



Staffordshire Waste Partnership

2013 Refresh of the
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy
for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent
(2007 - 2020)

From **zero waste**
to landfill...

...towards a
resourceful economy



Staffordshire Waste Partnership Agreement - 2013

The below councils agree to work collaboratively, as part of Staffordshire Waste Partnership, to deliver the 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy [2013 - 2020].

Signatories on behalf of each council, in agreement with the above statement:

Cannock Chase District Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Lichfield District Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Stafford Borough Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Staffordshire County Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

South Staffordshire District Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Tamworth Borough Council

Chief Executive Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Councillor Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

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Foreword

We all create waste in one form or another, whether at home, in the workplace, or through leisure pursuits. Staffordshire's waste collection and disposal services are for many residents their primary interaction with their Local Council. Our residents have adapted well over recent years, as collection services have developed to divert waste from being thrown away to being reused or recycled, including composting. Surveys confirm high satisfaction levels of the provided services, resulting in a positive public response with Staffordshire recycling and composting over 50% of the household waste collected. This compares with the national average of 41%.

The 10 local authorities in Staffordshire aim to work together on waste management issues within the Staffordshire Waste Partnership [SWP]. In 2007, SWP published a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and set an ambitious target of Zero Waste to Landfill by 2020. We achieved a household waste recycling rate of 50% recycling performance by 2012, ahead of the 2015 target, and I am pleased to announce that, with the opening of our state of the art Energy from Waste plant in 2014, it is predicated that we will achieve the 55% recycling performance target in 2014, ahead of the 2020 deadline.

Much has changed since 2007, not least the constraints on public sector finance and the need to ensure we provide efficient and affordable services our residents and businesses require, including a Governmental Waste Policy review in 2011. In meeting the targets set in 2007, and to address the changing landscape of waste management, it was decided that an update to the strategy was required. This refreshed strategy document provides a plan to determine new actions needed to take us to 2020, when the original strategy ceases. The delivery plan will be monitored every 3 months and formally reviewed annually to make necessary adjustments to take account of new opportunities and developments in technology.

This refreshed strategy focuses on waste prevention at the heart of our thinking, whilst maintaining the "zero waste" target. Collected waste is now considered as a valuable resource, as a commodity material for the production of items, or as a means of energy production through a wide range of new technologies. There is no easy solution, but with an effective partnership and close co-operation with our residents, stakeholders and businesses, there are a number of opportunities to allow us to continue to deliver efficient and effective services which are flexible and sustainable.



Councillor Ann Beech – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Chair of the Joint Waste Management Board for Staffordshire Waste Partnership

Executive Summary

The 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is an update to the 2007 full strategic plan, addressing the management of municipal solid waste within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to the year 2020. It has been prepared in partnership by Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP), which comprises Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and eight Staffordshire District/Borough Councils.

As the targets set in the 2007 strategy are set to be achieved in line with their 2015 and 2020 deadline, and changes in legislation and policy since 2007 resulted in alterations to the primary focus of waste management, a refreshed version of the 2007 strategy has been undertaken to reflect these changes and set new targets. Based on the key principles set out in the original strategy, the following updated principals [in no particular order] form the core objectives for the delivery plan in this refreshed strategy;

- Waste Prevention,
- Efficiency Savings,
- Resource Recovery,
- Carbon Reduction,
- Infrastructure & Contracts,
- Municipal Waste.

The following table summarises the key projects of the delivery plan;

Time frame	Project
Short term; immediate works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a SWP Waste Prevention Plan. • Review of clinical waste services in South Staffordshire, aiming to implement alterations already underway in North Staffordshire. • Baseline research / data collation of all services, technologies and contracts, to assess current status, and identify gaps. • Agree a partnership procurement framework. • Create a Transport Managers Group to move forward on operational changes for efficiency savings.
Medium term; in place by the end of 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess contracts according to end dates, undertaking review and alterations - focus on service contracts and local infrastructure. • Commercial waste service review and rebrand, including scoping of a single pricing structure and options for collaboration. • Bulky waste collection review, with proposition of contracted services using the third sector. • Improved WEEE facilities, including potential for reuse.
Long term; background projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance document on available collection, process and disposal technologies, to aid future decisions. • Ongoing work to align the variety of policies of individual partnership authorities.

1. Introduction

The 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (for here on in referred to as the refreshed strategy) is an update to the 2007 full strategic plan, addressing the management of municipal solid waste within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to the year 2020. It has been prepared in partnership by Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP), which comprises Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and the eight Staffordshire District and Borough Councils.

This is an update to the 2007 waste strategy, which stated waste management targets to be met by 2020. However, as the result of structured delivery and public willingness to adopt changes in waste management, the original targets have now been met. Furthermore, changes in legislation and policy since 2007 resulted in alterations to the primary focus of waste management. A refreshed version of the 2007 strategy has been undertaken to reflect these changes and set new targets.

This refreshed strategy provides key objectives as outlined in the Government's Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies, and is underpinned by a delivery plan (discussed in section 4 of this document). This document should be read in conjunction with the 2007 full strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment, upon which this document is fundamentally based.

1.1 Staffordshire Waste Partnership

Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP) is made up of all ten councils operating in Staffordshire; 8 Borough or District Councils, Staffordshire County Council, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. SWP comprises;

- Cannock Chase District Council
- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- Lichfield District Council
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
- South Staffordshire District Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- Tamworth Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council.

Figure 1 shows the areas covered by the partnership's district, borough or city councils. Figure 2 highlights the structure of Staffordshire Waste Partnership.



Engaging local schools in waste issues

Figure 1. Map of local authority areas within the Staffordshire Waste Partnership

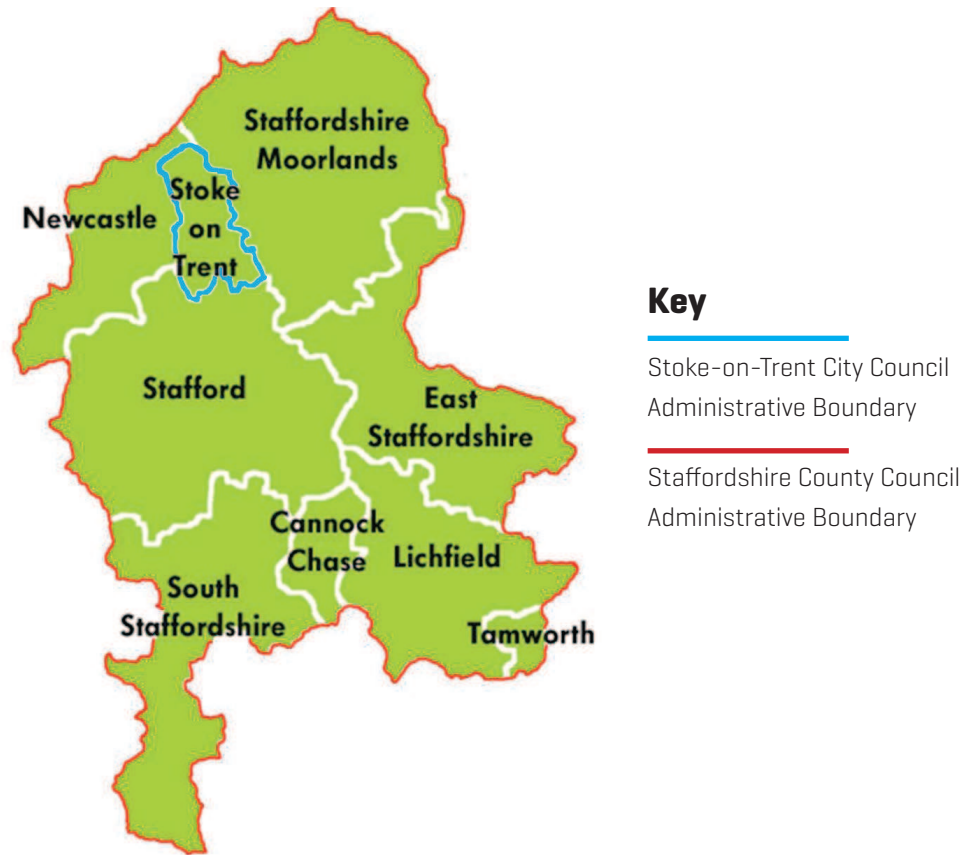
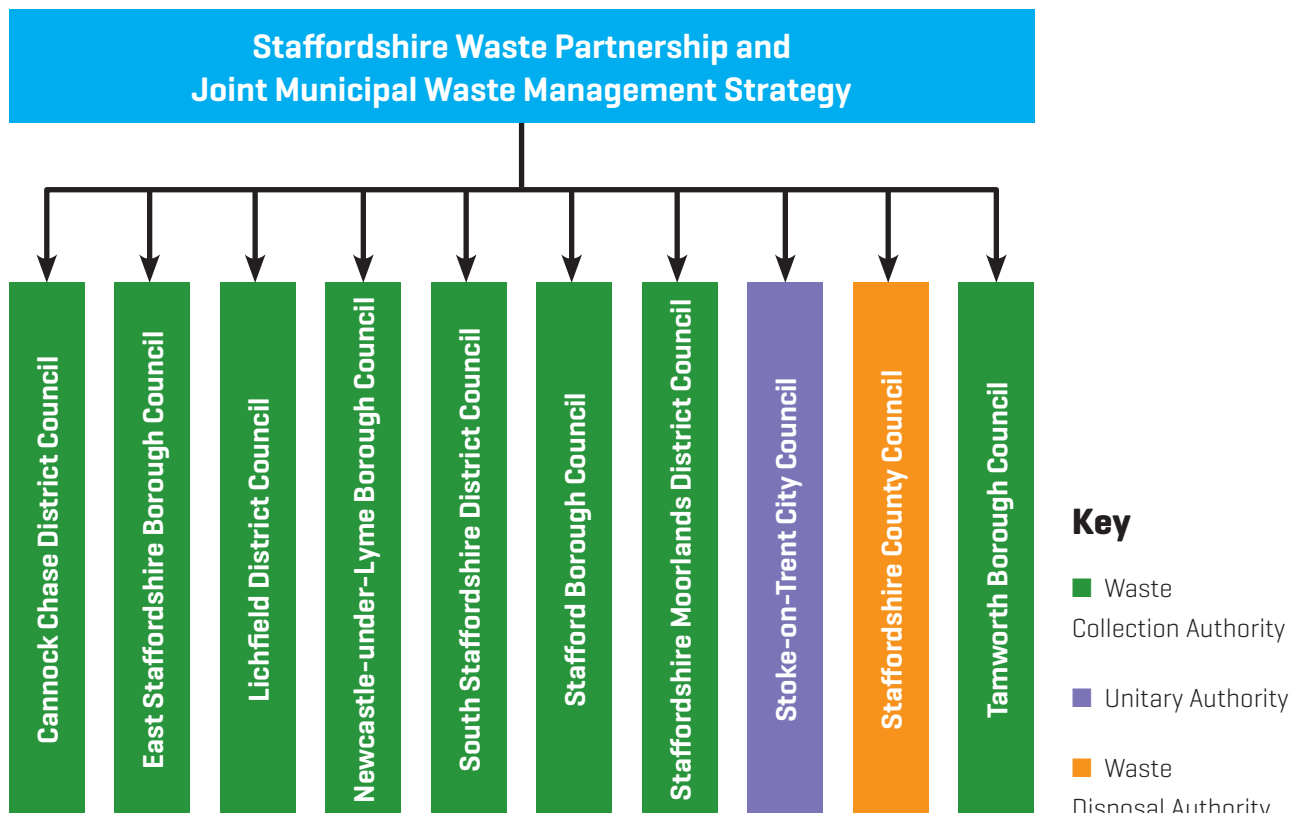


Figure 2. Staffordshire Waste Partnership structure



Staffordshire (excluding the city of Stoke-on-Trent) is a two tier administrative area comprising 8 district or borough councils and Staffordshire County Council. The district and borough councils are Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), meaning they are each responsible for the collection of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in their area. Staffordshire County Council is a two tier authority which acts as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) for the entire county, meaning it is responsible for the management and disposal of the waste collected by the WCAs. Stoke-on-Trent is a Unitary Authority (UA), meaning it is both a WCA and WDA.

