

Waste Strategy for Newark and Sherwood 2006-2020 Review

1. Introduction

1.1. Summary

In 2006 Newark and Sherwood District Council launched its waste strategy setting out the direction and scope of future service development. Much has happened since that time with significant changes and challenges being faced by both the Council and its partners.

It is anticipated that these challenges and changes are set to continue. The District is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth with major new developments planned in several areas of the district. Regionally we are still operating within the PFI contract agreement between Nottinghamshire County Council and Veolia Nottinghamshire which runs until 2032. Nationally the impacts of the exit from the European Union and the impact that will have on waste policy and direction is unknown.

On that basis this 'light touch' review has been conducted to anticipate the challenges we may face in the future and to update and strengthen our policies and procedures so that we are best placed to face them. As new information emerges from Whitehall about waste policy in a post Brexit future and as the Countywide PFI contract comes to an end we anticipate that the nature of the service we offer may be altered significantly in line with national trends.

Whatever the outcomes, we will continue to work with our neighbouring authorities and Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure we deliver the best outcomes for all our residents.

1.2. Purpose of the Strategy

The Strategy explains how we will work with others to move waste up the "waste hierarchy" of reduction, re-use, recycling, composting, and energy recovery to ensure that waste is managed in ways that protect human health and the environment and in particular:

- Without risk to water, air, soil, plants and animals;
- Without causing a nuisance through noise or odours;
- Without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest;
- Disposing of waste at the nearest appropriate installation, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies.

This review has been undertaken within the context of the following:

- Statutory and legislative requirements placed on both Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council
- The Private Finance Initiative Waste Contract let by Nottinghamshire County Council
- The existence of Community Recycling Groups within the district
- The uncertainty of the impact of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union

2. Existing Services

2.1. Municipal Solid Waste Arisings in Newark & Sherwood

The Waste Strategy focuses on *municipal solid waste* (MSW), which is waste which comes under the Council's direct control either by collection from householders (*household waste, street cleaning*), collection from commercial waste producers (*trade waste*), or through the Council's own municipal activities (*parks, markets, grounds maintenance etc.*). The strategy does not deal with waste produced by Newark and Sherwood Homes (NSH).

2.2. Household Waste

The Council has a statutory duty as a Waste Collection Authority to collect household waste from domestic properties and to make arrangements to recycle proportions of this waste. As a Principal Litter Authority it also has responsibility for maintaining a standard of cleanliness for all relevant land within its district by removing fly tipping, litter and detritus from public highways and Council owned land. This waste is also classed as household waste.

2.2.1. Household Waste Arisings and Composition

Historical data shows that household waste arising collected from the kerbside has on average gone down since the waste strategy was first compiled in 2006. Figure 1 shows the variation waste collection figures per head and Figure 2 shows the total tonnage figures for each financial year.

