

CABINET – 9TH MARCH 2023

Report of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment) Lead Member: Councillor Leigh Harper-Davies

Part A

LEICESTERSHIRE RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY 2022 – 2050

Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet approval and adoption of the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022 (LRWS/Strategy). The Strategy sets out how the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP) intends to manage municipal waste up until 2050.

Recommendations

1. That the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy and Action Plan (appendices A and B) are adopted by the Cabinet.
2. To endorse the continuation of the waste partnership and request that the partnership is developed and enhanced to ensure appropriate political, strategic, and operational engagement.
3. To request that the partnership explores collaborative opportunities which have the potential to deliver environmental improvements, whilst helping to reduce costs across the waste-system, such that cost shunting is avoided and mutual benefits are shared across all partners.

Reasons

1. The Strategy provides a policy framework to enable a sustainable system of waste management to be implemented.
2. To ensure that the relevant authorities in Leicestershire have effective collaborative working arrangements at all levels.
3. To ensure that resources are used effectively across all partners within the partnership.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Under the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, all two-tier authorities are required to have in place a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the management of municipal waste within their areas.

The LRWS sets out how the LWP intends to manage municipal waste in the period up to 2050. The LRWS replaces the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (LMWMS) which was last updated in 2011.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

It is expected that all partner authorities will adopt the Strategy during early 2023.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from the adoption of this Strategy. Future service changes resulting from the Strategy will be subject to a separate cabinet report detailing the financial implications for the Council.

Changes arising from the Strategy may be wholly/partly covered by new funding streams. Mechanisms for distributing new funding sources are currently being considered by DEFRA and the Council is waiting for detailed clarification on this matter.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
That there is insufficient financial resource to meet the pledges in the Strategy.	Unlikely (2)	Major (4)	Moderate (8)	The actions/pledges in the Strategy are non-binding and subject to the required finances being made available through new funding streams
That the cabinet does not accept the recommendations and the Strategy is not adopted.	Unlikely (2)	Serious (3)	Moderate (6)	The ongoing involvement of the Lead Member in the development of the strategy has reduced this risk.

Equality and Diversity

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Screening was undertaken and concluded that the review of the LMWMS was subject to a full EHRIA (Appendix C). This EHRIA provides a strategic framework and further EHRIAs will be undertaken, where appropriate, for delivery of activities, and as specific schemes are developed.

This EHRIA has enabled the LWP to assess whether the new LRWS discriminates or has any adverse impact on any particular community or group of people within Leicestershire. The key outcome of the EHRIA is for the LWP to ensure the LRWS promotes accessible services, accessible information and appropriate equality training where required.

Sustainability

The Strategy is heavily influenced by the sustainability agenda and key consideration has been given to factors including waste prevention, net zero carbon, circular economy, clean growth and air quality. More information on this can be found in Appendix A, pages 17 to 19.

The SEA can be viewed by following the link below:
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/1/27/environmental-report-draft-resources-and-waste-strategy-2022-2050.pdf>

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Papers:	None
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Part B

Background

1. The first Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (LMWMS) was adopted by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP) in 2002. In 2006 it was comprehensively reviewed including a public consultation and full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Strategy was subsequently updated in 2011 to reflect changes in performance and the economic climate since 2006 but maintained the objectives of the 2006 Strategy.
2. The Strategy highlights that significant legislative changes are on the horizon. In responding to these, the waste partnership will need to be maintained and enhanced to ensure appropriate political, strategic and organisational engagement. As government policy evolves, the partnership will need to explore collaborative opportunities which are most effectively able to deliver the changes required and ensure the balance of risk and reward is shared across both the waste disposal and collection authorities. Innovative collaborative opportunities should be considered which have the potential to deliver environmental improvements, whilst helping to reduce costs across the waste-system, such that cost shunting is avoided and mutual benefits are shared across all partners.
3. The LWP commissioned consultants Frith Resource Management to undertake a full review of the Strategy.
4. The national Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) was released in 2018. It focuses on known problems with effective solutions that will reduce reliance on single use plastics, cut confusion over household recycling, tackle the problems of packaging and end food waste.
5. The RWS outlines how the Government aims to make the UK more resource efficient and to move towards a circular economy which keeps resources in use for longer. The RWS covers the period until 2050 and includes the Circular Economy Package target of 65% recycling rate of municipal solid waste by 2035.
6. Following on from the publication of the national RWS, two rounds of consultations were released with local authorities identified as key stakeholders. These included proposals that are expected to affect local waste services including mandatory weekly food waste collections, free garden waste collections, the introduction of a deposit return scheme for single use drinks containers, extended producer responsibility for packaging (this is in essence where the full cost of collection, recycling and disposing of packaging is met by the producers of the packaging), and a move towards consistent waste collections by all local authorities. These three policies are known collectively as the 'Collection and Packaging Reforms' and consist of;

- Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) (England, Wales & NI) – closed June 2021
 - Reforming the UK packaging responsibility system/Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (UK) – closed June 2021
 - Consistency in household and business recycling collections (England) – closed July 2021
7. To date, the results of the second round of consultations have only been published for extended producer responsibility for packaging (pEPR). They have not yet been published for a deposit return scheme and consistency in household and business recycling collections.
 8. Legislation to enable the policy changes within the RWS are contained within the Environment Act which received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021.
 9. The review of the LMWMS has considered the potential forthcoming legislative changes and these are reflected accordingly, and, in some instances, caveats have been made due to the continued delay of confirmation of Government policy.
 10. It is important to note the Strategy is high-level and therefore non-site specific.

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review Process

11. The purpose of a joint municipal waste management strategy is to:
 - a) Identify the baseline position.
 - b) Outline where partners want to be and when by.
 - c) Articulate how this will be achieved.
12. To achieve the above the following steps were undertaken:

Strategy Review Steps	Outputs
Production of a detailed project plan	Project Plan
Project planning, gap analysis, data analysis	Baseline Report
Undertake full Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment	Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment
Agree objectives and options and options assessment criteria	Draft Options Appraisal Report and Draft Headline Strategy
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Scoping Report and 5-week statutory consultation; Draft Environmental Report
Public Consultation	Public Consultation Report

Finalisation of Strategy	Final Headline Strategy
Action Plan	Final Action Plan

Public Consultation

13. Following a stakeholder mapping exercise, a public consultation commenced on 31 January 2022 and ran for 12 weeks until 25 April 2022.
14. The full suite of documents for public consultation comprised of;
 - a) The Draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy
 - i. Describes the approach the LWP would take in delivering recycling and waste management services from 2022 – 2050
 - ii. Contains the vision, objectives and pledges that sit alongside forthcoming national changes
 - iii. Includes 11 pledges covering; leading by example; waste prevention; reuse; food waste collections; alternative fuels; garden waste collections; consistent collections; extra materials for recycling collections; the national recycling target of 65% by 2035; communications to target recycling behaviour and reduction of waste sent to landfill
 - b) The Draft Options Appraisal Report
 - i. Explores the current and alternative ways of delivering the wastes services, the associated costs and the recycling rates that could be achieved as well as considering potential implications of upcoming national policy changes
 - ii. Provides evidence behind the pledges within the draft Strategy
 - c) The Draft Environmental Report – from the SEA process
 - i. Considers the environmental impacts of the alternative ways of delivering the Strategy
 - ii. Involved a five-week statutory consultation period from July 2021 and received input from Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency
15. In addition to the above, a consultation summary document outlining the main aspects of the Strategy was available to view.
16. The consultation documents were available online via the County Councils 'Have Your Say' webpage and signposted from Partner websites. Hard copies were available upon request

17. The consultation comprised a survey (predominately online) consisting of tick box questions and open comments. Questions sought views on the vision, objectives and pledges within the draft Strategy and asked a series of questions on waste prevention, reuse and recycling behaviours.
18. A wide range of communications were used to promote the survey utilising online and printed media. Presentations were given to specific groups and an online forum and workshop was delivered by Community Research, an independent research marketing firm.
19. The quantitative and qualitative responses to the online questionnaire and responses from groups and organisations to the public consultation are presented in the attached Consultation Report (appendix B).

Public Consultation Findings

Have Your Say Survey

20. A total of 5223 responses to the online survey were received. Almost two thirds of the respondents were female (63%). Compared to the known population of Leicestershire (Census 2011) this shows that females were overrepresented, and males underrepresented. Almost half (45%) of respondents were aged between 45-64 years. Underrepresented age groups in respect to population include 15-24 years old and those over the age of 85 years.
21. The majority of the respondents were supportive of the vision with 83% in agreement.

“To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts”
22. 83% of respondents also agreed with the pledges and an analysis of the open text comments revealed that fly-tipping was the most common issue, followed by residents wanting more pressure placed on producers to make their packaging recyclable and products more easily repairable. Other comments referred to increasing education and engagement so people have a better understanding of link between waste and climate change.
23. In regard to behaviours, 38% of respondents said that they currently compost at home with 70% expressing an interest in taking part in reuse activities such as using an online platform for selling goods and taking items to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

24. For food waste collections, respondents were generally positive on the introduction of food waste collections (65% of respondents stated they did not see any barriers to participating in a weekly food waste collection service) but there were concerns raised of how it works in practise e.g. smells and hygiene.
25. Evidence shows that delivering the highest recycling rates and reducing carbon emissions can best be achieved by restricting general rubbish capacity (either through distributing smaller bins or collecting the waste less frequently) alongside adding more recycling services including weekly food waste collections. Respondents were asked which service configuration they would prefer. Overall, the option of a fortnightly collection with a smaller bin size was more favourable (39%) than a three-weekly collection with a current size bin (16%).
26. Overall, the majority (64%) of the respondents agreed with the draft Strategy to some extent.

Other Consultation Activity

27. A company called Community Research were commissioned to explore residents' views of the draft Strategy. An online forum was conducted with 25 Leicestershire residents taking part and completing a series of tasks including polling questions, discussion boards and self-filmed videos.
28. Key conclusions included that the vision and strategy resonated with residents and addressed many of their concerns; and those residents are enthusiastic about greater engagement in reducing waste and recycling and recognise the key role they have to play.
29. Presentations were provided to various groups in order to capture their views and these included Leicestershire Equalities Group, Leicestershire Parish Clerks and County Youth Council for Leicestershire.

Overall findings

30. The results to the survey were analysed and the key conclusions were;
 - The proposed Vision and Strategy resonate with residents
 - The understanding of the relationship between waste and climate change is limited.
 - Residents are enthusiastic about greater engagement in reducing waste and increasing recycling and recognise they have a key role to play (community initiatives and collective action).
 - Communications and engagement activities need to be developed bearing in mind learning from behavioural science, addressing the environmental, personal and social factors that can affect behaviour.