SWP was established in 2001 to provide a platform for collaborative working between the WCAs and WDA, to provide a consistent framework for waste management in the county through the production of a strategy, offer knowledge sharing opportunities, and to present efficiency savings with consortium agreements.

SWP is operated through collaborative working between Waste Managers from each authority. In addition to this, between 2009 and 2012, two Waste Minimisation Officers were employed by SWP, whose main role was to work with local Waste and Recycling Officers in each authority to highlight awareness of waste issues within the communities of the county. In 2013, SWP decided that these fixed term posts would be replaced with a single post that focused on the strategic development of SWP, through the management of key projects and facilitation of the required changes to meet the core objectives of this refreshed strategy.

1.2 Vision

The aim of Staffordshire Waste Partnership is to work together to reduce waste, and maximise reuse, recovery, and recycling. SWP aims to reduce the environmental impact of disposal by recovering energy from any residual waste. SWP is striving towards a zero waste economy, where all materials have a purpose and avoid disposal of any kind.

1.3 Review of the original strategy (2007 document)

The 'Integrated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent' was originally produced in November 2003 and updated 2007. This strategy focused upon the following principles;

- Increased household recycling: Delivering on a combined household recycling and composting target of 55% (equivalent to 50% of all MSW) by 2015,
- Recovering benefit from all remaining MSW: Sending approximately 50% of all MSW for recovery by 2020,
- Zero waste to Landfill: Minimising all forms of waste to landfill through increased recycling followed by maximum recovery of all remaining residual waste, thus placing landfill as the last and final option.

The document's wider remit had the intention of;

- Achieving sustainable management of all waste arising in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent through emphasis on the reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste,
- Managing waste as a potential resource and as close as possible to its point of origin,
- Developing effective co-operation and joint working between local authorities, businesses and residents on the benefits of waste minimisation and increased recycling and recovery.

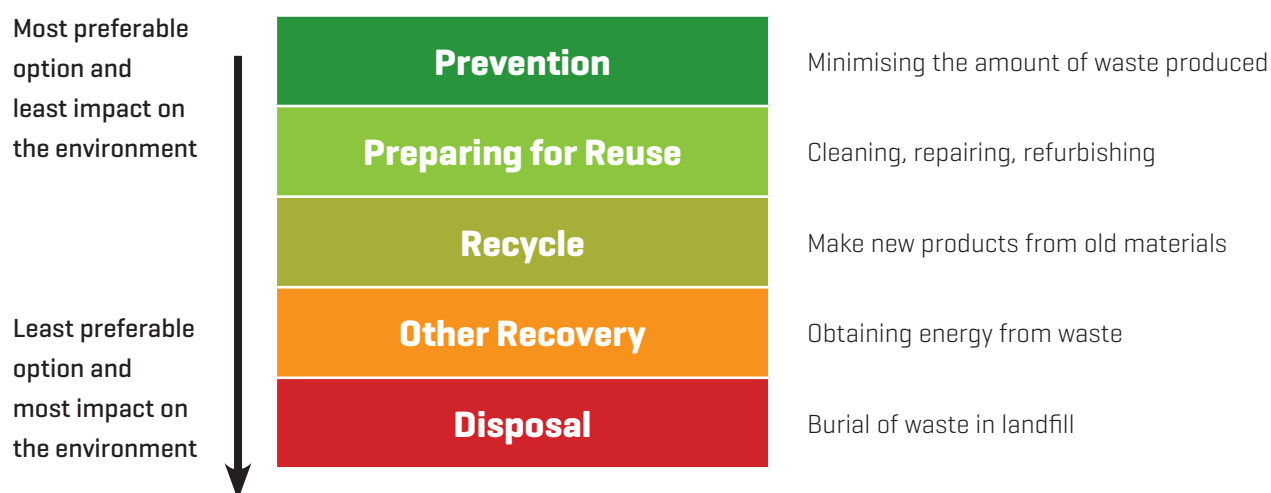
In 2012, we achieved a household waste recycling rate of 50% (explained in more detail in section 2 – current waste management position). It is expected that we will achieve 55% household recycling rate by 2015. In meeting these targets and adopting the other key aspects of the strategy ahead on schedule, new targets were required to take the partnership up to 2020. In addition, the 2007 strategy no longer effectively incorporates the strategies and policies adopted by individual authorities within SWP, requiring the balance to be addressed more effectively. As a result, there was a clear need to refresh the strategy.

1.4 Key legislation and economic drivers

The principle driver for the targets and objectives outlined in the 2007 strategy was derived from the European Landfill Directive which places a duty on member states to decrease the quantities of organic municipal waste sent to landfill. Since 2007, there have been changes to the legislative landscape and extensive policy review for waste management, which have become key drivers for a refreshed strategy.

The primary principal to address waste management remains to be the waste hierarchy (figure 3) as a starting point to focus priority issues. Recent policy and legislation has further strengthened the need for growth in the preferred options for waste, with increasing focus upon waste minimisation and reuse schemes.

Figure 3. Waste Hierarchy



There is a wide range of existing and forthcoming European, national and local policies and legislation that determine the way waste is collected and managed throughout Staffordshire, as discussed in the 2007 strategy document. Such policy / legislation extends to include climate change and reduction of carbon emissions, resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, and increasing the role of waste prevention. The Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 was a key driver that highlighted the need to refresh the 2007 strategy. Table 1 provides an overview of key policies and legislation since 2007 which drive the need for this refreshed strategy.

Table 1. Key waste management policies and legislation since 2007

Policy / Legislation	Salient information
Waste Strategy for England 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decouple waste growth from economic growth. • More emphasis on waste prevention and reuse. • Meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for organic municipal waste in 2010/2013/2020. • Increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste. • Invest in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for hazardous waste management.
Revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasises resource efficiency and waste prevention. • Waste hierarchy is a priority but Member States may depart from it if doing so results in a better environmental outcome. • Member States must put in place waste prevention programmes by the end of 2013. The Commission must report on progress in waste prevention by 2011 and by the end of 2014, it has to set waste prevention and decoupling objectives for 2020. • Member States must achieve a target of re-using or recycling 50 per cent of household waste (including paper, metal, plastic and glass) by 2020; and achieve a target of re- using, recycling or recovering 70 per cent of construction and demolition waste by 2020. • Member States must set up separate collection for at least paper, metal, plastic and glass by 2015.
Waste Policy Review 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of a revised waste hierarchy which has a greater emphasis on prevention and re-use. • No new recycling targets imposed on local authorities. • Withdrawal of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme after the 2012/13 scheme year. • Maintain landfill tax increases towards a floor of £80/tonne in 2014/15. • A revised recycling and waste commitment for both household and business waste. • Changes to Section 46 of the EPA – powers of Local Authorities to deal with certain waste offences. • Abolishing proposals to introduce new bin taxes for householders based on the amount of waste produced.

Waste Regulations 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for waste collection, transport, recovery and disposal. • Requires businesses to confirm that waste hierarchy is applied when transferring waste and include a declaration on the waste transfer /consignment note. • Introduces two-tier system for waste carrier and broker registration, including the new concept of waste dealer.
Wealth from waste, Local Government Association's local waste review, 2013	<p>Recommends the following Government changes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvestment of landfill tax receipts, • Improvement to the quality of recyclable waste, • Regulation changes to stop waste exportation, • Improvements to capacity for high value recyclables, • Encouragement reuse and reconditioning, • Ensuring producers pay their share via PRN system, • Introduction of financial reward schemes for residents.

In recent years, the Government has introduced a number of significant fiscal changes to local authorities, including significant reduction in public sector funding. This key economic driver has resulted in a challenge to ensure value for money, affordability and sustainability in our waste management. Landfill tax has risen in recent years, resulting in more costly disposal, meaning it has never been more financially important to source other waste management options.

A clear gap has been identified in the waste collection services provided across the county – trade waste is a large proportion of total waste arisings, however not all WCAs in Staffordshire offer a commercial collection service. Moreover, of those WCAs that do offer the service, it is greatly limited to residual collections only. This sector is a key waste producer that requires suitable collection services, which can generate an income through service charging. These important factors have therefore shaped the structure of this refreshed strategy.

Based upon these developments since 2007, the key legislative and economic drivers for current waste management practices have altered sufficiently enough to require a refreshed strategy document, reflecting the present situation.



Bales of processed recycling at the Material Recovery Facility

1.5 Purpose of the refreshed strategy

This document provides a framework for strategic decisions to be taken on the management of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to the year 2020. It adopts a flexible yet focussed approach, recognising the need to respond to rapid developments of new ideas and opportunities. This refreshed strategy is needed to provide the context for preparing the new long term municipal waste management contracts that are due to come into operation over the next few years, in particular to develop options for contracts involving the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) at Aldridge, which end in 2015, and the North Staffordshire waste disposal contract, which ends in 2020.

The refreshed strategy has been prepared by officers within the Staffordshire Waste Partnership, and supersedes the 'Integrated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent' (produced in 2003 and updated in 2007). The core principles set out in the original strategy remain unaltered but are now updated in this strategy for 2013 in order to reflect the changes faced since the original document, such as legislative pressure, economic drivers, service alterations and implementing new targets, having achieved those originally set out.