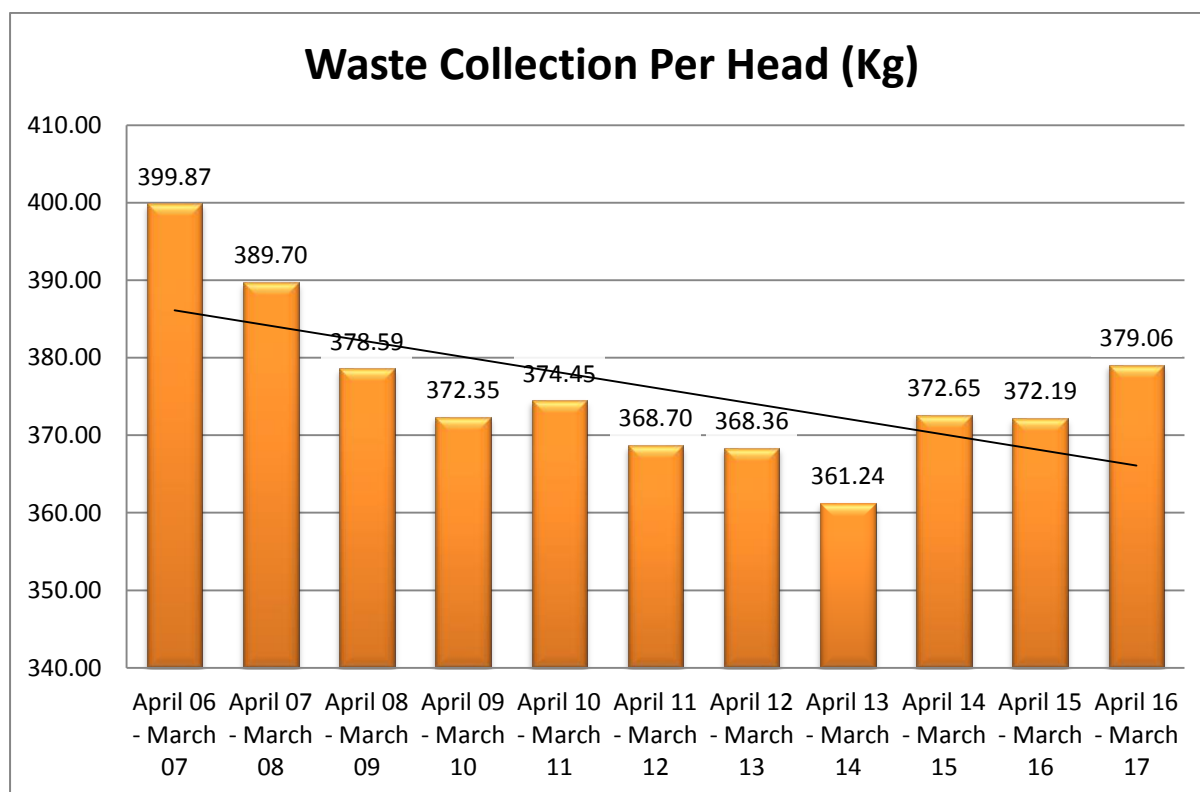


Figure 1

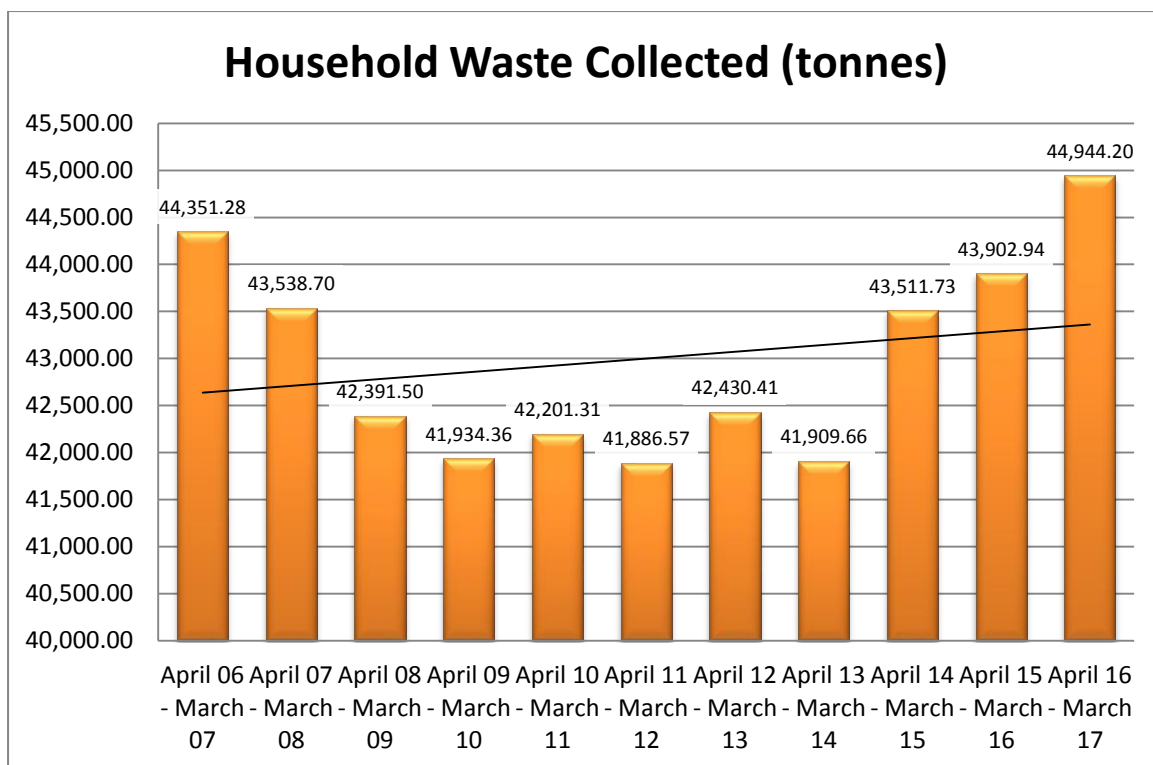


Figure 2

Figure 3 shows the proportion of waste recovered against the residual waste from 2006 – 2017.

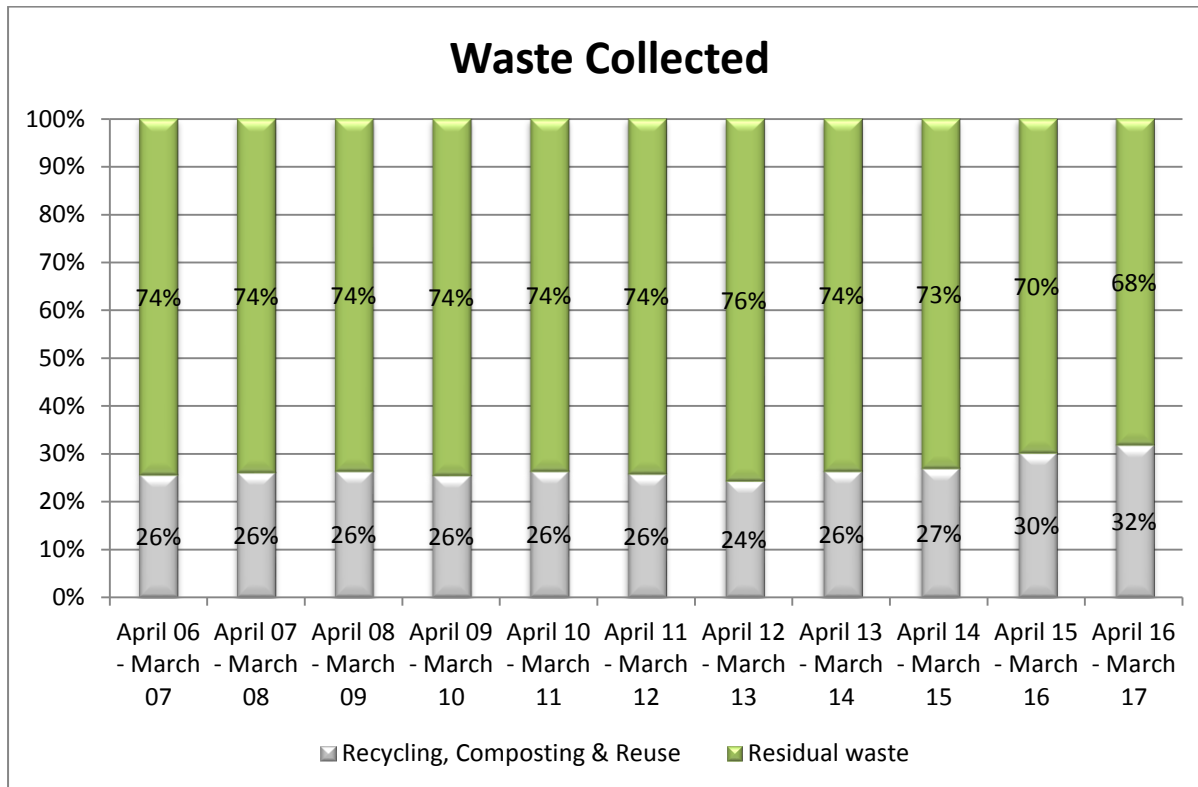


Figure 3

Much of the increase in tonnage seen from April 2014 – March 2017 in Figure 1 can be attributed to the launch of the garden waste collection service and its rapid expansion across the district. This is in all likelihood not ‘new’ waste but waste that has been diverted from other disposal routes such as civic amenities sites, home composting or flytipping. Much of this material may not have been recorded; in particular material which has been composted at home by residents and small flytips of grass cuttings etc. will be unreported. Even larger tips of garden waste on private land may not be brought to our attention as the responsibility rests with the landowner to keep their land secure and free from flytipping.

Experience also tells us that waste levels rise during periods of economic growth so some of the decline and subsequent increase could be attributed to the global financial crisis of 2008 and the subsequent recovery. The growth in the population of the district will have inevitably increase the amount of waste collected district wide as reflected in Figure 2.

With these factors in mind it is reasonable to assume that the principles and policies set out in the 2006 strategy have been able to either slightly reduce the amount of waste produced per head or at the very least prevent significant rises.

2.2.2. Street Cleansing Waste

A proportion of the waste collected as ‘household’ waste is obtained from street cleansing activities and the removal of fly tips. It is unwise to draw conclusions about the cleanliness levels of the streets based on tonnage figures as there are too many variables involved; for example and harsh winter will result in more grit/salt being spread to maintain road safety. As a result mechanical sweeping operations may be halted to avoid removing this material. When the weather warms back up much of it will be collected at a later date as ‘detritus’.

A wet autumn/winter will increase the weight of leaves picked up which can have a significant effect on the tonnage collected. Dry leaves are also more likely to blow onto the verges and into hedgerows etc. so they won’t be collected by mechanical sweeping equipment. A spate of significant fly-tips could also result in a spike in collection weights. On average the Council has collected over 2169 tonnes of material from the streets each year since April 2011.

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Residual	1325.31	1858.68	1479.42	984.1401	266.86	294.93
Recycled/Composted	829.75	660.35	966.88	1086.01	1755.54	1507.26
TOTAL	2155.06	2519.03	2446.30	2070.15	2022.40	1802.20

Table 1

Table 1 above illustrates the shift in the amount of material that has been sent for composting and recycling. As you can see the amount of material that is now recovered has risen dramatically. This is represented as a percentage breakdown in Figure 4 below.

The significant shift in the amount of material recovered is primarily due to the new facilities that are now available to us on Brunel Drive. Almost all of our street sweepings are now passed to Veolia who process the waste. Historically most residual material was sent directly to landfill at Cotham.