31. The key themes that have been highlighted in the consultation responses together with the issues and considerations that have been raised are summarised below. These are not presented in an order of priority;

- Tackling fly-tipping - an area of concern for residents.
- Putting pressure on producers – residents would like to see producers take more responsibility and use recyclable packaging for their goods.
- Increased access to sustainable activities – recognition of these to be accessible and affordable for all, especially waste prevention and reuse.
- Engagement and encouragement – respondents like to be kept informed and suggested potential for incentives for rewarding positive behaviours.
- Educating residents - suggested that efforts need to be made to encourage understanding the issue of waste and its relationship to climate change.
- Concerns with food waste collections - respondents were generally positive on the introduction of food waste collections but there were concerns raised of how it works in practise e.g. smells and hygiene.
- Expanding kerbside recycling - to reduce the amount of residual waste, respondents were keen for the introduction of a wider variety of materials collected at the kerbside.
- Accessibility of garden waste collections – residents were generally satisfied with the service but a reoccurring theme was accessibility to this service and charging.
- Restricted residual waste collection and household size – residents from larger households raised concerns on restricted residual waste. Overall the option of a fortnightly collection with a smaller size bin was more favourable (39%) than a three weekly collection with a current size bin (16%).
- Improving HWRCs - levels of satisfaction with HWRCs were high although some respondents did raise concerns regarding short opening hours, too few HWRC sites and inaccessibility

Changes to the Strategy

32. Findings from the consultation exercise will be utilised to help inform future initiatives and campaigns.

33. A key theme which came out of the consultation exercise, which is not dealt with by the pledges, is fly-tipping. Leicestershire Waste Partnership has therefore committed to address this and added an additional pledge (pledge 2 below)

34. Minor modifications have been made to the remaining 11 pledges but it is not considered that these existing pledges require alteration. The final pledges are;

- 1) All councils within the Partnership will review their purchasing activities and internal waste management services to seek to promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling to support the objectives of this Strategy and lead by example.
- 2) Environmental crime, particularly fly-tipping does not recognise council boundaries. The Partnership will work together to reduce fly-tipping and litter across Leicestershire and educate residents, businesses, or anyone disposing of rubbish, about their legal duty of care to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.
- 3) The Partnership pledge to support and encourage waste prevention activity across LWP. This will include working with stakeholders, residents and communities to prevent unnecessary waste arising, for example through food waste reduction campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste.
- 4) The Partnership pledge to continue delivering reuse services and expand activities where practicable, working in partnership with other stakeholders and to signpost to places that advocate for waste prevention and reuse, in support of developing a circular economy. This includes a pledge to continue to improve the collection of items for reuse at Household Waste Recycling Centres and explore the development of reuse shops at suitable sites.
- 5) The Partnership will implement and promote separate food waste collections to all households, subject to confirmation of the national policy, legislation and the provision of total ongoing Government funding. This will be as soon as possible when contracts and circumstances dictate. The County Council will procure anaerobic digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste in a manner that contributes to effective carbon emissions reduction across the County and improves soil quality.
- 6) The Partnership will explore the use of alternative fuels for collection vehicles and the transportation of waste and resources to further reduce carbon emissions of the service and improve air quality.
- 7) The Partnership will continue to offer a garden waste collection system to Leicestershire residents. This will follow national guidelines as to the form of the collection and will be subject to legislation and total ongoing Government funding. The Partnership will continue to procure composting capacity to treat the collected garden waste in a manner that supports carbon reduction and improves soil quality.
- 8) The Partnership shall ensure that the full range of recyclables (as specified by the Government and subject to funding) are collected from residents (and businesses where applicable) across Leicestershire by 2025, or as soon as possible when contracts and circumstances allow.
- 9) The Partnership shall continue to explore the viability of adding extra materials to recycling collections (e.g. for batteries, small electric goods or

clothing) striving to continually improve Leicestershire's recycling performance.

- 10) The Partnership will put in place collection systems to contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035. This may include restricting residual waste capacity to encourage greater materials separation, carbon savings and resource recovery. Improvements in materials recovery at Household Waste Recycling Centres will also contribute towards the national target.
 - 11) The Partnership will continue to allocate a communications budget sufficient to help promote good recycling behaviour and support resource recovery to progress the circular economy and low-carbon objectives of this Strategy.
 - 12) The County Council will reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the 10% national target by 2035. The County Council will undertake future procurement processes for residual waste treatment (alternatives to landfill) in line with the vision and objectives of this Strategy.
35. In the period during the public consultation the Government released its response to its extended producer responsibility for packaging consultation and has confirmed that glass which was originally to be included in the proposed deposit return scheme will now be part of extended producer responsibility for packaging. No further modelling was undertaken within the options appraisal due to the continued uncertainty around the Government's preferred approach, however the future waste and recycling projections were updated to take account of this amendment.
36. Due to the continued uncertainty in regards to Government policies a Local Government finance position statement also been added to the Strategy

Action Plan

37. A further step in the review process is to produce an Action Plan. The Action Plan provides a route map for delivering the vision, objectives and pledges set out in the Strategy. It provides a clear direction of travel to ensure that resources and waste are managed effectively
38. The Action Plan will guide the implementation of the Strategy and will be subject to regular review and monitoring. Changes may be made to the Action Plan in response to (for example):
- Accelerated or delayed implementation of actions
 - Variance in predicted performance of actions
 - Changes in Government policy, legislation or regulations; or

- Other changes in circumstances
39. The Action Plan has been divided into the following themes:
- Reuse/Circular Economy
 - Recycling (performance & collections)
 - Residual Waste Reduction
 - Partnership Working
 - Leading by example
 - Communication
 - Carbon
40. Some of these themes contain overlapping elements. Each action within the plan details what action is to be taken, how this relates to either an objective or pledge of the Strategy, by whom and when.
41. The Action Plan associated with the Resources and Waste Strategy is high level but builds on the objectives and pledges of the Strategy. There may be further (more detailed) actions for example: a procurement plan; individual Council action plans; business cases, or; communications plans.

Appendices

Appendix A: Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-2050

Appendix B: Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-2050 Action Plan

Appendix C: Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-2050 EHRIA

Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022 - 2050



Foreword

The Government set a clear ambition to improve the environment within a generation in their 2018 Strategy 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'. How we manage our waste plays an important part in achieving this ambition as everything that we buy, use and eventually throw away has an impact on our environment.

The Leicestershire Waste Partnership (the County Council and the seven district and borough councils) work together to manage all of the household waste that is produced in Leicestershire. In this Strategy, the Partnership sets out how we will deliver recycling and waste management services up to 2050.

We are working towards reducing the amount of waste that is produced, increasing recycling, reducing carbon emissions to support net zero ambitions and keeping resources in use for longer. Additionally, we are pledging to reduce waste sent to landfill.

Depending on the funding that we receive from the Government, we are committed to introducing separate food waste collections across Leicestershire, offering garden waste collections to all residents, and expanding recycling collections.

We are also committed to reviewing our own purchasing activities and internal waste management services to lead by example.

But we can't do this alone. We need people to work with us to achieve these ambitions and we are committed to working with stakeholders, residents and communities to prevent unnecessary waste from being produced in the first place, to promote good recycling behaviour and support resource recovery to progress a circular economy. By working together, we can improve our environment, now and for the future.



Local government financial statement

This Strategy has been published during a time of uncertainty in regard to the Government's progression of the implementation of the national Resources and Waste Strategy (Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England). The Resources and Waste Strategy was released on 18 December 2018 and sets out how Government will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy.

Three significant consultations took place during 2019 including Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England, a Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging. Further secondary consultations took place in early 2021 and subsequent changes from 2024/5 could include mandatory household food waste collections, restrictions on garden waste charging and the introduction of a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. At this present time Government has not released the outcomes from two of the consultations, therefore there remains uncertainty in regard to forthcoming legislation and future funding mechanisms.

All councils are facing challenging financial outlooks. The pressures of high inflation levels, coupled with an ever-increasing demand for core services, is presenting a challenge across the whole local government sector.

In acknowledgement of this, some of the pledges contained within the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy are caveated and can only be implemented if sufficient ongoing additional funding is provided by Government to cover the costs incurred by both the waste disposal and waste collection authorities respectively.

Where funding is provided which requires allocation across the Partnership, this will be calculated on a basis that is acceptable to all partners to ensure legally compliant, cost effective and timely distribution.

Executive summary

How we view 'waste' has changed; it is no longer only something to get rid of, but is considered a valuable resource, to be retained and reused, or avoided at all where possible. Using waste as a resource can help to reduce the raw materials needed for producing new goods, which has environmental, social and financial benefits. This updated Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS/the 'Strategy') reflects this global current thinking and describes the recycling and waste management services which will be delivered by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP)¹ from 2022 up to 2050. The Vision of the LRWS is:

To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts.

This vision is supported by specific Strategy objectives and a range of pledges and measures that sit alongside national policy changes - setting a direction for long term management of material resources for the benefit of the residents and communities of Leicestershire².

In addition, the Strategy includes:

- The policy framework - the current and future context for resources and waste management, considering local issues e.g. air quality, and global issues such as carbon reduction/greenhouse gas reduction and climate change.
- Strategy delivery - how resources and waste will be managed to achieve the vision and objectives, through the services provided by the LWP to its residents and communities and 12 pledges regarding commitments, actions and performance.

¹ Leicestershire Waste Partnership comprises Leicestershire County Council and the seven district and borough councils. Leicester City Council is an associate member.

² Note that this Strategy does not cover Leicester City Council which is a unitary authority with its own waste collection and disposal arrangements.

The LRWS includes a focus on waste prevention (avoiding waste generation in the first place) and developing more initiatives on reuse of goods - both at the Household Waste Recycling Centres and in the community. There are challenging pledges around recycling and reuse, aiming to enhance Leicestershire's performance to support the delivery of the national recycling target of 65% by 2035. The majority of progress will be made over the next five years through the Countywide implementation of weekly food waste collections, more consistent and effective recycling collections and, subject to Government guidelines and funding, potential changes to garden waste collections.

If the national 65% recycling rate is to be met the amount of residual waste (all general mixed 'rubbish') managed by Councils will need to fall from around 260kg per person to around 160kg per person by 2035. Furthermore, the management of residual waste in Leicestershire is also set to change with a pledge to reduce the amount of waste landfilled from current levels (of around 30%) down to 5% by 2025. This is substantially ahead of the new national target of 10% landfilled waste by 2035.

The net effect of the measures within the LRWS is a reduction in the amount of carbon (as measured in CO₂ equivalents) in the range of 5,000 -10,000 tonnes of CO₂ eq. each year from the collection and management of wastes and resources in the County. This is equivalent to taking between 1,800 - 3,600 cars off the road, in terms of annual emissions savings.

