation. This has been undertaken through the following processes.

Firstly, an Options Appraisal was prepared. This is an assessment of alternative resource and waste service delivery options, analysing combinations of factors such as waste collection methods, recycling options, or treatment approaches. The outcome was a selection of possible approaches to meet the Strategy aims and objectives.

Secondly, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken. SEA considers wider policy influences and assesses the Strategy options against important environmental effects and proposed mitigation. An Environmental Report is the outcome of the SEA; the assessment and mitigation measures in the Environmental Report have influenced the final selected strategy option(s).

Thirdly, an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) was conducted. This considers, at a strategic level, if the proposed resource and waste services are accessible to the entire community, regardless of characteristics such as age, gender, health, disability, race, or socio-economic status. The EHRIA also includes a public consultation which helps identify any additional unknown barriers the community may have in accessing services in the Strategy. The EHRIA influences the Strategy, identifying if any proposed options need adjusting in order for everyone to have access to the services.

Lastly, there has been a public consultation on key elements within the Strategy to gain feedback from the residents and communities of Leicestershire. The results from the consultation have been reflected within the Strategy.

# 3. How can the strategy be delivered?

**This section identifies LWP's commitments required to deliver the Strategy. These are divided into the topic areas needed to meet the overall vision.**

## Working in partnership

The LRWS has been developed jointly by LWP members, and it will be implemented by the LWP members working together. The Strategy update has included consultation with officers and elected members from all the LWP authorities. The LWP also recognise that waste issues cross administrative boundaries, and therefore it works with Leicester City Council. Leicester City Council is a Unitary Authority, which makes its own independent waste collection and disposal arrangements, but it co-operates with the LWP on strategic waste issues.

The LWP also works in partnership with residents and communities as they are central to the Strategy. The Strategy objectives are to deliver resource and waste services in which residents and communities can participate effectively. This requires clear and effective communication between the LWP and its residents. Residents are encouraged to maximise resource recovery by using the wide range of recycling services provided by the LWP; in turn, the LWP is required to provide accessible services for the residents, responding to their needs and aspirations.

In the near future, the LWP will also be working with private sector 'Producers' of waste under new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. EPR is intended to promote packaging<sup>11</sup> design which considers resource inputs and easier end of life recovery (e.g. reuse or recycling) of the resources within the products. Once finalised, EPR regulations will require the LWP members to participate in its implementation with possible service changes.

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<sup>11</sup> Government has indicated that EPR may be expanded beyond packaging into other goods and products.

The Partnership is also aware of its role in managing wastes and conserving resources from materials generated in Council buildings and activities and makes the following pledge:

### **Strategy Pledge no. 1:**

All Councils within the partnership will review their purchasing activities and internal waste management services to seek to promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling to support the objectives of this Strategy and lead by example.

The environment in which we live has a significant impact on our quality of life. Residents care about their environment and LWP want Leicestershire to be a great place to live, free from litter and fly-tipping. Tackling environmental crime requires joint working. The Partnership therefore makes the following pledge:

### **Strategy Pledge no. 2:**

Environmental crime, particularly fly-tipping does not recognise council boundaries. The Partnership will work together to reduce fly-tipping and litter across Leicestershire and educate residents, businesses, or anyone disposing of rubbish, about their legal duty of care to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

## **Preventing waste and preparing items for reuse**

Waste prevention is the highest priority of the waste management hierarchy and is an integral part of any Resources and Waste Strategy. Waste prevention measures ensure that the quantity of waste is reduced (either through the avoidance of waste creation in the first place, reuse of products and services, or the extension of its useful life). It therefore reduces the adverse impacts on the environment of waste generation and management, and subsequently prevents impact on human health.

It also eases our demand on finite natural resources and as such, reduces the carbon emissions associated with waste management activity.

The most effective waste prevention activities are often focused on particular waste streams or products. Over recent years, LWP members have implemented a number of initiatives in support of waste prevention and reuse. These projects have included food waste reduction training through Adult Learning Services, supporting the use of reusable nappies by offering free trials of reusable nappies, encouraging home composting via compost bin subsidies and training, and providing guidance on reducing unnecessary waste such as contamination or junk mail.

As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have explored the impact of waste prevention measures and make the following pledge:

### Strategy Pledge no. 3:

The Partnership pledge to support and encourage waste prevention activity across LWP. This will include working with stakeholders, residents and communities to prevent unnecessary waste arising, for example through food waste reduction campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste.

