

Consultation on refreshing the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

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1. About Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

- 1.1. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP) is made up of the County and District Councils of Oxfordshire, these are: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of the White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council
- 1.2. OWP became a statutory joint committee in April 2007, with powers to develop and implement a sustainable waste management strategy for Oxfordshire. A Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) was developed and adopted in 2007. Oxfordshire Councils now work together, through OWP, to manage and improve waste management within the county by implementing the JMWMS. The duty to prepare a JMWMS is currently a legal obligation under the Waste Emissions and Trading (WET) Act.
- 1.3. The delivery of waste management operations, such as waste collection and managing treatment and disposal site contracts, is undertaken by the individual partner councils within OWP. The district councils, as Waste Collection Authorities (WCA), are responsible for waste & recycling collections, and street cleaning operations. Oxfordshire County Council, as Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), provides Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), treatment and disposal sites. These operations are guided by the objectives and policies within the JMWMS, but are managed by the individual partner councils.
- 1.4. As well as being the WDA, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is also the Waste Planning Authority (WPA). As the WPA, OCC is responsible for preparing waste related development plan documents for the Minerals & Waste Development Framework (M&WDF) for Oxfordshire. OCC also determines minerals & waste planning applications, and is responsible for monitoring and enforcing minerals & waste planning controls. The roles of WDA and WPA are separate. The JMWMS does not set policy to determine where waste management facilities should be sited; the JMWMS details how municipal waste will be collected and disposed of. The WPA determines where these facilities should be located.

2. Oxfordshire's Vision for the future:

- 2.1. Our vision for the future is: A society where everyone tries to prevent waste and sees waste materials as a potential resource. 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 further recover value and to minimise the environmental impact of managing our waste streams”

3. About this consultation

3.1. The Oxfordshire JMWMS includes five year review cycles and this is the first five year review to be undertaken. This consultation document seeks views on suggested ways forward until 2030, taking account of the changes and progress made in the past 5 years. It sets out our waste management policies and some suggested changes. It highlights work undertaken to date and future plans. A series of questions seek your views on each of the policy areas.

3.2. [Instructions to be added on how to respond]

3.3. Previously the term ‘Municipal Waste’ was used in waste policies and nationally reported data to refer to waste collected by local authorities. In other legislation the definition of municipal waste included both household waste and that from other sources (that may or may not have been collected by local authorities). In 2010 after discussions with the European Union (EU), the UK expanded its definition to align with the wider European definition and include waste from other sources that is similar in nature and composition. The term “local authority collected waste” has subsequently been developed to replace the old UK definition of municipal waste. This strategy is therefore addressing all waste produced in Oxfordshire that come under the heading of ‘local authority collected waste’. This includes waste produced within Oxfordshire by householders, commercial waste collected by district councils, waste deposited at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and fly tipped materials.

4. Why do we need to refresh the JMWMS?

4.1. There has been considerable change and development in the five years since the JMWMS was agreed. Firstly, OWP councils have made great strides in reducing waste and improving recycling and composting performance. Secondly, there has been legislative development in the form of the EU Waste Framework Directive, which was revised in 2011. Thirdly, national government published a review of waste policy in

England in 2011, and finally the way that performance is measured is changing; with an increasing focus on measuring the carbon emissions associated with our activities and seeking to reduce these over time.

4.2. In 2005/06 Oxfordshire's households produced around half a tonne of waste per person. Around 33% of this waste was recycled or composted, the rest was sent directly to landfill. The 2006 JMWMS set out how we, in Oxfordshire, were going to manage our waste over the next 25 years and improve our recycling performance. It identified the future challenges, the need for change and set out our shared vision for the future.

4.3. During the first 5 years of implementing the JMWMS Oxfordshire has:

- Introduced new waste collection schemes that collect more recyclable and compostable materials from the kerbside and expanded recycling facilities at our HWRCs,
- Built food waste processing plants so that food waste from every household in the county no longer has to go to landfill, but is instead used either to make compost or to generate green electricity,
- Signed a contract to build an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Ardley to manage our non recyclable waste and recover value from this waste through electricity generation.

4.4. In 2010/11 OWP councils recycled or composted over 55% of household waste. We now produce less waste per person than any other County Council in England. Our recycling rates continue to improve, making Oxfordshire one of the highest performing areas in the country. The targets set out in the JMWMS have been achieved earlier than expected. Recycling and composting levels have exceeded expectation and OWP councils are ambitious to do more; reducing waste further, recycling more and sending less for disposal.

4.5. The JMWMS commits to a five yearly review to ensure that it remains current and its policies are relevant. As part of this review we have evaluated the progress that has been made so far and our options for continual improvement across the county.

5. EU Waste Framework Directive

5.1. The European Union Waste Framework Directive was transposed into national law in March 2011. There are three key developments for OWP resulting from this:

- The waste hierarchy is now law and all waste producers must have regard for the waste hierarchy when managing their waste.
- A national waste prevention plan must be developed by 2014, increasing the importance of waste reduction activity.

- All waste producers (including councils) must have recycling services in place for glass, metals, paper and plastics by 2015.

5.2. In 2010/11 OWP approved a county wide Waste Prevention Strategy, four years before required under EU law. The strategy, already in implementation, details how we will encourage residents and businesses to reduce the amount of waste that they produce. This strategy embeds the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle) within our activities, helping us to comply with the Framework Directive. This document replaced Annex B of the 2006 strategy.

5.3. All District Councils now provide opportunities to recycle a wide range of materials at the kerbside, or through bring banks and are continually looking to expand the range of materials accepted. Those District councils that collect commercial waste now offer recycling services to their customers. OCC have a dedicated Commercial Waste Reduction Officer who assists business to identify where they can reduce and recycle more of their waste.

6. National Review of Waste Policies

6.1. National Government published its review of waste policy on 14th June 2011 following consultation with local government, industry and members of the public. This JMWMS review seeks to ensure that the refreshed Oxfordshire JMWMS remains aligned with government policy and objectives.

6.2. Oxfordshire is well placed to incorporate the waste policy recommendations, we already:

- Prioritise waste prevention, and produced an updated waste prevention plan in 2010;
- Collect waste regularly and have good levels of public satisfaction;
- Have high levels of recycling and composting that exceed the EU target of 50% by 2020;
- Realise the benefits of Anaerobic Digestion with a long term contract and facilities in place;
- Recognise the role of Energy from Waste within the context of the waste hierarchy, with an EfW plant due to open in 2014;
- Work with local businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling collections;
- Take a common sense approach to environmental enforcement, pursuing only serious or persistent offenders.

6.3. The national review set out plans for voluntary responsibility deals with a number of industry sectors to reduce waste. OWP will seek to participate and support these where appropriate. Agreements are being developed with:

- Hospitality sector
- Paper manufacturers
- Direct Marketing industry
- Textiles industry
- Construction industry
- Packaging industry
- Waste management companies.

6.4. The government's review stated that "the public have a reasonable expectation that household waste collections services should be weekly, particularly for smelly waste." In September 2011 the Department for Communities and Local Government backed this statement with the announcement of a £250 million fund for local authorities wishing to retain or reinstate weekly refuse collections. OWP will lobby against a return to weekly refuse collections as these will result in a decrease in recycling & composting levels and consequently increased landfill and financial cost. OWP will argue instead for funding to be targeted on improving recycling and composting collection services.

6.5. OWP is committed to high standards of customer service and supports the development of the "Recycling and Waste Services Commitment" announced in the national review.

6.6. The national review did not set out any new landfill diversion or waste recycling targets, the EU waste Framework Directive recycling and composting target of 50% by 2020 being the only target set out. This is despite the governments in Scotland and Wales setting more ambitious recycling targets of 70% by 2025.

