

Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 Draft Action Plan



Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

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The Core Strategy represents further development of the 2002 Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS).

In order to review the 2002 JMWMS independent consultants were commissioned to produce technical documents which have contributed to the development of the Strategy.

This document is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which has considered the likely environmental, social and economic impacts of the Strategy.

All these documents are available to view at www.wasteaware.org.uk or can be requested by calling 08457 425000

1.0 Introduction

This Action Plan provides a route map for delivering the vision and objectives set out in the accompanying Core Strategy. This Plan and the Core Strategy between them comprise the Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) (hereafter referred to as 'the Partnership'). The original Waste Strategy (2002-2024) should be read in conjunction with the revised Strategy to provide context, as it was integral to the development of the Partnership's work, as well as influencing the writing of this revised Strategy. The Action Plan will guide the implementation of the Strategy and will be subject to annual monitoring and review by the Partnership. Changes may be made to the Plan in response to:

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

Significant changes that render the Action Plan inconsistent with the Core Strategy may necessitate revision of the Core Strategy.

1.1 Key Challenges for the Action Plan

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

A particular challenge for the Partnership will be to implement an appropriate response to the Government's Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), which progressively limits the amount of biodegradable waste that local authorities can send to landfill.

This scheme affects primarily on the County Council as the waste disposal authority for Hertfordshire but, as additional costs will ultimately be passed on to Council Tax payers, all authorities have an equal stake in minimising its potential costs. The best response to it will require further action from the district waste collection authorities as well, through coordinated Partnership working. The Core Strategy includes a LATS strategy for the Partnership and one of the key roles of this Action Plan is to coordinate the actions that are needed to deliver that LATS strategy.

1.2 Action Plan Headlines

The following sections of this document set out in detail the actions required to deliver the Strategy. However, some actions are clearly more fundamental than others, and the key actions are summarised here.

1.2.1 Waste Prevention and Re-use

- Waste prevention and re-use initiatives often substantially overlap and have therefore been grouped together, along with publicity and campaigning activities relating to recycling;
- The Partnership will continue to oversee the HWP WasteAware campaign and ensure, in the absence of external funding, an adequately funded programme to build on the progress already made on facilitating waste minimisation, reuse and recycling activities and behaviour.
- The WasteAware campaign will be extended to include 'street scene' activities involving litter, abandoned vehicles and flytipping. One of the first actions will be to draw up a programme of activities further to those already agreed.
- The work already undertaken by the Partnership to develop home composting will be continued, and a 3-year intensive home composting programme will commence in 2007, reviewed annually.
- The existing promotional campaign to encourage the take up and sustained use of real nappies, as opposed to disposables, will be continued. The Partnership will investigate a three-year plan to extend and provide further support for the offer.
- The Partnership is committed to increasing collaboration with the charity and small business sector to produce and publicise an online directory of reuse organisations in Hertfordshire and the surrounding area.

The Partnership will encourage distributors and retailers to minimise the volume of waste produced by reducing packaging and designing sustainable products, while lobbying central government to increase producer responsibility. They will also provide information to assist Hertfordshire's residents make environmentally friendly consumer choices.

1.2.2 Recycling and Composting

- Good recycling rates are already being achieved by the Partners although it is recognised that there is further to go. The early stages of the Strategy will see the continued implementation and further development of these services.
- Some authorities already use smaller bins or collect residual waste on an alternate weekly basis. Others are planning or considering these type of options for the future. Evidence from best practice elsewhere indicates these types of initiatives will significantly increase the recycling rates in those areas.
- Composting facilities, suitable for the treatment of kitchen waste, are being developed within the Hertfordshire area. Some authorities are already collecting this material and others will start shortly. In the longer term, the Partnership will need to consider whether alternatives to current arrangements, such as the separate collection of kitchen waste, are likely to provide better results as circumstances change.

1.2.3 Residual Waste Management

- By the start of 2014, the Partnership will have to provide the capacity to divert at least **75,000 tonnes** of biodegradable waste from residual waste (for disposal) if the objective of self-sufficiency in landfill allowances is to be maintained. This will mean a step change in thinking about how residual waste is processed, using new technologies.

Procurement and Infrastructure

- The development of a further in-vessel composting facility within the county to treat 45,000 tonnes of organic kitchen waste is underway and sufficient transfer arrangements will need to be developed to serve it.
- Procurement of a long-term solution to Hertfordshire's residual waste treatment needs will have to commence in 2007.
- Residual waste treatment facility(ies) will need to be operational by 2011/12.