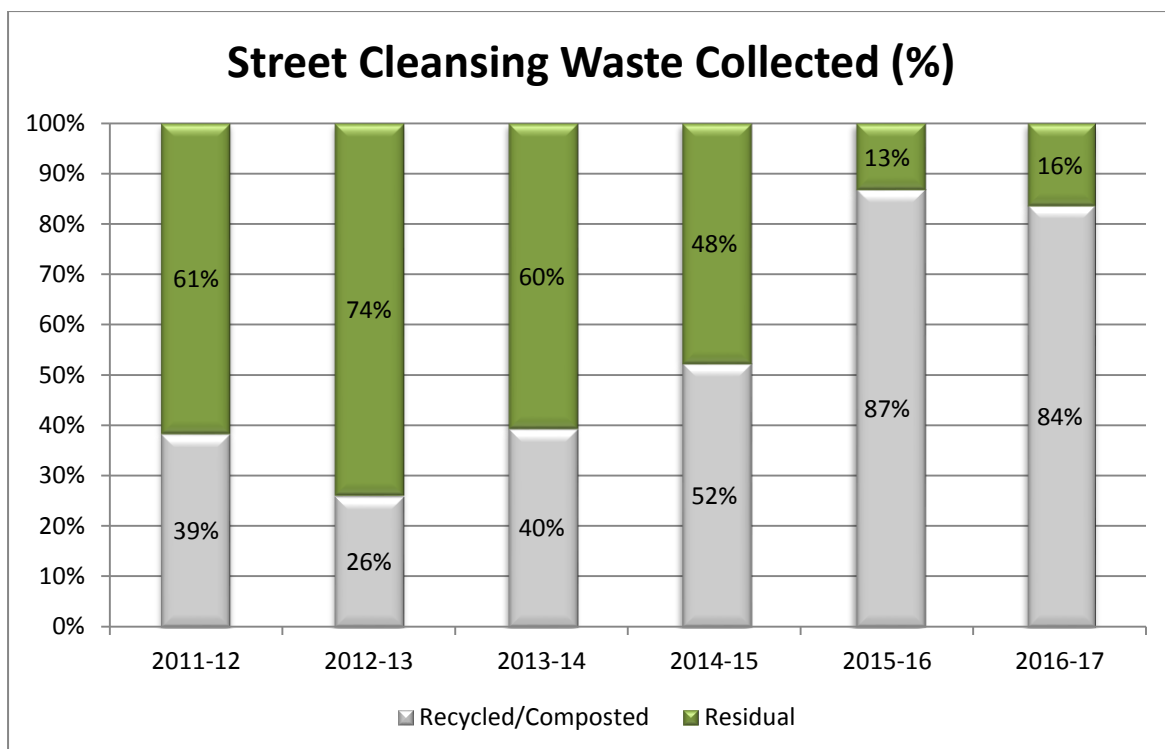


Figure 4

Historically there have been concerns raised that flytipping incidents would rise as a result of the Councils policies on waste. That does not seem to be the situation in Newark and Sherwood. Records detailing the number of flytipping incidents are only available since 2008 but there appears to have been no impact on the levels of flytipping which fluctuate year on year as shown in Figure 5 (below). It's likely that the levels of flytipping are more closely governed by economic fluctuations such as the price of scrap metal and export charges than it is by domestic refuse collection.

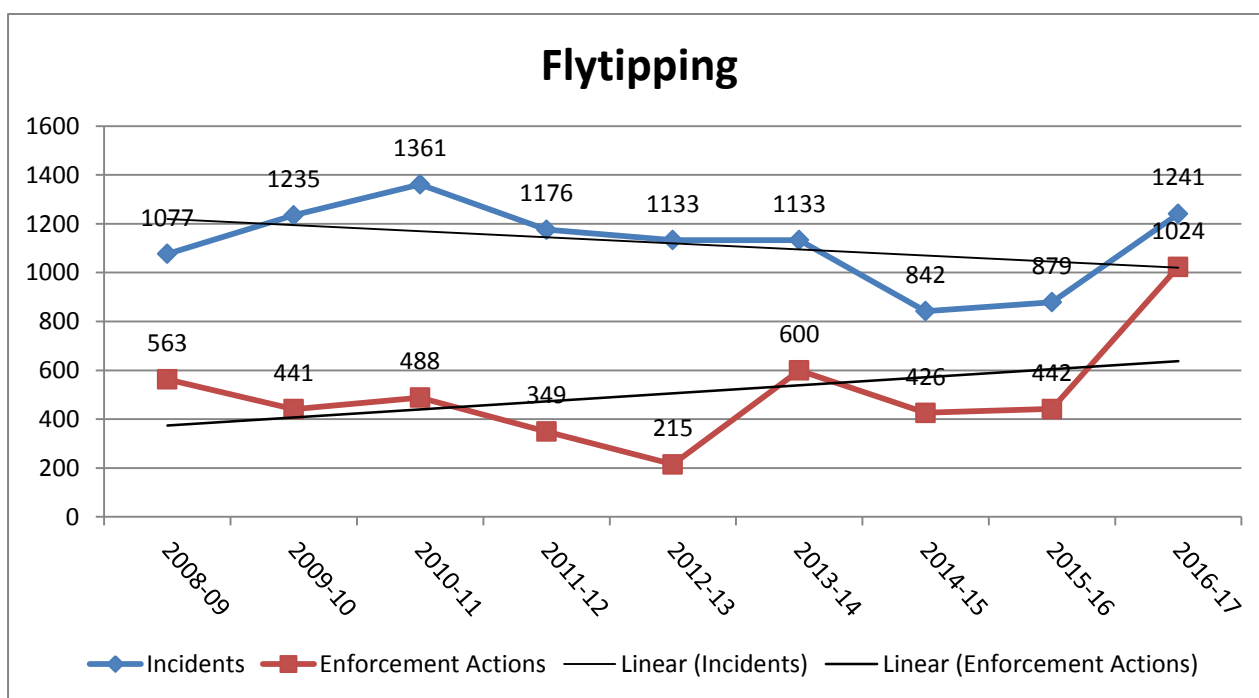


Figure 5

2.2.3. Bulky/Excess Waste

Separate collections of bulky and household waste including electrical items and white goods are undertaken throughout the year and can now be booked through the Council's website. Electrical items and white goods are collected separately and taken straight to the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Brunel Drive. Other bulky items are collected and transported for disposal with the residual waste stream. In 2016/17 we collected over 1127 tonnes of bulky waste.

The cost to residents is based on the number and type of items they have for collection. The first item is charged at a higher rate and any subsequent items at a lower rate. This reflects the fact that the bulk of the cost of collection is in the travelling time to the collection point and that the 'subsequent items' are often smaller and lighter than the first. No discount is applied to multiple white goods items as they are normally equally heavy and difficult to manoeuvre. The council will also provide custom quotes for large jobs.

Table 2 shows the cost of the service and the number of requests received. The income from the service will vary dependant on the amount of items collected from each property.

For example a property may request a collection of two items which would cost the resident £18 or a single item would cost £12.

