

# Waste Management Review

## Summary of Current Services



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# Introduction

Wiltshire Council is embarking on a project to establish which service delivery models will allow us to continue to meet the objectives of the Wiltshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020 (JMWMS) and other targets that we are working towards. This process will involve reviewing the remaining legacy arrangements of the former district council and county council policies and planning for service delivery after the expiry of waste collection and disposal contracts that are currently in operation.

The key objectives of the JMWMS are to divert municipal waste from landfill, to reduce local and global environmental impact and, in the medium to long term, secure significant cost savings for residents through the reduction in payment of Landfill Tax. The council is also mindful that the government may ban the landfilling of certain materials, as discussed in the Review of Waste Policy in England 2011.

The area governed by Wiltshire Council covers over 1,250 square miles where waste collection and waste management functions were formerly carried out by four district councils and a county council respectively prior to the formation of the unitary authority in April 2009. Wiltshire is a predominantly rural county with a population of 458,890<sup>1</sup> and 202,100 domestic households.

Part of the bid to become one council included a commitment to harmonise the different waste collection systems inherited from the former district councils and this exercise has been successfully completed in 2012. This harmonisation project was one stage in our implementation of the JMWMS.

While the current waste collection service received by residents is the same regardless of their location following our harmonisation project, the service provider differs depending on the area in which they live. There is a mix of in-house and contracted-out service provision in place, the details of which are summarised in the 'Current services' section below. Waste management services are predominantly outsourced as part of a contract let by the former Wiltshire County Council.

The objectives of the Future Service Delivery Models project are:

- to establish which service delivery models offer the best balance of cost and quality
- to determine the specification of the future service irrespective of the delivery agent
- to determine the future role of the voluntary and community sector (VCS)
- to successfully manage transition planning for all services where the delivery model will change

Our future service must enable us to meet both national and local targets, so any model of service delivery will be assessed against how it will help us to deliver against the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Mid-year estimate 2010

Target	Source
Reducing waste to landfill to 25% of the total collected by 2014	Wiltshire Council corporate plan
Increase recycling to 50% by 2014	Wiltshire Council business plan (modifying the target in the Waste Framework Directive and JMWMS)
Reduce biodegradable municipal waste to landfill to 35% of 1995 levels by 2020	EU Landfill Directive
Maintain separate collections of at least the following materials from the household waste stream: paper, metal, plastic and glass	Revised Waste Framework Directive and DEFRA draft regulations February 2012 (currently achieved)

At present we are reviewing and updating the JMWMS to take account of progress against its aims since adoption. This work may establish new targets which our future service delivery would have to enable us to meet.

## Current services

### Collection services

#### Household waste

Households in Wiltshire receive kerbside collections of residual waste, plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, glass, cans, foil and textiles. There is also a garden waste collection service for residents who opt into the scheme. There are over 125,000 households which will have a garden waste bin by the end of July 2012.<sup>2</sup>

The harmonised waste collection service is in operation across the county. The standard collection service that we offer to households operates in accordance with the table below:

Materials collected	Container type	Size	Collection frequency
Residual waste	Wheeled bin	180 litre <sup>3</sup>	Fortnightly
Plastic bottles and cardboard (co-mingled)	Wheeled bin	240 litre	Fortnightly
Paper, glass, cans, foil and textiles (kerbside sort)	Kerbside box	55 litre (two boxes available per household)	Fortnightly
Garden waste (opt-in, non-chargeable service)	Wheeled bin	180 litre <sup>4</sup> (second bin charged for)	Fortnightly

There is a mix of in-house and contracted out service delivery for collection services depending on the area. The table below summarises who provides the services in each of our former district council areas:

<sup>2</sup> Around 55,000 households were provided with a bin by the former West Wiltshire District Council, so not all households have actively opted into the scheme.

<sup>3</sup> In west Wiltshire any bins supplied before 2011 were 240 litre, but replacements will be 180 litre

<sup>4</sup> As footnote 3.