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1. Introduction

What is a Resources and Waste Strategy?

This document is the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS) for the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP). The partnership comprises Leicestershire County Council (the Waste Disposal Authority) and the seven Leicestershire Waste Collection Authorities (the district and borough councils). Leicester City Council manages its waste via separate arrangements as a Unitary Authority.

This LRWS is an update to the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy which has been in place since 2002 and was reviewed and updated in 2006 and 2011 respectively.

The LRWS describes the recycling and waste management services which will be delivered by the LWP up to 2050. The Strategy sets out:

- The policy framework - the current and future context for resources and waste management, considering local issues e.g. air quality, and global issues including carbon reduction/greenhouse gas reduction and climate change.
- The vision, aims, and objectives - what the LWP wants to achieve in terms of resources and waste management.
- Strategy delivery - how resources and waste will be managed to achieve the aims and objectives, through the services provided by the LWP to its residents and communities.

How we view 'waste' has changed; it is no longer only something to get rid of, but is now considered a valuable resource, to be retained and reused, or avoided at all where possible. Also, the adverse impacts of raw material inputs e.g. the resources we use, are becoming increasingly apparent, meaning now more than ever raw materials need to be used efficiently and conserved. Using the resources from waste can help to reduce the raw materials needed for producing new goods, which has environmental, social and financial benefits. This updated LRWS reflects this global current thinking.

The Strategy covers services for managing municipal solid waste (MSW). MSW is all the waste collected by the local authorities in the LWP³. This includes household, commercial and street cleansing wastes, and wastes taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

As Waste Collection Authorities, the district and borough councils have a legal duty to collect municipal waste and Leicestershire County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), has a legal duty to treat, manage and dispose of MSW. The WCAs and WDA work in partnership, recognising that joint working on planning the collection, treatment (composting, recycling, and recovery) and disposal of waste supports efficient service delivery for residents and communities, including businesses.

This Strategy runs up to 2050, however it will be reviewed regularly at appropriate periods during this time. Reviews are needed to make sure the Strategy remains current and in line with national guidance.

How is the service delivered?

All districts in Leicestershire currently have household collections of recycling, residual⁴ and garden waste. Food waste is not currently collected district wide by any WCA; however some have either collected this in the past or have trialled weekly food waste collections over the last few years, including Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council. North West Leicestershire District Council have been successfully trialling a food waste collection since November 2019, and continue to do so.

Recycling

How recycling is collected is broadly consistent across the LWP. Six of the districts collect all recycling material together in one container (typically a wheeled bin), this is often referred to as a 'commingled collection' and is collected every two weeks. Residents in North West Leicestershire District on the other hand, are provided with a mixture of bags and boxes to separate out key recyclable materials, which are then placed in different compartments on a specialist vehicle. This is often referred to as a 'kerbside-sort' or 'multi-stream' collection. Examples of the containers for each district and borough council are shown below.

³ It also applies to similar wastes collected by other parties; however this is not under the control of the local authorities.

⁴ 'Residual' waste is 'black bin' waste that is not separated, so is mixed waste or 'general rubbish'.



Commingled collections for:
Blaby District Council,
Charnwood Borough Council,
Harborough District Council,
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council,
Melton Borough Council and
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council



Kerbside sort
or multi-stream
collections for
North West Leicestershire
District Council

All of the commingled recyclable materials collected from residents are currently sent to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Leicester. At this facility, recycling is separated using a combination of manual and automatic sorting processes to sort material streams before being baled and sent for reprocessing.

North West Leicestershire District Council has its own arrangement for processing recycling (which is already separated on the vehicle as it collects from households). Their recycling is transported to a depot in Coalville. Here, the materials are unloaded from the collection vehicles and tipped into dedicated bays where further separation is used where needed. For example, magnets are used to separate the metals from the plastic. Once baled, the collected recyclables are sold on, and this can be directly to reprocessors.

Garden waste

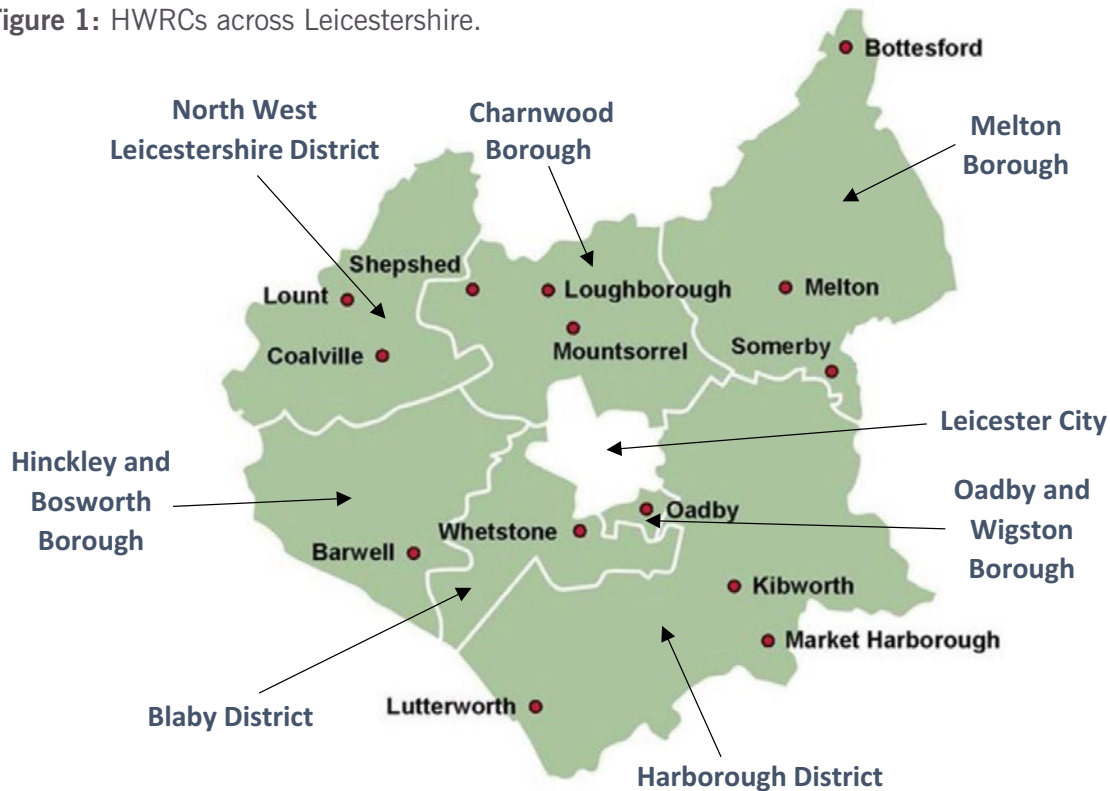
Unlike recycling and residual waste, the collection of garden waste is a non-statutory service and is a discretionary service provided by Local Authorities. As such, Local Authorities are able to provide this service for free, or to ask residents to pay for its collection. All authorities in the LWP charge for the collection of garden waste, except for North West Leicestershire District Council who offer this service for free. Residents wishing to have their garden waste collected typically pay an annual subscription fee which covers the cost of a wheeled bin, vehicles and crew that collect garden waste.

Residents are also encouraged to use other methods to dispose of garden waste. Firstly, via home composting garden waste (cuttings, trimmings, plants, branches and other garden waste which can be composted). Alternatively, residents can also take their garden waste to any of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)⁵ are provided for residents to dispose of any bulky or additional waste and recycling which cannot be collected through the kerbside collection. There are fourteen HWRCs located across Leicestershire, as shown in the image below. These sites are managed by Leicestershire County Council.

Figure 1: HWRCs across Leicestershire.

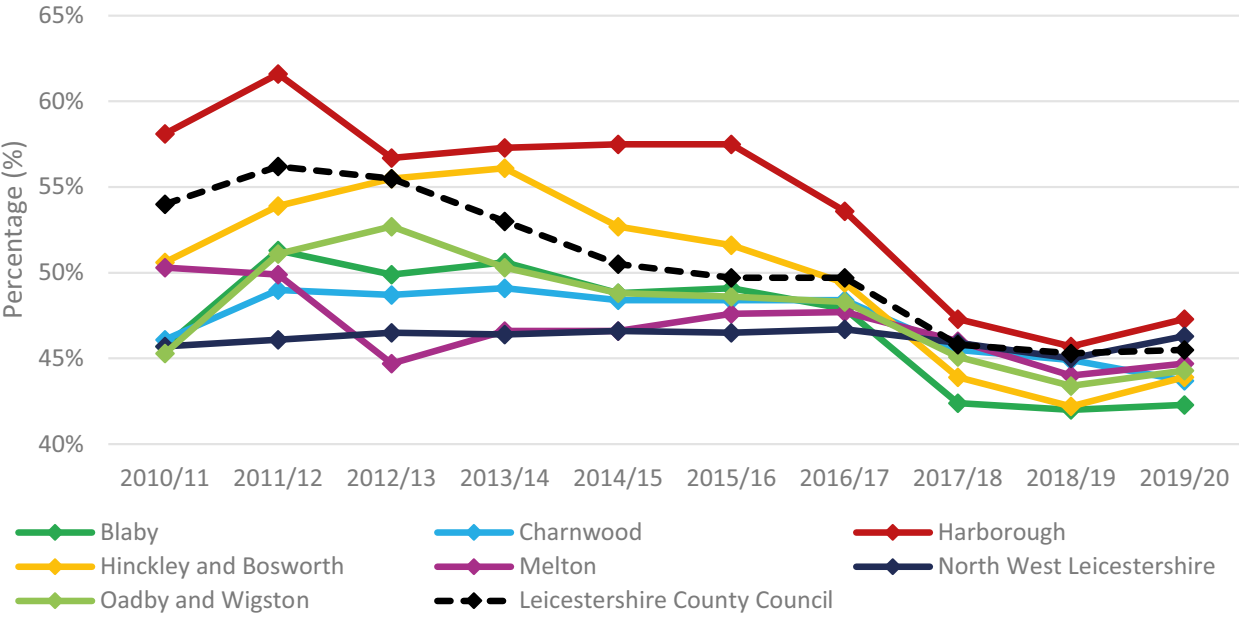


The HWRCs take a wide range of items which can be sent for reuse, recycling or disposal. Opening hours and the waste accepted varies across each site. Leicestershire residents are generally able to use these sites for free. Some charges may apply for specific materials, including hardcore and rubble, tiles, plasterboard and asbestos. Vans, pick-ups and cars with trailers, and any vehicle bringing asbestos, chemicals or liquid paint, require a permit to visit the sites.