6.7. The most significant development within the national review is perhaps the abolition of The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) from 31 March 2013. This follows the reclassification of municipal waste to bring it in line with the broader European definition.

6.8. LATS is a permit trading scheme whereby WDAs are set limits on how much waste they can landfill each year up to 2020. The limits are set so as to ensure that the UK meets its obligations under the EU Landfill Directive. WDAs are able to trade LATS permits with others in order to help them meet these annual targets.

6.9. Under the revised definition, more commercial and industrial waste falls within the scope of the EU landfill directive; yet LATS deals only with local authority controlled waste. Government accepts that LATS is a burden on local authorities, but not private companies who also collect the wider definition of municipal waste. LATS is no longer considered a necessary

or appropriate way of meeting the UK's obligations under the Landfill Directive.

- 6.10. Abolishing LATS removes a barrier to local authority involvement in the collection of commercial waste, potentially improving the choice of waste management options available to businesses. OWP councils will aim to provide advice and appropriate services to local businesses to help them reduce waste.

7. Costs

- 7.1.1. A number of developments since 2006 impact upon the costs of implementing the JMWMS:

7.2. Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

- 7.2.1. The abolition of LATS in 2013 removes the prospect of financial penalties of up to £150 per tonne for exceeding landfill allowances. However, it also removes the opportunity of trading LATS permits (i.e. selling any surplus permits to other waste disposal authorities that need them, or buying permits in any years where Oxfordshire may have otherwise exceeded its allowance). Ending LATS will make budgeting easier. The value of LATS permits varied with market forces and was difficult to predict. Accurately forecasting waste arisings can also be difficult, so coupling uncertain waste tonnage predictions with estimated future LATS values made for challenging budget setting conditions for councils.

7.3. Landfill Tax

- 7.3.1. Landfill tax is to have a ceiling level of £80 per tonne by 2014/15 – although no further measures were added to this existing commitment by the national waste review. Landfill tax is now the main fiscal instrument encouraging the diversion of waste from landfill. In 2010/11 landfill tax, set at £48 per tonne, cost Oxfordshire county council over £6 million, an increase of around £3 million since 2006/7.

- 7.3.2. This increase in landfill tax has been seen despite overall waste arisings within Oxfordshire having dropped since 2007. Added to this, increased recycling and composting levels have meant that there has been a sharp decrease in the amount of household waste sent to landfill. This has helped reduce the financial impact of the escalating landfill tax, but it still remains a significant proportion of the costs of waste management.

7.4. Reduced Public Spending

- 7.4.1. Local Authorities are undergoing a period of challenging austerity measures. Local authority budgets are expected to reduce by 28% by

2014/15. OWP remains committed to working collaboratively to manage costs. We will do this through:

- Embedding the waste management hierarchy in our work: reducing the amount of waste produced and maximising reuse, recycling and composting in order to avoid expensive and less sustainable waste disposal options.
- Joint procurement of contracts and goods in order to gain best value for money.
- Working jointly to avoid duplication, share effort, resources and best practice.
- Developing innovative and creative cost saving solutions whilst protecting front line services

8. Climate change

8.1. The positive environmental impacts of waste prevention and increased recycling have long been realised. However, there is now a greater focus on (and growing understanding of) greenhouse gas emissions (such as carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gasses) associated with waste management activities. Reducing emissions helps reduce the impact of climate change and measuring the carbon impact of our activities has become more important. Landfills are large emitters of methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more polluting than carbon dioxide. By reducing the amount of waste that we send to landfill we are helping to reduce the carbon footprint of our activities.

8.2. We have already made significant achievements in reducing our carbon emissions, for example West Oxfordshire District Council have reduced their fleet carbon emissions by 17%, leading them receiving the Energy Saving Trust's Best Public Sector Fleet award in 2011.

8.3. The OWP Waste Prevention Strategy set out carbon emissions information associated with some of our waste prevention activities for the first time. These are home composting, food waste avoidance and junk mail avoidance.

8.4. OWP will increasingly seek to use carbon accounting to support our decision making. This will mean measuring wherever possible the carbon savings resulting from our work. We will seek to prioritise activities that offer the greatest carbon reductions.

9. Key Achievements in the last 5 years (2006 – 2011)

9.1.1. In the last 5 years OWP has:

- Reduced the amount of household waste generated by 8%

- Increased the amount of household waste recycled and composted from 38.5% in 2006/07 to over 55% in 2010/11
- Reduced the amount of household waste sent to landfill from 61.4% in 2006/7 to 43% in 2010/11¹
- Obtained more than £1 million in Performance Reward Grant from Government and worked collaboratively to reinvest funds in new waste management services (through the establishment of the OWP New Initiatives Fund)

9.2. Waste Reduction

9.2.1. Helping people to reduce the amount of waste that they produce is a key priority. Since 2006 we have helped reduce the total amount of waste generated by 8% through providing advice and information on topics such as food waste avoidance (through the Love Food, Hate Waste campaign), smart shopping, home composting and reuse. Compared with other counties in England, Oxfordshire performs very well; our residents produce a lower amount of waste per person than any other county. Reducing waste not only saves councils money as there is less to collect and dispose of, but also helps to reduce carbon emissions from landfill and preserves natural resources used in manufacturing products.

9.3. Waste Recycling and Kerbside Collections

9.3.1. Oxfordshire has raised its recycling rate from 33% to over 55% in just 5 years, a rate that is still rising. This tremendous performance means that we have already exceeded our target to recycle 55% in 2020. We plan to set new recycling targets as part of this review.

9.3.2. To reach these remarkable recycling rates, Oxfordshire's District Councils have all made substantial changes to their collection schemes, collecting food waste from every house in the county, expanding the range of recyclable materials collected at the kerbside and collecting residual waste on an alternate weekly basis. In the last quarter of 2010/11, each of our District Councils were amongst the top 80 (out of 353 councils in England) for recycling and composting in England and three councils were in the top 10.

9.4. Reducing Landfill

9.4.1. By promoting waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, we have reduced the amount of waste that we sent to landfill each year from 199,686 tonnes in 2005/06 to 119,773 tonnes in 2010/11 (a reduction of 79,913 tonnes). Landfills produce carbon which can contribute to global warming and they need looking after for many

¹ The remaining 2% is treated by incineration. This typically comprises of clinical and hazardous waste streams unsuitable for landfill.

decades after they are full. OWP want to continue to reduce the amount of residual waste that we produce and recycle and compost as much as possible, before sending the remainder for energy recovery.

9.4.2. Significant development in new district waste collection systems has accompanied our investment in new waste infrastructure. All Districts have let new waste services contracts helping to increase recycling rates and reduce costs. Some districts have partnered with their neighbours and introduced a shared officer structure realising further savings.

9.4.3. Significant investment in new waste infrastructure has accompanied our development of waste collection systems. Since 2006 we have opened an In-Vessel Composting plant at Ardley and an Anaerobic Digestion facility at Cassington to process household food and green waste from within the county. Oakley Wood HWRC has been fully refurbished, and planning permission has been granted for a state of the art HWRC with dedicated reuse shop and commercial waste area in Kidlington. We have also signed a contract to build an EfW plant in Ardley that will be able to take all of Oxfordshire's residual waste and produce enough electricity to power more than 38,000 households.

9.5. Partnership Working

9.5.1. Many of the achievements set out above have been made possible through the stronger partnership working arrangements established by OWP. By working in partnership, OWP councils were able to agree Local Area Agreement improvement targets with government. OWP was awarded more than £1 million for meeting these targets, which was subsequently reinvested by the partnership to deliver key objectives within the JMWMS. The fund was used to support the development and roll out of new food waste collection services, the provision of recycling services for flats and the development of commercial waste recycling services. The funding also supported early trials for innovative schemes such as on-street recycling bins and WEEE recycling banks; projects that have subsequently been rolled out across the county.

