

**Oxfordshire Waste Partnership**

**‘No Time to Waste’**

**The Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste  
Strategy**

**Logos**

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## I. Vision for the future

Oxfordshire is pursuing a clear vision for sustainable waste management and resource efficiency.

**“We will work in partnership to reduce waste and to maximise reuse, recycling and composting. We will treat residual waste before disposal to recover further value and to minimise the environmental impact of disposal.”**

### Introduction

In 2005-06, Oxfordshire’s households produced approximately 300,000 tonnes of waste which equates to half a tonne for every person. Of this waste, 33% was recycled or composted, and 67% was sent directly to landfill. Over 60% of the total waste generated could have been reduced, reused or recycled. Some of the waste which was sent to landfill contained materials such as plastic, paper and glass, valuable resources that can be reused or recycled.

This strategy sets out how we, in Oxfordshire, are going to work in partnership to improve the way in which we manage our waste over the next 25 years. It will provide all stakeholders with an overview of the way we currently manage waste, identify the future challenges and need for change, and set out our shared vision for the future.

This strategy has been developed by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) following an extensive strategic review of waste management in Oxfordshire. This review has evaluated the options available to the County as a whole for the collection and disposal/treatment of waste to ensure that the most appropriate solution is adopted.

The OWP was established in 2003, and recently renewed its commitment to joint working through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in August 2005. The Partnership comprises:

- Cherwell District Council;
- Oxford City Council;
- Oxfordshire County Council;
- South Oxfordshire District Council;
- Vale of White Horse District Council;
- West Oxfordshire District Council.

Through this strategy, the OWP is addressing all wastes produced within Oxfordshire that come under the heading of ‘municipal solid waste’ (MSW). This includes all wastes produced by households, trade wastes collected from small businesses, waste material deposited at Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs), fly-tipped materials and abandoned vehicles.

The management of municipal wastes over the period 2005 – 2030, has been considered, to ensure the Strategy meets the key requirements of the Landfill Directive and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), in the long-term. .

## Elements of the Strategy

The diagram below shows how the core strategy and the associated Annexes link together.