In 2019/20, the combined reuse, recycling and composting performance was 45.5% for household waste from collections at the kerbside and from the HWRCs. This is lower than the UK's target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020. The average for England within the same period was 43.8%, meaning that Leicestershire did perform above national average, despite the fall in overall performance shown below. A key reason for the fall, shown in Figure 2, was not that householders were recycling less, but that a facility which was extracting extra recycling from residual waste had closed.

⁵ Locally in Leicestershire known as Recycling Household Waste Sites (RHWS) or historically known as 'the tip'.

Figure 2: Current and historic recycling rates for Leicestershire Councils 2010/11 - 2019/20.



Although the recycling rate is above the national average, the amount of waste sent to landfill (the least desirable outcome) was 31.8% in 2019/20, this is much higher than the average landfill rate for local authorities in England, for the same time period (8.5%). Both reducing the waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling are key elements of this Strategy (see section 3).

Who delivers the collection services?

The collection of waste and recycling is the responsibility of the district and borough councils. The delivery of this service can be managed in several ways, in-house (the Council run the collections using their staff), via a Local Authority Trading Company (a type of publicly owned 'arms length' company), or by outsourcing the service to a private contractor (also known as contracting out the service). At present, four of the district and borough councils operate this service in house (Blaby, Hinckley & Bosworth, North West Leicestershire and Oadby & Wigston) and three are outsourced to the private sector (Charnwood, Harborough and Melton). Collection service contracts typically last between 7 and 10 years.

Bulky waste

Across the County, residents can arrange for the collection of larger items - this is known as a bulky waste collection. Each district and borough council has its own service in place for its residents. This service is chargeable (price varies per Council), often with a minimum collection fee. The types of items that can be collected include domestic furniture, appliances (televisions, fridges, freezers, washing machines), beds etc.

Trade waste

Some district and borough councils also offer a collection service from businesses in their area, this is known as a trade waste collection. An overview of the trade waste services is provided below.

Council	Waste types collected	Other characteristics
Blaby District Council	General Waste Mixed Recycling Glass Only	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.
Charnwood Borough Council	General Waste	Weekly (or multiples of weekly) collections of residual waste. Intention to start mixed recycling collections soon.
Harborough District Council	General Waste Mixed Recycling	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	General Waste Mixed Recycling	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.
Leicestershire County Council	N/A	LCC run a trade service at Whetstone Waste Transfer Station (WTS) which includes an outlet for general waste and also source separated waste such as cardboard, green waste, wood and inert waste.
North West Leicestershire District Council	General Waste Mixed Recycling	Customers can choose from a range of options for both the frequency of collection and the size of containers provided.

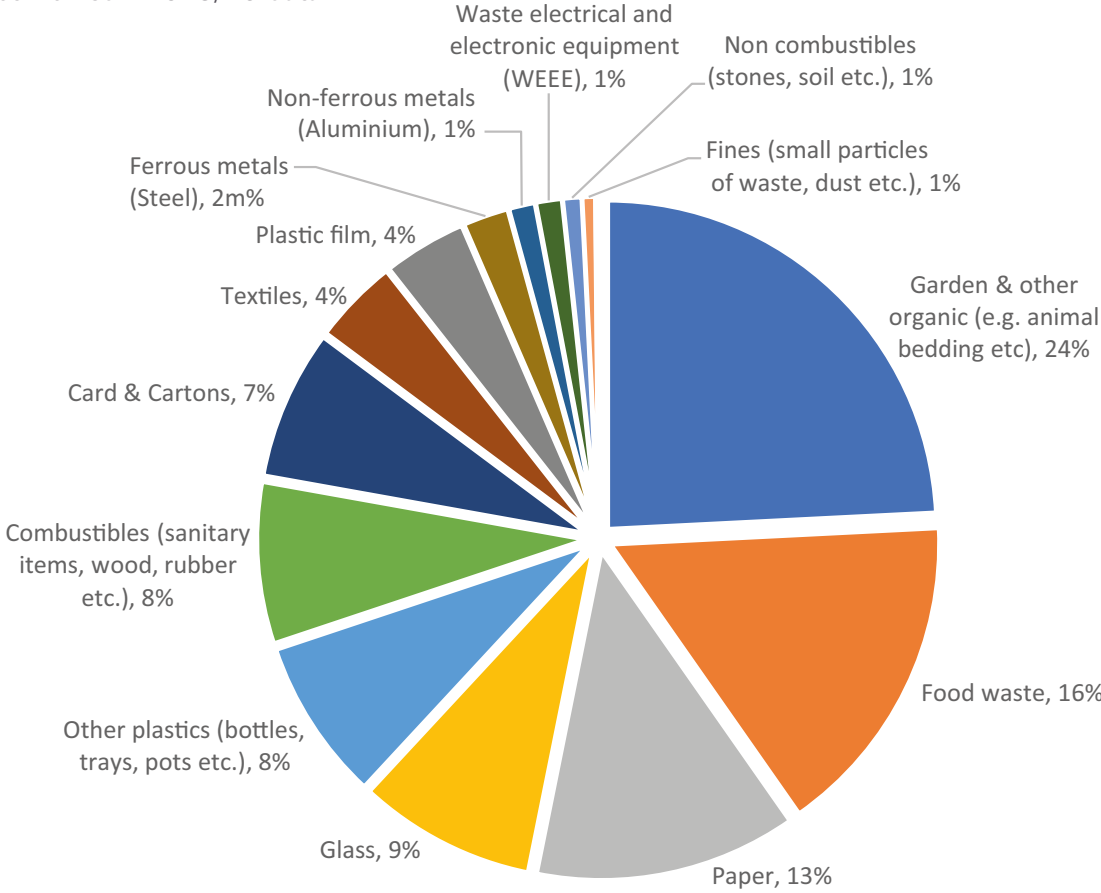
What is in your bins?

The average composition of what a Leicestershire resident puts in their bins each year is shown in the pie chart below. What this illustrates is that the vast majority of items that are disposed of can be prevented, reduced, reused or recycled in some way. This isn't just the materials that we are familiar with recycling like paper, card, metals, glass and plastic, but also other materials like food waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which can be collected separately and have their resource value recovered.

Separating these additional materials for recycling can help contribute towards achieving 65% recycling, the national recycling target for 2035, set by Government⁶.

Furthermore, other items may be reused to prevent them becoming waste at all. This is preferable to recycling, and options such as using washable nappies, reusable water bottles for drinks and refilling containers with goods from a refill shop or station to avoid new packaging all help conserve resources and avoid packaging and other wastes. There is more on this in sections 3 and 4 of this Strategy.

Figure 3: Waste composition of all bins (residual, recycling and garden) combined - 2019/20 data.⁷



⁶ This is included in the 2020 Circular Economy Package (CEP).

⁷ Data may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

2. What is the proposed strategy for Leicestershire?

This section explains the direction envisaged for the LRWS and includes a summary of influences (both national and local) that have shaped its development.

The Strategy focuses on municipal waste that is waste generated by households and similar wastes from businesses and commerce. It explores different options to reduce the amount of waste arising in the first place (see ‘the waste hierarchy’ described later in this section), and then to manage the remaining material in a way that gives benefit from its resource value.

The management of the residual waste (the remaining waste left for disposal) is managed by long term contracts. Whilst there are different ways to manage this waste, the Strategy takes the position that the prime aim is to avoid waste going to landfill. When new contracts are to be let for managing residual waste, they should review the latest options available and adhere to the principles of this Strategy for subsequent decision making on residual waste management technologies.

The vision and objectives of the LRWS are explained below.

Our strategic vision

The overarching vision of the LRWS is:

To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts.

Key aspects of this vision, like what we mean by a circular economy and the waste hierarchy, are explained in more detail later in this section of the Strategy.

Our objectives to deliver the vision

To achieve the vision outlined above, the following objectives have been developed, and grouped into themes. These are all important guiding principles for the service as a whole and are not in order of priority.

Deliver services in accordance with circular economy principles

Objective 1: Manage materials in accordance with circular economy principles, except where costs are prohibitive, or where the environmental consequences can be demonstrated to be negative.

Objective 2: As local authorities, set an example by preventing, reducing, reusing, recycling and composting our own waste and use our buying power to positively encourage sustainable resource use.

Reduce the climate change/carbon/air quality impact of waste services in Leicestershire

Objective 3: Reduce carbon emissions from Leicestershire's waste management services.

Deliver services that are financially sustainable and equitable across the Partnership

Objective 4: Consider the whole life financial, social and environmental impact, and deliver quality services designed to allow flexibility, innovation and improvement.

Objective 5: Promote the economic and employment opportunities of sustainable waste management where this is consistent with circular economy principles. Consider local/regional supply chain and markets for recycle and other secondary raw materials.

Delivery of high quality waste services for the residents of Leicestershire

Objective 6: Work together to adapt and deliver coordinated services and infrastructure for waste services with lower environmental impacts.

Objective 7: Aim to reduce and manage residual waste within the County where this is consistent with the proximity principle and to manage all other waste at the nearest appropriate facility by the most appropriate method or technology.

Work in partnership with local communities across Leicestershire

Objective 8: Work with the community and businesses to raise awareness about environmental matters (including climate change, energy and resource management) and increase participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives and link to national campaigns.