9.6. Commercial Waste Management

9.6.1. The terms "trade waste" and "commercial waste" are used interchangeably by local councils to describe waste from businesses. To help businesses manage their waste in accordance with the hierarchy, those districts that provide a commercial waste collection

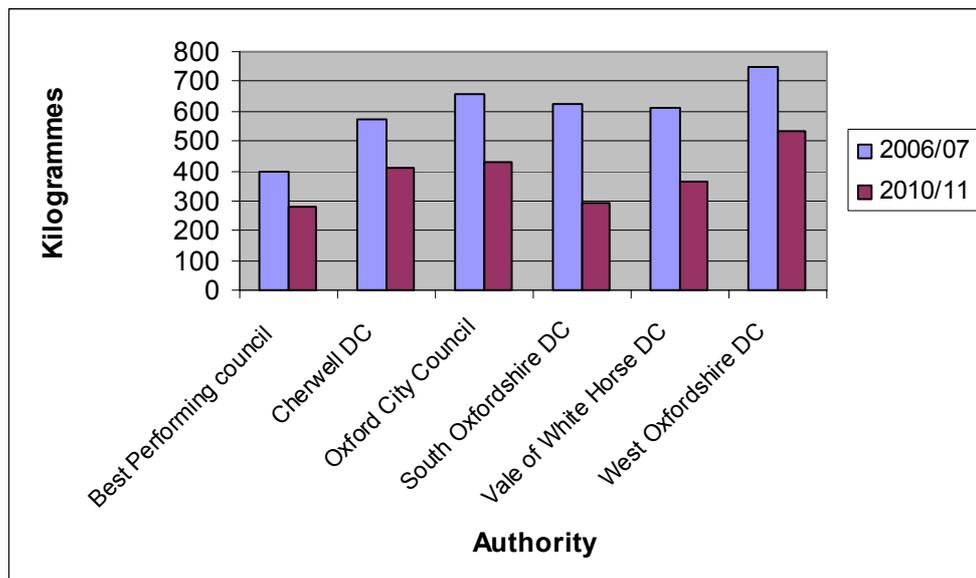
service are now able to collect recyclables as well as residual waste. Commercial recycling services were introduced with the help of OWP funding and now operate in Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.

9.6.2. We have provided free of charge waste audits to over 800 businesses, providing detailed information on how they can reduce waste and increase recycling, leading to a potential 60% reduction in waste arisings and an average saving of around £1000/business. OWP has also run networking and information events for different sectors, providing information on legislation and greener ways of working. We have also launched a reuse website (retrader.org.uk) to allow businesses to reuse unwanted items and assisted groups of businesses to use bulk buying networks to obtain better value.

9.6.3. We are one of the few authorities in the country to have a commercial area at one of its HWRCs, allowing local businesses and sole traders to pay to use the local facility to deposit and recycle waste. To prevent abuse of the household areas of sites we have introduced a van and trailer permitting scheme for householders. By reducing the amount of business waste being illegally deposited as household waste, this scheme has resulted in significant savings. It has allowed us to engage with those businesses misusing the site, enabling us to provide them with information and advice on how to comply with legislation.

9.7. Performance benchmarking

9.7.1. Chart 1 shows how OWP councils have managed to reduce the amount of residual waste produced per household (measured in kg). This is a useful measure as we can compare areas of different population sizes equally. The chart shows that OWP councils produced between 572kg/household/year and 745kg/household/yr in 2006/7. This is much worse than the best performing English council at the time which produced 399kg/household/yr. On the same chart we can see our performance in 2010/11; it is noticeable that we have reduced the amount of waste being produced per household dramatically, with OWP councils now producing between 294kg/household/yr and 530kg/household/yr.

Chart 1: Total residual waste produced per household (kg)

9.7.2. Table 1 shows that the achieved reductions in household residual waste levels have improved OWP councils ranking when compared to all other English councils. All District Councils have made significant improvements, with South Oxfordshire improving by 126 places; making it the second lowest producer of residual waste per household in England.

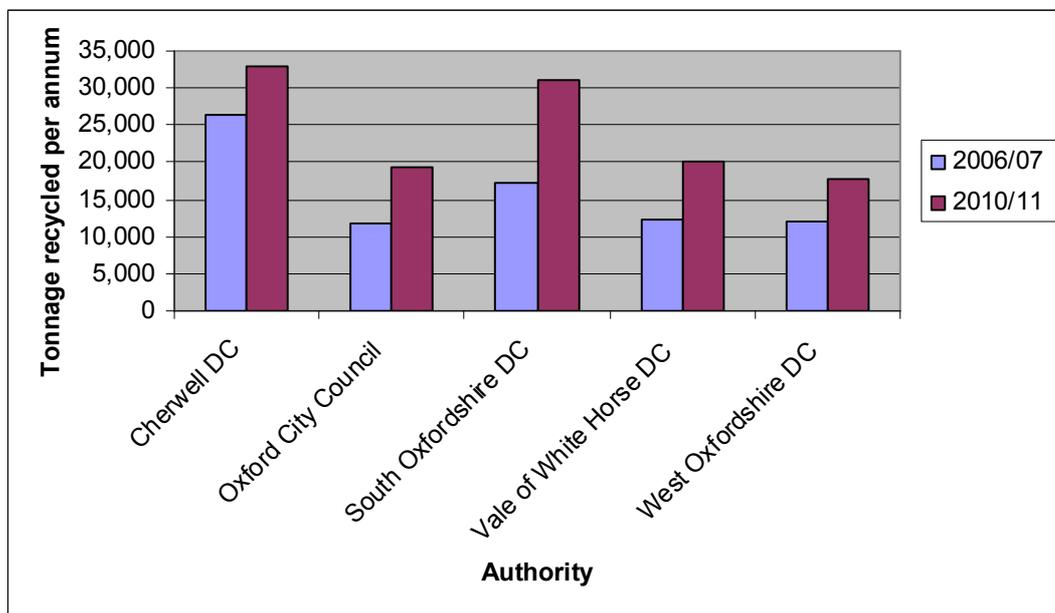
9.7.3. Where schemes have been introduced part way through a year the full impact of the changes is not reflected in the annual performance figures. We are expecting further improvements in 2011/12 as the full-year effect of the changed schemes is seen.