Year	Number of Requests	Cost of First Item	Cost of Second Item	Income
2013-14	2942	£10.00	£5.00	£54,952.22
2014-15	3171	£10.00	£5.00	£61,798.75
2015-16	3312	£12.00	£6.00	£65,279.45
2016-17	3346	£12.00	£6.00	£61,825.25

Table 2

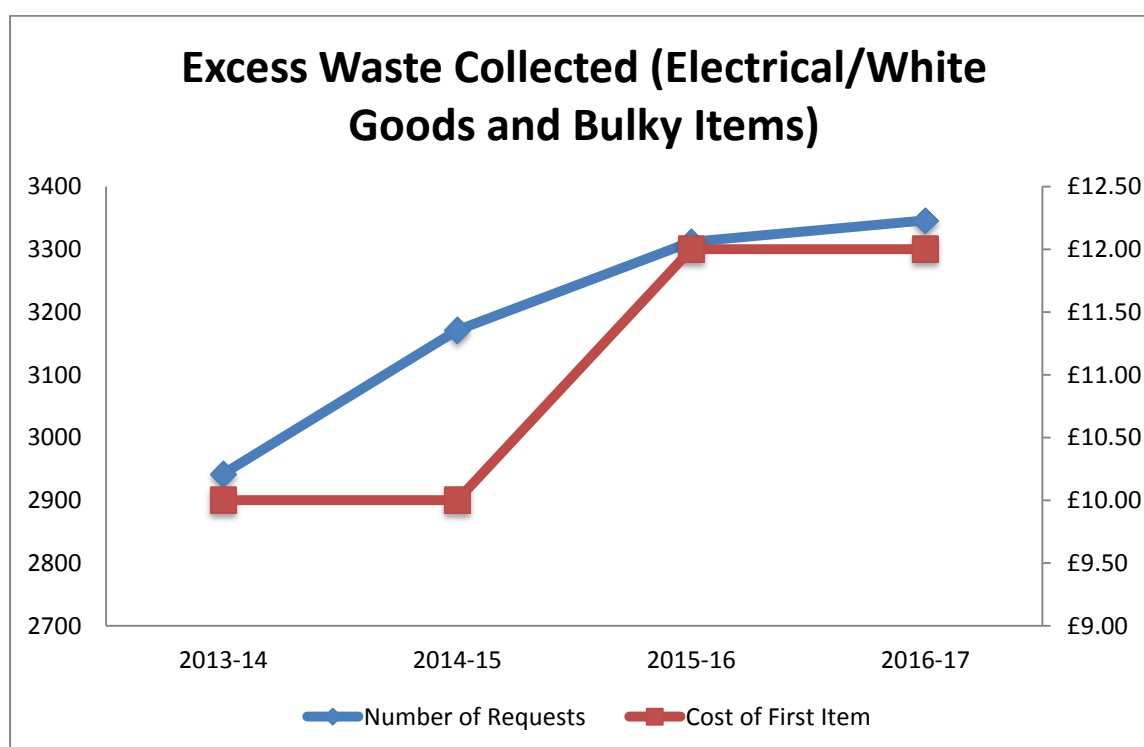


Figure 6

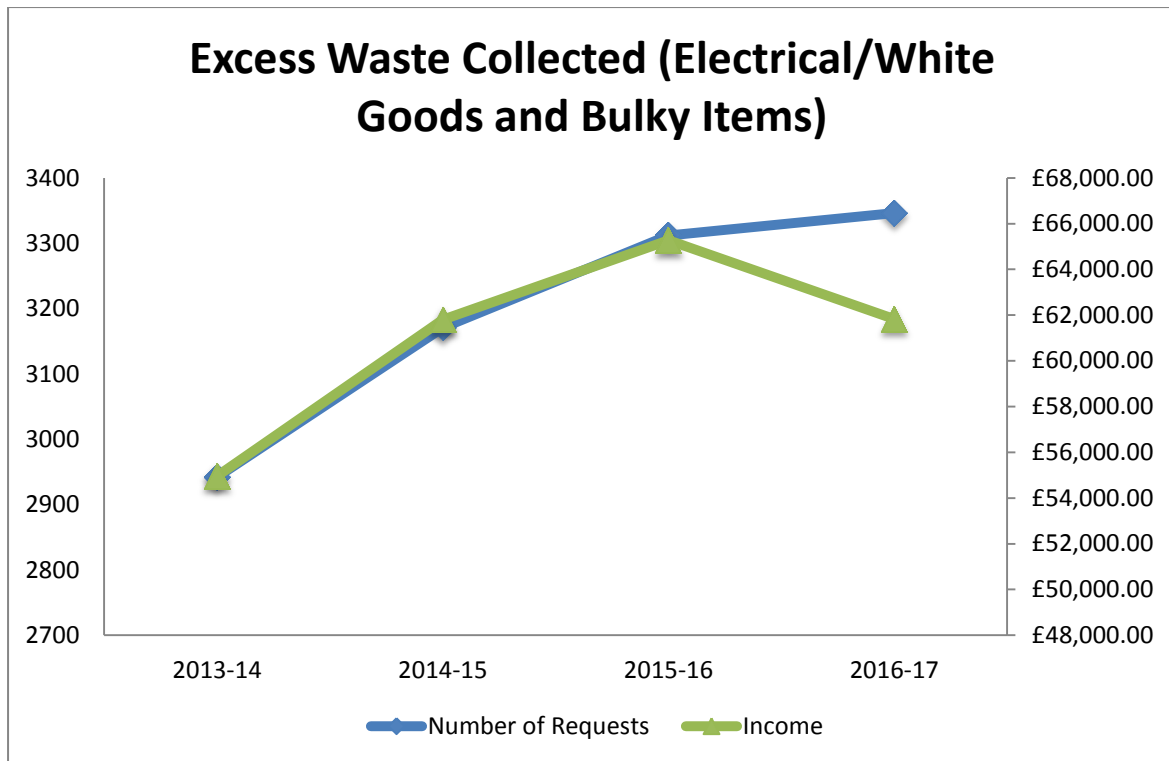


Figure 7

2.2.4. Home composting

For a number of years the Council has been working with its county partners to provide composters, wormerys, water butts and other associated products through the GetComposting scheme. The scheme is operated at no cost to the Council and allows us to continue to cater for the requests we receive for such items on a regular basis. Demand for these items declined last year with only 41 orders but this year 50 products have already been requested. In 2015/16 residents ordered 74 items via the GetComposting.com website so there is clearly still a demand to provide these items and this should be encouraged as composting and rainwater collection sit near the top of the waste hierarchy (below).

3. Drivers for Change

3.1. Legislative/policy drivers

The European Union Waste Framework Directive¹ requires all member states to produce national waste strategies describing waste disposal and recycling policies. The directive sets out the theoretical waste hierarchy as shown in Figure 8.

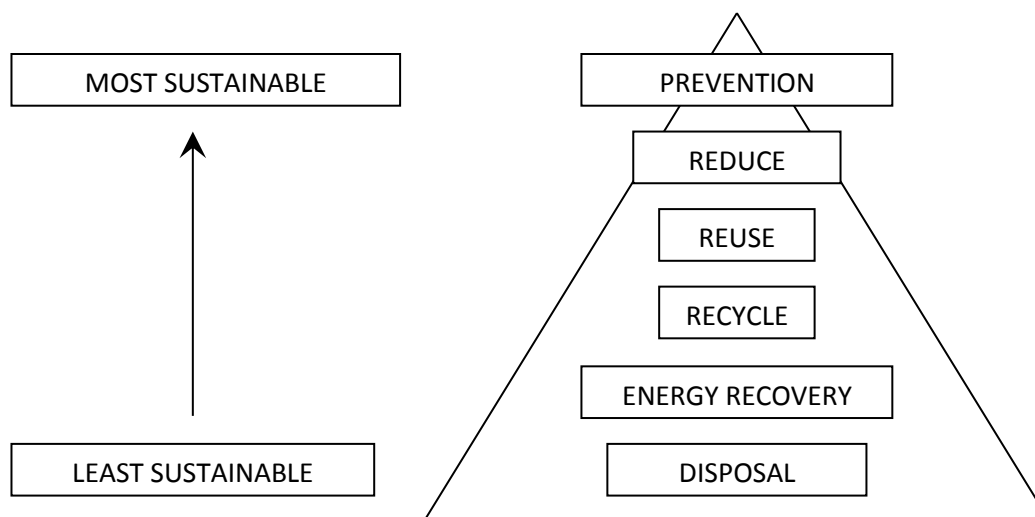


Figure 8

There have now been three waste strategies produced for England. At the time Newark and Sherwood's waste strategy was produced in 2006 the most recent of these was *Waste Strategy 2000* which set out the national recycling targets and provided the impetus for much of the work conducted by local authorities in the early years of this millennium. In particular *The Household Waste Recycling Act 2003*² established the requirement for all English Waste Collection Authorities to provide kerbside collections of at least two different material streams. The 2000 document was superseded shortly after the publication of Newark and Sherwood's Waste Strategy by the *Waste Strategy for England in 2007*³ which aimed to incentivise collection schemes and further discourage the use of landfill as a disposal route instead focusing on the recovery of energy from waste. Finally the *Waste Management Plan for England* was released in 2013⁴. This plan was primarily devised to bring current waste management practices under one national plan. Currently the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been tasked by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to look at the options for consolidating the wide variety of collection schemes operating around the country into a smaller number of comparative regimes.⁵