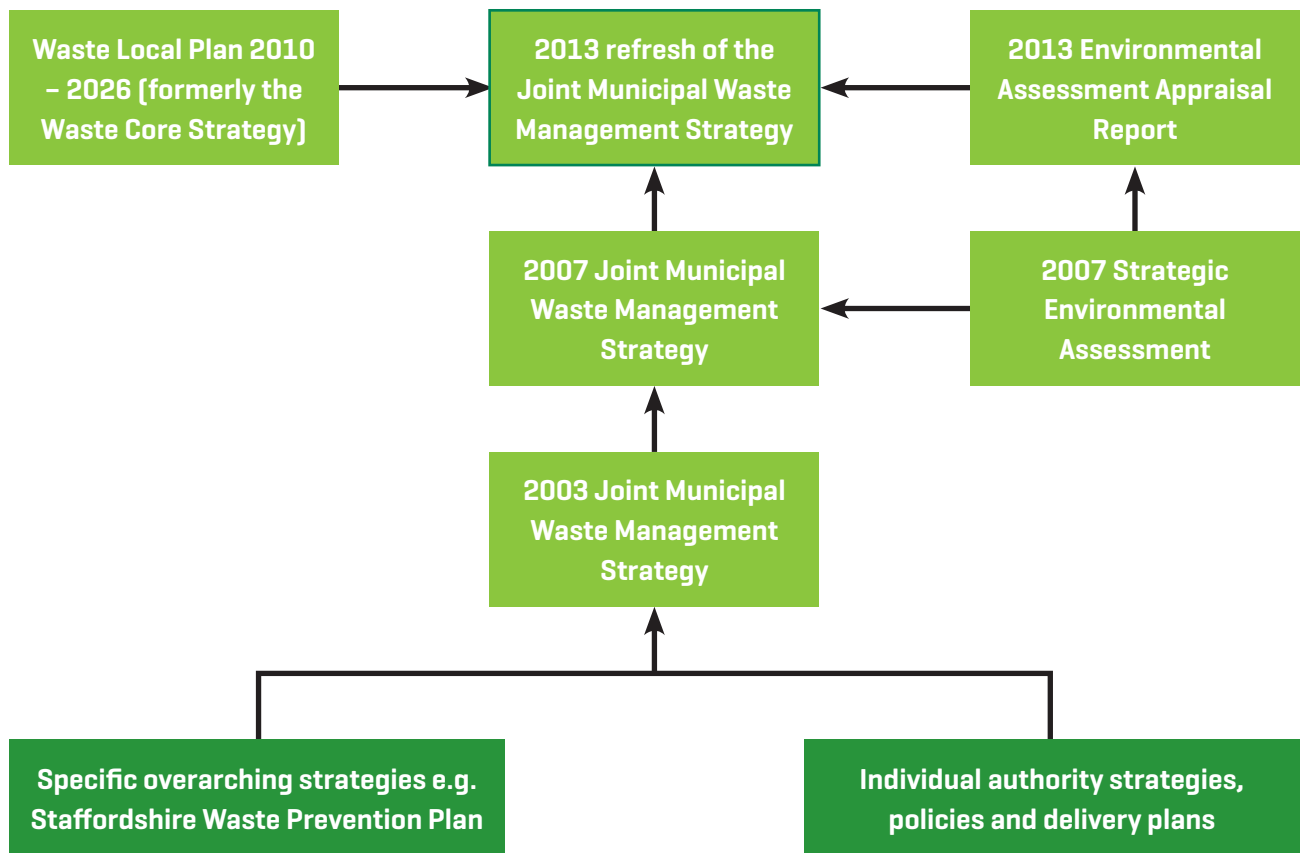
1.6 Structure of the refreshed strategy

The various strategic documents are all based on a partnership approach and will involve a wide range of strategic partners, all offering a diverse breadth of expertise. These partners will include the Waste Collection Authorities, Waste Disposal Authorities, producers and managers of non municipal waste, other public and private sector bodies, the voluntary sector and many other groups /organisations as needed. Collectively these partners will drive the waste strategy forward.

The refreshed strategy is structured so that each partner WCA will decide and develop the best collection systems which suit their area and deliver the core objectives (discussed in section 3 of this document) of the strategy in consultation with their local communities. Each partner will produce an individual Partner Authority Action Plan which will allow them flexibility in meeting local need, when delivering the plans set out by this refreshed strategy.

Whilst this refreshed strategy document supersedes the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies published in 2003 and 2007, both provide a context for how the strategic management of municipal waste management has evolved. Furthermore, this document should also be considered alongside the Waste Local Plan 2010, which sets out both the waste needs of the county and the areas which may be considered for waste development. Figure 4 shows how SWP related documents fit together to result in this refreshed strategy 2013.

Figure 4. SWP related waste management documents relevant to this refreshed strategy



Recycling facilities at Household Waste Recycling Centres

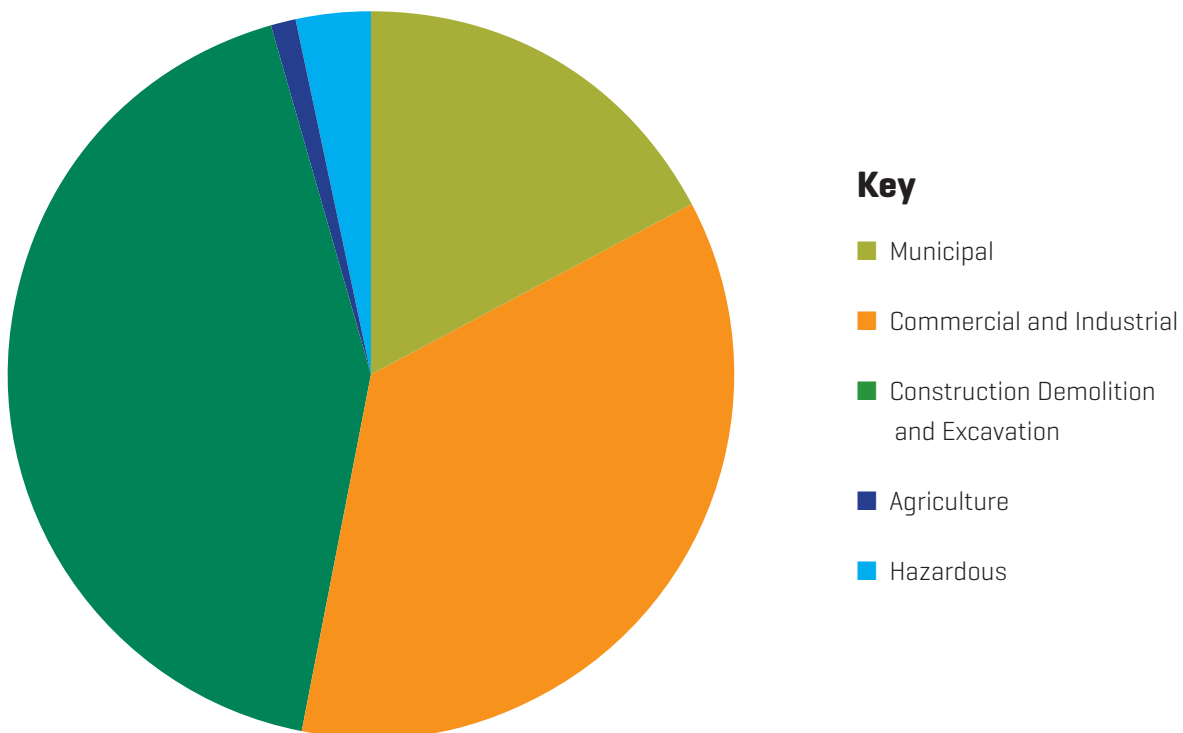
For more information the specific waste management services in each council administrative area, please contact your local council – contact details are available in the ‘Useful Contacts’ section of this document [section 5.1].

Staffordshire has made significant progress in managing waste sustainably, since producing the original strategy document in 2003. There has been investment in new collection schemes and facilities to improve recycling performance, including organic waste. This has allowed SWP to gain valuable experience in the use of a wide range of technologies, collection processes, and introduction of new waste streams. The advances made in each key area of waste management are discussed in the rest of this section.

2.1 Waste composition

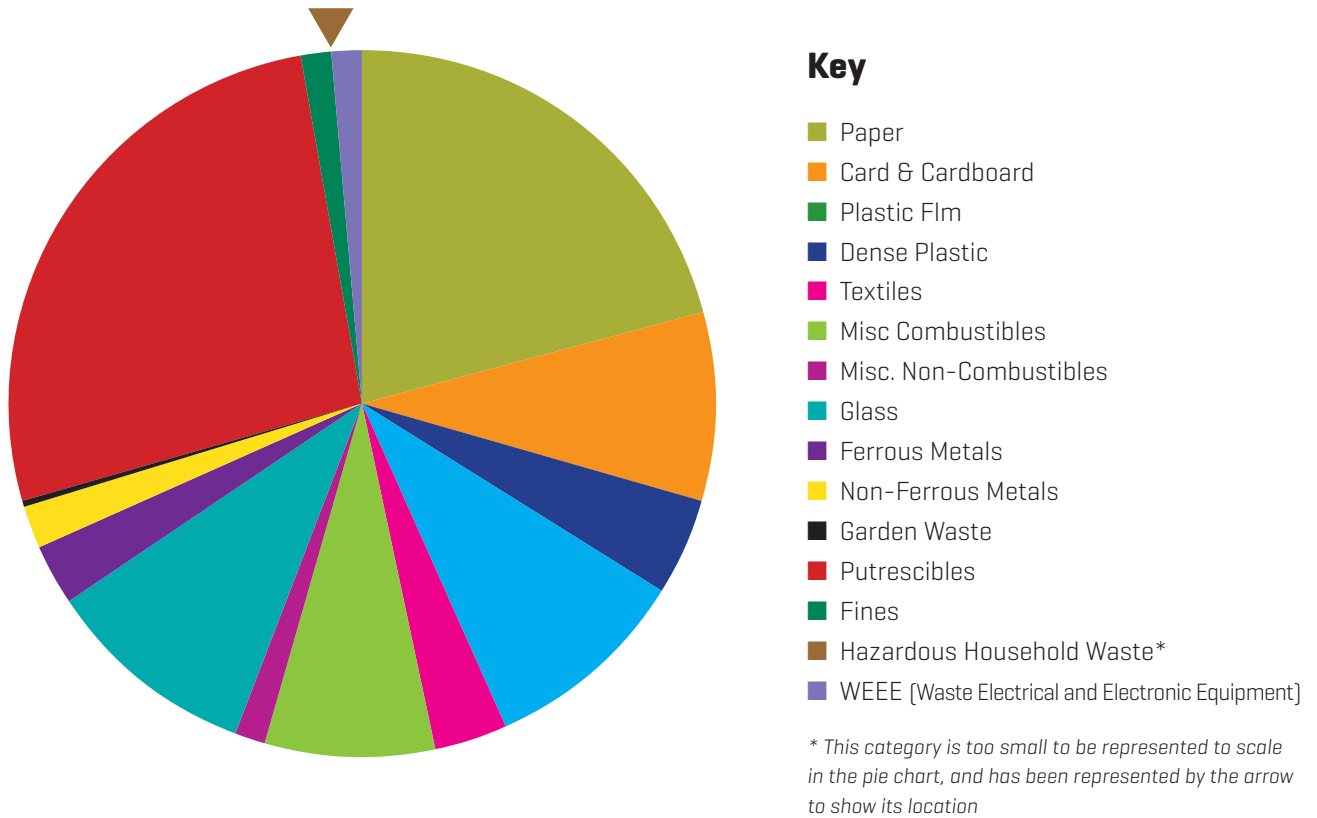
Municipal solid waste (MSW), mainly from households, currently makes up 14.7% of the total waste amount for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with the majority of waste arisings produced by construction, demolition, commercial and industrial activities (Graph 1). In 2006/07, Staffordshire generated approximately 614,000 tonnes of municipal waste. During the same time period, the county recycled 33% of its total waste arising. Compared with other counties, Staffordshire is performing well against a national average of county recycling rate at 41%.