Table 1: Total residual household waste per household national ranking

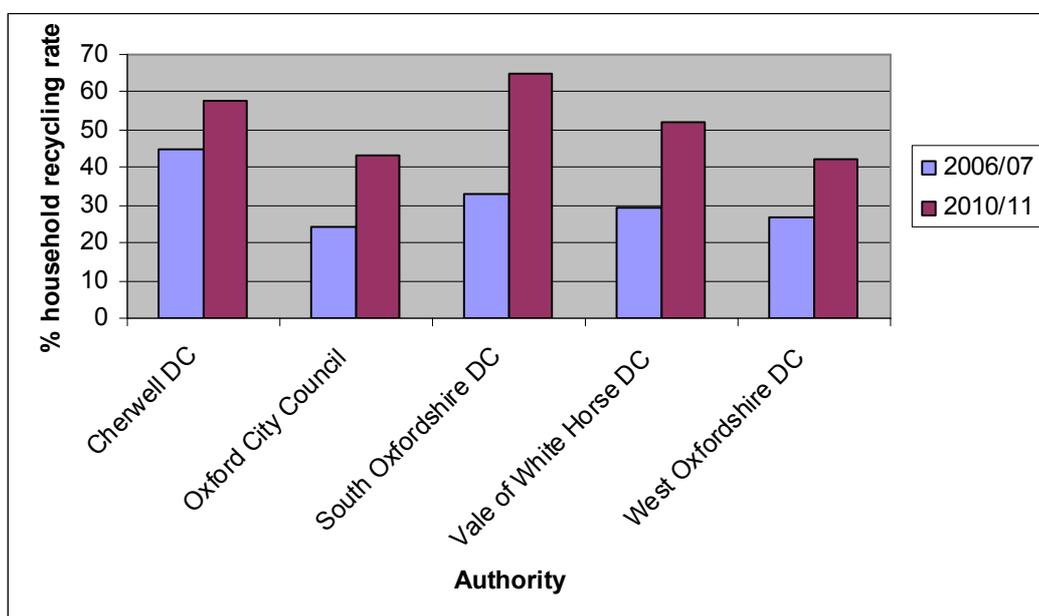
Authority	2006/07 National Ranking	2010/11 National Ranking	Improvement
Cherwell D.C	73	28	+ 45 places
Oxford City Council	164	39	+125 places
South Oxfordshire D.C	128	2	+126 places
Vale of White Horse D.C	118	12	+106 places
West Oxfordshire D.C	235	178	+ 57 places

9.7.4. Chart 2 compares the total tonnage of household waste collected for recycling, reuse and composting by OWP Councils for both 2006/07 and 2010/11. All districts are now collecting much higher tonnages. Cherwell District Council has improved upon an already high tonnage collected in 2006/07, whilst changes to collection systems in other districts have also led to improvement. South Oxfordshire District Council has seen the largest increase.

Chart 2: Tonnage of Household waste collected for reuse, recycling or composting



9.7.5. Chart 3 sets out the improvements made to District Council recycling rates (%) over the last five years. Huge improvements have been made, with three of the five districts now recycling more than 50%, with further significant improvements anticipated in each area. These improvements have also enhanced positions within the national league tables with all councils making big improvements. This is shown in Table 2. Full-year effect should see the overall recycling rate for Oxfordshire exceed 60% in 2011/12.

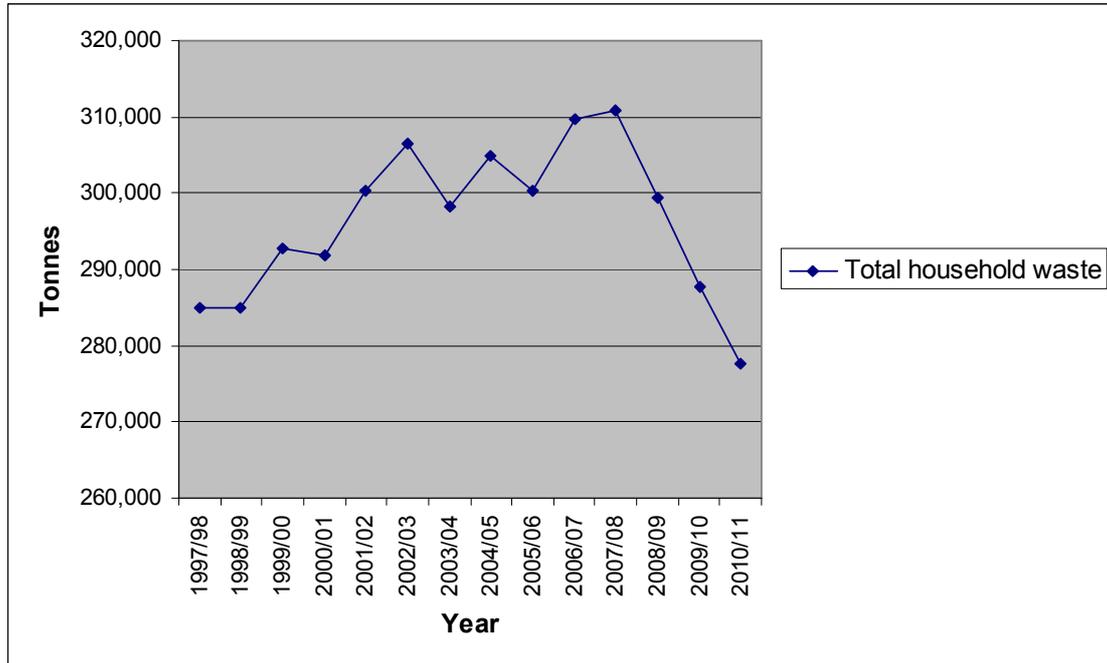
Chart 3: % Household waste reused, recycled or composted**Table 2: National ranking % recycled, reused or composted**

Authority	2006/07 National Ranking	2010/11 National Ranking	Improvement
Cherwell D.C	27	12	+15 places
Oxford City Council	261	118	+143 places
South Oxfordshire D.C	119	2	+117 places
Vale of White Horse D.C	174	32	+142 places
West Oxfordshire D.C	209	128	+ 81 places

10. Waste Tonnage Forecasting

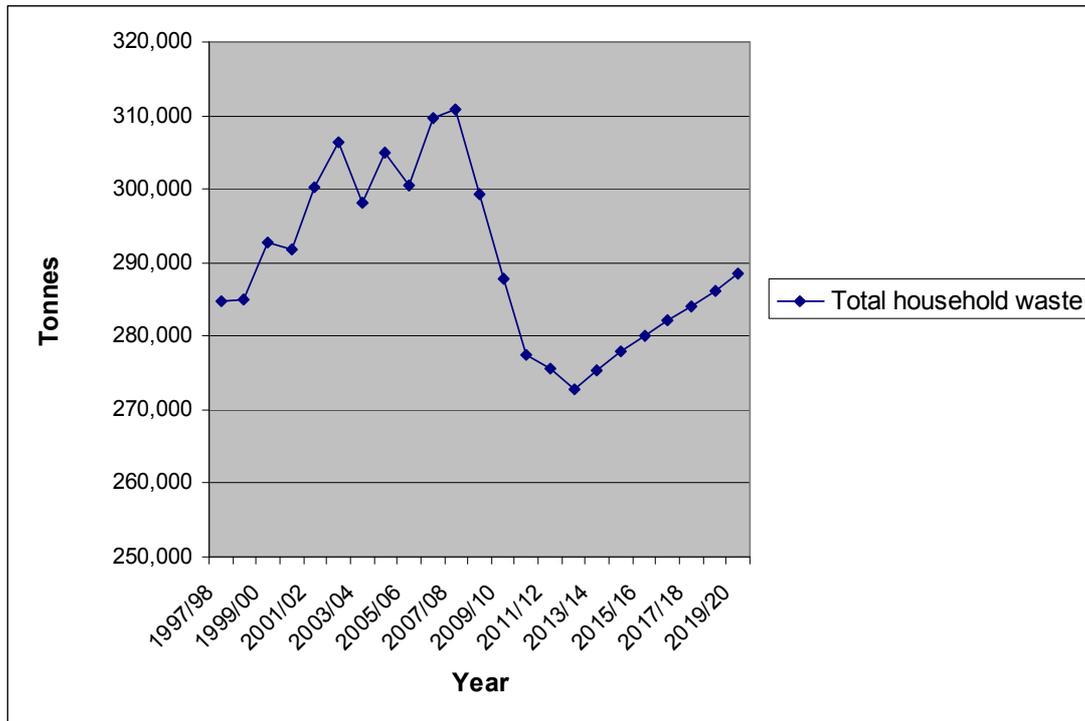
- 10.1 It is important to try and predict the amount of waste that will be generated during the lifetime of the strategy so that we can plan for its management. Chart 4 plots total household waste arisings over the last 10 years. This shows that historically, waste levels increase over time. Waste generation is influenced by growth in the number of households and also by economic growth. The last three years have seen a sharp year on year decrease in waste, which we believe is linked to the wider economic recession.