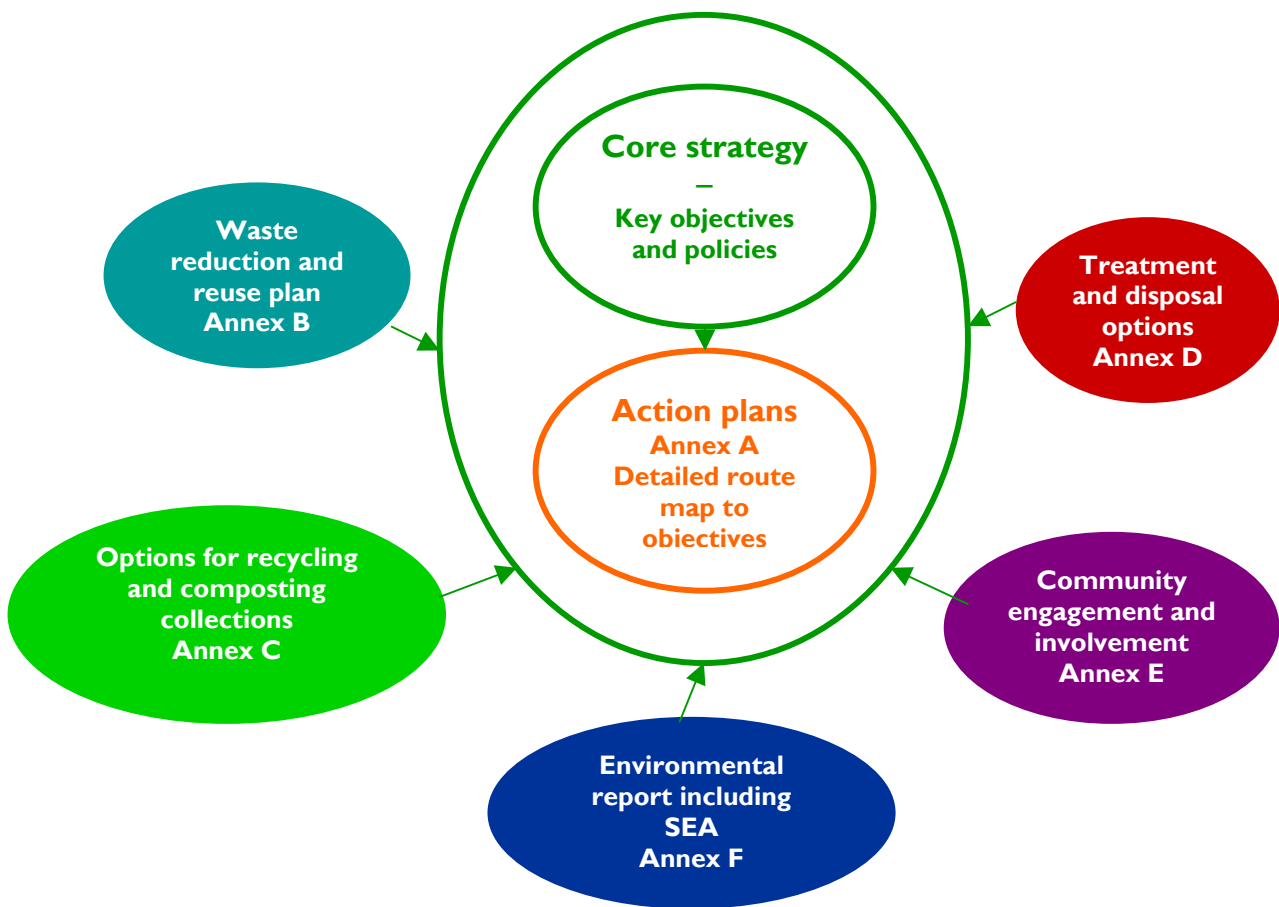


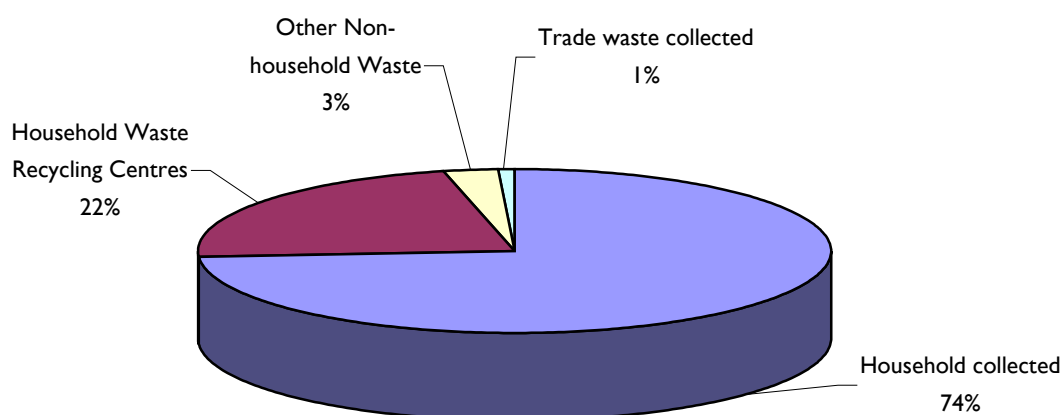
Figure 1 – Elements of the Strategy

## 2. Setting the Scene

It is essential that we take into account what currently happens to our waste when devising our strategy for the future.

## Current waste in Oxfordshire

In 2005/06, Oxfordshire generated approximately 311,000 tonnes of municipal waste. Around 96% of this waste was from households with the rest arising from other activities such as street sweepings and litter collections and any trade waste that the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) collect (as set out in Figure 2).



**Figure 2 - Composition of Municipal Waste in Oxfordshire 2005/06**

Compared with other counties in England, Oxfordshire performs well. We produce less waste per person than any other county and achieved a 1.8% reduction in waste per person in 2005-06. We are in the top quarter of all English counties for recycling. In 2005/06, collectively we achieved a recycling rate of 33%. This was 3% ahead of the statutory target Central Government set for us. As little as three years ago we recycled only 20%.

## Waste reduction and reuse

In addition to our roles as Waste Collection and Waste Disposal Authorities (WDAs), we actively promote waste reduction and reuse to residents of Oxfordshire in a number of ways.

Some current waste reduction and reuse activities across the County include:

- **Waste reduction pack** – information and leaflets on a range of waste reduction topics including preventing junk mail, savvy shopping and home composting;

- **Home composting** - home composting bins have been available since 2000. In April 2006 a new scheme came into effect, allowing residents to purchase bins at reduced rates;
- **Furniture and goods reuse** – support is given to charities and community groups to encourage the reuse of furniture, bikes, computers and paints;
- **Reusable nappies** - a number of nappy promotions are running throughout Oxfordshire, including free trials of reusable nappies;
- **Savvy shopping** – promoted through the Waste Reduction Pack, Nada magazine, Community Action Groups (CAGs) and District Council promotions;
- **Community reuse** – tool, paint and mobile collection points are housed at a number of waste recycling centres (WRCs) and several CAGs operate community SwapShops;
- **Wild Waste Show (WWS)** – WWS delivers waste reduction, reuse and recycling educational programmes to over 10,000 school children a year.

Further information about waste reduction and re-use plans are in **Annex B (Waste reduction and reuse plan)** of this strategy.

## Current waste collection schemes

All District Councils collect general rubbish, which is currently sent to landfill. All have separate collections for recycling paper and cans, whilst some also recycle plastics, glass and cardboard. Some key points to note are:

- General rubbish ('residual waste') is collected weekly in most districts, but fortnightly in Cherwell, and soon to be fortnightly in Oxford City.
- Some Authorities sort the recyclable materials at the kerbside into separate parts of the lorry ('kerbside sort'), while others collect mixed recyclables (commingled) and send them to a Materials Recycling Facility;
- Cherwell have a separate collection for green waste for composting as well as for 'dry' recyclables, while others collect green waste only on a limited basis. Oxford City will also have a city wide green waste scheme from the Autumn 2006.

District	Dry recyclables	Green waste	Residual waste
Cherwell	Blue box/ bin fortnightly and weekly	Wheeled bin fortnightly	Wheeled bin fortnightly
Oxford City	Green box weekly	Garden collection in sacks from trial area	Sack currently weekly
South Oxfordshire	Green box weekly	Chargeable fortnightly garden collection	Sack weekly
Vale of White Horse	Green box weekly	Chargeable fortnightly garden collection	Sack weekly
West Oxfordshire	Black box (two) weekly	Chargeable fortnightly garden collection	Wheeled bin weekly

**Table 1 - District Council collection systems operated in 2006/07**

District councils also have some Bring Site arrangements where householders take glass, paper and other materials to containers in well-publicised locations, such as public car parks. The materials collected are sent for reuse or recycling and equate

to 10,000 tonnes per annum. The District Councils also offer residents bulky household collection services.