Graph1. Pie chart showing the estimated controlled waste arisings in Staffordshire [Waste Local Plan, 2010].



Furthermore, recent compositional analysis has been used to estimate the composition of municipal waste across all Staffordshire areas in 2012 (Graph 2).

Graph 2. Pie chart showing the composition of municipal waste in Staffordshire in 2012



2.2 Waste reduction and reuse

Recent partnership work has resulted in engagement with approximately 6000 residents on the subject of waste prevention /minimisation. These campaigns included (but were not limited to):

- Delivering a £122,000 ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ (LFHW) campaign (2009 – 2011),
- Assisting with the delivery of a regional LFHW campaign across the West Midlands,
- Developing and delivering a £20,000 ‘Unwanted Mail’ campaign, which recently made the final for ‘Best waste prevention project’ at the LARAC awards,
- Developing new initiatives and methods to promote re-usable nappies in an attempt to engage a new audience,
- Assisting some local authorities with the roll out of new services.

Work in collaboration with WRAP (2012) has calculated that if the campaigns resulted in the 6,000 residents reducing the amount of waste they produced by 20% (based upon WRAP guidance for average public engagement in council campaigns) between 2009 and 2012, then they will have prevented circa 2,400 tonnes of waste being created across Staffordshire. However, it should be noted that it is very difficult to attribute to waste reduction to these campaigns directly, as recent economic pressures may have had more affect than the campaigns.

Reuse schemes are currently in their infancy across the county. Initial works include furniture reuse schemes where local authorities are working with a variety of third sector organisations, including Furniture Mine, YMCA, Home Comforts and the British Heart Foundation.

2.3 Types of waste

All WCAs in Staffordshire source segregate waste to separate out recyclable materials, however each council does this to a different degree, according to local need and service suitability. All WCAs offer kerbside recycling collections, a service to collect organic waste, and more specific services for less common items, such as bulky items and trade waste. Progress in these areas is discussed below.

2.3.1 Recycling

Since the original strategy was created in 2003, each of the eight WCAs has achieved above 50% recycling performance (total recycling, including composting). At the same time, all partner authorities have seen a reduction in the volume of waste produced. Table 2 shows the recent dry recycling performance for each WCA and UA. Table 4 shows the total recycling rate (dry recycling and organic waste) per WCA for the same time period (2011/12).

Table 2. Dry recycling collected in 2012/13

	Total household waste [tonnes]	Total recycling [tonnes]	Recycling rate [%]
Cannock Chase District Council	38,087.33	10,785.18	28.3
East Staffordshire Borough Council	45,044.28	10,939.45	24.3
Lichfield District Council	41,783.47	11,583.07	27.7
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	47,700.11	8,979.80	18.8
South Staffordshire District Council	44,372.52	9,554.08	21.5
Stafford Borough Council	51,952.69	12,634.51	24.3
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	39,675.67	8,365.58	21.1
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	100,453.77	23,459.20	21.7
Tamworth Borough Council	29,503.98	8,437.50	28.6
Total	438,573.82	102,738.37	23.5

2.3.2 Organic waste

Organic waste includes food waste and garden waste. The following services are available to collect and recycle organic waste;

- Separate food waste and garden waste collections by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council only,
- Joint food and garden waste collection in the same bin, by East Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Lichfield and Tamworth councils,
- Separate garden waste collections by Stafford Borough Council and South Staffordshire District Council (where food is collected as residual waste in the general waste bin),
- Garden waste recycling at all HWRCs.

In Staffordshire, food waste accounts for approximately 15% of total waste arisings, and garden waste accounts for approximately 20%. Separate collections for organic waste have allowed more waste to be recycled, via composting and anaerobic digestion processes. Table 3 shows the percentage of the total waste collected from households that is collected separately, as a type of organic waste. Table 4 shows the total recycling rate [dry recycling and organic waste] per WCA for the same time period [2011/12].

Table 3. Organic waste for composting or treatment in 2012/13

	Total household waste (tonnes)	Total organic waste (tonnes)	Total rate [%] composted or treated
Cannock Chase District Council	38,087.33	9,605.75	25.2
East Staffordshire Borough Council	45,044.28	12,994.56	28.8
Lichfield District Council	41,783.47	12,699.2	30.4
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	47,700.11	15,622.51	32.6
South Staffordshire District Council	44,372.52	12,386.00	27.9
Stafford Borough Council	51,952.69	14,853.06	28.1
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	39,675.67	13,320.24	33.6
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	100,453.77	13,328	13.3
Tamworth Borough Council	29,503.98	6,523.54	22.1
Total	438,573.82	111,332.86	25.4

Table 4. Total recycling rate, per Local Authority, for 2012/13

	Total household waste (tonnes)	Total recycling (tonnes)	Total recycling rate [%]
Cannock Chase District Council	38,087.33	20,390.92	53.5
East Staffordshire Borough Council	45,044.28	23,934.01	53.1
Lichfield District Council	41,783.47	24,282.27	58.1
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	47,700.11	24,602.31	51.5
South Staffordshire District Council	44,372.52	21,940.08	49.4
Stafford Borough Council	51,952.69	27,487.56	52.9
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	39,675.67	22,685.82	57.2
Staffordshire County Council (Household Waste Recycling Centre tonnage only)	74,301.84	40,327.51	54.3
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	100,453.77	36,787.2	36.6
Tamworth Borough Council	29,503.98	14,961.04	50.7
Total	512,880.66	257,398.72	50.2

2.3.3 Other waste types

There are a number of specialist waste streams that WCAs now deal with;

- Clinical waste – Not all WCAs offer specialist collection services for clinical waste, as it poses certain health and safety risks. Those WCAs in North Staffordshire have offered suitable revised services since 2012, with plans to extend this to those WCAs in South Staffordshire in 2013 [see delivery plan in section 4.1].
- Bulky waste – Large items of waste, such as broken furniture, can be collected by specialist services on order from most WCAs. As furniture accounts for 42% of all bulky waste collections in Staffordshire, furniture reuse schemes are now in place in many areas.
- Electrical items [WEEE; Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment] – By law, electrical items require suitable disposal and collection with residual waste is not appropriate for this, so most WCAs offer separate options for WEEE.
- Trade waste – Local Authority run commercial waste collection services are available for an extra cost in most areas of the county, however most authorities offer a residual waste collection service only.



Bulky waste collection services and reuse schemes are available for items like broken or unwanted furniture

2.4 Waste disposal and treatment arrangements

Through a mixture of joint arrangements and individual contracts, SWP utilises the following technologies as waste recovery options other than landfill;

- three in-vessel composting plants [for garden waste],
- one Anaerobic Digestion [AD] plant [for organic waste involving food],
- three dry recycling Material Recovery Facilities [MRFs],
- three waste transfer stations,
- two Energy from Waste Plants [for residual waste],
- suitable reprocessing of street sweepings.

An Energy from Waste [EfW] plant, located in South Staffordshire, is currently under construction and is expected to be fully operational in 2014. It is expected that participation in this recovery method will divert waste from landfill disposal. The aim is to reduce the volume of waste to landfill disposal to less than 5% of total waste arisings.

2.5 Predicted waste growth

The implementation plan and core targets specified within this document are based upon predictions of waste growth in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent over the next 15 years, as set out in the Waste Arisings Projections report [Valpak, 2012]. This allows the quantification and justification of new targets for this refreshed strategy [section 4]. Graph 3 summarises the progressive growth in waste arisings over the next 15 years.

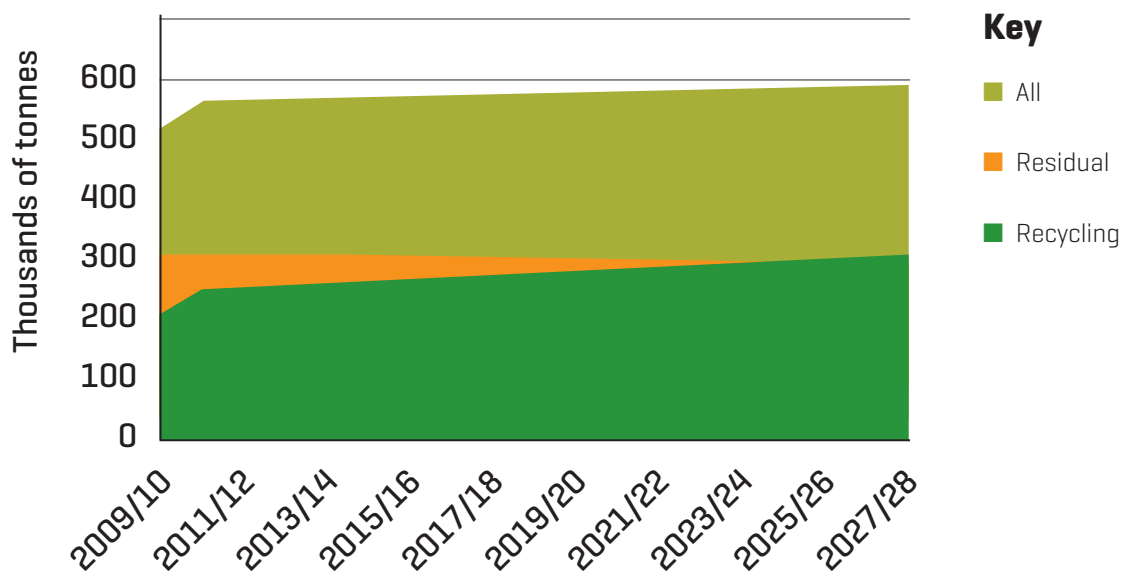
The projections below cannot be compared with the projections highlighted in the Waste Local Plan 2010, as the figures provided in the Waste Local Plan are predicated on Municipal Waste growth in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, specifically designed to inform decisions on provision of infrastructure. However, the predictions provided by Valpak for the purpose of this report relate only to household waste collected by the local authorities.