1.3 Action Plan Presentation and Structure

For convenience the Action Plan has been divided into the following individual Action Plans:

- Waste Awareness;
- Recycling and Composting;
- Residual Waste Management

Each action plan details **what** action is to be taken, by **whom** and **when**. Links to the core strategy, targets and monitoring are also summarised.

2.0 Waste Awareness Action Plan

A successful communications campaign is integral to achieving a successful waste management system across the county and meeting (or exceeding) government-set recycling targets. This can only be made possible through public engagement in services and willingness by residents to deal responsibly with their waste.

In a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 1998, the eleven Hertfordshire Waste Authorities agreed to “work within a common framework and approach to waste related education and awareness issues under the ‘WasteAware’ campaign”.

‘WasteAware’ is a campaign which aims to increase public awareness of the problems surrounding household waste disposal and seeks to encourage residents to reduce to a minimum the quantity they produce by reducing, re-using and recycling their waste, bringing about a change in behaviour.

The WasteAware group structures its communications campaign on the principles of the waste hierarchy and since 2002 has completed the following major projects.

- Production of waste education packs for Keystage 2 and Keystage 3 pupils – delivered to all Hertfordshire schools.
- Door to door advisors visited nearly 250,000 homes in Hertfordshire to explain waste services available to residents and answer questions.

- Development of a re-usable nappy cashback initiative, helping over 1,000 families to use reusable nappies instead of disposables (diverting circa 4,500,000 nappies from landfill).
- Further development of the subsidised home composter offer, providing over 20,000 home composters to Hertfordshire residents and schools.
- Use of a range of media to promote and advertise the WasteAware campaign, including bus backs, ad-bikes, cinema ads, local authority magazines and recycling containers and vehicles across the county.

Additionally the group has produced waste-related literature, organised roadshows and run competitions to promote waste awareness to residents and schools.

As a result of continued efforts of the Partnership to develop the WasteAware Campaign, public awareness levels of the campaign have risen from 22% in 2000 (three years after the campaign began) to 28% in 2004 and 35% in 2006.

The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership will continue to work together on waste reduction and recycling initiatives, through the WasteAware campaign ensuring an adequately funded programme is maintained. As such, this action plan details activities carried out in partnership by the eleven authorities. Each authority will also run individual projects to support their own recycling schemes and address issues particular to their locality and services. For the purpose of this Action Plan, it will consider awareness raising activities including waste reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal.

2.1 Basis in Core Strategy

The actions listed below link closely to the following objectives in the core strategy:

Objective 1: *Manage materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy –, reduce, re-use, recycle / compost, energy recovery (e.g. local heating/ electricity), disposal - except where financial costs are prohibitive, or where environmental or public health consequences are negative;*

Objective 2: *Manage resources and waste in a way that meets the current needs of Hertfordshire's residents, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;*

Objective 9: *Work with others, including commercial, statutory, non-governmental, academic and community based or not-for-profit organisations, in pursuit of the Partnership's vision of sustainable waste and resource management, particularly on the issues of waste prevention and re-use;*

Objective 11: *Work closely with the community & voluntary sector to educate communities in waste-related matters and encourage engagement with waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives.*

Objective 12: *As local authorities, set an example by preventing, re-using, recycling and composting our own waste and by using our buying power to encourage sustainable resource use;*

2.2 Prevention and Re-use Initiatives and Targets

Waste prevention and reuse are the top tiers of the waste management hierarchy. Awareness raising that landfill is the 'last resort' for the disposal of municipal waste will be integral to WasteAware's work. A programme of initiatives will engage households in reducing the volume of waste needing to be managed in Hertfordshire.

A secondary benefit is likely to be the awareness raised resulting from engagement in the initiatives. This is likely to have benefits for the performance of the recycling and composting aspects of the strategy.

Figure 1 at the end of this section sets out the programme of actions intended to minimise and reuse waste.

2.2.1 List of Initiatives where Prevention and re-use are the principal components

The following sets out the programme of actions intended to minimise and reuse waste.

- Home Composting

The Partnership will aim to continue offering reduced-price home composters to residents throughout the county. A three year plan of intensive promotion and support will be developed to follow on from the current subsidised home composting scheme. This will encourage residents to purchase and use subsidised home composters and also give general support and advice. Promotional literature and road shows will be used to help deliver this project. It is estimated that 3000 households per year will commence home composting under this scheme. It is forecast that participating households will reduce their waste production by an average of 140kg per year, reducing collected waste by 420 tonnes per year.