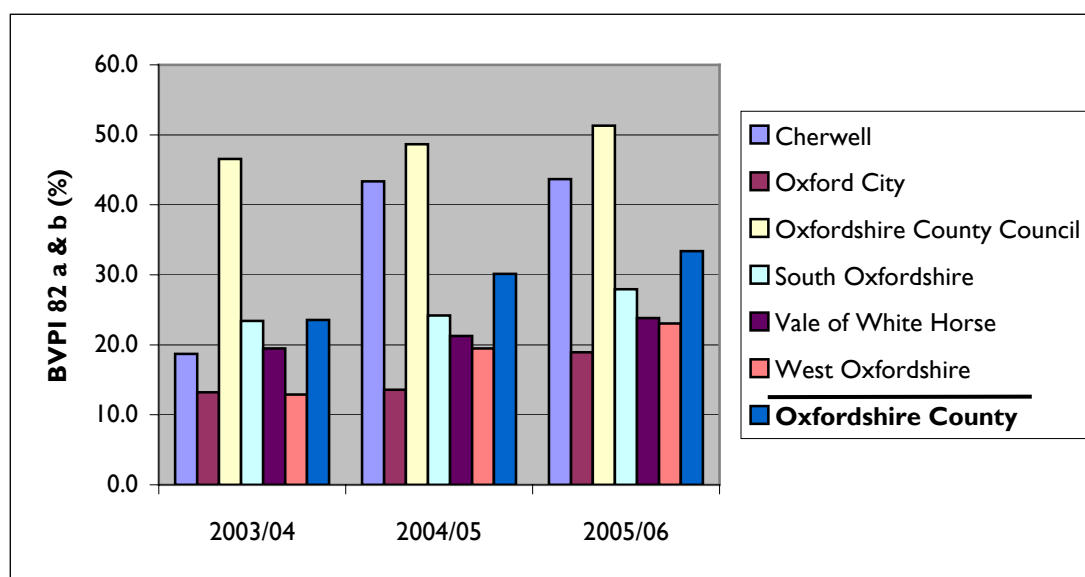
The County Council provides eight large Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs), where householders bring waste for reuse or recycling. These account for 60,000 tonnes of recycling and composting a year.

These different arrangements impact on the amount recycled. Table 2 below shows the recycling levels achieved in 2005/06 for each district and for the county recycling centres:

	Total household (tonnes)	Recycling (tonnes)	Composting (tonnes)	Recycled or composted
Cherwell	58,500	13,000	12,500	44%
Oxford City	46,500	7,200	1,500	19%
Oxfordshire County Recycling Centres	59,500	13,000	18,500	53%
South Oxfordshire	51,000	13,000	1,500	29%
Vale of White Horse	41,000	9,000	700	24%
West Oxfordshire	43,500	9,600	600	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>64,800</b>	<b>35,300</b>	<b>33.36%</b>

**Table 2 - Recycling performance in 2005/06**

The levels of recycling achieved in 2005/06 have built upon the success of previous years. Past performance against Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) 82 A and B for recycling and composting are shown in figure 3 below.



**Figure 3 BVPI Performance in 2004/05 - 2005/06**



Further information about the collection schemes and the proposals to develop these for the future can be found in **Annex C (Options for recycling and composting collections)**.

### Current waste disposal arrangements

Waste, which is not reused or recycled, is sent to landfill sites for disposal: Dix Pit in the West, Sutton Courtenay in the South, and Alkerton and Ardley Fields in the North. These sites are all regulated by the Environment Agency. Waste is not sent out of county for landfilling, but may be recycled at facilities outside the county. The map (Figure 4) and table below (Table 3) show the locations of the landfill sites and the Waste Recycling Centres.

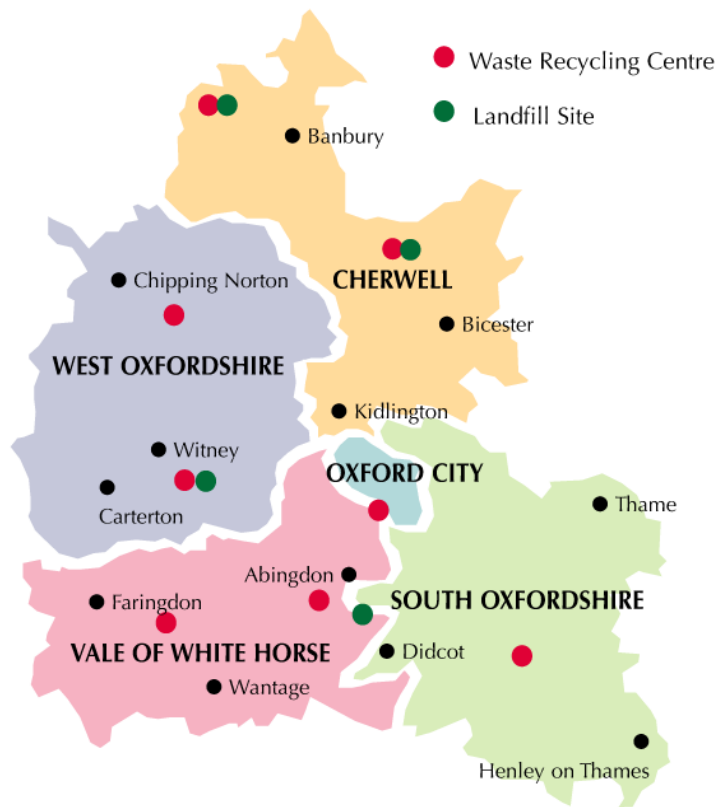


Figure 4 - Location of Waste Recycling Centres and landfill sites

Site	District Location	Contract Details
Alkerton	Cherwell	Disposal site contracted to Sita until 09/2009
Ardley Fields	Cherwell	Operated by Viridor contract ended in 2005, extension under discussion
Banbury	Cherwell	Some waste disposed of at Grundon's waste transfer station
Sutton Courtenay	Vale of White Horse	Disposal site operated by WRG and contracts terminate in 09/2009
Dix Pit	West Oxfordshire	Disposal site operated by WRG, disposal element of contract is for the life of the landfill site

**Table 3 - Location of current landfill sites**

Further information about the current disposal arrangements and the proposals for future treatment and disposal of residual waste can be found in **Annex D (Options for residual waste)**.