In addition, since the projections have been released in the Waste Local Plan 2010, waste arisings have been dropping, thus changing the baseline from which predictions were made and altering the methodology used for predicting future waste arisings.

The general trend suggests that by 2027, not including expected population growth and associated increased housing numbers, on a like for like basis;

- overall waste arisings will increase by approximately 4%,
- collected residual waste will decrease by circa 25,000 tonnes,
- collected recycling will increase by approximately 50,000 tonnes.

Graph 3. A summary of predicted growth of waste arisings in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent over the next 15 years [Valpak, 2012]



The indication that there will be a reduction in amounts of residual waste collected, and an increase in levels of recyclate collected, has the potential to positively alter the recycling rate across Staffordshire, but it is important to note that work on prevention and reuse will also have an effect on waste arisings.

3.0 Strategic Plans

Taking into account the current economic climate, associated drivers and legislative requirements, this refreshed strategy aims to provide a clear framework of collaborative working within SWP. This framework will assist in the development of consistent approaches to waste management across the county.

Reduction in total waste production over recent years can be attributed to, in part, the current economic climate, as austerity impacts buying habits. Going forward, the main challenge is to ensure that, as the economy improves and consumer confidence returns, unsustainable levels of waste production and therefore disposal do not also return.

Tackling the main issues as a partnership also requires the individual authorities' waste and minimisation strategies to be updated, allowing this refreshed strategy to be a simple overarching document which sits above the individual documents. As a result, there is a greater emphasis on the waste hierarchy, with waste prevention as the core of the strategic development of future waste management.

To facilitate this, this refreshed strategy has developed six key principles, which form the core objectives for the delivery plan;

- Waste prevention, including reuse,
- Efficiency Savings,
- Resource Recovery,
- Carbon Reduction,
- Infrastructure & Contracts,
- Municipal Waste.

The principals are in no particular order and have not been prioritised to form the above list.



Recycling collection vehicle

3.1 Core objectives

The core objectives are detailed below; however more information with regard to specific projects to deliver these objectives is included in the delivery plan (section 4.1).

3.1.1 Waste Prevention

To maintain zero waste to landfill and reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal and commercial residual produced in Staffordshire, benchmarked against the top 10% of residents, thus reducing the overall volume of waste that is treated, recovered, disposed, or recycled.

The Waste Regulations 2011 (England and Wales) require greater emphasis on the higher levels of the waste hierarchy (figure 5 in section 2.6), which highlights primary focus on waste prevention / minimisation and reuse. Local authorities have responsibility under the Waste Minimisation Act 1998 to promote waste reduction.

Waste prevention reduces the amount of waste entering the collection, processing and disposal system, which provides financial savings and reduces environmental impacts, such as lowering associated carbon emissions, avoiding harmful landfill disposal, and increasing material / item reuse, which reduces the consumption of valuable resources and raw materials. However waste prevention also poses challenges;

- decoupling waste prevention from economic trends,
- current popular cultural trends influencing the consumer driven economy has resulted in a throwaway society, which therefore requires effective communication for behavioural change,
- lower waste quantities and the changing nature of packaging and production materials may result in lower quality of collected materials, leading to increased cost for processing.

Waste minimisation and reuse was focused on in the 2007 strategy document, highlighting key areas of prevention as home composting and nappies via educational and awareness campaigns, working alongside reuse schemes. Operationally, reuse schemes remain a key factor to be improved upon to offer a better service for increased participation, as they have not yet been fully implemented to provide a high level service. As extensive works were undertaken to deliver the waste minimisation campaigns, this strategy will focus upon operational changes that can benefit local residents. However awareness and education campaigns will remain a strong point in conjunction with these works, as featured in proposals for SWP's Waste Prevention Plan. In addition, new contracts with Veolia (Four Ashes Energy from Waste plant) and FCC (HWRCs) also include the provision of waste education officers for community engagement on waste management issues.

Working in collaboration with WRAP (a Government funded recycling organisation), SWP has identified areas of significant potential to prevent waste entering collection and disposal services, recognising the social, economic and environmental impacts. This highlighted food, furniture and electrical items (WEEE) as waste streams to concentrate minimisation projects on. Reuse schemes for furniture and WEEE would also provide extensive social benefits to the local communities and environmental benefits. Waste prevention schemes such as this are run by both the local councils and independent organisations, therefore non council run scheme data is not captured in this information, making a total savings difficult to quantify.

Table 5. Potential preventable tonnage of waste through waste prevention techniques (WRAP, 2012)

Percentage of waste identified as preventable tonnage captured by local authorities	Preventable tonnage per annum			Total preventable tonnage minus WEEE per annum
	Food	Furniture	WEEE	
100%	9,000	4,400	2,000	13,400
75%	6,750	3,300	1,500	10,050
50%	4,500	2,200	1,000	6,700
25%	2,250	1,100	500	3,350

3.1.2 Efficiency Savings

To achieve efficiency savings across SWP, thus reducing the total budget for waste management below the rate of inflation.

Despite the current public spending restrictions, local authorities will continue to provide waste services which meet the high expectations of customers. In 2012, the cost of providing waste management services for Staffordshire, including collection, treatment, processing and disposal cost, was in excess of £45million. Of these costs, in excess of £42million can be attributed to transport, processing and disposal costs. As a result, the delivery plan will focus on these three key areas, ensuring SWP has the correct infrastructure in the right areas to reduce transport mileage (and therefore direct carbon emissions), provide comprehensive yet low cost processing services and disposal options.

To facilitate such reduction of costs requires further improvements in performance and service delivery achieved by collaborative working and sharing of best practice. It is important to consider the true cost of waste management in a two tier authority and identify financial savings for efficiencies in joint service and procurement opportunities. This will be conducted thanks to the shared commitment of SWP authorities to the vision of sustainable waste management for Staffordshire, which could expand to include other organisations, should joint working outside SWP present saving opportunities.

Reflecting local needs and differences in operating systems, contracts and infrastructure and measuring true success if efficiency gains from joint working, will prove to be challenging in achieving financial savings through improved efficiency.

3.1.3 Resource Recovery

To ensure the maximisation of resource value from collected materials, as a commodity or as energy provision.

In the last strategy [2007], a partnership wide household recycling rate (including food waste) of 50% of total waste arisings was set as a formal target. This is set to be achieved on time however it is important to also recognise that, whilst collecting the source segregated materials can result in maximum financial value for the materials as a commodity or as energy provision, there are increased associated operational costs.

Scarcity of raw materials, particularly some rare earth metals, has a significant impact in global markets, results in the increased value of such materials recovered from waste. This could impact the product chain as scarcity of raw materials forces consideration of alternatives, which in turn impacts the range and volume of materials currently collected under waste services. This necessitates adaptable collection and treatment processes to meet market demands, that could lead to more variety in waste streams to include recovery of other viable materials depending on their value, which would affect kerbside collection routes. Strategic development therefore requires a flexible approach for future collection schemes and associated infrastructure requirements.

3.1.4 Carbon Reduction

To reduce the total carbon emissions for waste collection, processing and disposal activities by 2% year on year, by ensuring consideration in future contracts, infrastructure and procurement decisions.

In keeping with the targets that have been set in the UK Climate Change Act 2008, individual authorities have published adaptation plans which include actions to reduce the impact of their waste services on the environment and develop the management of these services to enable them to respond efficiently. Such adaptation plans deal with local environmental issues such as the operational implications of changing weather conditions.

The commitment to reducing carbon emissions has already been highlighted in achieving zero waste to landfill. SWP has therefore reduced the amount of landfill gas produced via degradation of waste under landfill condition. Landfill gas is primarily composed of methane which is a greenhouse gas that has an impact on the environment that is 23 times greater than the impact of carbon dioxide. However, there are further opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions, through waste prevention, item reuse, and recycling of materials to preserve raw materials / resources. In addition, waste processing methodology, and associated infrastructure can use and generate renewable energy and fuels which support national energy policies. This is a key driver for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, who recognise that increased use of renewable energy provides security of energy supply at an affordable price. New Staffordshire County Council disposal contracts now have a rolling 5% reduction in carbon emissions as a standard Key Performance Indicator [KPI].

3.1.5 Infrastructure and Contracts

To provide and support appropriate infrastructure with suitable contracts that ensure value for money, by developing procurement policies to maximise efficiency & sustainability.

Strongly linking with other core objectives, appropriate infrastructure supported by effective contracts could maximise the resource value of collected waste, provide efficiency savings with regard to practical aspects and collaborative procurement, and assist in the reduction of carbon emissions from waste services. Contracts need to be flexible to markets changes and material value fluctuations, in order to ensure efficient collection and high quality processing. From the extensive contracts register, key contracts will an impending end date, including service contracts for several authorities in coming year, will be prioritised higher.

Key contracts to focus on include treatment contracts for each waste stream (and associated infrastructure requirements) and scoping of joint service contracts and other operational contracts. This aims to provide economies of scale, and further improve performance and sustainability of waste management; however it is important to reflect local needs. Contracts will be evaluated for potential savings and improvements when the contract is close to the end date, which necessitates a phased approach to this objective.

It is expected that, through the implementation of key contracts over the coming years, there is the potential to incorporate key infrastructure, where appropriate. This may also present further opportunities for efficiency savings.

3.1.6 Municipal Waste

To provide efficient and cost effective waste services to local residents and businesses.

SWP focus is shifting from household waste to all municipal waste collections including commercial waste, due to changes to government thinking as outlined in their review of waste policy in 2011. Our experience in shaping household waste collection services over the last decade has provided SWP with significant experience in treating waste differently. As a result, there is the opportunity to implement a comprehensive, county wide trade waste scheme, which could help local businesses to reduce their waste and therefore costs.

Development of commercial waste services has been identified as a key area of work to provide enhanced services to local businesses. This will build on work already undertaken in the north of the county which has identified this as significant opportunity to provide more cost effective and efficient services, offering a wide range of collections, including recycling and the potential for separate food waste.