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008L0098>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/29/contents>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-strategy-for-england-2007>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-management-plan-for-england>

⁵ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/>

Since the 2015 Election there have been no further significant announcements on national waste policy and strategy although the *Waste Framework Directive* target of 50% nationally still remains. Nationally the movement appears to be towards a more 'circular economy' with the government currently undertaking consultation on 'deposit and return' schemes. The Head of Household Waste at DEFRA (Robert Vaughan) publically stated that the EU's circular Economy package which is anticipated by December 2017 is expected to be adopted by the UK.⁶

In November 2017 Environment Secretary of State Michael Gove announced plans for a new regulatory body which would have more powers than the Environment Agency and may take over responsibility for the attainment and perhaps setting of recycling targets.⁷

All of these drivers are currently in a state of flux but it is clear that there are potentially some big changes on the horizon for waste management in England. England has certainly appeared to have fallen behind in its ambitions to reduce waste collection and reported the first ever drop in recycling rates in 2015 at 44.3% down from 44.9% in 2014.

Former Resource Management Minister Dan Rogerson wrote to members of the industry in 2014 to inform them that there was to be less support for local authorities and a reduction of activities in waste;⁸ In contrast, within the devolved nations waste and recycling appears to have remained a priority.

3.2. Within the Nations

In 2010 the Welsh Government published *Towards Zero Waste*.⁹ Wales currently has the highest recycling rate of all the devolved nations, recycling over 60% of municipal waste in 2015/16.

The Scottish Government established a delivery body called Zero Waste Scotland and in 2010 published its *Zero Waste Plan*.¹⁰ This plan sets out a number of ambitious targets including a 70% recycling target for 2025. The plan is backed up by the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which added provisions for local authorities to:

- Local authorities to provide a basic recycling service to all households by 1 January 2014
- Local Authorities to offer a food waste recycling service in non-rural areas from 1 January 2016
- A ban on material collected for recycling going to landfill or incineration
- A ban on municipal biodegradable waste going to landfill by 1 January 2021

⁶ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/circular-economy-package-expected-to-be-implemented/>

⁷ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/gove-unveils-plans-for-new-regulatory-body/>

⁸ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/government-policy/>

⁹ http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/zerowaste/?skip=1&lang=en

¹⁰ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Waste-1/wastestrategy>

Scotland achieved a recycling rate of 44.3% in 2015 and all indications are that the recycling rate will continue to rise. In Northern Ireland the emphasis appears to be on the application of the Waste Hierarchy following the publication of the strategy document *Delivering Resource Efficiency* in 2013. In 2015/16 over 42% of material was recycled in Northern Ireland.

If equally ambitious plans are unveiled by Westminster in the coming years we will need to be in a position to adapt and increase our service offerings in conjunction with our local and national partners. Brief consideration as to what the future may hold for waste services has been included later in this document.

3.3. How do we compare?

Nationally in 2015/16 out of 351 English local Authorities, Newark and Sherwood District Council ranked 312 recycling and composting just over 30% of our waste. We expect this ranking to improve marginally over the next few years primarily due to the growth of the garden waste scheme. In 2016/17 for instance we achieved a recycling rate of 31.9%. Based on the 15/16 rankings this would move us up around ten places. The top 10 performing authorities are all recycling/composting over 59% of their waste and the top 8 recycling over 60%.¹¹

Table 3 (below) illustrates the kerbside services that the top 5 authorities offer to households.

Rank	Authority	Performance	Containers	Waste Stream	Charged?
1	South Oxfordshire District Council	66.60%	Caddy	Food waste	N
			Wheeled Bin 1	Recycling	N
			Wheeled Bin 2	Residual	N
			Wheeled Bin 3	Garden	Y
2	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	66.10%	Wheeled Bin 1	Recycling	N
			Wheeled Bin 2	Garden & Food	N
			Wheeled Bin 3	Residual	N
3	Rochford District Council	66.00%	Wheeled Bin 1	Recycling	N
			Wheeled Bin 2	Garden & Food	N
			Wheeled Bin 3	Residual	N
			Plastic Sacks	Textiles	N
4	Vale of White Horse District Council	64.80%	Caddy	Food waste	N
			Wheeled Bin 1	Recycling	N
			Wheeled Bin 2	Residual	N
			Wheeled Bin 3	Garden	Y
5	Surrey Heath Borough Council	62.10%	Caddy	Food waste	N
			Wheeled Bin 1	Recycling	N
			Wheeled Bin 2	Residual	N
			Wheeled Bin 3	Garden	Y
			Plastic Sacks	Textiles	N
			Plastic Sacks	Small Electricals (Inc. Batteries)	N

Table 3

¹¹ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/201516-overall-performance/>

As you can see the main thing the authorities have in common is the provision of a free food waste collection service. A brief consideration of the implications and options for offering a similar expansion of services has been included at the end of this report.

4. Achievements to date

Like all council services, waste collection has faced its share of challenges since the publication of the Waste Strategy in 2006. Following the economic crash in 2008 and the subsequent austerity agenda the department restructured and shifted focus, reducing employee sickness levels and improving systems and standards to free up staff time. Combined with a series of rolling round reviews this has resulted in extra capacity which has been utilised to launch new services.

4.1. Kerbside Battery Collection

In 2011 we launched our kerbside battery recycling service emulating the successful service offered by neighbouring Rushcliffe Borough Council and adapting it for our own use in partnership with Veolia Nottinghamshire. This was conducted using existing resources with promotional material and collection bags being provided by Veolia.

4.2. Trade recycling

In 2012/13 following a review of our refuse collection rounds we managed to free enough capacity to launch our successful Trade Waste Recycling Round. This meant we could expand our service offering to our trade customers, lowering their bills whilst maintaining income to the Council.

4.3. Garden waste

Also in 2012/13 we were approached by Mansfield District Council who having switched to a chargeable garden bin service found themselves with additional fleet capacity. Working in partnership we launched the first garden bin collections in the west of the district. With well over 2000 customers this service is still going strong and was been complimented by additional provision by Rushcliffe Borough Council in the South of the district in 2014 and our own pilot project in Newark and Balderton. Finally by our own dedicated collection round which launched in 2016 provided the option of a garden waste collection to all areas of the district.

As part of the agreement established with Rushcliffe Borough Council they provide all of the administrative support for the area cover by our in house teams.

4.4. Partnership working to provide Town Centre and Hawtonville cleaning.

In 2016 we entered a partnership with Newark Town Council to provide a dedicated town centre operative working to keep the districts flagship retail areas and surrounding streets clean. In 2017 we complimented this with a barrow and operative primarily assigned to the Hawtonville estate but also providing additional cleansing to other areas within the town.