### 3. Why we need to change

#### Restrictions on the use of landfill

Although disposal of waste through landfill is well regulated and causes less pollution than in the past it is not a sustainable solution. The process of organic materials rotting down (biodegrading) gives off methane, which is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. This has a direct impact on climate change.

The European Union has agreed a directive requiring all Waste Disposal Authorities to achieve reductions in the amount of biodegradable wastes sent to landfill. In Oxfordshire, we sent 142,500 tonnes of biodegradable waste to landfill, in 2005/6. Oxfordshire must reduce the amount of biodegradable wastes landfilled to:

- 121,700 tonnes by 2009-10;
- 81,000 tonnes by 2012-13;
- 56,700 tonnes by 2019-20.

Failure to meet these targets will result in a fine of at least £150 per tonne of landfilled biodegradable waste. The only way to avoid these fines is to buy allowances from other Local Authorities. We expect the price of this to be close to the £150 per tonne fine we would have to pay.

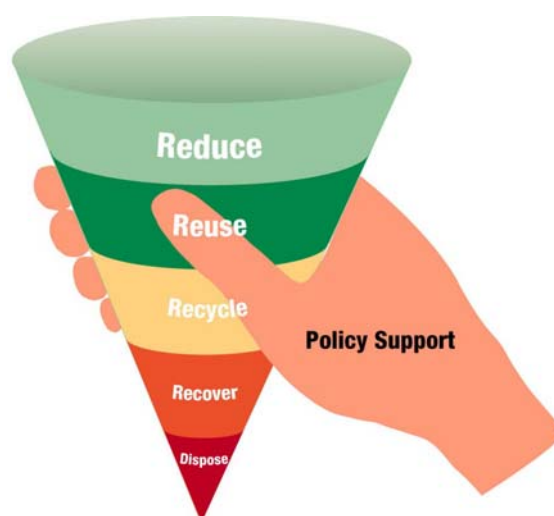
If we take the 142,500 tonne figure above, we would miss our landfill target by around 20,000 tonnes, and would incur a fine of £3 million, equating to £13 a year on the council tax of a band D house. To do nothing would result in even higher fines as, nationally the amount of waste generated increases every year. Our present level of performance would lead to:

- a fine of £3.1 million in 2009-10;
- £9.2 million by 2012-13;
- £12.8 million by 2019-20.

Even if we maximise the amount of rubbish we are able to reduce, reuse and recycle, it will not be enough. The remaining residual waste will leave the county short of our landfill targets. There will be a need for some form of 'treatment' to remove the biodegradable element from the residual waste.

## Sustainable waste management

We need to base our waste management practices on the internationally recognised waste hierarchy. This is not simply a matter of reducing waste sent to landfill.



**Figure 5 - Waste Hierarchy**

The hierarchy, in Figure 5 above, represents a sliding scale of sustainable waste management methods starting with reduction of waste, re-use, recycling and composting, recovery and disposal. Where waste is produced it should be managed as a resource to be put to good use; disposal should be the last option.

All strategic waste management decisions in Oxfordshire will follow this structure. However, within the hierarchy we need to work out solutions which are practical, affordable and do not have perverse unintended impacts on the economy, environment or natural resources.

## 4. The Strategy development process

The following diagram sets out the stages of the process we followed to develop the Strategy. The process began by identifying our visions and aims for the future development of services. A series of options to help us achieve our aims were developed through an extensive strategic review. This was a staged process, focusing on our potential to reduce and reuse waste first, then options for recycling

and composting and, finally, on recovery and disposal options for residual wastes as per the waste hierarchy. The potential impact of each option was evaluated against environmental, social and financial criteria to inform the Strategy's direction, and future planning and procurement decisions.

The environmental implications of the Strategy have further been examined through an independent overarching Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The results of which, have been used to identify options with the least potential harm to the environment. This is explained in **Annex F (Environmental report including SEA)**.

In addition to the main strategy development process (shown in Figure 6), a community panel was formed of householders from each of the Oxfordshire districts who met at important stages in the Strategy's development. A further public engagement exercise was carried out in July 2006 to inform Oxfordshire residents of the waste management issues facing the County and to promote sustainable waste behaviour. Further information about community engagement and involvement can be found in **Annex E (Community engagement and involvement)**.