The second highest priority of the waste hierarchy is 'preparing items for reuse'. The aim of repair and reuse is to extend the useful life of a product or service. This has wide ranging benefits which include saving money, conserving the Earth's limited resources and lowering carbon emissions. Reuse activities often support social and economic development, through skills training, employment and community volunteering.

Recent examples of reuse activity across Leicestershire include:

- **Adult Learning Service** - Furniture reuse workshops are available to all Leicestershire residents. These workshops take place regularly and teach individuals how to fix and upcycle items of furniture.
- **Textiles repair** - An online guide is available on the Less Waste website, which aims to reduce clothing waste. It encourages more sustainable purchasing habits, gives advice about how to care for and repair clothes, how items can be upcycled and where clothing can be donated/sold. Classes are also available for residents to learn sewing skills, such as how to make new items out of existing fabric at home.
- **Give or Take Day toolkit** - A Give or Take Day is an event where people can exchange unwanted goods for items which they may need. A toolkit is available on the Less Waste website to help individuals set up their own event.

Leicestershire residents are also able to engage in reuse activities at the HWRCs across the County. Leicestershire County Council have been investing in developing its provision for reuse at its HWRCs, creating signage and designated deposit areas called 'ReHome Zones', for items which residents deem eligible for reuse or repair. This currently includes bric-a-brac and bicycles however Leicestershire County Council have a vision to expand and enhance the range of materials which can be saved from going into the 'waste' stream, retaining the definition as a 'product' thereby extending its useful life.

LWP also run the 'Less Waste' website which serves as an online platform for the Partnership to provide information on recycling and waste management to its residents, focusing on themes of 'reduce', 'reuse' and 'recycle'. The website also includes links and information on many of the initiatives quoted above<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> [www.lesswaste.org.uk](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk)

As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have explored the role of reuse in developing a waste strategy and as such make the following pledge:

#### **Strategy Pledge no. 4:**

The Partnership pledge to continue delivering reuse services and expand activities where practicable, working in partnership with other stakeholders and to signpost to places that advocate for waste prevention and reuse, in support of developing a circular economy. This includes a pledge to continue to improve the collection of items for reuse at Household Waste Recycling Centres and explore the development of reuse shops at suitable sites.

## **Collecting food waste and garden waste**

After preventing food waste occurring (see Love Food Hate Waste example referred to previously), the next most important method of reducing carbon emissions from food waste is to separately collect and treat it. The most effective way of doing this is to collect food waste from households and businesses on a weekly basis, as a separate material stream, and to process the food waste in Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities.

The Government has recognised that a key method of avoiding damaging methane emissions from landfill (methane is a powerful greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>), is to remove food waste from the residual waste stream, through a dedicated collection service. The Government is requiring (through the Environment Act) all households to have a separate collection of food waste, on a weekly basis, from the mid 2020's.



**Figure 5:** Food waste collection trial taking place in North West Leicestershire District Council.



Food waste collections have been trialled in parts of the County and there are increasing numbers of councils implementing them across the UK. They tend to use small, dedicated collection vehicles and the carbon benefits from separating and effectively managing the food waste far outweigh the carbon emissions of the collection fleet. An image of the collection trial in North West Leicestershire is shown in Figure 5. More separation of waste for recycling can mean additional mileage to operate the collection service and this can add to local air pollution if not appropriately managed. Electric Refuse Collection vehicles, and some fuelled by hydrogen have been trialled and implemented in the UK, and these have the potential to dramatically reduce local air emissions and save significant amounts of carbon emissions. Vehicles running on alternative fuels are currently much more expensive and require new infrastructure around refuelling / charging, however this is an important area to be evaluated by the Partnership as new vehicles are procured and the cost of technology falls. Some districts within the Partnership are using HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel as a substitute for diesel, including North West Leicestershire District Council and Blaby District Council.