4.5. H&S issues and the WISH agenda

Changes to national health and safety guidance in 2015 brought with them a host of new challenges which resulted in the team having to completely review and overhaul its working practices. The Health and Safety Executive published new guidance for both street cleansing and waste collection services working in partnership with other bodies on the Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) agenda. As a result of the work that has been undertaken as part of this review we have modified a number of existing practices and identified new ways of operating which allow us to work in areas we have previously viewed as inaccessible.

We are in the process of testing a new item of equipment (ReaClear) which we hope will reduce the risk of reversing related incidents and improve safety for both our colleagues and the public.

4.6. Improving Performance

The rising recycling rates and household waste figures per head indicate that the principles and policies established in 2006 have been effective in encouraging both waste reduction and recycling participation. On that basis this review seeks to strengthen and update the existing principles and policies with consideration being given to the future challenges being faced by the sector.

4.7. Digital by Default

Since 2016 the Council has been working with Meritec Ltd to develop both our internal and external systems to allow customers to report issues and book services such as bulky waste collection directly through our website. This system also allows us to allocate tasks to remote workers via handheld devices improving our response times and enabling more efficient working practices.

5. Existing and future challenges

5.1. Contamination

5.1.1. Veolia policy and contract conditions

Contamination of recycling bins is becoming a growing problem across the country. National recycling campaigning budgets have been slashed and the pressure on local authority finances has resulted in the need to re-think the way we operate.

Every load of waste which is sent to Veolia's recycling facilities under the NCC PFI contract should contain less than 5% of materials which are not included in the contracts 'input specification'. Recent years have seen the county averages regularly exceed 10% meaning that Veolia can legitimately refuse to accept loads.

5.1.2. The export market

Much of the material that is collected via kerbside schemes is exported to foreign markets and the biggest of these is China.¹³ Following years of exports of varying quality the Chinese government has been imposing much stricter standards on materials admitted into the country for reprocessing and reuse. These restrictions are only set to get tighter with current indication being that they will be set at around 0.5%.¹² This figure is going to be very hard for our domestic sorting facilities to reach unless we can get the contamination rates reduced at the kerbside. One possible impact of this will be an impetus to move to source separated collection systems as discussed recently by WRAP.¹³ The argument being that by separating at source you avoid cross contamination with other materials.

5.1.3. The contamination project

Newark and Sherwood district are already working with NCC, Veolia and the other Nottinghamshire councils to create unified recycling communications and working towards a unified set of standards and policies in order to tackle this issue.

5.2. New targets and legislation changes

With the UK leaving the European Union it is unclear what will happen to the recycling targets as established under the Waste Framework Directive. Initial indications are that these targets are here to stay but the Secretary for the Environment has hinted that a new environment body may be established which *could* oversee the establishment of new recycling targets to bring the achievements of English authorities in line with Scotland and Wales.

We may also see the introduction on landfill bans on certain material streams and pressure on our recycling rates if deposit and return schemes are seen to flourish. If recyclable material does not enter the household collection stream because it is returned via other means that material is lost from the Councils tonnage calculations.

¹² <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/chinas-environment-minister-speaks-out-on-waste-imports/>

¹³ <https://www.mrw.co.uk/latest/wrap-calls-for-separate-paper-collections/10024459.article>

5.3. Reduction in 'bring sites'

Of our existing recycling services the one that undoubtedly faces the most pressure is our recycling 'bring sites'. The closure and redevelopment of several of our key recycling sites can be attributed to 4 key factors:

1. A failure by external service providers to maintain sites effectively resulting in request from land owners to remove banks.
2. Redevelopment of public house car parks into play areas or outdoor smoking areas
3. The closure of multiple public houses across the district
4. The conversion of carparks etc. into new facilities resulting in the removal of banks from key locations

At the moment these sites are provided at minimum cost to the council due because the companies that operate them collect the waste free of charge. This situation brings its own set of challenges. Because we have no formal contract with the companies that provide these facilities we have little or no recourse to drive them to improve service standards; with the declining value of materials (in particular glass) it has become less attractive for new companies to offer local recycling banks.

5.4. Continued austerity

Austerity and prudence have become the watchwords of local government and we have a proven record of doing more with less; however if the service is required to radically expand or alter its service offering then significant future investment may be required.

6. Principles and Policies

6.1. Introduction

The Waste Strategy document compiled in 2006 outlined a number of key principles. These principles still stand but principle 4 has been updated to reflect the passage of time and to bring it into line with our current partnership arrangements.

Policies and supporting texts have been copied directly from the original strategy document and amended to reflect the passage of time and changes to services since 2006. A side by side comparison of the old and proposed policies and principles has been included as an appendix to this document.

6.2. Key principles

Principle 1 (No Change)

The Council will adopt the waste hierarchy as a template for their approach to waste management. Waste minimisation is the key principle upon which the strategy is built and the Council will investigate opportunities, communicate with and educate its stakeholders, to ensure that, where practicable, waste arisings are minimised or otherwise managed by the most sustainable means available.

Principle 2 (No Change)

Options of dealing with waste will be affordable to the Council and decisions we take will be economically sustainable and will offer the best available option without exceeding excessive economic cost.

Principle 3 (No Change)

The Council will work in partnership to achieve the delivery of the strategy, including working with the County, Borough and District Councils of Nottinghamshire, businesses, the voluntary and community sectors and the general public. We will work with our strategic partners to seek efficiencies, service improvements and added value, which contribute to the delivery of excellent waste management services

Principle 4 (Amended)

The Council will work in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council and other Nottinghamshire districts and boroughs to achieve recycling targets for 2020 and beyond.

Principle 5 (No Change)

The strategy will be subject to regular review to determine progress, new legislative requirements, new technologies and other significant developments.

The Council has adopted the “Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” message as the foundation of its communications awareness campaign.

Based on the Waste hierarchy, the Council proposes that the following policies are adopted to ensure that the Council has a practical and achievable vision to deliver its key waste targets.

6.3. Rethink

Since 2006 the continued pressure on local government finances has forced the authority to re-focus our efforts on more efficient campaigning working in partnership with other Nottinghamshire districts and boroughs, the county council and Veolia the County's PFI contractor. Where historically we would have conducted campaigns in isolation we have worked together to find common ground and communicated messages through the Recycle for Nottinghamshire brand.

Policy 1 – No Change

Wherever possible, the Council will promote and educate its stakeholders to encourage them to move waste up the hierarchy.

A comprehensive education and publicity campaign will continue to be the cornerstone of all waste, policies including waste minimisation, recycling and reduction schemes. All new proposals, services and campaigns which encourage stakeholders to move waste up the hierarchy will be advertised and explained to all potential participants with a view to maximising impact, uptake and capture rate.

The Council will continue to evaluate the use of incentive schemes for encouraging participation in and encouraging increased segregation of recyclables.

The Council will continue to support and help to develop the work of the Schools Waste Action Club programme and the Eco-schools agenda, both of which educate children in the waste agenda.

Enforcement powers will be used where it is necessary to ensure participation.

The Council will build upon national and regional campaigns, seeking external support to promote its services where appropriate to do so.

The Council will build on its comprehensive and cohesive approach to publicity, promotion, awareness raising and enforcement through collaboration and joint working with its strategic partners, notwithstanding the need to accommodate our own initiatives and local needs.

The Council will target education campaigns to areas of the district which show a lower than average contribution to waste sustainability.

6.4. Reduce

Figure 1 (above) illustrates the change in waste produced per head since 2006. Until 2013/14 there was a steady decrease in the amount of waste produced per head but since April 2014 the figure has grown although it is still far below the 440kg per head recorded in 2004-5.