- Real Nappies

The existing promotional campaign will be continued to encourage the take up and sustained use of real nappies, as opposed to disposables. Currently a £40 cash back incentive is offered to residents who can prove they use washable nappies or a reusable nappy laundering service¹. A further three-year plan to extend and support the offer will also be investigated. It is expected that 500 participants per annum over three years will contribute towards avoiding over 200 tonnes of waste per annum. The success of this scheme will be subjected to annual review.

- Re-use Charities and Businesses

This will consist of an ongoing project to assist residents and businesses in finding organisations that will accept their waste for re-use, such as furniture re-use companies. It will also assist those seeking to purchase second hand items. This will involve

¹ Broxbourne Borough Council is not taking part in this offer.

collaboration with the charity and small business sector and will result in the production of a web based directory. The ongoing element of the activity consists of publicising the directory and keeping it up to date. The HWP will also investigate the potential for integrating re-use further into bulky waste collections and HWRC service.

- General waste minimisation and reduction

As waste minimisation and reduction are at the top of the waste hierarchy the WasteAware group will ensure that any publicity regarding recycling or waste disposal acknowledges that the most preferable options are those at the top of the hierarchy, to reduce or reuse waste.

2.3 Recycling Initiatives and Targets

Recycling represents the third most favourable option on the hierarchy after reduction and reuse but arguably has the most impact in terms of diverting waste from landfill. It is important to encourage and promote recycling in support of the infrastructure and operational initiatives undertaken by the Hertfordshire local authorities.

2.3.1 List of Initiatives where recycling is the principal component

- Partnership work in schools

Although WasteAware promotions in schools include prevention and reuse elements, there is also a focus on recycling. This recognises the influence that children can have in persuading their families to recycle, what is known as 'pester power'.

The WasteAware Programme will carry out yearly activities in schools to support the Education Packs distributed countywide in 2005, and build on the School Plays exhibited in 40 secondary schools in 2007. The continued use and success of the Education Packs and subsequent activities will be monitored.

- General Recycling

The Partnership will continue to produce informative material such as leaflets, hold roadshows and use other media such as radio to promote the philosophy and benefits of recycling. Where appropriate, the Partnership will draw on the resources provided by WRAP's RecycleNow campaign and benefit from the economies of scale provided by it and the national work it has undertaken. Regular guidance to facilitate understanding as to why schemes have been implemented and on how to use them will also be published to ensure maximum use of the current recycling infrastructure.

2.4 Waste Disposal Initiatives and Targets

Although disposal is the final option on the waste hierarchy it will always be required for a proportion of the waste stream. The Hertfordshire authorities will be seeking the most suitable options for treating and disposing of the county's residual waste.

This area of waste disposal can be complex and technical and it is important to ensure that residents of Hertfordshire have access to accurate and comprehensive information on the issues. The WasteAware campaign will develop this aspect of its awareness raising.

2.4.1 List of Initiatives where disposal is the principal component

- Leaflets, roadshows, press releases and up to date web based information will be used to advise the public. This will be particularly necessary as the disposal action plan is implemented.

2.4.2 Street Scene

The remit of the WasteAware campaign will be extended to include 'street scene' issues including litter, flytipping and abandoned vehicles. While preventing these activities will not necessarily result in waste reduction or reuse (the flytipped material or litter would have to be disposed of at some point), providing promotional information regarding them will help to reduce their environmental impact and improve local environmental quality. This campaigning will also help to use and enforce the powers extended to local authorities as part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

2.5 Monitoring

Monitoring the impact of waste awareness initiatives is notoriously difficult.

However, without this it will be impossible to assess their value.

Appropriate measurement methodologies will need to be developed for each initiative.

Most of the reuse initiatives will be able to record the tonnage of material that they collect and reuse, or at least estimate the tonnage where monitoring is not possible.

Monitoring of home composting initiatives will aim to quantify the amount of waste that can be stopped from entering the waste stream. This will be based on an appraisal of the numbers of participants, using the monitoring research carried out by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

At a fundamental level recycling initiatives can be measured by the overall recycling rate, however, these rates are most directly responsive to changes in infrastructure. Therefore participation monitoring and attitudinal monitoring are required to give a comprehensive assessment.