The separately collected food waste is usually sent to an AD process. Anaerobic digestion is a process that takes place in sealed vessels in the absence of oxygen. Food waste is fed into the vessels which act like a digestion process, breaking down the food waste using bacteria (in a similar way and a slightly higher temperature than your stomach digesting food). The waste degrades and releases a flammable biogas (which is roughly half methane and half carbon dioxide), this gas is then usually combusted in a gas engine to generate electricity, which can be fed back into the national grid as renewable electricity. The gas can alternatively be used to fuel vehicles with 'biomethane' or, after further processing, as an input into the gas grid. The remaining residue from the food waste is reduced to a slurry and can be, after some further 'maturation' (like a composting process), applied to land as a soil conditioner or fertiliser. As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have modelled the introduction of separate food waste collections across the County and make the following pledges:

#### **Strategy Pledge no. 5:**

The Partnership will implement and promote separate food waste collections to all households, subject to confirmation of national policy, legislation and the provision of total ongoing Government funding. This will be as soon as required and when contracts and circumstances dictate. The County Council will procure Anaerobic Digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste in a manner that contributes to effective carbon emissions reduction across the County and improves soil quality.

### **Strategy Pledge no. 6:**

The Partnership will explore the use of alternative fuels for collection vehicles and the transportation of waste and resources to further reduce carbon emissions of the service and improve air quality.

A garden waste collection is offered to all residents in Leicestershire on a fortnightly basis, as described in section 2. There is currently no duty on WCAs (the Districts / Borough Councils) to collect garden waste, however the Government is considering making a free garden waste collection a mandatory requirement (or introducing a maximum charge), through the National Resources and Waste Strategy for England, this is subject to separate consultation.

The collected garden waste from the County is sent to composting facilities and the resulting compost applied to land to improve soil quality and add nutrient value.

As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have modelled both free of charge and subscription based garden waste collection systems and make the following pledge:

### **Strategy Pledge no. 7:**

The Partnership will continue to offer a garden waste collection service to Leicestershire residents. This will follow national guidelines as to the form of the collection and will be subject to legislation and total ongoing Government funding. The Partnership will continue to procure composting capacity to treat the collected garden waste in a manner that supports carbon reduction and improves soil quality.

## **Expanding recycling for homes and businesses**

The residents and communities of Leicestershire already have a wide range of materials collected for recycling. This mirrors the Government intention to have a standardised set of materials collected for recycling from each house and business across the Country. This will include food waste (as described previously) and each of the following:

- Metals (cans, foil trays, foil, aerosols)
- Plastics (plastic film, bottles, trays, pots, tubs)
- Cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak)
- Card
- Paper
- Glass

The aim is that all of England has the same range of materials collected (by 2023) and that this will enable more targeted nationwide messages and standardised product labelling for recyclability to be established. Furthermore, residents moving from one area to another will know what materials can be separated for recycling (although there might be different colours or types of containers in which to separate them).

In addition to these changes, Government are seeking to introduce a deposit return scheme (DRS) for all single use drinks containers (excluding bottles made of High-Density Polyethylene plastic, primarily milk bottles and glass bottles). This is likely to place an additional 20p charge (the deposit) onto bottles and cans containing drinks, which then may be redeemed (returned) when the bottle / can is placed in an authorised collection point. The collection points are likely to be at shops / supermarkets and are known as reverse vending machines, although alternative methods of redeeming deposits are also being investigated. The DRS scheme is still undergoing consultation but is due to be implemented in 2024. This could have the effect of changing consumer behaviour to an extent, also potentially reducing the amount of littering of containers (covered by the DRS) and may reduce the amount of recyclables and waste handled by the local authorities.

As part of the wide-ranging national changes and to encourage greater resource recovery from waste, the Government are also intending to implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for all producers of packaging. EPR means that all packaging producers will need to pay for the costs of dealing with their packaging at the end of its life (e.g. when it is recycled or thrown away). In future (and this is intended to be implemented from 2024), packaging producers will be responsible for the net costs of collecting, handling, recycling, treating and disposing of packaging waste, by providing monies to local government equivalent to that cost. This, together with the DRS scheme, will also provide an incentive to product and packaging producers to consider how their products can be designed better for their resource recovery, for example by making them easier to recycle. Packaging that is hard to recycle will cost more for disposal which will ultimately cost the producer of that packaging. This approach helps the role of the Councils and should assist in improving resource recovery and recycling over the medium and long term.