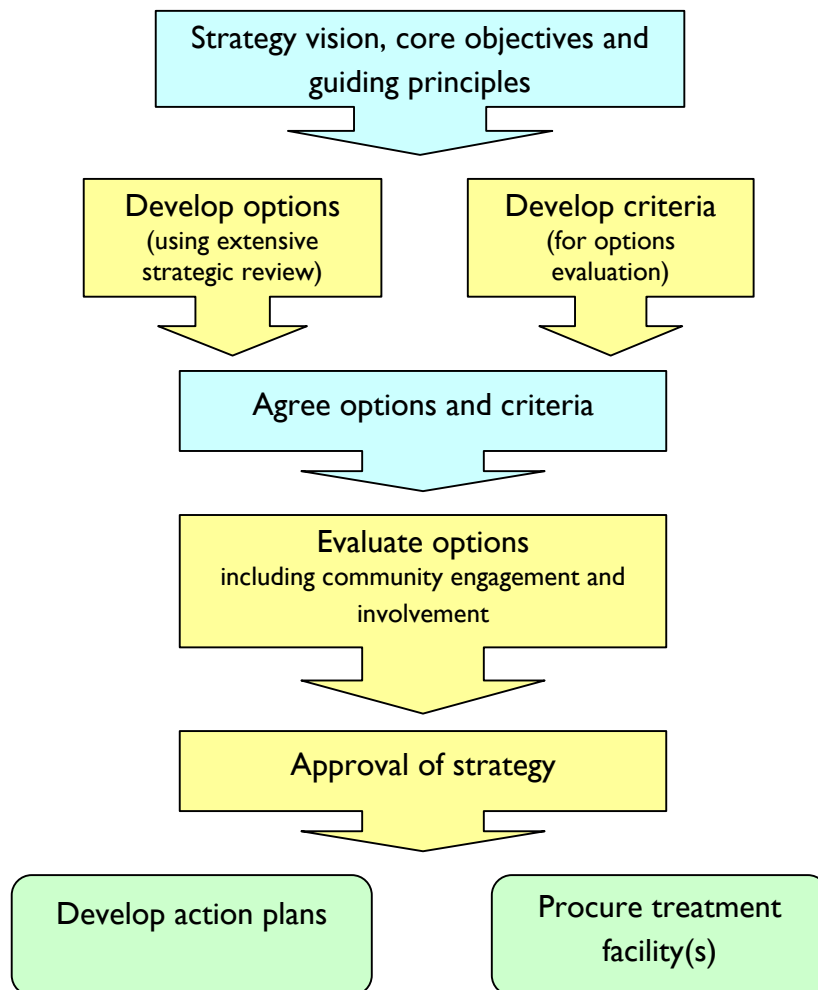


Figure 6 - Strategy development process

The Options Evaluation included a technical, environmental and cost analysis of the collection and treatment options (and their combinations). The Options Evaluation has enabled the Partnership to assess the collection and treatment options according to the weighted criteria agreed at the beginning of the review process.

The following factors have been adapted and developed so that the OWP strategy is specific to Oxfordshire and informed by:

- changes in waste policy;
- the local environment;
- the results of the technical assessment.

Throughout the review process and the development of this strategy a clear commitment has been made to undertake a rolling programme of public and stakeholder engagement and involvement.

## Supporting documents

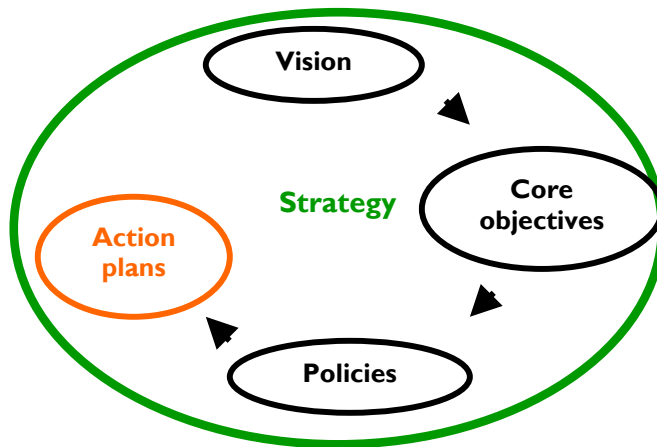
This strategy outlines the policies we will adopt for managing waste resources in the future. It is supported by a series of Annexes that provide further detail on how the strategy has been developed, and how it will be implemented to ensure that we succeed in reaching our aims, objectives and targets.

Annex	Content
<b>Annex A</b>	Provides an overarching OWP action plan for how the strategy will be implemented and individual action plans for the partner authorities
<b>Annex B</b>	Presents a plan for waste reduction and reuse
<b>Annex C</b>	Presents an appraisal of options for recycling and composting
<b>Annex D</b>	Presents an appraisal of options for residual waste
<b>Annex E</b>	Provides further detail on community engagement and involvement
<b>Annex F</b>	Presents the Environmental Report incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment – produced by external consultants
<b>Annex G</b>	Provides a summary of the glossary of terms and abbreviations

**Table 4 – Contents of supporting documents**

## Vision and core objectives

The Strategy vision, core objectives and guiding principles (developed at the beginning of the strategy development process) are implemented through a vision, core objectives, policies and action plans. Each stage of the process feeds into the next so that the Partnership’s vision flows through the whole Strategy. In the same way, the core objectives channel down into the policies and the policies translate into the action plans.



**Figure 7 - Translating the Vision into action**

The overall vision for the OWP is:

**“We will work in partnership to reduce waste and to maximise reuse, recycling and composting. We will treat residual waste before disposal to recover further value and to minimise the environmental impact of disposal.”**

To achieve this vision the Partnership has set the following core objectives:

1. Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce waste first, then reuse, recycle and compost resources, recover value and, as a last resort, dispose of waste;
2. Promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes;
3. Manage wastes through seeking the most appropriate and sustainable solution that protects the environment, including minimising the transport of waste;
4. Meet or exceed performance required by statutory and locally agreed targets;
5. Work together through the provision of co-ordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal to maximise the efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire;
6. Ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed and that site identification is informed in accordance with the Minerals and Waste Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy;

7. Assist the development of markets, especially those that are local, for recovered materials;
8. Enable customer satisfaction through delivery of effective and efficient services to Oxfordshire residents that minimise the overall tax burden at the best possible value;
9. Develop flexible and comprehensive waste management services that are robust and deliverable throughout Oxfordshire now and in the long term;
10. Lobby Central Government and work with local business to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption, which results in the production of municipal waste, and encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.