Figure 1:- Waste Prevention and Re-use Action Plan

	WDA	WCA	HWP	OTHER	07/08		08/09				09/10				10/11				11/12				
	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Prevention and Reuse																							
Home Composting																							
Promotion and support of home composting	*	*																					
Review of Home Composting Initiative			*																				
Landfill diversion target																							
Real Nappy Promotion																							
Continuation of existing offer			*																				
review of Reusable nappy initiative	*	*																					
Investigation of 3-year support program			*																				
Reuse Charities and Businesses																							
Collaboration with charity and small business sector to form content			*	*																			
Publish reuse directory			*	*																			
Ongoing publicity and update of directory			*	*																			
Recycling Initiatives																							
Work in Schools																							
Further program of activities to support Education Packs	*	*	*	*																			
Provision of general Recycling Information																							
Literature, roadshows and other media such as online and radio	*	*	*																				
Waste Disposal Awareness																							
Awareness raising of disposal in conjunction with reviewed JMWMS	*	*	*																				
Ongoing awareness raising with procurement of disposal facilities	*	*	*																				
Draw up revised WasteAware program																							
Incorporation of 'Street Scene' activities into program			*																				
Establish campaign effectiveness measurement methodologies	*	*	*																				
Ongoing review of WasteAware program	*	*	*																				

Activity
 Target Date
 Responsibility *

3.0 Recycling and Composting Action Plan

Hertfordshire residents already have a good record in recycling and composting. The Strategy builds on that track record, with the aim of reaching a recycling rate² of 50% of household waste by 2012. This level is well above existing national recycling targets and will also contribute significantly to diverting biodegradable municipal waste from landfill.

Further opportunities also exist to recycle or compost waste that is collected as residual waste. It is likely that initiatives covered in the residual waste management Action Plan in section 4.0 will in fact contribute towards recycling, for example through the separation of metals before or after residual waste is treated prior to final disposal. This Action Plan concentrates on the waste that can be separated at source for recycling and composting, either through collection systems or by providing facilities at Household Waste Recycling Centres and 'bring banks'.

3.1 Basis in Core Strategy

The actions listed below link closely to the following objectives in the core strategy:

Objective 1: *Manage materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy –, reduce, re-use, recycle / compost, energy recovery (e.g. local heating/ electricity), disposal - except where financial costs are prohibitive, or where environmental or public health consequences are negative;*

Objective 2: *Manage resources and waste in a way that meets the current needs of Hertfordshire's residents, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;*

Objective 3: *Deliver quality services which are affordable and which offer value for money, over both the short and long-term;*

Objective 5: *Ensure that services are flexible enough to allow technological developments and changing legal requirements to be accommodated, and to ensure that the desire to move waste up the Waste Management Hierarchy is not compromised; and*

Objective 8: *Work together within the HWP to research, develop and deliver better coordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, transfer, treatment and disposal;*

3.2 Targets

- The Partnership has invested heavily in recycling and composting initiatives over recent years, with county wide recycling rates increasing from 18% in 2002/03 to 36% in 2006/07. However, there are still some parts of the waste stream that are only collected in some areas (e.g. plastics, cardboard and kitchen waste). Also, the frequency of collection of recyclable waste varies, from weekly in some areas to fortnightly in others.

² The 'recycling' rate includes composting.

The following sets out the programme that will help to achieve the recycling targets outlined in the Core Strategy and will contribute towards diverting waste away from landfill.

- Review of mixed card/garden/organic kitchen waste collections
- Investigate restricting the quantity of garden waste collected free of charge i.e. questioning the practice of free collection of unlimited quantities
- Investigation into weekly collections of recyclables and incorporation of new recyclables to collection systems where it is cost effective to do so and where sustainable markets exist
- Investigation into alternate weekly collection of residual waste or smaller bins to incentivise increased recycling.
- Consider enforcement of recycling (or actions to reduce the quantity of residual waste collected)
- Review the impact of local authority trade waste collections on LATs
- Investigation into the potential of composting street sweepings
- Explore methods which will ensure that all residents have equal access to recycling schemes for example flat dwellers.

To support expanded recycling infrastructure, the Partnership will support market development and the growth of alternate markets for recycle.

To complement the above actions and ensure their successful implementation, the partnership will provide infrastructure necessary for the transfer of recyclables.

All of these actions will be considered in light of the work on alternative funding arrangements currently ongoing between the WDA and WCAs. This work will be crucial in delivering the performance required to meet the LATS targets.

In parallel, further specialised facilities for treating collected food waste will have to be developed so that the new material that is captured can be properly treated.

Plans in this respect support the adoption of recycling targets as follows:

- **40% of household waste by 2008;**
- **45% of household waste by 2010; and**
- **50% of household waste by 2012**

Expanding collection services is expensive and, in order to free up funding to develop value for money recycling services, the Partnership needs to develop the infrastructure for collection, storage and disposal of recyclables from a County wide perspective. This will include whole system modelling and consideration of joint procurement opportunities. It will also require the development of alternative funding arrangements to the current 'recycling credits' scheme so that risks and rewards can be more equitably shared between Waste Collection Authorities and the Waste Disposal Authority.