The appraisal of different collection systems (see supporting Options Appraisal document) demonstrated a preference for maximising recycling through the establishment of a food waste collection. This would be alongside maintaining similar recycling collection systems as at present but increasing participation and use of the recycling service by restricting the residual waste. The preferred method of restricting residual waste was by providing smaller wheeled bins whilst still allowing for plenty of space in the recycling containers. The addition of a weekly food waste collection should also reduce the need for the current levels of residual waste capacity. The Options Appraisal also demonstrated the benefit of providing collection services for other materials like batteries and textiles from households. As part of the modelling for this Strategy we have considered EPR and DRS in addition to different recycling collection systems across the County and make the following pledges:

**Strategy Pledge no. 8:**

The Partnership shall ensure that the full range of recyclables (as specified by Government and subject to funding) are collected from residents (and businesses where applicable) across Leicestershire by 2025, or as soon as possible when contracts and circumstances allow.

**Strategy Pledge no. 9:**

The Partnership shall continue to explore the viability of adding extra materials to recycling collections (e.g. for batteries, small electric goods or clothing) striving to continually improve Leicestershire's recycling performance.

**Strategy Pledge no. 10:**

The Partnership will put in place collection systems to contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035, this may include restricting residual waste capacity to encourage greater materials separation, carbon savings and resource recovery. Improvements in materials recovery at Household Waste Recycling Centres will also contribute towards the national target.

**Strategy Pledge no. 11:**

The Partnership will continue to allocate a communications budget sufficient to help promote good recycling behaviour and support resource recovery to progress the circular economy and low carbon objectives of this Strategy.

## Avoiding landfill as much as possible

During 2020/21, Leicestershire landfilled more waste than the national average. This is explained in section 1 of this Strategy and is a situation that the County Council aims to address. An example of this is a recently procured residual waste treatment contract that should enable Leicestershire to exceed national targets for landfill, i.e. no more than 10% of municipal waste should be sent to landfill by 2035.

The County Council, over the period of this Strategy (to 2050), are likely to procure further contracts for residual waste treatment capacity. The technologies and options available for waste treatment may change over time, but they will be assessed in accordance with the vision and objectives of this Strategy, to ensure that they are consistent with the direction expressed in this document, and local and national objectives.

Leicestershire County Council makes the following pledge:

### **Strategy Pledge no. 12:**

The County Council will reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the 10% national target by 2035. The County Council will undertake future procurement processes for residual waste treatment (alternatives to landfill) in line with the vision and objectives of this Strategy.

## Contributing to net zero carbon in Leicestershire

The measures throughout this Strategy will make significant reductions to carbon emissions from the municipal waste management service. Modelling undertaken for the Options Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process indicates that by implementing all of the measures within this Strategy, carbon savings of the range of 5,000 - 10,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent would be delivered each year, compared against the current situation. This is the equivalent (in carbon emissions terms) of taking approximately 1,800 - 3,600 cars off the road.