Service	Area			
	East	North	South	West
Residual waste	In-house	In-house	In-house	FCC Environment
Plastic bottles and cardboard	In-house	In-house	In-house	FCC Environment
Recycling box	Hills Waste Solutions	Hills Waste Solutions	Hills Waste Solutions	Hills Waste Solutions
Garden waste	In-house	In-house	In-house	FCC Environment

The collection contract in the west of the county with FCC Environment runs until 2014, with the option of extending by up to 7 years. The recycling contract with Hills Waste Solutions ends in 2016 (as part of the waste management contract described in the section below); there is no facility to extend the term.

### Commercial waste

Residual waste from commercial waste producers is collected by in-house service providers across the county, working from three of our four operating depots<sup>5</sup>. Over 4,000 customers use the service at the current time.

There are limited trials of commercial recycling in parts of the county but this element of the service will not be rolled out for the whole of Wiltshire in the near term.

The scope of these services, including the impact of the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 on chargeable household waste, is subject to a review which will continue throughout the current financial year.

### Other services

The council also provides the following collection services:

- a free-of-charge collection of clinical waste from domestic households, including sharps boxes and sacks of clinical waste
- a charged bulky waste collection of items from domestic households

## Waste management services

Waste management facilities used by Wiltshire Council are operated under contract.

The contract for waste management with Hills Waste Solutions ends in 2016 and covers landfill, waste transfer station and MRF operations, kerbside collections of dry recycling, composting facilities and household recycling centres and bring sites. The ownership of waste tonnages and marketing of recyclate and compost currently sits within this contract.

The landfill sites at Lower Compton near Calne and Chapel Farm near Blunsdon are used for residual waste disposal for waste collected in the east, north and west of the county. Residual waste from the south of the county is delivered to a waste transfer station, as

<sup>5</sup> Our operating depots are located in Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury and Trowbridge.

detailed in the section on landfill diversion below. Dry recycling collected from domestic households is processed at MRFs in Lower Compton and in Calne. Garden waste is composted at sites in Purton and at an on-farm composting facility at Grateley in Hampshire. Waste transfer stations are operated by Hills at Lower Compton (for northern Wiltshire) and Thorny Down, Winterslow near Salisbury (for southern Wiltshire). The latter site is due to be replaced by a new facility at Amesbury during autumn 2012.

There is a network of eleven household recycling centres across the county, which receive a wide range of materials for reuse, recycling, composting or disposal<sup>6</sup>. These are supported by local recycling sites through which residents can recycle glass, paper, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and textiles. Given the significant service changes to kerbside collection services in the last year, the bring sites network is currently being reviewed.

To deliver our landfill diversion objective a procurement process was carried out and the following two contracts have been awarded to manage 110,000 tonnes per year of residual waste:

- Hills Waste Solutions are contracted to deliver 50,000 tonnes per year to the Lakeside Energy from Waste facility at Colnbrook, Slough. The council delivers residual waste for this contract to waste transfer stations at Thorny Down, Winterslow, and Lower Compton. Waste is then bulked and hauled to Lakeside by Hills Waste Solutions. The contract runs for 25 years from 1 February 2009.
- A second 25 year diversion contract with Hills Waste Solutions was signed in April 2011 to allow the treatment of 60,000 tonnes of household waste per year in the county's first mechanical biological treatment (MBT) plant. The facility is currently under construction at Northacre Park, Westbury in preparation for full operations to begin in September 2013. It is expected that the majority of tonnage delivered to this site will be directly by refuse collection vehicles operating in the west Wiltshire area, with any balance coming from waste transfer stations.

The tables in Appendix 1 summarise the location and the ownership of sites used to deliver waste management services.

The council also manages 18 closed landfill sites. Three of these sites have treatment systems in place and five sites are currently monitored for gas and air quality. Management of these sites does not form part of the existing contractual arrangements.

Wiltshire Council has also entered into a joint venture with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, which aims to:

- coordinate waste minimisation and recycling advice and education
- campaign for behavioural change
- promote the council's waste management services.