3.3 Monitoring

Monitoring performance of recycling and composting initiatives will be important to the success of the Strategy. Once a timetable has been agreed for the expansion of recycling services across the county, the Partnership will monitor performance and progress on development of infrastructure. The timetable will have to be adjusted to take account of actual performance of the new services.

4.0 Residual Waste Action Plan

The total quantity of residual waste will reduce over the early years of the strategy as a result of initiatives aimed at waste minimisation, re-using materials and products and through source-separation of materials for recycling and composting. National and local trends suggest that municipal waste will continue to increase in the long term.

In order to meet the Strategy objectives of maintaining self-sufficiency of landfill allowances, of recovering value from residual waste and of minimising the environmental impact of final disposal, it will be necessary to put in place arrangements to treat residual waste through means other than landfill.

There may be opportunities to co-operate with other authorities within the region and to share facilities, but this is far from certain. As it is likely to be essential that Hertfordshire develops its own solutions for residual waste treatment, and since lead times for procurement and commissioning of facilities can be long, the emphasis of this Action Plan is on early procurement of at least one new facility. It will be necessary to procure more capacity at a relatively early stage because of constraints on landfill void space. However, the precise approach for this will have to be determined as an initial stage of this Action Plan as many options exist. A Partnership Procurement Project Team will be set up to develop and deliver technology and collection infrastructure.

Targets have been set in the form of ‘minimum tonnages of biodegradable municipal waste diversion’. Those minimums could be exceeded in line with the Strategy objective of minimising environmental impact and maximising recovery of value, provided that arrangements for dealing with residual waste do not inhibit the movement of waste up the waste management hierarchy by being oversized or inflexible.

Figure 2 at the end of this section sets out the programme of actions that will help to achieve the recycling targets outlined in the Core Strategy and contribute towards diverting waste away from landfill.

4.1 Basis in Core Strategy

The actions listed in Figure 3 link closely to the following objectives in the core strategy:

Objective 1: *Manage materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy –, reduce, re-use, recycle / compost, energy recovery (e.g. local heating/ electricity), disposal - except where financial costs are prohibitive, or where environmental or public health consequences are negative;*

Objective 2: *Manage resources and waste in a way that meets the current needs of Hertfordshire's residents, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;*

Objective 3: *Deliver quality services which are affordable and which offer value for money, over both the short and long-term;*

Objective 4: *Have regard to the views of the local community in determining and implementing initiatives for the management of waste;*

Objective 5: *Ensure that services are flexible enough to allow technological developments and changing legal requirements to be accommodated, and to ensure that the desire to move waste up the Waste Management Hierarchy is not compromised;*

Objective 6: *Aim to manage a growing proportion of Hertfordshire's residual waste within the County and manage all other wastes at the nearest appropriate facility by the most appropriate method or technology. The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership will consider working with neighbouring authorities to achieve the most sustainable solutions for dealing with residual waste.*

Objective 7: *Consider, where appropriate, approaches to managing waste from commercial and industrial sources if this contributes to the overall environmental, social and economic well-being of Hertfordshire communities;*

Objective 8: *Work together within the HWP to research, develop and deliver better coordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, transfer, treatment and disposal;*

4.2 Targets

4.2.1 Detailed Residual Waste and LATS Strategy

The Core Strategy sets out a high level LATS strategy that includes the principles that should govern the Partnership's response to LATS. However, significant uncertainties remain as to how LATS will operate in practice, including:

- How the apparent conflict between LATS and the waste management hierarchy may or may not be resolved; and
- How different biological treatment technologies may actually perform against the Environment Agency's testing regime; and
- Whether the value of allowances will tend towards higher or lower values in the medium-term.

These key uncertainties, coupled with the need to take account of the outcome of the early stages of the Prevention & Re-use and Recycling & Composting Action Plans, mean that whilst principles can be established now, more detailed work is still required on options for dealing with residual waste. This work will feed into the residual waste treatment procurement initiative (see 4.2.2 below) that will have to commence in parallel

with some of these uncertainties being resolved. A detailed Strategy will be adopted as a part of this Action Plan.

4.2.2 Procurements for Residual Waste Treatment and Final Disposal

Procurement processes will commence, following the completion of:

- the detailed residual waste strategy (see 4.2.1 above);
- the development of a procurement strategy for final disposal; and
- the development of a strategy for the procurement of residual waste treatment facilities.

The procurement(s) may be linked to the procurement of treatment capacity for source-separated biowastes. Landfill will still be relied upon for the lifetime of this Strategy for the final disposal of residual wastes, albeit the volume will be considerably reduced.