# 4. Where will the strategy take us?

## Projecting ahead to 2050

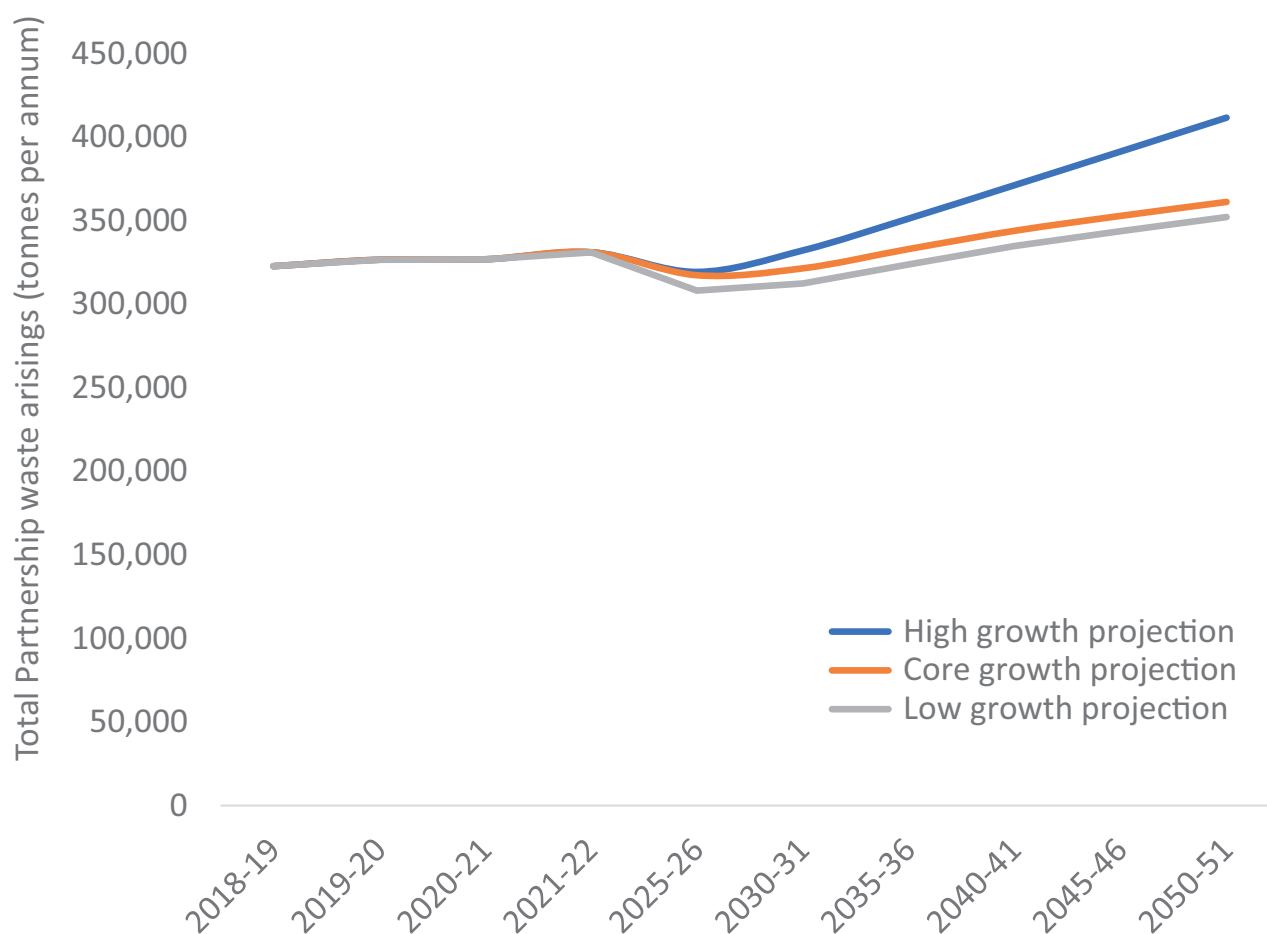
Although it is impossible to predict the future for resource and waste management, we can be sure that 2050 will be very different from today; consider how we manage waste in our households now, compared with 20 years ago. The need to reduce carbon emissions to achieve net zero will require many changes to our current lifestyles and to our environmental impacts. This lifestyle change is part of the global movement towards a circular economy model, essential to reduce our demands on limited resources and to dramatically decrease our carbon impacts. These influences will affect the future amount and type of resources and waste in Leicestershire.

Already, Leicestershire has seen major changes in its resources and waste. Recently, increasing digitisation means residents and communities produce less paper. By contrast, more on-line shopping has increased quantities of household cardboard; this was exacerbated by the lifestyle changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, over the last 20 years, although each person is now producing less waste because of lighter weight packaging, the waste they do produce includes far more plastic. Because plastic is usually oil based (fossil carbon), this conflicts with the aims of a low carbon future, unless we can recycle that material multiple times.

Dealing with these uncertainties and changes to resource and waste arisings needs a responsive and flexible LRWS, which tackles new challenges with a broad range of solutions. We have set out a range of pledges and measures to support national changes and set a direction for long term resource recovery for the benefit of residents and communities of Leicestershire. We recognise however that there will be many substantial changes impacting on materials and wastes over the next five years, as the national Strategy takes effect. There is likely to be a need to review or update this Strategy before the end of the 2020's.

Consideration of future waste growth rates is shown in Figure 6, with High, Low and Core projections. These projections are informed by housing forecasts and future policy and legislation that may impact on waste arisings, discussed in section 2<sup>13</sup>. This includes local and national changes driven by packaging producers affected by the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) measures, austerity impacts, consistency of collections, single use plastics ban and other resource management drivers.