Domestic collections remain at the core of our waste management. We aim to use our experience to offer effective and efficient services to our residents that compliment the wider requirements of source segregation, to meet government policy and to accommodate with advances in technology. Throughout any changes to these drivers, waste collection services will continue to provide residents with simple, easy to use services that meet their needs.

3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was conducted for the 2007 strategy. According to the SEA Directive, an SEA is not required to be undertaken for this 2013 refreshed strategy, given that the 2013 refreshed strategy is fundamentally based upon the ethos of the 2007 strategy and provides 'minor modifications' to the focus of the strategy. To confirm this, an Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report conducted a short assessment of the 2013 refreshed strategies objectives, which identified no significant differences to the environmental impacts noted in the 2007 SEA. The conclusion that an SEA is not required for this strategy was agreed by the 3 statutory bodies regulating SEAs; Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

The 2007 Strategic Environmental Assessment can be accessed at; www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rubbishwasteandrecycling/wastestrategy/JointMunicipalWasteManagementStrategy

The Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report forms appendix 2.

4. Strategy Implementation

4.1 Delivery Plan

This delivery of this refreshed strategy must be flexible to advances in technology, changes in policy / legislation, and alterations of community opinions. Based on the core objectives set out in the last section, a live delivery plan has been developed to implement this refreshed strategy. This plan is a working document that will be updated accordingly throughout the delivery process.

Table 6 summarises the projects of the delivery plan and prioritises them for future action. Appendix 1 details the full delivery plan of this 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Table 6. Summary of key future projects

Time frame	Project
Short term; immediate works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a SWP Waste Prevention Plan. • Review of clinical waste services in South Staffordshire, aiming to implement alterations already underway in North Staffordshire. • Baseline research / data collation of all services, technologies and contracts, to assess current status, and identify gaps. • Agree a partnership procurement framework. • Create a Transport Managers Group to move forward on operational changes for efficiency savings.
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess contracts according to end dates, undertaking review and alterations - focus on service contracts and local infrastructure. • Commercial waste service review and rebrand, including scoping of a single pricing structure and options for collaboration. • Bulky waste collection review, with potential for contracted services using the third sector. • Improved WEEE facilities, including potential for reuse.
Long term; background projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance document on available collection, process and disposal technologies, to aid future decisions. • Ongoing work to align the variety of policies of individual partnership authorities.

In addition to this delivery plan, this refreshed strategy is supported by individual action plans for each partner authority. The action plan will set out local activities that support the core objectives of this refreshed strategy, but allow the authority flexibility in delivery to support local need.

4.2 Monitoring Progress

The Joint Waste Management Board for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will be responsible monitoring progress and performance in delivering this refreshed strategy via the delivery plan. The delivery plan is intended to be a live document and practical management tool. SWP is committed to the on going monitoring, review and updating of the delivery plan, as required in accordance with SWP internal alterations or external changes in pressures.

Performance monitoring will be undertaken against a standard template to ensure county wide compliance, which will be reported for discussion to the Joint Waste Management Board. This monitoring will take place to a formal level yearly, with the production of an SWP annual report.

Additional monitoring will be undertaken in the meantime – informal performance monitoring of key criteria will be reported at Joint Waste Management Steering Group meetings, every six weeks. This is part of a mandatory requirement to provide regular updates on delivery plan progress, to ensure the ongoing employment of the SWP Officer, given that the role is funded by the financial savings achieved in the project work of the delivery plan.

4.3 Review

During the aforementioned monitoring process of this refreshed strategy, this document will continually be assessed in the annual reports as to it remains applicable. Should it no longer be applicable to the current waste management practices, a formal review will take place, resulting in either another refreshed strategy to update current plans, or an entirely new strategy, depending on the circumstances noted in the review.

If this refreshed strategy document is deemed to be applicable until the end of the reporting period in 2020, a formal review will take place at the end of the strategy coverage period. The overall strategy and associated strategic documents will then be formally reviewed in 2020 by the Staffordshire Waste Officer's Group, to determine progress against the core objectives and targets set in this document. Should another update be required to the strategy, following discussion with SWP's Joint Waste Management Board, a refresh of the strategy will be commissioned to reflect the changes at that point in time.

5. Helpful information

5.1 Useful contacts

For information on waste services in your local area, please contact your local authority;

Local Authority	Contact details / website
Cannock Chase District Council	01543 462621 customerservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/waste
East Staffordshire Borough Council	0800 269098 environment@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/services/wasteandrecycling
Lichfield District Council	0845 002 0022 waste.strategy@lichfielddc.gov.uk www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/recycling
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	01782 717717 wastemanagement@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/environment
South Staffordshire District Council	01902 696203 waste@sstaffs.gov.uk www.sstaffs.gov.uk/your_services/environmental_services/waste_and_recycling.aspx
Stafford Borough Council	01785 619402 info@staffordbc.gov.uk www.staffordbc.gov.uk/binday
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	0345 605 3014 Email via online form www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/sm/council-services/environment-and-waste/bins-and-recycling
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	01782 234000 WasteManagement@stoke.gov.uk www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/waste-and-recycling
Tamworth Borough Council	0845 002 0022 enquiries@tamworth.gov.uk www.recyclefortamworth.co.uk
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8000 or 01785 277452 recycling@staffordshire.gov.uk www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rubbishwasteandrecycling

For more information on waste management in Staffordshire, please visit the Staffordshire Waste Partnership's website; www.recycleforstaffordshire.org

For information on what can be recycled, please visit www.recycled.products.org.uk

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

To remove your name from junk mailing lists, please contact the Mail Preference Service on www.mpsonline.org.uk or 0845 703 4599.

5.2 Glossary of terms and acronyms

AD – Anaerobic Digestion; a collection of processes by which microorganisms break down organic material in the absence of oxygen, producing biogas and fertilizer.

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

Bring bank – Recycling site open to the public.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HWRC – Household Waste Recycling Centre.

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

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

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

In-vessel composting – aerobic decomposition of organic / organic materials, confined within a building, container, or vessel, to create better air circulation than open composting.

JMWMS – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

MSW – Municipal Solid Waste; This includes all waste collected by a Waste Collection Authorities, or its agents, such as waste from households, parks and gardens, fly-tipping and any waste they collect from commercial or industrial premises.

MRF – Material Recovery Facility; a specialized plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials for marketing to end-user manufacturers.

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

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

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

Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change – A public acknowledgement of climate change, and a commitment to action / community leadership to reduce emissions, adapt to changes which are now inevitable, and help the people of Staffordshire to do the same.

SWP – Staffordshire Waste Partnership; a collaboration of the ten councils in Staffordshire, tackling waste management issues together.

Trade waste – Commercial waste collected by the Waste Collection Authorities.

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

WCA – Waste Collection Authority; In Staffordshire, arrangements for the collection of municipal waste are the responsibility of the district councils [except for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, which is a Unitary Authority].

WDA – Waste Disposal Authority; In Staffordshire, arrangements for the final disposal of household waste is the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council [except for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, which is a Unitary Authority].

WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

Unitary Authority – a self sufficient council, who collects and disposes of its own waste, without relying on other councils [e.g. Stoke-on-Trent City Council].

5.3 References

Environment Agency's Waste & Resources Assessment Tool;

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/commercial/102922.aspx>

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council; Headline strategy, Implementation plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment [ref. 402.1395.00001], SLR, 2007.

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/rubbishwasteandrecycling/wastestrategy/>

[JointMunicipalWasteManagementStrategy.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/wastecorestrategy/Version-for-adoption-March-2013.pdf)

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan 2010 – 2026 [Adopted March 2013];

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/wastecorestrategy/Version-for-adoption-March-2013.pdf>

Waste Projection Report, Valpak, 2012.

WRAP, 2012. Composition of kerbside and HWRC bulky waste [MPD006-002].

Appendix 1 – Strategy Delivery Plan *(live document)*

Core objective	Project
Waste Prevention	Agree a partnership wide approach to waste prevention
	Viability of alterations to bin size
	Establish how LFHW success can be measured in terms of tonnage
	Research how we can increase bulky re-use across Staffordshire
	Introduce more comprehensive WEEE collection services [to avoid WEEE as residual waste]
	Improve clinical waste services
Efficiency Savings	Baseline report on currently used technologies / schemes (and their efficiency)
	Review of new technologies
Resource Recovery	Complete waste compositional analysis all waste streams using waste data flow information for tonnages and split of recycling materials
Carbon Reduction	Ensure consideration to carbon reduction throughout all SWP activities
	Complete research into whether local authorities are using alternative technologies and how successful they have been in reducing carbon impact
	Map waste service facility locations in Staffordshire and nearby authorities
Contracts / Infrastructure	Fully assess current infrastructure for gaps
	Agree procurement process / framework for SWP
Municipal Waste	Improve commercial waste services offered by authorities through development of a single vision

Actions
Produce a Waste Prevention Plan
Identify required resources to deliver action plan / agree funding mechanism
Gather baseline information from partnership authorities
Propose a series of aligned guidelines on bin size for SWP agreement, to be included in individual local authority policies
Undertake cost benefit analysis
Undertake scoping exercise, create business plan, consider 3rd sector involvement, implement new service
Improve facilities on HWRC
Offer wider coverage on bring sites
Scope the potential for introducing reuse kerbside collections
Implement cost saving measures trialling in North Staffordshire, to other areas
Establish Transport Officers Working Group, to review transport / workshop arrangements, plus recommend partnership arrangements where efficiency and carbon savings can be delivered
Produce cost benefit analysis and feasibility study to assess efficiency and carbon savings of adopting new technologies
Stoke-on-Trent City Council to procure composition analysis
Staffordshire County Council to use Valpak to research waste composition of recycling and organic materials
Include carbon reduction in all future decisions - written into local policies
Conduct research using WRAP, LARAC, CIWM, networks
Mapping exercise
Produce contract register of all current contracts and associated infrastructure
Scope out contracts alterations where efficiency and carbon savings apply
Investigate potential to develop existing facilities, and provision of new facilities
Determine potential for SWP wide procurement, to achieve economies of scale for financial savings
Agree SWP wide pricing structure and options for service development
Develop singular marketing strategy

Appendix 2 – Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report, 2013



Staffordshire
Waste Partnership

Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report

**2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste
Management Strategy for Staffordshire &
Stoke-on-Trent (2007 - 2020)**

From **zero waste** to landfill...
...towards a **resourceful economy**



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Executive Summary

The 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent (2007-2020) will not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment because;

- As the refreshed strategy follows the same principles / values as the original strategy (2007) it can be considered to be a minor modification of the 2007 strategy, and unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. As such, under Article 3.3 of Directive 2001/42/EC, an SEA is not required.
- A screening process has concluded that the 2013 refreshed strategy has no significant or likely environmental impacts.
- Further assessments will be carried out in the future where larger projects are judged to have the potential to produce environmental effects.