A contract will be secured by Christmas 2008 to enable the goal of remaining in LATS credit to be achieved.

4.2.3 Residual Waste Treatment Operation

By the start of 2011/12, the Partnership will have to have the capacity to divert *at least* 40,000 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste from residual waste if the objective of self-sufficiency in landfill allowances is to be maintained. By the start of 2017/18, this will need to have increased. The actual minimum treatment capacity required depends upon how the situation at Edmonton unfolds. Assuming that Edmonton is no longer available, then it is likely that unless recycling and composting rates significantly exceed target levels, the treatment capacity required may need to be capable of dealing with 80-100,000 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste from residual waste, depending upon recycling performance and growth rates.

Specifying targets in this way would still allow room for recycling and composting to develop to higher rates should this prove possible.

4.2.4 Targets for Reduction of Residual Waste

Reductions in residual waste will be delivered by initiatives in the Prevention & Re-use and Recycling & Composting Action Plans. Progress against the following targets will be monitored by the Waste Disposal Authority and reported to the Partnership:

- Reduce residual household waste to 315Kg per capita per year by 2008;
 - Reduce residual household waste to 300Kg per capita per year by 2010; and
 - Reduce residual household waste to 285Kg per capita per year by 2012.
- (In 2005/06 345kg of household waste and 374 of municipal waste were produced)*

4.3 Monitoring

The Residual Waste Action Plan will have to be responsive, especially in the early years, to the performance of the other Action Plans and the resolution of the uncertainties relating to the operation of LATS. It will also need to be alive to the developments in the Waste Development Framework regarding sites and their location and availability.

Monitoring of these critical variables will be well integrated with the monitoring of residual waste generation trends and progress on developing and implementing a procurement strategy. This Action Plan will be built upon, and kept under close review, as a result of work in the early stages of Strategy implementation. Given the potential financial implication, this action will be a top priority for the partnership.

Figure 2:- Residual Waste Action Plan

	WDA	WCA	HWP	OTHER	07/08		08/09				09/10				10/11				11/12			
	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Detailed Residual Waste and LATS Strategy																						
Develop detailed residual strategy	*		*																			
Procurement for residual treatment and final disposal																						
Second ABPR composting facility to be operational	*			*																		
Partnership Procurement Project Team established	*		*																			
Development of procurement strategy	*		*																			
Partnership approval of procurement strategy			*																			
Contractors in place	*			*																		
Residual Treatment Operation																						
Residual facility to be operational	*		*	*																		
Capacity to divert at least 40 000 tonnes residual Biodegradable Municipal Waste	*		*	*																		
Residual Waste Reduction Targets																						
Reduce residual household waste to 315kg per household			*																			
Reduce residual household waste to 300kg per household			*																			
Reduce residual household waste to 285kg per household			*																			

Activity 
 Target Date 
 Responsibility *

5.0 Partnership Action Plan

The revised Strategy has been developed by the HWP and assumes that implementation will be achieved by the work of the partners, in some cases individually, but increasingly, collectively.

Whilst day-to-day WCA and WDA interests do not always coincide, waste management overall requires collaboration and there are significant benefits from sharing information, pooling intelligence, aligning contracts and co-operating over political and public relations issues.

This Action Plan includes:

- Actions necessary to adopt the revised Hertfordshire JMWMS;
- Cross cutting actions in support of other actions; and
- Actions to develop the partnership.

5.1 Basis in Core Strategy

The actions related to Partnership working correspond to the following objectives in the core strategy:

Objective 8: *Work together within the HWP to research, develop and deliver better coordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, transfer, treatment and disposal;*

Objective 9: *Work with others, including commercial, statutory, non-governmental, academic and community based or not-for-profit organisations, in pursuit of the Partnership's vision of sustainable waste and resource management, particularly on the issues of waste prevention and re-use;*

Objective 10: *Lobby relevant government departments and agencies, including Defra, DTI, and other organisations, for the introduction of national and regional policies and financial arrangements which support the delivery of this Strategy's objectives;*

Objective 11: *Work closely with the community & voluntary sector to educate communities in waste-related matters and encourage engagement with waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives;*

Objective 12: *As local authorities, set an example by preventing, re-using, recycling and composting our own waste and by using our buying power to encourage sustainable resource use;*

5.2 Targets

This Action Plan covers a diverse range of actions and initiatives.

5.2.1 Adoption of revised Hertfordshire MWMS

Public consultation took place in late 2006/early 2007 with comments then considered and adoption by each authority beginning in the early part of 2007.