**Figure 6:** Waste growth projections for wastes collected by Local Authorities, 2019 - 2050.

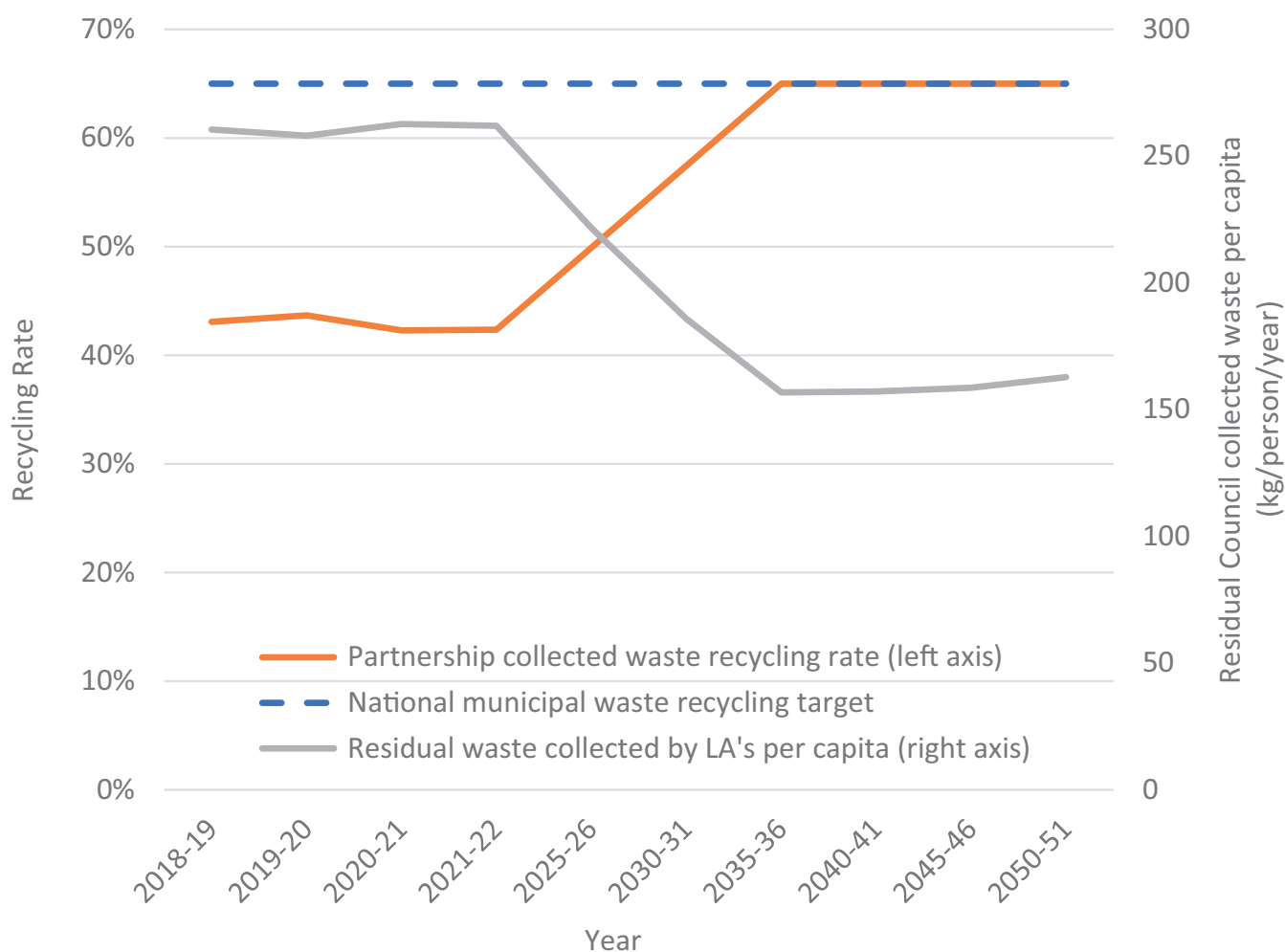


<sup>13</sup> The variations across the projections is the extent to which different policy interventions are implemented.

The increase in waste shown around 2020 and 2021 is the extra arisings generated by the Covid-19 pandemic (and associated behavioural changes such as home working, use of Personal Protective Equipment and internet shopping), this is assumed to revert back to 2019 levels in the following years, albeit influenced by rising numbers of households and other factors. The subsequent dip in waste arisings is the estimated result of the implementation of a national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the period 2023 – 2025 (this is described in section 3).

Figure 7 shows delivery in Leicestershire of the national target for 65% of municipal waste to be recycled and prepared for reuse by 2035.