## Strategic policies

We used the strategy development process to develop the following policies, which are intended to support the delivery of the core objectives and overall vision for the Partnership.

Our policies take into account national waste policy, legislation, guidance, regional waste management needs, and the needs of Oxfordshire and local communities. The policies will be updated when necessary in order to keep abreast of forthcoming changes, in particular revisions to the national *Waste Strategy 2000*<sup>(1)</sup>, and as part of the monitoring process.

<sup>(1)</sup> *Waste Strategy 2000 for England and Wales, Department of the Environment, Transport and the regions, May 2000.*

**Policy 1: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce resource consumption and take responsibility for the wastes they produce.**

**Policy 2: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will lobby Central Government to focus on waste as an integral part of sustainable resource management.**

Over recent decades waste has had little or no perceived value, but should be viewed as a useful resource following the fulfilment of its initial purpose. An important element of the Strategy is to encourage the optimum use of resources. This may be through:

- Fiscal measures to reduce the consumption of raw materials (i.e. aggregates tax – a tax per tonne on virgin materials commercially exploited);
- Producer responsibility legislation to force producers to take responsibility for their products once they are discarded;

- Integrated product design. This is the redesign of products to reduce the amount of resources required for their manufacture, to improve their durability and to make them fully recyclable.

We will, as Councils, set an example through sustainable behaviour to reduce our own environmental footprint. We will also encourage the same behaviour throughout the county using the initiatives in **Annex B (Waste reduction and reuse plan)**. Many of these issues, especially in relation to packaging waste are best tackled nationally, and we will lobby and work with Central Government to encourage them to take the necessary measures.

**Policy 3: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services.**

With the right advice, information and incentives households, schools, businesses and communities can contribute significantly to waste reduction. Householders can reduce their wastes by, for example, composting their organic wastes at home or consuming products which produce less waste. We will encourage reduction by giving advice and information, and providing incentives and tools that encourage waste reduction (such as junk mail solution packs and a savvy shopping campaign). Further details are contained in **Annex B (Waste reduction and reuse plan)**.

The introduction of fortnightly collections of residual waste will also have a major impact on encouraging waste reduction. Other English Local Authorities have found that putting limits on residual waste collections has a positive effect on recycling and composting rates.

The delivery of this Strategy rests, to a significant degree, on the willingness and desire of Oxfordshire residents to take responsibility for their waste. This is not a 'one way' responsibility. Some of the decisions facing the Oxfordshire authorities have major financial and service design implications and the views of residents will continue to be taken into account.

**Policy 4: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the controlled reuse and reclamation of items through the provision of advice and appropriate services.**

Where waste cannot reasonably be reduced, some things can be used again, or used for other purposes. Reusing resources negates the need for reprocessing the materials, as is the case in recycling. We can help householders, businesses, schools and local communities to make use of valuable items, which have been discarded by others through encouraging the exchange of items (for example through Community Action Group SwapShops).



**Policy 5: In accordance with regional policy, the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to reduce the growth of municipal waste across the County to 0% per person per annum by 2012.**

Calculations based on historical waste data for Oxfordshire show that annual waste growth in Oxfordshire is expected to be 0.34% per household (from 2006 onwards). Projected housing increases (stated in the Oxfordshire Structure Plan) have not been included in this figure and therefore a greater increase will be expected.

The Partnership will seek to reduce waste growth to 0% per person per annum by 2012, through the approaches to waste reduction and reuse detailed in **Annex B (Waste reduction and reuse plan)**.

**Policy 6: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve, as a minimum:**

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010: recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste;

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015: recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste;

By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020: recycle or compost at least 55% of household waste.

(Waste Strategy 2000 recycling and composting targets for household waste)

After reducing the amount of waste that is generated, our objective is to recycle or compost as much waste as is economically feasible and sustainable. Our policies on recycling and composting recognise that we need to set ourselves challenging targets, provide adequate collection and processing arrangements for all residents and effectively promote these services County wide.

We have also agreed to a joint target as part of a Local Area Agreement (LAA):

- To reach 38% recycling or composting of household waste by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

We have agreed to a further stretch of this target. Oxfordshire has agreed to concentrate on increased recycling of non-biodegradable materials and an extra 4,875 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste has to be recycled between 2006/07 and 2008/09.

In order to reach these long-term targets, we propose to provide **every** household (subject to availability of access) with:

- A fortnightly collection of residual waste;
- Dry recyclable collections;
- A garden waste collection on a general, or paid for basis;
- A food waste collection (dependent on available treatment infrastructure);
- Increased material streams for recycling at Waste Recycling Centres.

**Policy 7: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure that recycling facilities and services are available to all residents.**

**Policy 8: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising campaigns.**

In addition to the proposals in policy 6, we intend to identify means of providing suitable facilities and services to those that live in flats, hard to reach and rural areas. This is in order to achieve maximum levels of participation in our recycling and composting schemes.

We recognise that all residents have a part to play in meeting recycling and composting targets and aim to increase participation rates by 10% by 2010, and 20% by 2020.