5.2.2 Review of MWMS

A further review of the MWMS is scheduled to take place in 2011/12

The structure adopted for the strategy allows for regular reviews of the Action Plans against:

- Progress with implementation;
- Data on arisings, in particular, growth of specific sub-streams;
- Information concerning landfill allowance trades and values;
- Experience of performance from other areas of Europe and the UK; and
- Changes in legislation and guidance.

Whilst this will, to some extent, be a continuous process it will be formally considered by the partnership every 12 months. A gap analysis between required, expected and actual performance will be undertaken to monitor progress and allow changes to the Action Plan as necessary.

Should major changes take place in the external drivers of the strategy or performance against the Action Plan diverge significantly from forecasts, the whole Strategy may require an earlier review.

5.2.3 HWP structure

Although the Partnership has a 'memorandum of understanding' it operates without a formal constitution and joint working has been based upon goodwill. Whilst this has worked well, the pressures on waste management services today mean that there are likely to be further financial and operational benefits to be gained from looking at collection and disposal infrastructure, and seeking to maximise performance and cost benefits, with a whole system approach.

The authorities have given some consideration to closer collaboration in the form of more formalised partnership working. The HWP will consider options for more formal partnership working in the context of ongoing discussions regarding procurement and funding. The aim will be to ensure that more formal arrangements, if such are felt to be necessary, are fit for purpose, and that decision making procedures are streamlined where necessary.

5.2.4 Funding arrangements

At present responsibility for funding the actions in the MWMS is divided between the authorities according to their roles as WDA or WCA. Implementation of the revised strategy requires that funding be increasingly viewed on a partnership wide basis.

The first step towards this is for the WDA to agree a mechanism for funding actions against its short-term LATS exposure.

5.2.5 Research

The strategy is based on existing data about participation in and performance of recycling services. Achievement of the targets set out in the strategy requires further compositional analysis, monitoring of progress, and consideration of alternative means to deliver services.

Regular surveys will be timetabled for:

- Household collected waste composition
- HWRC waste composition;
- Capture rates from recycling & organic waste collection services.

In practice it is likely that responsibility for these should be combined with the monitoring required for the waste minimisation initiatives detailed in section 2. A short term initiative is to ensure consistency of reporting on all wastes across the Partnership to enable input into the government's Waste Dataflow system and to ensure that additional data as necessary is provided and tracked.

5.2.6 Lobbying

The partnership can use its combined knowledge, skills and resources to lobby government and commerce on issues, legislation and policy relating to waste. By acting as a partnership, as opposed to separate individual authorities, this lobbying can have greater impact. The partnership already makes joint responses to consultations when possible and, as the partnership develops, these will become increasingly influential. Several professional bodies are represented within the partnership and their presence will assist in effective lobbying.

The Partnership will submit joint responses to consultations wherever they have Partnership implications.

5.2.7 External partnerships

Implementation of the strategy offers a range of opportunities to develop partnerships or linkages with other sectors and strategies. The partnership and its members are keen to promote these.

Social & community enterprises:

Linkages with this sector and across the partnership will be reviewed and, where appropriate, social enterprise development officer(s)/agencies will be contacted to discuss opportunities for engaging them in delivery of the strategy. The partnership will also ensure procurement practices do not discriminate against social and community enterprises.

The partnership will also seek opportunities for linkages with the community strategy.

Economic development:

The partnership will establish contact with economic development officers, teams or agencies and seek opportunities for economic development in delivery of the strategy. Non-waste and non-traditional waste funding opportunities will be considered to assist in delivery of the strategy (for example, regeneration funding and working with compliance schemes).

5.2.8 Leading by example

The partnership members are committed to leading Hertfordshire by example in the implementation of the strategy. This will be evident through the prevention, reuse and recycling of wastes from our own activities and through our corporate actions and procurement processes, in particular the use of sustainable and environmental products and materials.

5.2.9 Inter-relationship with Planning

All partnership members are also responsible for planning matters, including the provision of sites to support waste management infrastructure. The HWP will seek to influence new development through the design process in order to ensure that waste issues are considered as a priority area when developing spatial plans.

5.3 Monitoring

Monitoring will be carried out through submission by officers of quarterly reports to the Partnership steering group.

5.4 Risk Management

Waste will become one of the most significant areas of investment for local authorities over the coming years. To ensure the strategy remains flexible so that it can adapt to change and does not become too open to risk, a risk management plan will be devised as part of the Strategy and will be kept up to date during its ongoing implementation.