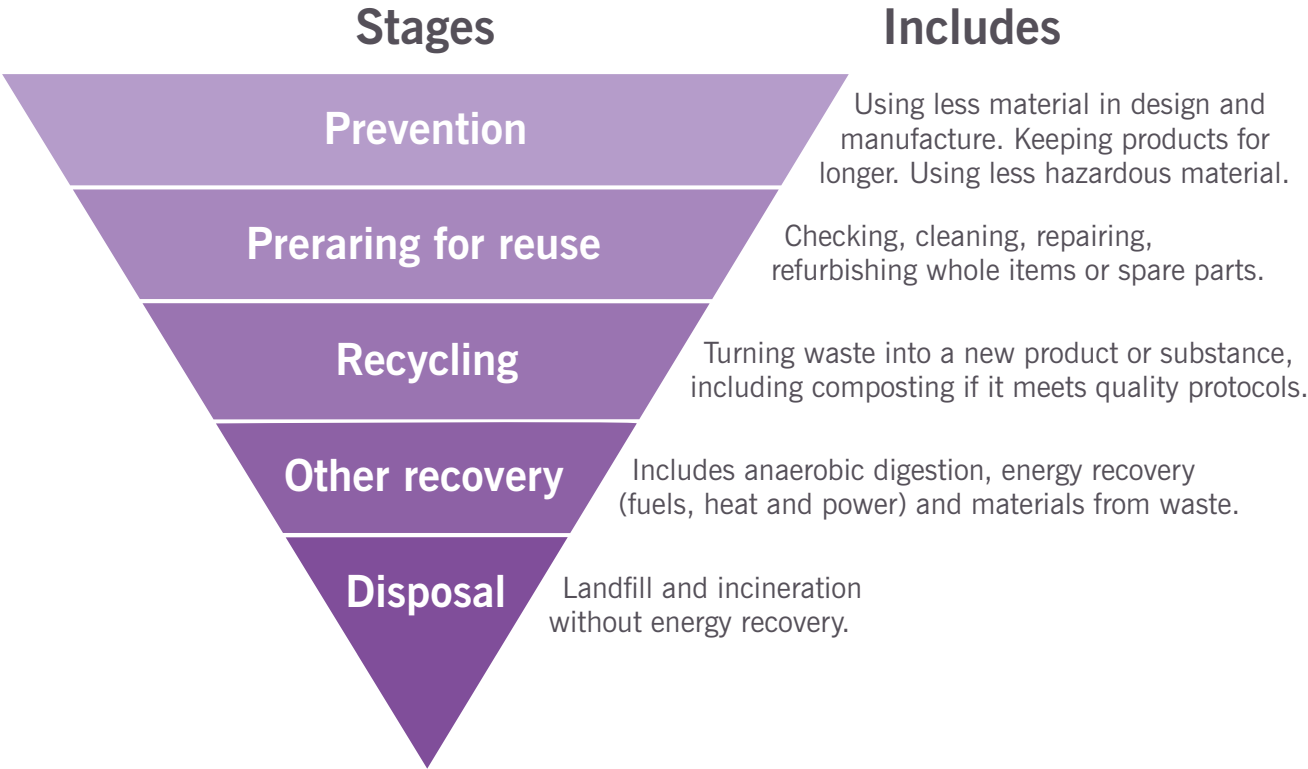
Objective 9: Lobby and work with others, in pursuit of the Partnership’s vision of sustainable waste and resource management.

The Strategy also includes a number of pledges setting out specific actions to support and achieve these objectives, these are presented in section 3.

National policy and influences

A guiding principle of managing waste and resources is the ‘waste hierarchy’, this is shown below with definitions as to the meaning of each level. The most beneficial method is ‘prevention’ of waste and the least beneficial ‘disposal’. This Strategy sets out Leicestershire’s intentions on each level.

Figure 4: The Waste Hierarchy (2011).



Resources and waste strategy for England

“Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England” (2018), is focussed on improving recycling quality and increasing recycling rates from households and businesses. It includes substantial reforms to municipal waste collection and management services, including requiring the separate collection of food waste from households. It also puts a greater responsibility on producers of goods and packaging to play their part in dealing with the products at the end of their life. New measures proposed include Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging materials (EPR)⁸ and the introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for single use drinks containers. This is explained in more detail in section 3. These measures are likely to have a significant impact on the services delivered in Leicestershire and who pays for them. The direction of the national Strategy has had a major influence on the LRWS.

Waste prevention programme for England

Waste prevention activity reduces the amount of waste which is generated, and the Government’s view on how this can be achieved is set out in the Waste Prevention Programme for England, “Prevention is better than cure: the role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy” (2013). Key actions for Central Government include setting a clear direction, leading by doing, driving innovation, and ensuring that information regarding waste prevention is available to all. In March 2021, a consultation on a revised Waste Prevention Programme for England was held. The consultation document outlines how waste prevention could be achieved through transforming product design, making it easier for consumers to make sustainable choices or purchases and aligning policy with a circular economy approach (see below).

⁸ The National Strategy also raises the potential for further producer responsibility measures including for textile wastes (e.g. to help tackle ‘fast fashion’ impacts), bulky waste (e.g. mattresses, carpets) and other waste streams.

Net zero carbon

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world and is driven by rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (which include gases such as carbon dioxide and methane). This results in global heating, rising sea levels and changing patterns of rainfall. These changes can increase the risk of flooding, heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires. To overcome this, the Government has committed the UK to achieving net zero by 2050. This means that there will be an equal balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere, through planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture. The waste management sector is estimated to have contributed around 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2019⁹. These emissions can be addressed through minimising the quantity of waste sent to landfill (which is a large contributor of methane emissions), and by applying the waste hierarchy (prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery).

Circular economy

In a Circular Economy, we see a transition away from a take-make-dispose ideology to a more circular system in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible. This is achieved through maintaining the maximum value when in use, and then recovering and repurposing material at the end of its life. The EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) introduces a revised legislative framework, identifying steps for the reduction of waste and establishing an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling. This has been largely incorporated into UK Government strategy and policy and key elements within “Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England” (2018).

Clean growth strategy

The Clean Growth Strategy was published in 2017 by Government, which aims to increase national income while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the UK’s 2050 net zero goal. The Strategy highlights that the UK waste sector has contributed to significant falls in carbon, with the large reduction in waste being sent to landfill resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions. 12.5% of the UK’s energy was generated from ‘renewable sources and waste’ in 2019. The incineration of waste (Energy from Waste or ‘EfW’) made up 13.3%¹⁰ of the renewable energy generated.

⁹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021). 2019 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures.

¹⁰ [Energy use: renewable and waste sources](#)

Air quality

Air quality is used to describe the condition of our air, it can be negatively impacted by a number of pollutants including sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Road transport is a contributor to poorer air quality, demonstrated by the fact that it accounted for 33% of nitrogen oxide emissions across the UK in 2019. The impact of waste management activity on air quality is most likely to arise through transport impacts, for example, when collecting household waste and recycling and the transport of this to transfer, recycling, treatment and disposal facilities. However, alternative fuels for Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs, or 'bin lorries') are coming into the market which will help to reduce the impact that the waste management sector has on air quality, this is because these fuels are cleaner and have a lower environmental impact in comparison to diesel. A pledge on alternative (low emission) vehicle fuels is included in section 3.

Local policies and influences

The LRWS will be implemented in the context of local policies, which both shape and affect it. The proposals in this Strategy have been developed in consideration of these policies, in order to check that the Strategy can be practically implemented and that it either complements or does not diverge from the wider aims of the LWP member authorities, as set out in other relevant policies.

The types of policies influencing the Strategy include the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (the Local Plan). For waste, the Local Plan aims to provide adequate facilities for waste management and mineral extraction/processing facilities within Leicestershire to meet identified needs. The current plan runs from 2019 to 2031. The Local Plan includes Leicester City; Leicester City Council is not within the LWP, but both parties cooperate to deliver plans which affect a wide geographic area.

Further policies and plans considered during the Strategy update cover a wide range of environmental and social issues, such as carbon management, climate emergency declarations and net zero ambitions, community strategies, air quality management, biodiversity and transport. It is important that, to the extent possible, the LRWS is aligned with these other documents. This is specifically addressed by an Environmental Report (see below) which gives more consideration to the local policy influences.

Supporting documents

This LRWS is not developed in isolation; it is supported by research, analysis and consultation. This has been undertaken through the following processes.

Firstly, an Options Appraisal was prepared. This is an assessment of alternative resource and waste service delivery options, analysing combinations of factors such as waste collection methods, recycling options, or treatment approaches. The outcome was a selection of possible approaches to meet the Strategy aims and objectives.

Secondly, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken. SEA considers wider policy influences and assesses the Strategy options against important environmental effects and proposed mitigation. An Environmental Report is the outcome of the SEA; the assessment and mitigation measures in the Environmental Report have influenced the final selected strategy option(s).

Thirdly, an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) was conducted. This considers, at a strategic level, if the proposed resource and waste services are accessible to the entire community, regardless of characteristics such as age, gender, health, disability, race, or socio-economic status. The EHRIA also includes a public consultation which helps identify any additional unknown barriers the community may have in accessing services in the Strategy. The EHRIA influences the Strategy, identifying if any proposed options need adjusting in order for everyone to have access to the services.

Lastly, there has been a public consultation on key elements within the Strategy to gain feedback from the residents and communities of Leicestershire. The results from the consultation have been reflected within the Strategy.

3. How can the strategy be delivered?

This section identifies LWP's commitments required to deliver the Strategy. These are divided into the topic areas needed to meet the overall vision.

Working in partnership

The LRWS has been developed jointly by LWP members, and it will be implemented by the LWP members working together. The Strategy review has included consultation with officers and elected members from all the LWP authorities. The LWP also recognise that waste issues cross administrative boundaries, and therefore it works with Leicester City Council. Leicester City Council is a Unitary Authority, which makes its own independent waste collection and disposal arrangements, but it co-operates with the LWP on strategic waste issues.

The LWP also works in partnership with residents and communities as they are central to the Strategy. The Strategy objectives are to deliver resource and waste services in which residents and communities can participate effectively. This requires clear and effective communication between the LWP and its residents. Residents are encouraged to maximise resource recovery by using the wide range of recycling services provided by the LWP; in turn, the LWP is required to provide accessible services for the residents, responding to their needs and aspirations.

In the near future, the LWP will also be working with private sector 'Producers' of waste under new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. EPR is intended to promote packaging¹¹ design which considers resource inputs and easier end of life recovery (e.g. reuse or recycling) of the resources within the products. Once finalised, EPR regulations will require the LWP members to participate in its implementation with possible service changes.

¹¹ Government has indicated that EPR may be expanded beyond packaging into other goods and products.

The Partnership is also aware of its role in managing wastes and conserving resources from materials generated in Council buildings and activities and makes the following pledge:

Strategy Pledge no. 1:

All Councils within the Partnership will review their purchasing activities and internal waste management services to seek to promote waste prevention, reuse and recycling to support the objectives of this Strategy and lead by example.

The environment in which we live has a significant impact on our quality of life. Residents care about their environment and LWP want Leicestershire to be a great place to live, free from litter and fly-tipping. Tackling environmental crime requires joint working. The Partnership therefore makes the following pledge:

Strategy Pledge no. 2:

Environmental crime, particularly fly-tipping does not recognise council boundaries. The Partnership will work together to reduce fly-tipping and litter across Leicestershire and educate residents, businesses, or anyone disposing of rubbish, about their legal duty of care to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

Preventing waste and preparing items for reuse

Waste prevention is the highest priority of the waste management hierarchy and is an integral part of any Resources and Waste Strategy. Waste prevention measures ensure that the quantity of waste is reduced (either through the avoidance of waste creation in the first place, reuse of products and services, or the extension of its useful life). It therefore reduces the adverse impacts on the environment of waste generation and management, and subsequently prevents impact on human health.

It also eases our demand on finite natural resources and as such, reduces the carbon emissions associated with waste management activity.