1. Introduction

Written in 2007, the 'Integrated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent' provided a framework for the management of waste to 2020. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was conducted to assess the environmental impacts of the 2007 strategy. Following the achievement of the key targets ahead of the 2020 deadline, a refreshed strategy has been produced to provide a revised framework based upon the same principles, to lead Staffordshire Waste Partnership to 2020.

The following report details the process undertaken in order to determine the requirement to conduct a full SEA for the 2013 refreshed strategy, given the nature of the document and legal requirements under European Directive 2001/42/EC [Strategic Environmental Assessment].

It is recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the 2007 strategy (and associated full SEA report) and 2013 refreshed strategy.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 2007 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

The 'Integrated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent' was originally produced in November 2003 and updated 2007. This strategy focused upon the following principles;

- Increased household recycling: Delivering on a combined household recycling and composting target of 55% (equivalent to 50% of all MSW) by 2015,
- Recovering benefit from all remaining MSW: Sending approximately 50% of all MSW for recovery by 2020,
- Zero waste to Landfill: Minimising all forms of waste to landfill through increased recycling followed by maximum recovery of all remaining residual waste, thus placing landfill as the last and final option.

The document's wider remit had the intention of;

- Achieving sustainable management of all waste arisings through emphasis on waste reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery,
- Managing waste as a resource, as close as possible to its point of origin,
- Developing effective co-operation and joint working between local authorities, businesses and residents on the benefits of waste minimisation and increased recycling and recovery.

1.1.2 2013 refreshed strategy

The 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is an update to the 2007 full strategic plan, addressing the management of municipal solid waste within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to the year 2020. It has been prepared by Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP), which comprises Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and the eight Staffordshire District/Borough Councils.

In 2012, all councils achieved 50% recycling performance. It is expected that the partnership will achieve 55% recycling performance, as a result of the opening of a new Energy from Waste plant in 2014 increasing our landfill diversion figures. In meeting these targets and adopting the other key aspects of the strategy ahead of the 2020 deadline, new targets were required. In addition, the 2007 strategy no longer effectively incorporates the strategies and policies adopted by individual authorities within SWP, requiring the balance to be addressed more effectively. Driven by these advancements and the changing landscape of key legislative and economic drivers, there was a clear need to refresh the strategy.

The 2013 refreshed strategy has developed six key principles based upon the targets set out in the 2007 strategy. These principles form the core objectives for the strategic implementation via the projects in the delivery plan. The principles and corresponding objectives are listed below in no particular order and have not been prioritised;

- **Waste prevention**, including reuse; To maintain zero waste to landfill and reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal and commercial residual produced in Staffordshire, benchmarked against the top 10% of residents, thus reducing the overall volume of waste that is treated, recovered, disposed, or recycled.
- **Efficiency Savings**; To achieve efficiency savings across SWP, thus reducing the total budget for waste management below the rate of inflation.
- **Resource Recovery**; To ensure the maximisation of resource value from collected materials, as a commodity or as energy provision.
- **Carbon Reduction**; To reduce the total carbon emissions for waste collection, processing and disposal activities 2% year on year, by ensuring consideration in future contract, infrastructure and procurement decisions.
- **Infrastructure & Contracts**; To provide and support appropriate infrastructure with suitable contracts that ensure value for money, by developing procurement policies to maximise efficiency & sustainability.
- **Municipal Waste**; To provide efficient and cost effective waste services to local residents and businesses.

It should be noted that at this stage, there are no plans to undertake any building of waste management infrastructure, and therefore there is no options appraisal to assess for environmental impacts.

1.2 Current Waste Management Position

In recent years, each of the eight WCAs has achieved above 50% recycling performance (total recycling including composting), coupled with a reduction in the volume of waste produced.

In Staffordshire, the following waste management services are currently in operation;

- All eight WCA's and Stoke on Trent UA operate household waste and recycling collections, including bulky waste collections and free garden waste collections. Services are delivered through a mixture of 'in-house' and contracted out services.
- 16 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are operated by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent UA.
- Over 300 bring banks, offering recycling facilities.

Through a mixture of joint arrangements and individual contracts, SWP utilises the following technologies as waste treatment, reprocessing or disposal options other than landfill;

- three in-vessel composting plants (for garden waste),
- one Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant (for organic waste involving food),
- three dry recycling Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs),
- three waste transfer stations,
- two Energy from Waste Plants (for residual waste),
- street sweepings reprocessing facility.

Predicated waste growth suggests that, by 2027, not including expected population growth and associated increased housing numbers, on a like for like basis;

- overall waste arisings will increase by approximately 4%,
- collected residual waste will decrease by circa 25,000 tonnes,
- collected recycling will increase by approximately 50,000 tonnes.

A full review of the current waste management position can be found in the refreshed strategy.

2. Review of the 2007 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was carried out in 2007 to assess the impacts of the strategy on the environment. It is recommended that the full SEA and associated documents are read in conjunction to this report.

The Environmental Report of the SEA assessed the effects on the environment of the two key aspects of the 2007 strategy; the objectives and policy requirements of the 2007 strategy, and implementing the waste strategy options. This was achieved through assessment against the SEA appraisal criteria, which included the following key environmental issues;

- Population and human health,
- Biodiversity and flora / fauna,
- Material assets,
- Soil, water, and air,
- Climatic factors,
- Cultural heritage and landscape.

The SEA process involves checking that the strategy objectives are concurrent with the chosen relevant Sustainable Development Objectives (chosen in the SEA's Scoping Report, based on a variety of national and local policy and planning documents). When compared and scored for any impacts, the overall conclusion was very positive. Given the strategic level of the objectives, it was decided that a more specific or quantitative assessment is difficult to conduct.

The options appraisal of the 2007 strategy provided several long term management options for the County's municipal solid waste, based upon a three step process of minimisation, recycling / composting and residual treatment. The SEA concluded that the improvement of waste minimisation and recycling are an improvement to the baseline of doing nothing and therefore consistent with the relevant Sustainable Development Objectives. The proposed recycling and composting targets were assessed and indicated mainly positive impacts. The only negative impacts were deemed negligible, and were vastly offset by major positive impacts associated with increased recycling and overall reduction of waste to landfill. The options considered for residual treatment were each assessed against the 21 sustainability indicators, based upon quantitative life cycle assessment. The 5 technologies considered all had an overall positive impact when compared to the baseline of sending waste to landfill. Of the 5 technologies considered, a new EfW plant was chosen as the most suitable option. The plant, known as Four Ashes and located in South Staffordshire, is currently under construction and is expected to be fully operational in 2014. It is expected that participation in this recovery method will divert waste from landfill disposal. The aim is to reduce the volume of waste to landfill disposal to less than 5% of total waste arisings.

3. Review of 2007 SEA against the 2013 refreshed strategy

The principles of the 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy are based upon the main principles of the 2007 strategy. The 2013 refreshed strategy focuses primarily upon waste minimisation (including reuse) and recycling / composting, which are two of the main steps in the 2007 strategy. The only major difference between the two strategies is the loss of residual treatment options for consideration in the 2013 refresh, meaning no full options appraisal is required with a full assessment of such works. Although the specifics of the project work to be undertaken to deliver the specific objectives under the six key principles differ, in order to move forward with necessary tasks to progress waste management issues, the values of reducing waste and increasing recycling remain the same. The key principles and core objectives go into more detail on these issues, however all have the same aim to ensure a sustainable approach to waste management.

According to the guidance on the SEA directive, an SEA is not required to be undertaken on any document which is a 'minor modification' on an already established document with a full SEA. The 2013 refreshed strategy is an update of the original strategy written in 2007, which had a full SEA undertaken during strategic planning of the document. The 2013 refreshed strategy is a response to the need for an updated strategic plan as the targets set in the 2007 strategy have been met ahead of the 2020 schedule. The 2013 refreshed strategy provides a strategic plan to take the Partnership up to 2020, based upon the same principles and values as the original strategy. In order to avoid the same situation of meeting targets ahead of schedule, the 2013 refreshed strategy provides core objectives to provide guidelines for future working, instead of specific targets.

Given the strong alignment between the principles and values of the 2007 strategy and the 2013 refreshed strategy, it seems reasonable to consider that the 2013 refreshed strategy represents a minor modification of a plan or programme that would normally require an SEA. Article 3.3 of the "SEA Directive", therefore only requires a full SEA if the revised plan is considered likely to have significant environmental effects.

To ensure that the environmental impacts of the refreshed strategy are fully considered, section 4 undertakes a short environmental assessment of the key principles / core objectives of the refreshed strategy against the Strategic Development Objectives.

4. Environmental Assessment of the 2013 refreshed strategy

A short environmental assessment of the core objectives of the refreshed strategy against the Strategic Development Objectives has been undertaken to consider the environmental impacts. Considering that both strategies share the same principles, it is assumed that the same assessment methodology remains applicable [against a baseline of 'doing nothing'].

However, to fully broach the uncertainty when trying to assess objectives at such a high level in a strategy document, the methodology has been modified to include a scoring mechanism for 'uncertain impacts'. The environmental assessment table [appendix 1] shows the use of question marks to highlights areas of uncertainty; however it should be noted that this uncertainty falls only at this stage of the strategic implementation. In a strategy, wording is necessarily loose and individual themes can be assessed out of context, with details of delivery being impossible to know at the strategy stage. The question marks in the table are used to draw attention to areas where the detail of implementation can indicate potential opportunities for uncertain impacts to be turned into positives. Such uncertainty is mainly confined to carbon reduction, as there are a range of different technologies to reach the goals of our objective, therefore the impacts depend on the delivery of the project, which have not yet been determined. It is therefore a requirement that further investigation is undertaken during the project deliverables of the strategic objectives – an SEA will be undertaken on specific projects.

Although there are further uncertainties in the table, these are limited to uncertainty between the impacts being positive and neutral. It can be safely determined that the impact will not be negative, as regulatory systems and legislation ensure that negative outcomes will not arise. Therefore, whilst unsure of the impact at this stage due to project delivery uncertainty, it can be concluded the no negative impacts will occur when legally compliant.