6.0 Glossary of terms

Biodegradable Waste – Materials such as paper, food and garden waste which decompose through the action of bacteria or other microbes. Generally, biodegradable waste that is sent to landfill is squashed under all the other waste and does not have access to air. Decomposition without air (anaerobic) causes methane. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas which is believed to contribute to global warming.

Bulky household waste – Large items of household waste such as furniture or fridges together with some garden and DIY waste.

Commercial waste – Waste from premises used mainly for the purposes of trade or business, or for the purposes of sport and entertainment.

Composting – Decomposition of organic matter in the presence of oxygen (aerobic) to produce compost for use as a fertiliser or a soil conditioner.

County Council – Is the waste disposal authority in the administrative area of Hertfordshire.

DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

District Council – Is the waste collection authority in the administrative area of Hertfordshire.

HWP – Hertfordshire Waste Partnership. A partnership of the ten district councils and the County Council.

Energy from Waste – Conversion of waste into a usable form of energy, either by incineration, thermal treatment or the production of gas.

Greenhouse gas – Gases resulting from various processes which, when emitted into the atmosphere trap heat from the sun causing rises in global temperatures – a process often referred to as the Greenhouse Effect.

Green waste – Compostable garden waste

Household waste – Covers waste from household collections, street sweepings, bulky waste collections, hazardous household waste collections, litter collections, household clinical waste collections, separate garden waste collections, waste from Household Waste Recycling Centres and waste collected separately for recycling/composting schemes.

HWRC – Household Waste Recycling Centre

Kerbside collection – Collection of recyclables typically from the curtilage of premises.

Landfill – The process of depositing waste in/ on the ground.

LATS – Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

Industrial waste – Waste from any factory and from any site occupied by an industry.

MSW – Municipal Solid Waste – This includes all waste collected by a Waste Collection Authority, or its agents, such as waste from households, municipal parks and gardens, flytipping and any waste they collect from commercial or industrial premises.

Proximity principle – Advocates that all waste should be managed as close as practicable to its source.

Recovery – Recovery of materials or energy from waste by methods such as recycling, energy generation and composting.

Recycling – Collection or recovery of reusable materials from waste, and their subsequent reprocessing to form useable products.

Re-use – The use of waste items such as bottles, packaging or electronic components for their original or for another purpose without reprocessing.

Trade waste – Generally this refers to commercial waste collected by the Waste Collection Authorities.

Waste arisings – The quantity of waste generated within a specified area

Waste Collection Authority – In Hertfordshire arrangements for the collection of municipal waste are the responsibility of the district councils.

Waste Disposal Authority – In Hertfordshire arrangements for the final disposal of household waste is the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council.

WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

Useful contacts

For information on waste collections and recycling in your area:

Broxbourne Borough Council: 01992 785577 / www.broxbourne.gov.uk / recycling@broxbourne.gov.uk

Dacorum Borough Council: 01442 228666 / www.dacorum.gov.uk / streetcare@dacorum.gov.uk

East Herts Council: 01279 655261 / www.eastherts.gov.uk / recycling@eastherts.gov.uk

Hertsmere Borough Council: 0208 2072277 / www.hertsmere.gov.uk /
waste.management@hertsmere.gov.uk

North Herts District Council: 01462 474000 / www.north-herts.gov.uk / recycling@north-herts.gov.uk

St Albans District Council: 01727 819285 / www.stalbans.gov.uk / environmental@stalbands.gov.uk

Stevenage Borough Council: 01438 242242 / www.stevenage.gov.uk / wastewizard@stevenage.gov.uk

Three Rivers District Council: 01923 776611 / www.threerivers.gov.uk / enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk

Watford Borough Council: 01923 226400 / www.watford.gov.uk /
environmentalservices@watford.gov.uk

Welwyn Hatfield Council: 01707 357000 / www.welhat.gov.uk / contact-whc@welhat.gov.uk

For information on your local Household Waste Recycling Centre, call 08457 425000,
or visit www.wasteaware.org.uk

For comprehensive information on reducing, reusing and recycling in Hertfordshire, visit
www.wasteaware.org.uk

For a directory of all the UK's recycled products, visit www.recycledproducts.org.uk

To find or offer items for reuse, visit Freecycle at www.freecycle.org

For information on waste and recycling at home, at work and in schools, visit
www.recyclenow.com

To find your nearest charity shop, visit www.charityshops.org.uk

For information on charities which will collect and distribute unwanted furniture, visit
www.frn.org.uk

To remove your name from junk mail lists, call the mailing preference service registration line
on 0845 703 4599, or visit www.mpsonline.org.uk

For the National Waste Strategy 2007 visit
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy

For information on the Landfill Directive and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS):
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/landfill-dir/