The Best Value Performance Indicators were replaced by the National Indicator set and eventually scrapped by central government in 2010. The data for these indicators is still collected through the governments Waste Data Flow monitoring system so it is still possible to obtain the figures per head of population.

As discussed in section 2 *Existing Services* (above) there are a number of different factors which can influence waste arisings and a degree of fluctuation should always be expected; however it is not expected that the collection of household waste per head will increase above the original 440kg target within the life of this strategy. On this basis it is recommended that the original policy 2 stands.

Policy 2 – No Change

The Council will seek to achieve zero growth in waste arisings, measured by the Council not exceeding the maximum recorded kg/ head of waste collected and disposed of for this authority, for the life of the strategy, (not including green waste arisings). This requires waste arisings to remain below 440kg per head, as recorded in 2004-5.

Achieving zero waste is an aspirational target, which can only be brought about by increasing producer responsibility for waste packaging. However, the Council will encourage waste minimisation through influencing consumer-purchasing choices through education, publicity and policy design for waste disposal.

The Council will actively promote campaigns to reduce waste through such schemes as the Mailing Preference Service and Real Nappy campaigns. Incentive schemes for reducing waste through participation in specific waste minimisation projects will be investigated.

Currently, in partnership with other Nottinghamshire authorities, home-composting units can be purchased through the GetComposting.com website which was established after the Waste Resources Action Programme scheme came to an end.

Policy 3 - Amended

The Council will actively promote home-composting as the most sustainable way of removing green garden waste and kitchen putrescibles from the waste stream. It will achieve this by continuing to promote GetComposting.com as the source for home compost bins and related items.

If required we will work with our local partners to offer an alternative service.

The Council is able to influence the purchasing habits and lifestyle choices of its residents by restricting the capacity of the bin issued to dispose of residual waste material. By enforcing a no side waste and closed lid policy, the size of the bin issued has maximum effect.

This policy is designed to ensure that residents have adequate provision for the disposal of their waste and a comparison of the capacity available to residents is shown in Table 4 (below).

Capacity (L)	Residents	Capacity per resident (L)
140	1-2	70 -140
240	3-5	48 - 80
360	6+	<60

Table 4

Other districts within Nottinghamshire (Mansfield and Ashfield) have recently reduced the capacity of their standard bins from 240L to 180L in an effort to drive up the usage of the recycling service.

The Council will continue to provide assistance to those who struggle with the available waste capacity through no fault of their own and will provide larger bins where it is considered that there is a genuine need.

Policy 4 - Amended

The Council will issue standard sizes of bins for residual waste collection, depending upon the number of occupants that are full time residents of a household, as follows:

1 - 2 residents	140 litre bin
3 - 5 residents	240 litre bin
6 - 8 residents	360 litre bin

For properties containing more than 8 residents the Council will consider the implementation of additional capacity on a case by case basis.

Where residents have additional needs (e.g. medical) which results in the need for additional capacity this will be assessed and provided on a case by case basis.

The issuing of larger bins is dependent upon the householder demonstrating willingness to minimise their waste and participate in Council recycling schemes.

Waste not contained within the bin will not be considered as presented for collection, and will not be collected by the regular collection service, apart from recyclable waste presented alongside a recycling bin in a suitable recyclable container (e.g. excess cardboard)

The Council has a statutory duty to collect all household waste, but the Council may charge for the collection of certain items, including charging for waste that cannot be contained within the receptacle issued by the Council for collection of household waste. This includes large or bulky items and excess amounts of waste. Policy decisions regarding the amount or concessions available will ultimately affect the waste arisings of the district.

Policy 5 - Amended

In an attempt to minimise waste arisings, the Council will charge for all excess or bulky collections with no exceptions.

Electrical goods collections (televisions, fridges, freezers, washing machines, computer equipment etc.) will be charged for separately.

A review of charging policies will be undertaken as part of the Councils annual process for setting Fees and Charges.

The Council will continue to promote its online booking system to residents as the best route for arranging these collections.

In the event that a resident has a considerable amount of waste to dispose of the Council will offer to quote for the removal of excess household waste.

6.5. Reuse

It is often stated that one person's waste is another's raw material. The Council can best facilitate waste re-use by coordinating the communication channels necessary between donor and recipient, often enabling the Councils stakeholders to contact the relevant organisations who deal in the re-use market.

There are several organisations within the district including the Furniture Project, Recycling Ollerton and Boughton and the Newark Community RePaint project who would benefit from such direct practical assistance from the Council. These organisations accept donations ranging from household furniture to electrical goods, bric-a-brac and paint and we continue to signpost residents towards them to encourage reuse.

Policy 6 – No Change

The Council will actively promote re-use schemes within the district to encourage householders to act more sustainably, and where practicable will form partnerships with the voluntary and community sector to promote re-use.

6.6. Recycle**6.6.1. *Household Waste******Bring Sites***

The Council compliments the kerbside collection of recyclables with the placement of bring sites across the district to ensure that non-users of kerbside collection services have an opportunity to access recycling services.

Policy 7 – No Change

Where they are considered beneficial, the Council will continue to provide and enhance Bring Recycling Sites, to supplement our kerbside collection schemes. The effect of kerbside recycling collections on bring sites will be monitored to ensure that together they continue to provide a cost effective and practical way to recycle.

In particular, bring sites for materials, which cannot currently be collected by kerbside, should be available locally to all communities, and new banks will be made available where there is a clear demand. The existing sites will be continually reviewed with regards to suitable capacity and service delivery standards and the possibility of improving services through consideration of alternative service providers, including partnership, in-house or community sector provision.

Policy 8 - Amended

Where suitable sites can be found, all communities within the district will be served with the provision of glass and textile banks for recycling.

6.6.2. Kerbside Collections**General**

The majority (~98%) of household waste is collected via wheeled bins from the curtilage of domestic properties. Regular collection rounds have been established which are efficient and practicable within the operational resources available. The collection programme is under continual review and may change if and where efficiency savings are identified, and as new properties are added.

Householders are expected to present the correct bin for collection on the designated collection day, at the curtilage of their property, unless otherwise agreed. The Council will empty and return the bin to the same location provided that the contents of the bin meet with the acceptable criteria for household waste for the particular bin presented. The Council will communicate its rejection of any bin for collection with the householder and assist all householders to manage their waste sustainably by providing advice, information and education. The Council will inform residents in advance of any changes to their waste collection service unless the changes are outside of the Councils control e.g. collections delayed by adverse weather conditions.

The following policies summarise the current customer service standards adopted by the Council:

Policy 9 - Amended

The Council will, by prior arrangement, collect and return wheeled bins from agreed locations (i.e. assisted collections) where it is not possible for any able bodied person residing at a household to present the bin at the curtilage of their property for collection.

Policy 10 - Amended

Where the Council misses a scheduled collection of residual waste, and the bin was presented correctly, and the contents of the bin conformed to the waste acceptance criteria, then the Council will guarantee to return to undertake the collection at the earliest available opportunity.

Where collections are missed due to the negligence of the householder, the Council will endeavour to return to make the collection at the earliest opportunity, subject to available resources.

Missed recycling collections will be checked for contamination and the resident offered the opportunity to:

1. Remove any contaminating items and wait for the following recycling collection (with reference to Policy 4 on side waste)
2. Place their recycling bin (contaminated or otherwise for collection with their residual bin)

Missed collections and subsequent response times shall be scrutinized through performance monitoring systems.