The most effective waste prevention activities are often focused on particular waste streams or products. Over recent years, LWP members have implemented a number of initiatives in support of waste prevention and reuse. These projects have included food waste reduction training through Adult Learning Services, supporting the use of reusable nappies by offering free trials of reusable nappies, encouraging home composting via compost bin subsidies and training, and providing guidance on reducing unnecessary waste such as contamination or junk mail.

As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have explored the impact of waste prevention measures and make the following pledge:

Strategy Pledge no. 3:

The Partnership pledge to support and encourage waste prevention activity across LWP. This will include working with stakeholders, residents and communities to prevent unnecessary waste arising, for example through food waste reduction campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste.

The second highest priority of the waste hierarchy is 'preparing items for reuse'. The aim of repair and reuse is to extend the useful life of a product or service. This has wide ranging benefits which include saving money, conserving the Earth's limited resources and lowering carbon emissions. Reuse activities often support social and economic development, through skills training, employment and community volunteering.

Recent examples of reuse activity across Leicestershire include:

- **Adult Learning Service** - Furniture reuse workshops are available to all Leicestershire residents. These workshops take place regularly and teach individuals how to fix and upcycle items of furniture.
- **Textiles repair** - An online guide is available on the Less Waste website, which aims to reduce clothing waste. It encourages more sustainable purchasing habits, gives advice about how to care for and repair clothes, how items can be upcycled and where clothing can be donated/sold. Classes are also available for residents to learn sewing skills, such as how to make new items out of existing fabric at home.
- **Give or Take Day toolkit** - A Give or Take Day is an event where people can exchange unwanted goods for items which they may need. A toolkit is available on the Less Waste website to help individuals set up their own event.

Leicestershire residents are also able to engage in reuse activities at the HWRCs across the County. Leicestershire County Council have been investing in developing its provision for reuse at its HWRCs, creating signage and designated deposit areas called 'ReHome Zones', for items which residents deem eligible for reuse or repair. This currently includes bric-a-brac and bicycles however Leicestershire County Council have a vision to expand and enhance the range of materials which can be saved from going into the 'waste' stream, retaining the definition as a 'product' thereby extending its useful life.

LWP also run the 'Less Waste' website which serves as an online platform for the Partnership to provide information on recycling and waste management to its residents, focusing on themes of 'reduce', 'reuse' and 'recycle'. The website also includes links and information on many of the initiatives quoted above¹².

¹² www.lesswaste.org.uk

As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have explored the role of reuse in developing a waste strategy and as such make the following pledge:

Strategy Pledge no. 4:

The Partnership pledge to continue delivering reuse services and expand activities where practicable, working in partnership with other stakeholders and to signpost to places that advocate for waste prevention and reuse, in support of developing a circular economy. This includes a pledge to continue to improve the collection of items for reuse at Household Waste Recycling Centres and explore the development of reuse shops at suitable sites.

Collecting food waste and garden waste

After preventing food waste occurring (see Love Food Hate Waste example referred to previously), the next most important method of reducing carbon emissions from food waste is to separately collect and treat it. The most effective way of doing this is to collect food waste from households and businesses on a weekly basis, as a separate material stream, and to process the food waste in Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities.

The Government has recognised that a key method of avoiding damaging methane emissions from landfill (methane is a powerful greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than CO₂), is to remove food waste from the residual waste stream, through a dedicated collection service. The Government is requiring (through the Environment Act) all households to have a separate collection of food waste, on a weekly basis, from the mid 2020's.



Figure 5: Food waste collection trial taking place in North West Leicestershire District Council.

Food waste collections have been trialled in parts of the County and there are increasing numbers of councils implementing them across the UK. They tend to use small, dedicated collection vehicles and the carbon benefits from separating and effectively managing the food waste far outweigh the carbon emissions of the collection fleet. An image of the collection trial in North West Leicestershire is shown in Figure 5. More separation of waste for recycling can mean additional mileage to operate the collection service and this can add to local air pollution if not appropriately managed. Electric refuse collection vehicles, and some fuelled by hydrogen have been trialled and implemented in the UK, and these have the potential to dramatically reduce local air emissions and save significant amounts of carbon emissions. Vehicles running on alternative fuels are currently much more expensive and require new infrastructure around refuelling/charging, however this is an important area to be evaluated by the Partnership as new vehicles are procured and the cost of technology falls. Some districts within the Partnership are using HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel as a substitute for diesel, including North West Leicestershire District Council and Blaby District Council.

The separately collected food waste is usually sent to an AD process. Anaerobic digestion is a process that takes place in sealed vessels in the absence of oxygen. Food waste is fed into the vessels which act like a digestion process, breaking down the food waste using bacteria (in a similar way and a slightly higher temperature than your stomach digesting food). The waste degrades and releases a flammable biogas (which is roughly half methane and half carbon dioxide), this gas is then usually combusted in a gas engine to generate electricity, which can be fed back into the national grid as renewable electricity. The gas can alternatively be used to fuel vehicles with 'biomethane' or, after further processing, as an input into the gas grid. The remaining residue from the food waste is reduced to a slurry and can be, after some further 'maturation' (like a composting process), applied to land as a soil conditioner or fertiliser. As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have modelled the introduction of separate food waste collections across the County and make the following pledges:

Strategy Pledge no. 5:

The Partnership will implement and promote separate food waste collections to all households, subject to confirmation of national policy, legislation and the provision of total ongoing Government funding. This will be as soon as required and when contracts and circumstances dictate. The County Council will procure Anaerobic Digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste in a manner that contributes to effective carbon emissions reduction across the County and improves soil quality.

Strategy Pledge no. 6:

The Partnership will explore the use of alternative fuels for collection vehicles and the transportation of waste and resources to further reduce carbon emissions of the service and improve air quality.

A garden waste collection is offered to all residents in Leicestershire on a fortnightly basis, as described in section 2. There is currently no duty on WCAs (the district/borough councils) to collect garden waste, however the Government is considering making a free garden waste collection a mandatory requirement (or introducing a maximum charge), through the National Resources and Waste Strategy for England, this is subject to separate consultation.

The collected garden waste from the County is sent to composting facilities and the resulting compost applied to land to improve soil quality and add nutrient value.

As part of the Options Appraisal supporting this Strategy, we have modelled both free of charge and subscription based garden waste collection systems and make the following pledge:

Strategy Pledge no. 7:

The Partnership will continue to offer a garden waste collection service to Leicestershire residents. This will follow national guidelines as to the form of the collection and will be subject to legislation and total ongoing Government funding. The Partnership will continue to procure composting capacity to treat the collected garden waste in a manner that supports carbon reduction and improves soil quality.

Expanding recycling for homes and businesses

The residents and communities of Leicestershire already have a wide range of materials collected for recycling. This mirrors the Government intention to have a standardised set of materials collected for recycling from each house and business across the Country. This will include food waste (as described previously) and each of the following:

- Metals (cans, foil trays, foil, aerosols)
- Plastics (plastic film, bottles, trays, pots, tubs)
- Cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak)
- Card
- Paper
- Glass

The aim is that all of England has the same range of materials collected and that this will enable more targeted nationwide messages and standardised product labelling for recyclability to be established. Furthermore, residents moving from one area to another will know what materials can be separated for recycling (although there might be different colours or types of containers in which to separate them).

In addition to these changes, Government are seeking to introduce a deposit return scheme (DRS) for all single use drinks containers (excluding bottles made of High-Density Polyethylene plastic, primarily milk bottles and glass bottles). This is likely to place an additional 20p charge (the deposit) onto bottles and cans containing drinks, which then may be redeemed (returned) when the bottle/can is placed in an authorised collection point. The collection points are likely to be at shops/supermarkets and are known as reverse vending machines, although alternative methods of redeeming deposits are also being investigated. The DRS scheme is still undergoing consultation but is due to be implemented in 2024. This could have the effect of changing consumer behaviour to an extent, also potentially reducing the amount of littering of containers (covered by the DRS) and may reduce the amount of recyclables and waste handled by the local authorities.

As part of the wide-ranging national changes and to encourage greater resource recovery from waste, the Government are also intending to implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for all producers of packaging. EPR means that all packaging producers will need to pay for the costs of dealing with their packaging at the end of its life (e.g. when it is recycled or thrown away). In future (and this is intended to be implemented from 2024), packaging producers will be responsible for the net costs of collecting, handling, recycling, treating and disposing of packaging waste, by providing monies to local government equivalent to that cost. This, together with the DRS scheme, will also provide an incentive to product and packaging producers to consider how their products can be designed better for their resource recovery, for example by making them easier to recycle. Packaging that is hard to recycle will cost more for disposal which will ultimately cost the producer of that packaging. This approach helps the role of the Councils and should assist in improving resource recovery and recycling over the medium and long term.

The appraisal of different collection systems (see supporting Options Appraisal document) demonstrated a preference for maximising recycling through the establishment of a food waste collection. This would be alongside maintaining similar recycling collection systems as at present but increasing participation and use of the recycling service by restricting the residual waste. The preferred method of restricting residual waste was by providing smaller wheeled bins whilst still allowing for plenty of space in the recycling containers. The addition of a weekly food waste collection should also reduce the need for the current levels of residual waste capacity. The Options Appraisal also demonstrated the benefit of providing collection services for other materials like batteries and textiles from households. As part of the modelling for this Strategy we have considered EPR and DRS in addition to different recycling collection systems across the County and make the following pledges:

Strategy Pledge no. 8:

The Partnership shall ensure that the full range of recyclables (as specified by Government and subject to funding) are collected from residents (and businesses where applicable) across Leicestershire by 2025, or as soon as possible when contracts and circumstances allow.

Strategy Pledge no. 9:

The Partnership shall continue to explore the viability of adding extra materials to recycling collections (e.g. for batteries, small electric goods or clothing) striving to continually improve Leicestershire's recycling performance.

Strategy Pledge no. 10:

The Partnership will put in place collection systems to contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035, this may include restricting residual waste capacity to encourage greater materials separation, carbon savings and resource recovery. Improvements in materials recovery at Household Waste Recycling Centres will also contribute towards the national target.

Strategy Pledge no. 11:

The Partnership will continue to allocate a communications budget sufficient to help promote good recycling behaviour and support resource recovery to progress the circular economy and low carbon objectives of this Strategy.

Avoiding landfill as much as possible

During 2020/21, Leicestershire landfilled more waste than the national average. This is explained in section 1 of this Strategy and is a situation that the County Council aims to address. An example of this is a recently procured residual waste treatment contract that should enable Leicestershire to exceed national targets for landfill, i.e. no more than 10% of municipal waste should be sent to landfill by 2035.

The County Council, over the period of this Strategy (to 2050), are likely to procure further contracts for residual waste treatment capacity. The technologies and options available for waste treatment may change over time, but they will be assessed in accordance with the vision and objectives of this Strategy, to ensure that they are consistent with the direction expressed in this document, and local and national objectives.