The OWP recognises that it is not only householders who are important in recycling their waste. Building on the success of Oxfordshire's previous marketing campaigns we will continue to educate people and encourage them to separate their waste in their home, school, business and community.

**Policy 9: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual wastes in order to meet LATS targets.**

Even if we take the most optimistic view on what we can achieve through reducing, reusing, recycling and composting our rubbish, we will still be short of meeting the requirements of our LATS targets. Countries with high recycling elsewhere face similar problems and have recognised that some form of 'waste treatment' will be necessary.

There are a number of possible treatment technologies, including high temperature incineration, pyrolysis, and gasification. In the case of food wastes, technologies are available through in-vessel composting and anaerobic digestion. All of these result in rubbish being converted into a useful product (such as electricity, heat or compost), and reduce pressure on natural resources.

Our policy is to use treatment technologies that recover value to reduce our reliance on landfill and meet our LATS targets. Whatever we choose must:

- Be safe for the environment and human health;
- Recover value from the waste;
- Not be a substitute for reuse, recycling and composting.

**Policy 10: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure optimum use of landfill void.**

Our primary objective is to move management of waste up the hierarchy and to reduce the need for landfill. However, we recognise there is a continuing need for the disposal of waste and this should be adequately catered for.

Whilst at present disposal by means of landfill accounts for two thirds of our waste, we would expect this dependence to reduce in the long term to, at the very most, 25% (this is dependent on waste treatment capacity being delivered).

**Policy 11: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to provide waste management services for specialised, potentially polluting material streams, such as hazardous waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment, which meet and exceed legislative requirements.**

Certain minority components of the residual waste stream are more likely to cause pollution when disposed in landfill than if they are treated or recycled. The best ways of dealing with these hazardous components have been identified and appropriate actions adopted. We will continue to deal with hazardous waste in this controlled manner.

There is a legal requirement for specific management and disposal of hazardous wastes. The Partnership will promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and in particular hazardous waste reduction and reuse.

**Policy 12: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, working with the Waste Planning Authority, will ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed with the aim of minimising the transport of waste. Facilities will be well related to areas of population, given the environmental and amenity constraints, and the availability of suitable sites.**

The recovery and disposal of waste must be managed in a way that attempts to avoid endangering human health, or harming the environment and enables waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate facilities. We aim to avoid passing the environmental costs of waste management to communities which are not responsible for its generation, and reduce the environmental cost of transporting waste to facilities and markets.

The OWP and Central Government believe that waste should not be exported from the UK for disposal. Waste Planning Authorities and the waste management industry should aim, wherever practicable, for regional self-sufficiency in managing waste. There is a need to develop effective ways of working together, and to maximise the effectiveness of our services through efficient use of pooled financial and technical resources.

**Policy 13: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will assist the development of local markets for recovered materials**

The OWP recognises that the primary barrier to reuse and recycling is finding suitable and stable markets. The OWP will work with the Waste and Resources Action Programmes (WRAP) and other national or local organisations to provide and build stable markets for reusable and recyclable materials.

**Policy 14: The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will develop methods of working together to improve the level of service through effective and efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.**

The OWP is committed to delivering effective and efficient services to Oxfordshire's residents. The OWP is also committed to minimising the overall cost of waste services and ensuring best value.

The Partners will develop methods of working that further these commitments. Methods of working will include clear and business-like governance arrangements for the OWP and supporting officer groups, the smarter use of financial resources, a greater use of project management to ensure the delivery of the Action Plans, a greater emphasis on joint contracting or service delivery and a greater use, and sharing of, waste expertise within the Partnership.

## 5. Strategy implementation and monitoring

### Route map to achieving our aims

Changes to waste management in Oxfordshire in the coming years will be significant. In the short and medium term, we will focus on improving reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. The target of 40% recycling and composting by 2010 represents a significant challenge for all of Oxfordshire's Authorities, in the short to medium term. Substantial progress will need to be made towards this target year on year.

In progress towards our medium term actions, we have started the process of procuring treatment facilities to enable us to meet our 2010 LATS target. It is clear that a waste treatment facility is required to achieve self-sufficiency in landfill allowances. This is preferable to a fine of £150 per tonne of biodegradable waste, or buying allowances from other Local Authorities.

We will consider any new actions required beyond 2010 when we review the Core Strategy, but we must remain flexible to developments in policy, technology and community views at other times. The short, medium and long-term future actions, detailed above are summarised in Figure 8.

There is strong support across Oxfordshire's Authorities to undertake the actions required to deliver the Strategy. The Action Plan (**Annex A**) carries financial implications that will be considered for inclusion in budgets within the medium term and long term financial planning process.

In order to ensure this strategy is delivered, these actions are currently being implemented:

- The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership is being reconstituted as a formal joint committee (with a dedicated Partnership Officer) with a remit to ensure and monitor action planning and project delivery;
- Financial arrangements are being reviewed to ensure that budgetary considerations are dealt with equitably and create the right incentives to ensure delivery;
- An action plan has been developed by the OWP for all those actions which are generic across the Partnership. The County and Districts are preparing subsidiary action plans for their own responsibilities. These actions will not be uniform but they will be unified;
- The County is about to begin the procurement process for new waste treatment capacity.