Chart 4 Oxfordshire total household waste 1997/98 – 2010/11



10.2 2011/12 provisional data shows that the decrease in waste levels is slowing down, with this year's reduction anticipated to be around 2%, rather than the 4% annual decrease experienced over the past three years. Chart 5 sets out forecast waste arisings through to 2020. We anticipate that waste arisings will continue to reduce, albeit at a lower rate until 2013/14. From this point forward we currently predict 0% growth per household, but with overall waste levels increasing due to growth in the number of households within the county. Waste arisings are notoriously difficult to predict, as they are influenced by a number of external factors. Therefore, we will seek to regularly update our forecasting information over the life of the strategy.

Chart 5 Projected household waste levels to 2020



11. Elements of the JMWMS

- 11.1. The 2007 JMWMS consists of a “core strategy” document, detailing the key objectives and policies, then six supporting Annexes detailing how different elements of the core document would be implemented.
- 11.2. Core Strategy Document – This sets the scene and outlines the main policy objectives to be achieved. This document will be updated as part of the 2011 review.
- 11.3. Annex A – Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Action Plan. This document details the short and medium term actions needed to ensure the delivery of the policy objectives. Our progress against this document has been reviewed and is set out within this consultation document. An updated action plan has been produced and is included within this consultation.
- 11.4. Annex B – Waste Reduction and Reuse Plan. This was replaced in January 2011 with the Waste Prevention Strategy 2010-2020. The new document details where we will focus our efforts over the next decade and how we will demonstrate the impact and ‘value for money’ of our activities. This document will not be reassessed as part of the 2011 review. However, performance against its objectives will continue to be

monitored annually and will be subject to future five year reviews in line with the JMWMS timetable.

- 11.5. Annex C - Options for recycling and composting collections. This is an options appraisal carried out by consultants in 2006 to model the recycling rates, collection costs, road kilometres, biodegradable waste diversion and carbon emissions that could be expected from each system. The results were reported in conjunction with Annex D.
- 11.6. Annex D – Options for residual waste (treatment and disposal). This looked at how different collection options (from Annex C) impacted on the treatment and disposal options and the impact that different options would have on meeting the national targets. The results from Annexes C and D were used to inform the development of the WCA collection schemes and the procurement of long-term contracts for food and residual waste treatment.
- 11.7. As decisions have now been made and implemented, these documents have not been reassessed as part of the 2011 review and will be archived. However, as part of the review of Annex F, the likely impacts and suggested mitigation measures for the chosen options have been evaluated.
- 11.8. Annex E – Community engagement and involvement, this document describes how Oxfordshire residents were involved in the development and appraisal of different collection systems, residual waste treatment options and the JMWMS as a whole, and they were able to shape the direction and decisions made. It is proposed that this document is now archived, but public engagement is an important part of this review process and as such we will be seeking views on any changes proposed through this consultation document.
- 11.9. Annex F – The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects of implementing the JMWMS. It suggests a number of mitigation measures to address the issues and problems identified and assessed the potential effectiveness of a number of waste minimisation strategies.
- 11.10. The success of the SEA mitigation measures have been assessed as part of this review and amended where appropriate. The suggested waste minimisation strategies have been assessed and evaluated against those in the Waste Prevention Strategy.

OWP Policies:

12. Policy 1

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the efficient use of resources, reduce consumption and take responsibility for the waste that they produce.

12.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

12.1.1. OWP councils have improved the way in which waste from their own activities and premises is dealt with. Waste audits have shown that District Councils are now recycling 65% of the waste from their own buildings compared to 46% three years ago and have reduced overall levels of waste by over 40%.

12.1.2. The County Council has reused over 39 tonnes of office equipment and furniture from decommissioned buildings by making it available to local businesses and charities, saving them over £132,000 in procurement costs. We are looking to reduce the amount of waste produced by council premises and increase the range of materials that can be recycled.

12.1.3. We are able to provide two free compost bins to schools, along with advice from our Master Composters to help them teach their pupils about home composting and have a wide ranging environmental education scheme, currently delivered by Groundwork Thames Valley designed to engage with pupils, school staff and local communities on a wide range of waste and energy topics. As well as taking these messages home, pupils are also able to improve the environmental impact of their school.

12.1.4. By moving to Alternate Weekly Collections and increasing the efficiency of collection rounds, district councils have been able to reduce vehicle emissions associated with residual waste collection. Development of in-county treatment facilities, such as the food and green waste treatment plants, also helps to reduce distances travelled.

12.2. The proposed way forward:

12.2.1. OWP will continue to embed the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) and proximity principle in our decision making. We will continue to improve waste reduction and recycling in council operated premises and regularly monitor our progress, leading by example whenever possible.

12.2.2. Emphasis is shifting, materials can be seen as valuable resources rather than waste. OWP will try to secure the best possible

outlet for the materials that we manage; Some ways in which we will do this are by seeking reuse outlets for furniture and electrical goods and by formulating site waste management plans for all major building, landscaping and construction works that we undertake.

- 12.2.3. We will measure the carbon impact of our activities and contribute towards a 50% Oxfordshire wide reduction of carbon on 2008 levels by 2030.

Consultation questions – Policy 1:

- 1 Do you agree with our proposed way forward for Policy 1? If you disagree please tell us why.
- 2 What else do you think OWP should do to encourage the efficient use of resources and reduce resource consumption?

13. Policy 2:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will lobby central government to focus on waste as an integral part of sustainable resource management.

13.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

13.1.1. OWP lobbies the Government directly on legislative changes and policy developments. It responds to relevant government consultations and also writes to Government on issues of concern. OWP officers and partners are members of a number of industry bodies (such as the Local Government Association, Keep Britain Tidy and the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee) who work in partnership to influence businesses on national issues such as packaging waste, the quality of the local environment and waste collection systems.

13.2. The proposed way forward:

13.2.1. We will continue to support industry bodies in their efforts to influence national issues such as packaging waste and increasing producer responsibility.

13.2.2. We will explore the opportunities presented by the localism bill, such as increasing the role of local community groups in waste reduction and reuse.

13.2.3. We will lobby to retain powers, used appropriately, to ensure the proper presentation of waste for collection. This will enable us to maintain and improve our recycling rates whilst ensuring that streets remain clean and free from obstructions.

13.2.4. We will lobby to stress the importance of waste audits in order to obtain good quality data to inform waste collection policies and identify materials to target for recycling.

13.2.5. Whilst devolved administrations have set targets to achieve 70% recycling and composting by 2025, the 2011 Waste Review did not increase the English National Recycling targets. OWP believe that England should also challenge itself and set higher targets and will lobby government to increase these along with appropriate resourcing.

13.2.6. Through the experience of all of our District Councils, OWP believe that alternate weekly residual collection combined with a food waste collection from every household is the most effective way of helping residents to waste less and recycle more. We will resist any change to return to weekly residual collections which we believe will

lead to a decrease in the amount of waste sent for recycling and increase waste disposal costs.

13.2.7. OWP continues to support the revision of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992, so that WDAs have the power to recover waste disposal costs from certain establishments listed within “Schedule 2” of the Regulations, which includes waste from:

- Schools and universities
- Hospitals
- Residential and nursing homes
- Prisons
- Public halls

13.2.8. Currently WDAs are burdened with waste disposal costs from these facilities; a situation that fails to apply the polluter pays principle and fails to incentivise waste reduction at such establishments.