Leicestershire County Council makes the following pledge:

Strategy Pledge no. 12:

The County Council will reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the 10% national target by 2035. The County Council will undertake future procurement processes for residual waste treatment (alternatives to landfill) in line with the vision and objectives of this Strategy.

Contributing to net zero carbon in Leicestershire

The measures throughout this Strategy will make significant reductions to carbon emissions from the municipal waste management service. Modelling undertaken for the Options Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process indicates that by implementing all of the measures within this Strategy, carbon savings of the range of 5,000 - 10,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent would be delivered each year, compared against the current situation. This is the equivalent (in carbon emissions terms) of taking approximately 1,800 - 3,600 cars off the road.

4. Where will the strategy take us?

Projecting ahead to 2050

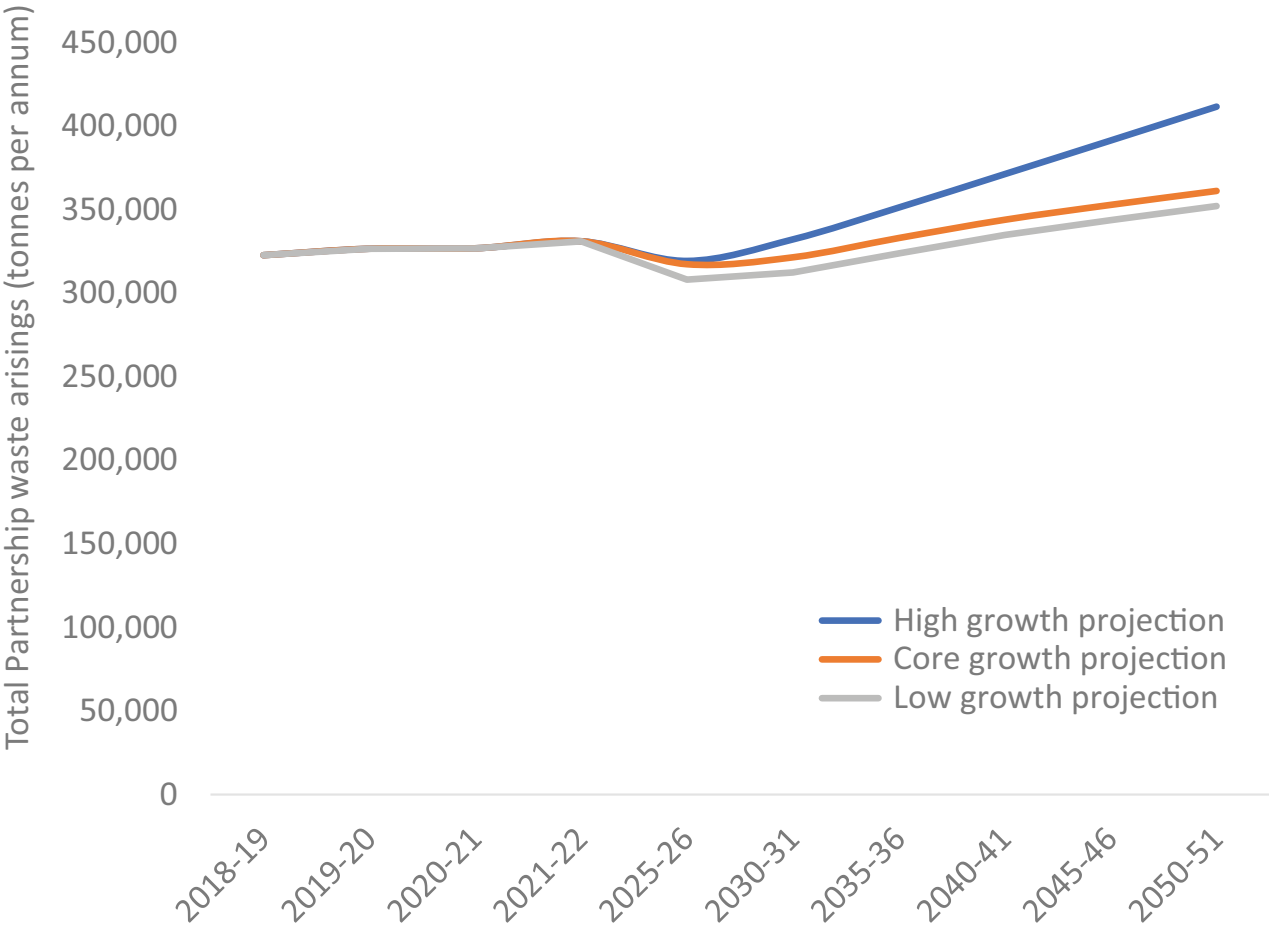
Although it is impossible to predict the future for resource and waste management, we can be sure that 2050 will be very different from today; consider how we manage waste in our households now, compared with 20 years ago. The need to reduce carbon emissions to achieve net zero will require many changes to our current lifestyles and to our environmental impacts. This lifestyle change is part of the global movement towards a circular economy model, essential to reduce our demands on limited resources and to dramatically decrease our carbon impacts. These influences will affect the future amount and type of resources and waste in Leicestershire.

Already, Leicestershire has seen major changes in its resources and waste. Recently, increasing digitisation means residents and communities produce less paper. By contrast, more on-line shopping has increased quantities of household cardboard; this was exacerbated by the lifestyle changes resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, over the last 20 years, although each person is now producing less waste because of lighter weight packaging, the waste they do produce includes far more plastic. Because plastic is usually oil based (fossil carbon), this conflicts with the aims of a low carbon future, unless we can recycle that material multiple times.

Dealing with these uncertainties and changes to resource and waste arisings needs a responsive and flexible LRWS, which tackles new challenges with a broad range of solutions. We have set out a range of pledges and measures to support national changes and set a direction for long term resource recovery for the benefit of residents and communities of Leicestershire. We recognise however that there will be many substantial changes impacting on materials and wastes over the next five years, as the national Strategy takes effect. There is likely to be a need to review or update this Strategy before the end of the 2020's.

Consideration of future waste growth rates is shown in Figure 6, with High, Low and Core projections. These projections are informed by housing forecasts and future policy and legislation that may impact on waste arisings, discussed in section 2¹³. This includes local and national changes driven by packaging producers affected by the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) measures, austerity impacts, consistency of collections, single use plastics ban and other resource management drivers.

Figure 6: Waste growth projections for wastes collected by Local Authorities, 2019 - 2050.

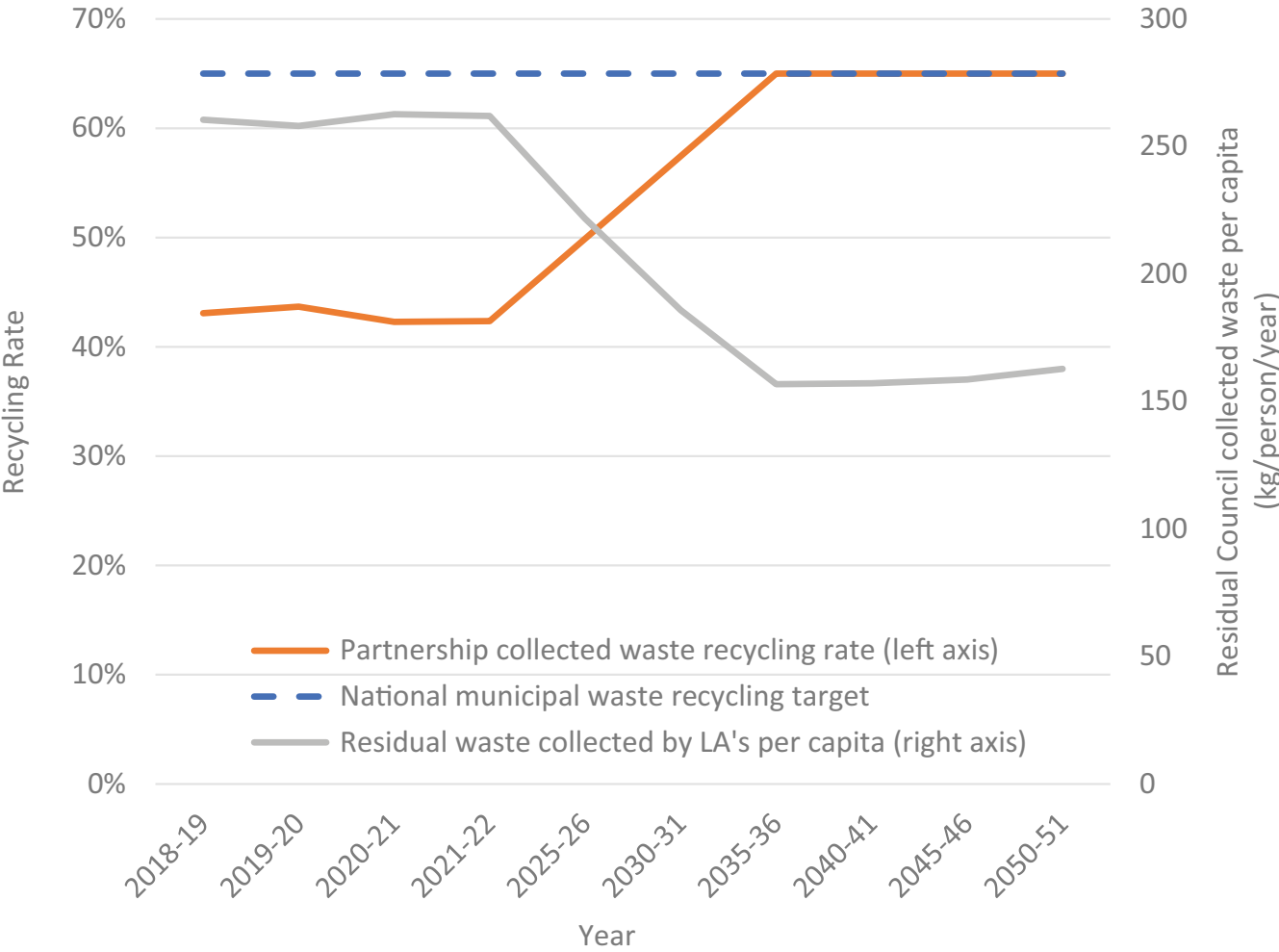


¹³ The variations across the projections is the extent to which different policy interventions are implemented.

The increase in waste shown around 2020 and 2021 is the extra arisings generated by the Covid-19 pandemic (and associated behavioural changes such as home working, use of Personal Protective Equipment and internet shopping), this is assumed to revert back to 2019 levels in the following years, albeit influenced by rising numbers of households and other factors. The subsequent dip in waste arisings is the estimated result of the implementation of a national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the period 2023 - 2025 (this is described in section 3).