The implementation of the whole strategy process will be overseen and monitored by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

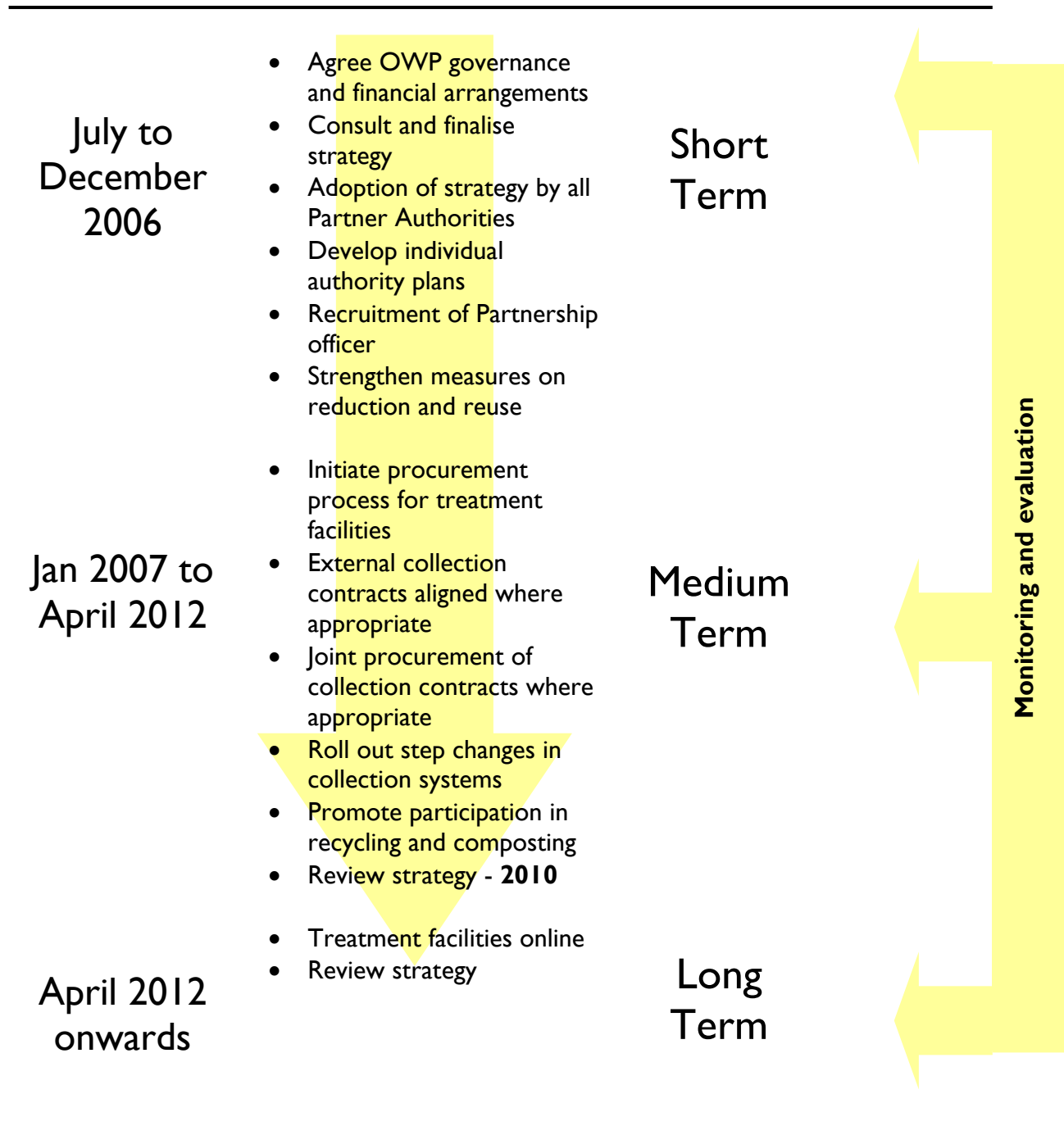


Figure 8 - Summary of future actions

### Co-ordination with the Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Oxfordshire County Council’s Planning Department is producing a Waste Development Framework that sets out locations and development control policies for waste management sites, including those for municipal waste. The infrastructure required for the implementation of this strategy will depend on suitable sites being available and coming forward through the planning process in a timely fashion. In order to facilitate this, the Partnership will work closely with the County’s Planning

Department to ensure that this Strategy is reflected in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework and that the Strategy remains deliverable within the planning system.

## Monitoring progress and review of plans

This Strategy is intended to be a living document and practical management tool. The OWP is committed to regularly monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and to reviewing and updating both the OWP Action Plan (**Annex A**) and individual authority Action Plans each year as a minimum. If the Action Plans become substantially inconsistent with the Core Strategy, a review of the Core Strategy may be needed.

At the latest, the Core Strategy will be revised in 2010, by which time LATS will be well established and the National Waste Strategy will be scheduled for its next revision. Our revised document will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Thereafter, the Core Strategy will be reviewed at least every five years, or as required by developments in its implementation. Table 5 below details the timescales for monitoring and evaluation of the Core Strategy and Action Plans until the Strategy is reviewed in 2010.

Year	Monitoring and evaluation action
2006	Development, agreement, and implementation of strategy and action plans
2007	Evaluate progress on action plans, make changes if needed
2008	Evaluate progress on action plans, make changes if needed
2009	<b>Target:</b> recycle or compost 38% of household waste Evaluate progress on action plans, make changes if needed
2009/10	<b>Target:</b> reduce biodegradable wastes to landfill to 121,700 tonnes <b>Target:</b> recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste
2010	<b>Target:</b> increase participation rates by 10% <b>Review strategy, actions plans and relevance of policies</b>

**Table 5 – Timescales for monitoring and evaluation of the Core Strategy and Action Plans**