Consultation questions – Policy 2:

3. Do you agree with the suggested way forward on influencing and lobbying? If you disagree please tell us why

4. What do you think are the most important issues to lobby on?

14. Policy 3:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help households and individuals to reduce and manage their waste through the provision of advice and appropriate services.

15. Policy 4:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage the controlled reuse and reclamation of items through the provision of advice and appropriate services.

16. Policy 5:

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

16.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

16.1.1. Household waste arisings have decreased by 8% over the last 5 years. Communication campaigns have included 'Love Food, Hate Waste', which promotes food waste avoidance, home composting, real nappies and zero waste places. Our highly successful Community Action Groups have diverted large amounts of material from landfill through holding regular swap shops and have helped communities to become more sustainable in a way that works for them. We have a wide ranging environmental education programme including reuse, recycling, landfill and disposal as well as energy conservation and green technologies. The programme visits schools and community groups across the county. For more information on all of these schemes, please see www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk

16.1.2. District Councils have all changed their collection schemes to make it easier for households to recycle a much wider range of materials. Each district has introduced food waste collections and moved to alternate weekly collections for residual refuse.

16.1.3. A number of HWRCs have been remodelled since 2006; improving site lay-out and expanding the range of materials that can be recycled.

16.1.4. These improvements are reflected in the massive increase in Oxfordshire's recycling rate from 33% to over 55% countywide.

16.1.5. In 2010/11 household waste levels decreased by 3.54%. While the changing economy will have an impact on this, Oxfordshire's residents have embraced the waste reduction message

and we now produce a lower amount of waste per head than any other County Council in England.

16.2. The proposed way forward:

16.2.1. We will continue to support residents in their efforts to reduce waste through our waste prevention strategy² and environmental education programme. We will support national campaigns and seek to be part of innovative projects that assist residents in reducing their waste even further. We will help to facilitate recycling wherever possible at public events. Additionally all districts now have on-street recycling systems in place which we will continue to develop so that residents can recycle when out and about.

16.2.2. We will continue to encourage reuse through the opening of a dedicated reuse shop at our new HWRC in Kidlington (planned to open in 2012). By providing information to the public about local reuse shops and supporting local communities who wish to exchange goods locally.

16.2.3. We have recently developed and will continue to promote an A-Z listing³ of all the goods and materials that can be reused and recycled in Oxfordshire. This guide includes detailed listings for all the County's charity shops and reuse organisations.

16.2.4. OWP will continue to produce an annual communications plan setting out how we will contact and engage with Oxfordshire residents on sustainable waste management issues. We will continue to use more established media such as roadshow events, press releases, leaflets, newspaper and radio ads, but will increasingly seek to engage with residents online through websites and social media such as facebook and twitter.

16.2.5. It is proposed that Policy 4 is kept as it stands. Policy 5 set a goal to be achieved by 2012. It is proposed that this target is linked to the Waste Prevention Strategy 2010-2020 that sets a longer term goal for waste reduction. Both Policy 5 and Policy 3 deal with waste reduction. It is proposed that these two policies be combined into a single policy which reads:

²http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/publicnet/council_services/environment_planning/waste_recycling/alternative/Waste_Prevention_Strategy.pdf

³<http://www.owp-reuseguide.co.uk/>

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“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will implement the Waste Prevention Strategy in order to reduce the amount of household waste collected by a total of 130,000 tonnes between 2010 and 2020”

Consultation questions – Policies 3, 4 and 5:

5 Do you agree with keeping Policy 4 and merging Policies 3 and 5?

6 What else could we be doing to encourage waste reduction and reuse?

7 What do you think are the most effective ways that we should communicate with residents?

17. Policy 6:

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

- By 31st March 2010: recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste;
- By 31st March 2015: recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste;
- By 31st March 2020: recycle or compost at least 55% of household waste.

17.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

- 17.1.1. Through the tremendous efforts of Oxfordshire's District Councils in introducing effective collection schemes, and the dedication of residents using them, in 2010/11 we achieved the county wide 55% recycling and composting target that we were aiming for in 2020.

17.2. The proposed way forward:

- 17.2.1. This is a significant achievement in what appeared in 2006 to be a very challenging target. Our current county wide performance is 14% higher than the national average recycling rate of 41%. With some Oxfordshire districts approaching a 70% recycling and composting rate, we want to continue to challenge ourselves, bringing both environmental benefits and cost savings. The new following new county wide targets are proposed:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will aim to:

- Recycle or compost 60% of household waste by 31st March 2015;
- Recycle or compost 65% of household waste by 31st March 2020;
- Recycle or compost 70% of household waste by 31st March 2025.

- 17.2.2. We will ensure that all collected materials are of good quality and free from contaminants, such as non recyclables items. This will ensure that collected materials can be recycled into new materials and that lower grade, less environmentally sustainable, applications are avoided wherever possible. We will continue to check on the end markets for our recyclable materials, to ensure that these are reprocessed at legitimate, fully licensed facilities.

Consultation questions - Policy 6:

- 8 Do you think the proposed recycling and composting targets are realistic and achievable?
- 9 How can we ensure that the recycling and composting targets are met?
- 10 How can we best encourage residents to recycle and compost more?
- 11 What help do you as residents need from local councils to reduce waste and recycle and compost more?
- 12 What can individuals do to recycle and compost more?

18. Policy 7:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure that recycling facilities and services are available to all residents.

18.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

18.1.1. We have sought to ensure access to kerbside residual and recycling collections for all households and are continuing to roll this out to flats. District Councils all offer a bulky waste collection service so that those residents unable to take materials to a HWRC are able to safely and legally dispose of them.

18.1.2. The new kerbside collection schemes have expanded the range of materials that can be recycled, these are supplemented by a network of local recycling banks in each district. The result of these changes has meant that visitor numbers and tonnages at HWRCs have declined significantly as residents have less need to visit a HWRC. In March 2011, following consultation, a new HWRC strategy was agreed which aims to locate HWRCs nearer to large centres of population, focusing on better quality facilities that can accept a greater range of materials while also saving around £450,000 in management and disposal costs by 2016/17.

18.2. The proposed way forward:

18.2.1. Recycling and food waste collections from flats will continue to be rolled out over the short term, ensuring that as many households as possible have access to these services.

18.2.2. Wherever possible we aim to ensure an uninterrupted collection schedule for residents. During periods of severe weather we will use a range of methods to communicate with residents and keep them updated, as well as working with Highways departments to keep roads accessible. We have robust catch-up plans in place for times where services are unavoidably affected by the weather. We will continue to contribute to emergency plans to ensure that waste management services are available to residents following other events such as flooding.

18.2.3. We will try to ensure that recycling banks are located in easily accessible places and can accept a wide range of materials, including those that cannot be collected at kerbside (such as small electrical goods) and we will work to recycle more of the bulky waste collected directly by District Councils. Where education and enforcement measures are unsuccessful, sites that are continually prone to abuse and fly tipping may be removed in order to protect the local environment and reduce disposal and clean up costs.

18.2.4. The HWRC strategy will see a state of the art facility for householders and commercial users, with a dedicated reuse store, open in Kidlington in 2012. Redbridge HWRC will be refurbished for use as a commercial site during the week and for householders at the weekend and bank holidays. As part of this strategy, sites at Dean Pit, Stanford in the Vale and Ardley will close. In 2014 we will relocate the site from Alkerton closer to Banbury; this will be a modern, fit for purpose site, more conveniently located for local residents.

18.2.5. As HWRCs are increasingly located near to large centres of population, the District and County Councils will also investigate the possibility of establishing staffed 'recycling only' sites in more rural areas of the county where householders are able to take larger items (such as fridges, TVs and green waste) for recycling, but these sites will not accept residual waste.