The assessment has been conducted based upon the following observations, in the absence of quantitative assessment scores;

- Building upon the zero waste to landfill and increased recycling rates targets of the 2007 strategy, any reduction in waste sent to landfill (via waste minimisation, improved recycling / composting services / processing, or use of alternative technologies such as Energy from Waste) reduces the adverse impacts of public amenity on nature, such as soil, air and water by reducing associated pollution (as also stated previously in the original SEA).
- Proposed efforts to decrease the volume of waste produced, increase recycling and optimise resource recovery will serve to minimise the consumption of finite resources, with potential to trade items as commodities or recover energy.
- Any efficiency savings and improved infrastructure offer potential carbon reduction opportunities if managed correctly. Efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the management of waste is likely to have an overall positive effect on an otherwise industrial process (depending on the technologies and the location of the facilities), and shows ongoing consideration to environmental impacts of all aspects of waste management.
- There is an element of uncertainty when considering the refreshed strategy objectives, given that the exact nature of the projects to deliver the objectives will develop over the next 7 years that the strategy covers. Therefore, where appropriate, assessments will be carried out to explore the potential impacts of different approaches to key projects in the delivery plan, using a process similar to the SEA. The scale and detail of the assessments will depend on the size and significance of the project, as well as the potential environmental effects.

This assessment concludes that the overall impacts of the 2013 refreshed strategy are very positive, with no incompatibilities emerging from the strategy compared with the key criteria. The key principles and associated core objectives of the 2013 refreshed strategy are in line with the SEA objectives.

5. Considering the Effects on the Environment

Our determination regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of the 2013 refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007 – 2020) are set out in the below table.

Overall impacts of the strategy	
Criteria	Assessment
The degree to which the strategy sets a framework for projects and other activities, with regard to either the location / nature / size / operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The strategy has a delivery plan which details board projects to be implemented where appropriate via external contracts which may involve possible infrastructure developments, depending on the contractor's existing facilities / services.</p> <p>The strategy is supplementary to the Waste Local Plan (2010-2026), and Waste Prevention Strategy.</p>
The degree to which the strategy influences others plans and programmes.	<p>The strategy sets a framework for waste management contracts within the context of the Waste Local Plan (2010).</p> <p>The scope of the strategy will also provide additional direction to individual council policies.</p>
The relevance of the strategy for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The strategy considers the environment in the core objectives, by aiming to improve local waste management to focus higher up the waste hierarchy, which have the least environmental impact. The delivery plan will put the strategy's framework into affect.
Environmental problems relevant to the strategy.	<p>No environmental problems are expected, given that the strategy aims to reduce any potential environmental impacts of waste management (such as carbon emissions).</p> <p>The Waste Local Plan (2010) has already identified suitable areas for potential development that create no / limited environmental impact.</p>
The relevance of the strategy for the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment.	The strategy is written in accordance will all current legislation.
Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The strategy does not pose significant risk to the environment. However individual assessment of specific projects can address any potential risks.
Cumulative nature of the effects	Likely cumulative nature of the effects is considered to be minimal. Such any development go ahead, such effects will be checked accordingly in the detailed planning control process.

Characteristics of the refreshed strategy's effects and the area likely to be affected	
Criteria	Assessment
Trans-boundary nature of the effects	There are no trans-boundary effects due to the scope of the strategy and its geographical coverage. However the strategy recognises that waste travels outside the county but such activity is planned for and the effects considered in detailed assessments.
Risks to human health / the environment	There is considered to be limited significant or likely risks to human health and the environment. The nature of the strategy includes the potential for industry based activities, however these risks are considered to have been properly assessed, managed and mitigated against.
Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects	The strategy is specific to the county area and its population. However waste travels outside the county but such activity is planned for and the effects considered in detailed assessments.
Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected, due to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limited values. 	Although the strategy reaches all residents in Staffordshire, only key areas within the county will be affected by any potential specific works, such as infrastructure building (which will include specific environmental assessment at that time, for consideration to be taken accordingly). Any effects will be considered in the planning control process.
Effects on areas / landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	

6. Conclusions

In conclusion, the 2013 refreshed strategy closely mirrors the strategy produced in 2007. Given that the refreshed strategy follows the same principles / values and there is no options assessment as there are no immediate plans for large infrastructure, it can be considered to be a minor modification of the 2007 strategy, and unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. As such, under Article 3.3 of Directive 2001/42/EC, a SEA is not required.

A screening process has been carried out and the justification for this conclusion is set out in detail. Further assessments will be carried out in the future where larger projects are judged to have the potential to produce environmental effects.




The Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage have [the statutory consultees for SEAs] have been invited to comment on the screening process and its conclusions. Their responses will be attached in Appendix 2 once received in response to this report.

Therefore, no full SEA will be conducted for the 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Monitoring to measure the ongoing environmental impacts of the strategy will remain as set out in the 2007 SEA.

Appendix 1 – Environmental assessment of the 2013 refreshed strategy’s key principles / core objectives

Sustainable Development Objective	
Population and human health	
To prevent the management of municipal waste having an adverse impact on the amenity of the residents	
To ensure that the management of municipal waste does not adversely affect the health of the population	
Biodiversity and flora / fauna	
To prevent the management of municipal waste having an unacceptable impact on designated nature conservation site and species, and where possible, seek positive improvement	
Material assets	
To move the treatment of municipal waste up the waste hierarchy	
Soil	
To encourage the use of previously developed land by municipal waste management facilities	
To prevent contamination or the permanent loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land	
Water	
To prevent the management of municipal waste having an unacceptable impact on main rivers, flood plains, and groundwater source protection areas and areas of high ground water vulnerability	
Air	
To prevent emissions from municipal waste facilities from having an unacceptable impact on the environment	
Climatic factors	
To reduce CO2 emissions	
To increase the contribution of energy recovered from waste to renewable energy targets	
Cultural heritage and landscape	
To prevent the management of municipal waste having an unacceptable impact on national parks, special landscapes, the historic environment, best /most versatile agricultural land and the greenbelt	

Key

+	Positive impact		Major impact
±	Neutral impact		Minor impact
-	Negative impact		Negligible impact
?	Uncertain impact [at this stage, due to uncertainty of specific objective deliverables - requires further investigation with a project SEA]		

2013 refreshed strategy; key principles / core objectives					
Waste Prevention	Efficiency Savings	Resource Recovery	Carbon Reduction	Infrastructure & Contracts	Municipal Waste
+	+ / ≠	?	+ / ≠	+	+
+	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+	+ / ≠
+	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+	+ / ≠
+	+ / ≠	+	+	+	+
≠	≠	≠	≠	+	?
≠	≠	+ / ≠	≠	≠	+ / ≠
+	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+	+ / ≠
+	+ / ≠	+ / ≠	+	+	+ / ≠
?	?	?	+	+	?
≠	≠	+	?	+	?
≠	≠	+	+ / ≠	≠	+ / ≠

Appendix 2 – Responses from Statutory Consultees

Date: 21 October 2013
Our ref: 100620
Your ref: None



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Cocks,

Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report for the 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 20 September 2013 which was received by Natural England on 24 September 2013. I note that your consultation was sent by post to our Telford office. Natural England has a centralised consultation hub. Please send all future consultations to the hub, ideally by emailing consultations@naturalengland.org.uk or alternatively by writing to the address provided at the top of this letter.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

According to guidance on the SEA Directive, an SEA is not required to be undertaken on any document which is a minor modification on an already established document with a full SEA. We understand that this 2013 refreshed strategy is an update of the original strategy which was written in 2007 and which was subject to a full SEA. Under article 3.3 of the SEA Directive a full SEA is only required if the revised plan is considered likely to have significant environmental effects.

The matrix provided in *Appendix 1 – Environmental assessment of the 2013 refreshed strategy's key principles / core objectives* raises a high number of 'uncertainties'. We recommend that the LPA takes steps to minimise the number of uncertainties in this matrix, in order to provide a stronger conclusion that there are no significant environmental effects. This may necessitate undertaking further research or simply providing further explanation.

We are particularly concerned by the 'uncertain' relationship between the Plan and 'biodiversity and flora/fauna', where there are 'uncertain impacts' in relation to 4 of the 6 core objectives ('efficiency savings', 'resource recovery', 'carbon reduction' and 'municipal waste'). The yellow fill applied indicates that any potential effects are considered to be 'negligible'. However, the report does not provide any explanation of either the uncertainties or the assessment that any impacts will be negligible. We also note the uncertainties with respect to the plan's impact on soils, water, air and cultural heritage and landscape.

We would advise providing further justification and if necessary undertaking further research to address the uncertainties. If there is in fact a neutral relationship between the sustainability objective and the plan's core objectives then the matrix should be amended to show this. If there is no relationship between the sustainable development objective and the plan objectives then we

would suggest indicating this using a different symbol.

Provided that the information gaps outlined above can be addressed and that major impacts do not emerge, it is likely that Natural England would be satisfied that further Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is not required.

has identified are addressed, in order to better underpin the conclusion that there are no significant environmental effects.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594 or email hayley.fleming@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming
Land Use Operations (Worcester)

Date: 18 November 2013
Our ref: 102913
Your ref: None



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Cocks

Amendments to the Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report for the 2013 refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 30 October 2013 and received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Thank you for your prompt action to amend the Environmental Assessment Appraisal Report in response to our previous recommendations (our response reference 100620). The amendments clarify the assessment of impacts and remove many of the 'uncertainties' which had been indicated in the previous iteration of the report. No negative impacts have been identified. Natural England is therefore satisfied that further assessment under the SEA Directive is not required.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594 or by email to hayley.fleming@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming
Land Use Operations (Development Plans Network)

Kay Cocks
Staffordshire Waste Partnership
Partnership Officer
East Staffordshire Borough Council
Millers Lane Depot
Burton-upon-Trent
DE14 2NS.

Our ref: UT/2007/101197/SE-
01/SC1-L01
Your ref:
Date: 11 November 2013

Dear Ms Cocks

**REFRESH OF THE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR
STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE ON TRENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSEMENT APPRAISAL REPORT

I write in response to your email of 05 November to our Customer Services team and apologise for the delay in responding.

The Environment Agency notes and supports your decision not to undertake a new SEA for your refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Yours faithfully

Mr Paul Gethins
Sustainable Places Team Leader

Please ask for: Jane Field

Direct Dial: 01543 404878
Direct Fax: 01543 444161
Direct email: jane.field@environment-agency.gov.uk

From: Torkildsen, Rohan [Rohan.Torkildsen@english-heritage.org.uk]
Sent: 25 October 2013 18:13
To: Kay Cocks
Subject: Staffordshire Waste Management Strategy - SEA Screening

Kay, my sincere apologies for the delay in this response to your letter dated 20 September.

I have no reason to question your conclusion that the refresh will be a minor modification unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Noting the previous plan was prepared in 2007 you should be mindful of the NPPF (2012) and may also wish to consider the SEA/SA Guidance produced by EH in June 2013.

http://www.helm.org.uk/guidance-library/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/SA_SEA_final.pdf

Regards

Rohan Torkildsen | Historic Environment Planning Adviser | South West and West Midlands
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Notes



Staffordshire
Waste Partnership