**Figure 7:** Recycling rate & residual waste per person projections for wastes collected by Local Authorities, 2019 - 2050.





The modelling which informs this Strategy shows that c.62% recycling can be achieved through combinations of the options described in section 3, such as expanding recycling and food waste collections (Pledges 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10)<sup>14</sup>. In addition to these options, recycling and reuse will be further enhanced to reach the 2035 target by:

- The LWP continuing to promote and develop systems for reuse of usable goods and packaging (Pledge 4).
- The LWP promoting ongoing education and awareness raising for its residents and communities (Pledge 11).
- The County Council aiming to increase recovery from the Household Waste Recycling Centres (Pledge 10).
- The national changes around product labelling, and extended producer responsibility (making products and packaging easier to recycle).
- Residual waste treatment procurement, which may also deliver additional recycling (Pledge 12)<sup>15</sup>.

Figure 7 also shows that the actions set out within this Strategy, supported by national policy, should also reduce the amount of Council collected residual waste (general rubbish not separated for recycling). If the national 65% recycling rate is to be met the amount of residual waste (all general mixed 'rubbish') managed by Councils will need to fall from around 260kg per person per year to around 160kg per person by 2035. Furthermore, the management of residual waste in Leicestershire is also set to change with a pledge to reduce the amount of waste landfilled from current levels (of around 30%) to less than 5% by 2025. This is substantially ahead of the new national target of 10% landfilled waste by 2035.

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<sup>14</sup> In March 2022, Defra announced that the DRS for England will exclude glass bottles. It is anticipated that the kerbside recycling rate could increase by between 1.5% and 2% above the recycling rate modelled in the Options Appraisal.

<sup>15</sup> Subject to clarifications on how recycling performance is calculated in the future.

# 5. Action plan

## Introduction and background

This Action Plan provides a route map for delivering the vision and objectives set out in the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS) / the 'Strategy'. It provides a clear direction of travel to ensure that resources and waste are managed efficiently.

## Context

The Action Plan will guide the implementation of the Strategy and will be subject to regular monitoring and review. Changes may be made to the Action Plan in response to (for example):

- Accelerated or delayed implementation of actions
- Variance from predicted performance of actions
- Changes in Government policy, legislation or regulation
- Other changes in circumstances

The Action Plan is intended to be a living document and will be monitored and updated on an on-going basis. Significant changes that render the Action Plan inconsistent with the LRWS may necessitate revision of the Strategy or Action Plan.

The actions have been categorised in line with themes set out within the Strategy document. Each action has been allocated the responsibility of either the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP) as a collective, or Partners within LWP (i.e. the Districts / Boroughs or County Council).

The Action Plan associated with a resource and waste strategy is usually quite high level but builds on the pledges and objectives of the Strategy. There may be further (more detailed) actions that fall out of the actions within the plan for example: a procurement plan; District Council action plans; business cases, or; communications plans.

## Key challenges for the action plan

The Partnership is committed to delivering the objectives and policies set out in the Strategy in a way that represents good value for the Partnership and the residents of Leicestershire as a whole. This approach requires coordination of effort between seven local authorities and between the two tiers of local government that in the case of waste management, have very different roles and responsibilities.

At a national level, Government is currently consulting on a suite of potential policy changes which are intended to reform the resources and waste industry (see Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018). The legislative basis for implementation of these reforms is included in the Environment Act (2021). Outcomes from the national consultation could require substantive changes from the LWP. Where changes are anticipated (e.g. separate food waste collections) these have been acknowledged within the Action Plan with defined actions. However, where there is more ambiguity (e.g. relating to the charging for garden waste collections), these have been excluded from the Action Plan until further clarity is provided from Government.

## Action plan headings

The Action Plan has been divided into the following themes:

- Reuse/Circular Economy
- Recycling (performance and collections)
- Residual Waste Reduction
- Partnership Working
- Leading by example
- Communication
- Carbon

Some of these themes contain overlapping elements. Each action details what action is to be taken, how this relates to either an objective or pledge of the LRWS, by whom and when.

Table 1 provides an overview of the key actions by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership. Links to the Strategy Objectives and Pledges are also summarised.