Policy 11 - Amended

The Council will maintain on its website a list of prohibited materials which cannot be placed in residual wheeled bins for collection, and will reject bins which are presented for collection which contain prohibitive materials.

Dry Recycling Bins – The Silver Bin

The ability of the Council and its partners to find markets for the sale of individual recyclables is dependent upon the quality of materials presented by householders in their Silver Bins. This has a direct influence on the income received for the sale of this material, and therefore the cost of the waste management service overall. The Council must therefore ensure that it has sufficient means with which to maintain this quality standard.

Policy 12 – No Change

The Council will undertake random inspections of bins placed out for collection.

The Council will reject bins presented for collection which do not contain the correct materials for recycling, or which contain prohibited materials, and will inform the customer by placing a tag on the contaminated bin.

It is the responsibility of the householder to contact the Council for further advice on how to dispose of the contents of the contaminated bin responsibly.

For the purposes of maintaining the quality of recyclable material collected, the Council will maintain records of all rejected bins and the number of times that individual households have presented contaminated recycling bins.

In any twelve month period, where a householder has presented a contaminated bin on the first occasion, practical advice and education will be offered to the householder to ensure that the problem is resolved expediently. If a contaminated bin is presented on a second occasion, a visit by a member of the waste management team will be conducted warning that further incidents may result in enforcement action being taken. For a third and repeated incidents of contamination, the Council *may* take enforcement action.

Policy 13 – No Change

The Council may take enforcement action against individual persons for repeated contamination of recycling bins by:

- (i) issuing fixed financial penalties;
- (ii) by removing bins from householders;
- (iii) by other alternative legal actions available to the Council.

The Silver Bin service, together with the provision garden waste collection and bring banks, will remain the principle means by which the Council achieves its statutory recycling obligations.

This will be achieved by maximising participation and performance by individual householders through continual education and publicity campaigns.

Campaigns which focus on capture rates for specific materials will encourage the householder to segregate their waste through the provision of incentive schemes.

Targeted promotions and enforcement actions in areas of the district which are performing at below average per household will ensure that campaigns are targeted to specific local need, and other complementary local services will be incorporated into these promotions. Offering alternative forms of dry recyclable kerbside collections to properties not on the current service will increase tonnages.

Increasing the range of suitable materials for recycling will improve performance.

Policy 14 - Amended

The Council will work with its partners to ensure that where sustainable markets exist for dry recyclables, that they are collected and processed by the most cost effective means available. Should new markets be identified the authority will conduct an appraisal and where appropriate a cost benefit analysis of the collection of new material streams will be undertaken.

Policy 15 - Amended

The Council will continue to ensure garden waste is collected from households across the district and will promote the service as a disposal route for garden waste in conjunction with home composting in order to discourage the disposal of compostable material through the residual stream.

6.7. Delivering targets through partnerships

6.7.1. Nottinghamshire County Council

At the time the 2006 Waste Strategy was being developed the Nottinghamshire County Council Waste Contract with Veolia was still in the process of being implemented. Policy 16 refers directly to that and is no longer of relevance. A new policy has been proposed instead based on the work that is already being implemented through the regular Joint Officer Boards and Joint Waste Management Committee both of which are comprised of representatives from all 7 district and borough authorities working alongside representatives from the County Council and Veolia as the County's waste contractor:

Policy 16 - Amended

The Council will continue to work with its local authority partners to increase the quality and quantity of material removed from the residual waste stream by:

1. Standardising communication messages where appropriate
2. Seeking new opportunities to increase the range of recyclable materials
3. Endeavouring to standardise collection methods and policies

6.7.2. Recycling Ollerton and Boughton

Recycling Ollerton and Boughton (ROB) no longer offer a garden waste collection. They have expanded their kerbside glass collections (although significant further expansion is unlikely to be feasible). Although ROB provide a valuable service to the community they are primarily focused on providing training to prepare their students for employment elsewhere. As such we will continue to do our utmost to support ROB in their work but do not view them as a route via which we can dramatically increase recycling collections.

Policy 17 – No Change

Where resources permit, the Council will work in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to ensure that waste is recycled and services are developed which add value to the core waste management services of the Council

6.8. Trade Waste

We launched a Trade waste recycling service in 2012 and offer free recycling collections to Schools across the district (following the schools purchase of a bin). We plan to continue this service for as long as it remains viable.

Policy 18 – No Change

The Council will continue to offer trade waste recycling services to businesses across the district.

6.9. Council Waste

The Council is aware that it must lead by example and although recycling systems are now in place a review of the use of these systems is recommended. The Waste Management Team will work with representatives from Castle House and other Council premises to ensure that the systems are fit for purpose and are being correctly utilised.

Policy 19 - Amended

The Council will review existing recycling arrangements to ensure that it acts as sustainably as possible with respect to waste

7. Future Service

At times it appears that change is the only constant in waste management circles and the actions we take now will govern how well we are equipped to deal with the challenges that future changes bring. In this final section we consider the implications of the trends and challenges discussed in section 5.

It seems certain that the drive will be to improve recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste sent to both landfill and perhaps energy recovery. Nationally we are seeing a shift to the recovery of food waste; this is a trend that was spurred on during RT Honourable Eric Pickles time in Department for Communities and Local Government when the emphasis became the move towards removing 'smelly wastes' on a weekly basis.

The other major stream not currently collected at the kerbside is glass. Although our capture rates for glass are reasonably high it is probable that a kerbside collection would improve rates further but at significant extra cost.

Other materials such as tetrapak and mixed plastics may also be considered but are not considered to have the same impact on recycling rates due to their relatively low weight and volume.

7.1. New service structures

7.1.1. *Using Existing Resources*

New material streams are likely to result in the need for new collection services. As noted above there are some 'low impact' recyclable materials such as mixed plastics which could perhaps in future be captured through the existing collection infrastructure in the event that the sorting infrastructure is provided at suitable disposal/transfer points. Currently indications from Notts County Council and Veolia are that they are not considering further investment in this infrastructure until contamination rates drop and the existing recyclable material which is being lost through being placed in the residual bins is captured.

7.1.2. *Glass collection*

The Collection of glass from the kerbside is one that has been examined on several occasions in the past few years. Unfortunately the falling value of glass as a recycled material has always limited options for kerbside collections as it would not cover the costs involved. There would also be a number of infrastructure issues to overcome.

7.1.3. *Food Waste*

Separately collected food waste would most likely be treated by Anaerobic Digestion (AD) whereby the waste is heated and treated in a confined environment and the resulting gas (methane) used as fuel and the remaining solids used as compost/soil improver. Significant investment would be required to create fleet capacity and to provide householders with containers to collect this waste.

The alternative option for collecting food waste would be to collect it co-mingled with garden waste and send it for processing via In-Vessel-Composting. This treatment method is similar to Anaerobic Digestion in some respects but it does not usually result in the harvesting of methane as an additional resource. Collecting food waste this way would require the Council to provide a free garden waste collection service to all viable properties which would result in a significant fall in income for the Council from the loss of the existing opt-in collection scheme and the need for additional investment to create the fleet capacity and additional bins/containers required to collect from all the properties who do not currently receive a service.

Both separate and co-mingled food waste collections would require significant additional investment however this *could be* (in part) offset by the move to three weekly or monthly residual waste collections. The justification for this move is that by removing the organic element from the residual waste stream you are removing the 'putrescible' waste and therefore the source of any odour and hygiene issues.

There are of course other factors to account for such as the collection of nappies and other sanitary and medical waste which could result in the need for both additional infrastructure and collection requirements.