Consultation questions – Policy 7:

13 What other materials would you like to see collected for recycling from the kerbside?

14 What other materials would you like to see collected at HWRCs for recycling?

15 Would you welcome the development of staffed recycling only sites located in rural areas of the county?

19. Policy 8:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising.

19.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

19.1.1. All residents are asked to separate their recyclables and food from their residual waste for separate collection. Collection calendars are distributed to households, residents can subscribe to text services or use social media (such as Twitter) to remind them which bin to put out when, especially around bank holidays. Each council has extensive details on their website with additional information to help residents identify what can be recycled, where and when.

19.1.2. To help people understand what happens to the waste they put out for recycling, we arrange tours for community groups and schools of the anaerobic digestion plant, local materials recycling facilities, HWRCs and landfills and have videos of the processes online.

19.1.3. We have offered waste audits to companies to help them identify where they can increase recycling and save money. We have also initiated a pilot business waste recycling bring site to establish the demand and feasibility of the facility and have a commercial waste recycling area in one HWRC. 'Re-trader', an online materials exchange for businesses has also been established where unwanted goods can be exchanged with other companies and voluntary groups. The site also provides information to businesses to enable them to dispose of their waste legally⁴.

19.2. The proposed way forward:

19.2.1. A new Business Recycling and Waste Services Commitment has been developed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to help local authorities improve the satisfaction of business customers with how their rubbish and recycling is collected and ultimately boost recycling rates. OWP councils that collect commercial waste will sign up to this commitment, which focuses on:

- Making recycling easy
- Providing value for money
- Consulting on and clearly communicating services.

⁴ www.retrader.org.uk

- 19.2.2. OWP will continue to work with businesses to help them reduce the amount of waste that they produce and increase the amount that they can recycle. We will seek to be part of pilot projects that can offer businesses opportunities to improve their environmental impact and reduce their costs.
- 19.2.3. Those district councils that collect commercial waste will look to introduce additional material streams making it easier for companies to increase their recycling rate and ensuring compliance with the EU Waste Framework Directive requirement to separate at least paper, metal, plastic and glass from the municipal waste stream (i.e. local authority collected waste) by 2015. Our commercial waste area at Redbridge HWRC will be expanded and a dedicated commercial waste area will be built at our new HWRC in Kidlington.
- 19.2.4. Policies 3, 4, and 5 deal with the management of household waste, but only Policy 8 covers business waste. In order to avoid potential duplication with other policies and also to strengthen the role of business waste management within the JMWMS, it is proposed that Policy 8 focuses only on business waste and is reworded to read:

“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage businesses to reduce and reuse waste and separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising.”

Consultation questions – Policy 8:

16 What else can local authorities do to help businesses reduce waste and recycle more?

17 What are your views on the reworded Policy 8?

20. Policy 9:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual waste in order to meet LATS targets.

21. Policy 10:

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will ensure optimum use of landfill void.

21.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

21.1.1. The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme is a regulatory mechanism designed to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste that councils send to landfill. In order to meet our targets and avoid fines, Oxfordshire has established two food waste treatment plants and has procured an EfW plant to recover value from any residual waste. The EfW plant is due to open in winter 2014/15

21.1.2. In the 2011 waste review, Defra abolished LATS with effect from 2012/13, acknowledging that other factors were encouraging recycling and diversion from landfill. Whilst Oxfordshire no longer needs to meet LATS targets, the EU Landfill Directive targets for the UK as a whole remain in place, restricting the amount of waste that the country as a whole should landfill. Government continues to discourage landfill through a landfill tax, which will reach £80 per tonne by 2014.

21.1.3. Landfill void is the term used to describe the remaining capacity at landfills; as more waste is deposited the void space decreases. England has limited landfill void space, through waste reduction and increased recycling we have helped to preserve landfill void in the within Oxfordshire.

21.1.4. Oxfordshire's planned increase in reuse capacity as well as our high recycling rate emphasises our commitment to the waste hierarchy and to only recovering energy from non recyclables. The EfW plant will reduce our dependency on landfill even further preserving void space.

21.2. The proposed way forward:

21.2.1. We will continue to divert material away from landfill, driving materials up the waste hierarchy and contribute to the achievement of EU landfill directive targets that the UK must meet. We will do this through implementing our waste prevention strategy, working to increase reuse capacity and by maximising the capture rates of our recycling and composting collection systems. All residual waste (that can be processed by EfW) will be treated at the Ardley facility once it

is opened, a facility that will also produce enough energy to power 38,000 homes

21.2.2. Bulking and transfer facilities will be procured in 2012/13 to ensure that District Council collected waste can easily be transferred to the Ardley EfW. These facilities will result in fewer vehicle movements to the Ardley site and will help to ensure that the productivity of District Council collection rounds is not adversely affected.

21.2.3. As part of the Zero Waste Economy envisaged by national Government, landfill is the waste management option of last resort. After waste reduction, reuse and recycling has taken place, we should seek to recover energy from waste, aiming to send as little material to landfill as possible. There are some materials that are not suitable for processing in the EfW plant (such as mattresses, glass, PVC doors and windows), and these will be targeted for recycling where possible. We aim to send less than 5% of our untreated residual waste to landfill.

21.2.4. Due to the abolition of LATS and the development of the EFW it is proposed that Policies 9 and 10 are combined and reworded to read:

“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide a system for recovering value from residual waste in order to minimise the amount sent to landfill. OWP seek to landfill less than 5% of its non recyclable waste from 2015 onwards.”

[Consultation questions – Policies 9 and 10:](#)
[18 What are your views on the reworded policy?](#)

22. Policy 11:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will 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.

22.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

22.1.1. Household clinical waste is collected by District Councils as part of a dedicated collection round. It is either landfilled or incinerated as appropriate. We have facilities at HWRCs to recycle where possible, electrical items, florescent tubes and energy saving light bulbs, hazardous household chemicals, batteries, plasterboard and asbestos. We are also introducing electrical recycling banks for small household electrical items across the county. We have ensured that there is a clear audit trail and that we know where all of our materials go for reprocessing. OWP has funded PAT testing equipment for use by community groups at swap shops so that good quality electrical items can be reused.

22.2. The proposed way forward:

22.2.1. The EfW will not be able to process hazardous waste and therefore hazardous waste is likely to continue to be managed separately. District Councils will work with clinical waste service users to ensure that material is correctly classified and segregated to ensure environmental and cost effective management of the waste. We will also continue to encourage the repair and reuse of electrical items through the planned reuse shops and by providing PAT equipment and training to community groups running swap shops.

Consultation questions – Policy 11:

19 Is there anything else that we should do to improve our current approach to managing hazardous waste streams?

23. Policy 12:

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 the population, given the environmental and amenity constraints, and the availability of suitable sites.

23.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

23.1.1. Oxfordshire has secured long term contracts to manage our food, green and residual waste, these facilities are capable of managing more than just our household waste. Facilities have been designed to be able to treat waste from commercial and industrial businesses. Due to the high costs of constructing and operating new technologies, larger facilities are often more commercially viable than smaller sites.

23.2. The proposed way forward:

23.2.1. OWP works closely with the Minerals and Waste Planning Team to ensure that Oxfordshire has the capability to treat materials or move them to processing plants. The County Council is preparing a new Minerals and Waste Plan, which will set out a strategy and policies for the location of new waste facilities that are needed in Oxfordshire. While we are fully capable of managing all of our own residual waste, flexibility for recyclate to move into and out of the county for processing will allow more materials to be returned to productive use, allowing greater environmental benefits to be realised. Where appropriate we encourage businesses to establish themselves appropriately within Oxfordshire and increase our capacity to manage our own recycling, seeing environmental benefits by reducing the miles that Oxfordshire's recycling will have to travel.