There is an emphasis on targeting hard-to-reach groups within the agreement such as 13-24 year olds, residents with English as a second language and residents living in deprived areas. The joint venture agreement runs until the end of March 2013, but there is the scope

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<sup>6</sup> The JMWMS promotes further development of HRCs, so our update of the strategy is likely to identify preferred locations for two or three facilities.

to extend the term by a further two years if both parties agree to do so. The council provides funding to the joint venture and there is an agreed business plan and work programme. Governance arrangements include an annual review of these documents.

## **Current performance**

Wiltshire Council's recycling rate achieved in 2011/12 is 42.83%. Measures to improve this figure are being implemented in 2012/13 including the continuation of the rollout of communal recycling facilities to flats and further phases in our rollout of non-chargeable garden waste bins. There is also an expectation that the full effects of major changes to waste and recycling collections completed during 2011/12, including the move to fortnightly collections of waste and recyclates across Wiltshire, will increase the recycling rate during 2012/13 and the following year.

The percentage of municipal solid waste (MSW) sent to landfill in 2011/12 was 36.65%. When the MBT plant in Westbury is operational, and the full effects upon recycling performance of recent changes to collection services are experienced, our performance in this area will improve further with waste to landfill forecast to reduce to about 20% per year. At the very least, by 2014 we expect our MSW to landfill to reduce to 25% because the council is committed to this target in its corporate plan.

## **Next steps**

The service delivery review will take the form of an online questionnaire and meetings with a range of organisations to be undertaken during June 2012. The results of the review will inform a report that will be considered by the council's cabinet in October 2012.

## Appendix 1

### Wiltshire Council - waste management sites

<b>Household recycling centres<sup>7</sup>:</b>			
<b>Site</b>	<b>Site Type</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Site Owned by</b>
Trowbridge	Household recycling centre	BA14 8RL	Wiltshire Council
Melksham	Household recycling centre	SN12 6QT	Wiltshire Council
Honeyball	Household recycling centre	SN11 8RB	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Warminster	Household recycling centre	BA12 8PE	Wiltshire Council
Everleigh	Household recycling centre	SN9 6LZ	Wiltshire Council
Stanton St Quintin	Household recycling centre	SN14 6BD	Wiltshire Council
Devizes	Household recycling centre	SN10 2EU	Wiltshire Council
Amesbury	Household recycling centre	SP4 7RX	Wiltshire Council
Purton	Household recycling centre	SN5 9GH	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Salisbury	Household recycling centre	SP2 7NP	Wiltshire Council
Marlborough	Household recycling centre	SN8 4AN	Wiltshire Council

<b>Tipping points:</b>			
Thorny Down	Waste transfer station	SP5 1BN	MOD, leased to Wiltshire Council to 2045*
Everleigh	Waste transfer station	SN9 6LZ	Wiltshire Council
Lower Compton	Waste transfer station	SN11 8RB	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Amesbury	Waste transfer station	SP4 7RX	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd**
Lower Compton	Landfill	SN11 8RB	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Chapel Farm	Landfill	SN26 4DD	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Purton	Landfill	SN5 4HG	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Lower Compton	MRF	SN11 8RB	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Porte Marsh, Calne	MRF	SN11 9BW	Leased by Hills Waste Solutions Ltd***
Northacre, Westbury	MBT	BA13 4WD	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd****
Parkgate Farm	Composting facility	SN5 4HG	Hills Waste Solutions Ltd
Blackbarn Farm	On-farm composting facility	SP11 7ET	Privately owned

#### **Notes:**

\* Leased to Hills Waste Solutions Ltd to 2034

\*\* Due to open Autumn 2012

\*\*\* Temporary planning permission, 2011-2014

\*\*\*\* Site under construction - due to open Autumn 2013

<sup>7</sup> The location of the HRCs can be viewed on a map on the [Recycle for Wiltshire website](#).



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