## Overview of actions

Action	Objective	Pledge
<b>Reuse / circular economy</b>		
Reuse service - Evaluate and explore further reuse options at household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs)	1	3, 4
Facilitate or support the delivery of repair workshops (e.g. for Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE))	2	3, 4
Circular Economy principles promotion - Liaise and engage with stakeholders	1, 5	
Waste prevention / reuse focused campaign - run at least once a year across the Partnership	1	3, 4, 14
Explore development of reuse shops at suitable sites	1	4
Promote reuse - provide opportunities for or signpost householders (including those that cannot access HWRCs)	1	4
<b>Recycling (performance and collections)</b>		
Food Waste - Implementation of weekly food waste collections (all districts from 2025 or as contracts allow) with consideration of alleviating concerns raised in consultation (pests, containers, previous trial etc)	6	5
Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – Explore any collection and treatment options associated with the introduction of DRS	1, 6	
Review garden waste collection service with consideration given to Government response to national waste consultation		7
Implement dry collection systems to achieve high quality recycling with consideration given to Government response to national Resources and Waste Strategy for England consultation		8

Action	Objective	Pledge
Kerbside collections - contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035	1	10
Kerbside recycling collections - Review materials collected within core recycling service (e.g. plastic film ) and explore additional collections (absorbent hygiene products (AHP), small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), textiles, batteries, bulky waste)	1	8, 9
Food waste treatment - procure Anaerobic Digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste (and promote the positives of this acquisition)		5
<b>Residual waste management</b>		
Consider options for reducing kerbside residual waste including reduced average residual waste capacity and implementation of no side waste policy where not in existence (alongside educating residents on the rationale of waste prevention, recycling, etc). Closely monitor where in existence	6	
Evaluate options to enhance separation at HWRCs to maximise recycling / reuse and recovery performance	7	4
Align with national residual waste reduction targets (kg/person/yr)	1, 7	
Landfill reduction - Reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025		12
Review options and approach to residual waste treatment to support greater resilience and align with the long-term aim to reduce waste arisings	7	12
Review / Adoption of resource efficiency metric as per data and Government policy <sup>16</sup>	1, 4	

<sup>16</sup> Subject to consultation.

Action	Objective	Pledge
<b>Partnership working</b>		
Quarterly meetings - to discuss and action strategic and operational resource and waste issues and engagement with existing and new parties or bodies (e.g. producer responsibility organisations)	6, 8	3
Adopt and promote the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	6	
Action Plan review (annual)	4	
Strategy review (5 yearly) or when there are significant changes in waste/environmental policy	4	
Explore efficiencies of joint procurement (e.g. containers and food waste vehicles and collections) at strategic points (dates TBC)	6	
<b>Lead by example</b>		
Lobby both Government and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generated and increase reuse, recycling, composting and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy	1, 9	
Each Partner to review / audit their purchasing activities and internal waste management services regularly to promote waste prevention with a view to reducing, reusing and recycling / developing a Circular Economy		1
Update EHRIA during review of LRWS	4	
Coordinated publicity campaigns - Maintain high profile of green / sustainable activities / events and initiatives in Leicestershire (e.g. through Less Waste / signposting enquiries to relevant contacts)	5, 8, 9	
Develop district level action plans for LRWS implementation	1, 4	

Action	Objective	Pledge
<b>Communication actions</b>		
Engage with businesses and local communities to increase participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives to reduce climate change impacts and improve other beneficial outcomes	5, 8, 9	3
Work together to reduce fly-tipping and litter by educating residents and businesses about their duty of care to dispose of waste responsibly.		2
Consider opportunities to improve communications to residents regarding operation and safe use of HWRCs		10
Continue allocation of communications budget		11
Communication Plan - Develop for LRWS implementation for LWP (working in partnership with local communities and businesses, promoting lead by example etc)	8, 9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
<b>Carbon</b>		
Explore the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for the waste collection services (and promote leading by example)	3	6
Monitor LWP waste management services carbon emissions in order to reduce environmental impacts	3	
Contribute to the County wide Net Zero targets and engagement with all partners to support this aspiration	3	11

## Monitoring

Monitoring the progress and performance of each action will be crucial to the success of the Strategy. The Partnership will continue to work together and will meet regularly to monitor progress. It will also provide an update on joint working as part of regular reporting against the Strategy Action Plan. This should form a regular agenda item for LWP meetings.

Where the Action Plan monitoring identifies that insufficient progress is being made in a particular area, then additional actions / corrective measures may be introduced to rectify any shortfall.