[Consultation questions Policy 12:](#)

[20 Do you have any views on Policy 12?](#)

24. Policy 13:

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will assist the development of local markets for recovered materials.

24.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

24.1.1. OWP encourages local reprocessing wherever possible to ensure that materials are processed and used locally. We have an extensive network of community led groups focussing on waste reduction and sustainable living; the Oxfordshire CAG project is widely hailed as best practice. OWP also funds a network of “Master Composters” – volunteers that promote and encourage home composting in their local communities.

24.1.2. OWP promotes local repair and refurbishment outlets and organisations to encourage people to reuse goods locally rather than send them further afield for recycling. We work with local charities such as Emmaus and Orinoco who collect and refurbish furniture and bikes from some HWRCs and we are looking to expand this where possible.

24.1.3. For businesses, our ‘Retrader.org.uk’ website allows them to market unwanted items and surplus goods to others. Outputs from our food and green waste treatment are used by local farmers as a soil conditioner, reducing the need for farmers to purchase expensive, man made fertilisers made using non renewable sources. We promote the purchase of goods made from recycled materials and try to lead by example.

24.1.4. Local facilities were encouraged when procuring interim landfill contracts and food and garden waste treatment facilities, with the distance travelled by District Council collection vehicles to treatment facilities forming part of our contract evaluation criteria.

24.2. The proposed way forward:

24.2.1. We will continue to use waste audits to identify materials that could be removed from the residual waste stream. When investigating potential new reprocessors for our materials we will encourage local facilities to tender for our business. To increase reuse capacity within the county we will work with local charities and businesses to repair items for resale. OWP is currently seeking to develop reuse stores at the new Kidlington HWRC and in community settings such as Bicester. We are also looking to increase the range of items recycled; with inert waste and mattresses both forming part of a current recycling trial with local reprocessors.

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Consultation questions – Policy 13:

21 What else could we be doing to promote the local reprocessing of materials?

25. Policy 14:

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

25.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

25.1.1. OWP operates as a statutory joint committee. It is responsible for the development of a JMWMS for Oxfordshire and oversees the implementation of a joint strategy action plan. OWP also delivers a number of functions on behalf of its partner councils, the main one being communications support. This includes the marketing and promotion of waste management services, working with and supporting community groups and overseeing the environmental education programme.

25.1.2. By working together, OWP has been able to secure good value, long term services to manage Oxfordshire's waste into the next decade. A strong partnership was central to the recent development of food waste collection and treatment, where all partner councils had to invest in new systems in a coordinated way.

25.1.3. South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Councils have integrated a large number of services, including waste management; making substantial savings while delivering a new award winning service. Cherwell District Council has partnered with South Northamptonshire District Council to form a shared management structure. West Oxfordshire is working in partnership with Cotswold District Council and all OWP councils are partnering to procure goods and services such as fuel and bins together.

25.1.4. We have developed a joint environmental education programme with the Environment and Climate Change team at Oxfordshire County Council. This replaces two previously discreet services and allows schools to book a comprehensive green education package for their pupils, covering both waste and energy issues.

25.2. The proposed way forward:

25.2.1. OWP will continue to work together to coordinate our activities making it easier for Oxfordshire's residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce and increase the amount they can recycle and compost.

25.2.2. Waste partnerships in other parts of the country have different ways of working. Some operate under less formal

agreements whilst others have gone further and integrated waste management services in to a single service. Under this approach, a single local authority is given responsibility for all waste management services and waste collection services are harmonised, so that a consistent level of service is provided across a county area.

25.2.3. The development of a joint waste authority (or similar structure) may offer long term savings. However, forming these partnerships is complex and there is no guarantee of the level of savings that would be achieved. A loss of local control over services is also sometimes raised as a concern when discussing this approach.

25.2.4. OWP will explore the development of stronger partnership working structures to ascertain whether these might improve value for money and service quality.

Consultation questions – Policy 14:

22 Should OWP explore the development of stronger partnership working for Oxfordshire?

23 What else would you like to see us doing to develop the OWP?

26. Local Environmental Quality

26.1. Progress to date (2006-2011):

26.1.1. District councils are responsible for local environmental quality (LEQ). This includes services such as street sweeping, removing fly-tipping, graffiti and fly-posting, cleaning chewing gum deposits, emptying litter bins and tackling dog fouling. They also have the responsibility of enforcing these offences and are able to prosecute those caught littering, fly-tipping, allowing their dog to foul, or for misusing waste services (for example depositing commercial waste at a HWRC or using their kerbside collections for the disposal of commercial waste).

26.1.2. Since the adoption of the JMWMS OWP has taken on a wider role that now includes the coordination of LEQ issues. Similar to our waste management function, OWP is responsible for the development of joint communications campaigns and sharing information and best practice on subjects such as litter and fly-tipping. Through the collective efforts of OWP councils, levels of fly-tipping have more than halved, whilst over 95% of streets monitored we found to be free or largely free of litter (obtaining grades A or B under the National Indicator 195 reporting framework).

26.1.3. We have worked in partnership with highways colleagues in all Districts to overcome the litter problem following the cutting of grass verges along fast roads. District Councils and the Highways Authority now work in Partnership to co-ordinate grass cutting and litter clearance efforts. This has improved the cleanliness of major routes throughout Oxfordshire

26.1.4. In November 2010 a van and trailer permitting scheme was introduced at HWRCs. Household owners owning a van or trailer are asked to register for a permit to allow them to deposit their household waste at site. Businesses are not granted a permit and are referred to sites that can accept commercial waste. Early indications are that this scheme has successfully deterred commercial users, reducing waste at site by around 14% and saving around £250,000 in disposal costs in the first 8 months of operation, without a corresponding increase in fly-tipping.

26.2. The proposed way forward

26.2.1. District Councils within OWP will work to ensure that litter and dog waste bins are available and correctly situated and we will continue to enforce against those caught committing environmental crimes.

26.2.2. We will continue to work with the Highways Agency to ensure that road verges are litter picked before being mown to maintain cleanliness standards.

26.2.3. High levels of local litter are often associated with fast food outlets. We will work with national bodies to influence fast food and convenience store outlets, aiming to ensure that high Local Environmental Quality standards are maintained.

26.2.4. Oxfordshire County Council will continue the van and trailer permitting scheme, with support for enforcement coming from District Council partners.

26.2.5. OWP will continue to develop promotional and educational campaigns to promote positive behaviour and good local environmental quality. Campaign messages will be developed according to local priorities identified through our monitoring data. These may include campaigns to discourage littering, dog fouling or fly tipping.

26.2.6. OWP councils are part of a wider flytipping forum and work with neighbouring councils, Thames Valley Police and the Environment Agency to share information and develop best practice on reducing environmental crime.

26.2.7. To reflect OWP's ongoing role in LEQ issues, the following strategic objective is proposed:

“Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to improve local environmental quality through effective communications and enforcement activity.”

Consultation Questions – Local Environmental Quality:

23 What are your views on the proposed policy for LEQ?

24 Which LEQ issues should we prioritise for communications and enforcement activity, and what could we do to further reduce:

- litter
- fly tipping
- graffiti
- fly posting
- dog fouling
- depositing chewing gum, and
- misuse of waste and recycling services (including commercial waste misuse of Household Waste Recycling Centres)?
- Other? (please specify)

Consultation questions:

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- 25 Are there any other areas that you feel OWP should be focusing on?
- 26 Is there anything else that you would like to comment on?