Figure 7 shows delivery in Leicestershire of the national target for 65% of municipal waste to be recycled and prepared for reuse by 2035.

Figure 7: Recycling rate & residual waste per person projections for wastes collected by Local Authorities, 2019 - 2050.



The modelling which informs this Strategy shows that c.62% recycling can be achieved through combinations of the options described in section 3, such as expanding recycling and food waste collections (Pledges 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10)¹⁴. In addition to these options, recycling and reuse will be further enhanced to reach the 2035 target by:

- The LWP continuing to promote and develop systems for reuse of usable goods and packaging (Pledge 4).
- The LWP promoting ongoing education and awareness raising for its residents and communities (Pledge 11).
- The County Council aiming to increase recovery from the Household Waste Recycling Centres (Pledge 10).
- The national changes around product labelling, and extended producer responsibility (making products and packaging easier to recycle).
- Residual waste treatment procurement, which may also deliver additional recycling (Pledge 12)¹⁵.

Figure 7 also shows that the actions set out within this Strategy, supported by national policy, should also reduce the amount of Council collected residual waste (general rubbish not separated for recycling). If the national 65% recycling rate is to be met the amount of residual waste (all general mixed 'rubbish') managed by Councils will need to fall from around 260kg per person per year to around 160kg per person by 2035. Furthermore, the management of residual waste in Leicestershire is also set to change with a pledge to reduce the amount of waste landfilled from current levels (of around 30%) to less than 5% by 2025. This is substantially ahead of the new national target of 10% landfilled waste by 2035.

¹⁴ In March 2022, Defra announced that the DRS for England will exclude glass bottles. It is anticipated that the kerbside recycling rate could increase by between 1.5% and 2% above the recycling rate modelled in the Options Appraisal.

¹⁵ Subject to clarifications on how recycling performance is calculated in the future.

5. Action plan

Introduction and background

This Action Plan provides a route map for delivering the vision and objectives set out in the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS)/the 'Strategy'. It provides a clear direction of travel to ensure that resources and waste are managed efficiently.

Context

The Action Plan will guide the implementation of the Strategy and will be subject to regular monitoring and review. Changes may be made to the Action Plan in response to (for example):

- Accelerated or delayed implementation of actions
- Variance from predicted performance of actions
- Changes in Government policy, legislation or regulation
- Other changes in circumstances

The Action Plan is intended to be a living document and will be monitored and updated on an on-going basis. Significant changes that render the Action Plan inconsistent with the LRWS may necessitate revision of the Strategy or Action Plan.

The actions have been categorised in line with themes set out within the Strategy document. Each action has been allocated the responsibility of either the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP) as a collective, or Partners within LWP (i.e. the districts/boroughs or county council).

The Action Plan associated with a resource and waste strategy is usually quite high level but builds on the pledges and objectives of the Strategy. There may be further more detailed actions that fall out of the actions within the plan for example: a procurement plan, district council action plans, business cases or communications plans.

Key challenges for the action plan

The Partnership is committed to delivering the objectives and policies set out in the Strategy in a way that represents good value for the Partnership and the residents of Leicestershire as a whole. This approach requires coordination of effort between seven local authorities and between the two tiers of local government that in the case of waste management, have very different roles and responsibilities.

At a national level, Government is currently consulting on a suite of potential policy changes which are intended to reform the resources and waste industry (see Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018). The legislative basis for implementation of these reforms is included in the Environment Act (2021). Outcomes from the national consultation could require substantive changes from the LWP. Where changes are anticipated (e.g. separate food waste collections) these have been acknowledged within the Action Plan with defined actions. However, where there is more ambiguity (e.g. relating to the charging for garden waste collections), these have been excluded from the Action Plan until further clarity is provided from Government.

Action plan headings

The Action Plan has been divided into the following themes:

- Reuse/Circular Economy
- Recycling (performance and collections)
- Residual Waste Management
- Partnership Working
- Lead by Example
- Communication Actions
- Carbon

Some of these themes contain overlapping elements. Each action details what action is to be taken, how this relates to either an objective or pledge of the LRWS, by whom and when.

Table 1 provides an overview of the key actions by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership. Links to the Strategy Objectives and Pledges are also summarised.

Overview of actions

Action	Objective	Pledge
Reuse/Circular Economy		
Reuse service - Evaluate and explore further reuse options at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)	1	3, 4
Facilitate or support the delivery of repair workshops (e.g. for Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE))	2	3, 4
Circular Economy principles promotion - Liaise and engage with stakeholders	1, 5	
Waste prevention/reuse focused campaign - run at least once a year across the Partnership	1	3, 4, 14
Explore development of reuse shops at suitable sites	1	4
Promote reuse - Provide opportunities for or signpost householders (including those that cannot access HWRCs)	1	4
Recycling (performance and collections)		
Food Waste - Implementation of weekly food waste collections (all districts from 2025 or as contracts allow) with consideration of alleviating concerns raised in consultation (pests, containers, previous trial etc)	6	5
Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - Explore any collection and treatment options associated with the introduction of DRS	1, 6	
Review garden waste collection service with consideration given to Government response to national waste consultation		7
Implement dry collection systems to achieve high quality recycling with consideration given to Government response to national Resources and Waste Strategy for England consultation		8

Action	Objective	Pledge
Kerbside collections - Contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035	1	10
Kerbside recycling collections - Review materials collected within core recycling service (e.g. plastic film) and explore additional collections (absorbent hygiene products (AHP), small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), textiles, batteries, bulky waste)	1	8, 9
Food waste treatment - Procure anaerobic digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste (and promote the positives of anaerobic digestion)		5

Residual Waste Management

Consider options for reducing kerbside residual waste including reduced average residual waste capacity and implementation of no side waste policy where not in existence (alongside educating residents on the rationale of waste prevention, recycling, etc). Closely monitor where in existence	6	
Evaluate options to enhance separation at HWRCs to maximise recycling/reuse and recovery performance	7	4
Align with national residual waste reduction targets (kg/person/yr)	1, 7	
Landfill reduction - Reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025		12
Review options and approach to residual waste treatment to support greater resilience and align with the long-term aim to reduce waste arisings	7	12
Review/Adoption of resource efficiency metric as per data and Government policy ¹⁶	1, 4	

¹⁶ Subject to consultation.

Action	Objective	Pledge
Partnership Working		
Quarterly meetings - To discuss and action strategic and operational resource and waste issues and engagement with existing and new parties or bodies (e.g. producer responsibility organisations)	6, 8	3
Adopt and promote the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	6	
Action Plan review (annual)	4	
Strategy review (5 yearly) or when there are significant changes in waste/environmental policy	4	
Explore efficiencies of joint procurement (e.g. containers and food waste vehicles and collections) at strategic points (dates TBC)	6	
Lead by Example		
Lobby both Government and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generated and increase reuse, recycling, composting and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy	1, 9	
Each Partner to review/audit their purchasing activities and internal waste management services regularly to promote waste prevention with a view to reducing, reusing and recycling/developing a Circular Economy		1
Update EHRIA during review of LRWS	4	
Coordinated publicity campaigns - Maintain high profile of green/sustainable activities/events and initiatives in Leicestershire (e.g. through Less Waste/signposting enquiries to relevant contacts)	5, 8, 9	
Develop district level action plans for LRWS implementation	1, 4	

Action	Objective	Pledge
Communication Actions		
Engage with businesses and local communities to increase participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives to reduce climate change impacts and improve other beneficial outcomes	5, 8, 9	3
Work together to reduce fly-tipping and litter by educating residents and businesses about their duty of care to dispose of waste responsibly		2
Consider opportunities to improve communications to residents regarding operation and safe use of HWRCs		10
Continue allocation of communications budget		11
Communication Plan - Develop for LRWS implementation for LWP (working in partnership with local communities and businesses, promoting lead by example etc)	8, 9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Carbon		
Explore the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for the waste collection services (and promote leading by example)	3	6
Monitor LWP waste management services carbon emissions in order to reduce environmental impacts	3	
Contribute to the County wide Net Zero targets and engagement with all partners to support this aspiration	3	11

Monitoring

Monitoring the progress and performance of each action will be crucial to the success of the Strategy. The Partnership will continue to work together and will meet regularly to monitor progress. It will also provide an update on joint working as part of regular reporting against the Strategy Action Plan. This should form a regular agenda item for LWP meetings.

Where the Action Plan monitoring identifies that insufficient progress is being made in a particular area, then additional actions/corrective measures may be introduced to rectify any shortfall.

If you require this information in a printed or alternative format please telephone 0116 305 7005.

ਜੇ ਆਪ ਆ ਮਾਭਿਨੀ ਆਪਨੀ ਆਖਾਮਾਂ ਸਮਝਵਾਮਾਂ ਥੋੜੀ ਮਦਦ ਚੰਘੜਨਾਂ ਭੀ ਨੀ 0116 305 7005 ਨੰਬਰ ਪਰ ਫ਼ੀਨ ਫ਼ਰਮੀ ਅਨੇ ਅਮੇ ਆਪਨੇ ਮਦਦ ਫ਼ਰਵਾ ਆਵਠਠਾ ਫ਼ਰੀਯੁੰ.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 7005 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 7005 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 7005 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 7005，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 7005, a my Ci dopomożemy.

This Resources and Waste Strategy has been developed with Leicestershire Waste Partnership by Frith Resource Management Ltd. Frith Resource Management Ltd are experts in Waste Strategy and have also delivered the key supporting documents which accompany this Strategy (Baseline Review, full Strategic Environmental Assessment, Options Appraisal) including support during the statutory and public consultation phases.

Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022 - 2050: Action Plan Timeline

LRWS Commitments			Responsibility			Year																															
Objective	Pledge	Action	WCA	WDA (LCC)	LWP	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050			
Reuse/Circular Economy																																					
1	3, 4	Reuse service - Evaluate and explore reuse options at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)		X		█	█																														
2	3, 4	Facilitate or support the delivery of repair workshops (e.g. for Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE))		X		█	█																														
1, 5		Circular Economy principles promotion - Liaise and engage with stakeholders			X	█	█																														
1	3, 4, 11	Waste prevention/reuse focused campaign - Run at least once a year across the Partnership			X	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
1	4	Explore development of reuse shops at suitable sites			X	█	█	█																													
1	4	Promote reuse - Provide opportunities for or signpost householders (including those that cannot access HWRCs)	X		X	█	█																														
Recycling (performance and collections)																																					
6	5	Food Waste - Implementation of weekly food waste collections (all districts from 2025 or as contracts allow) with consideration of alleviating concerns raised in consultation (pests, containers, previous trial etc)	X		X	█	█	█	█	█																											
1,6		Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - Explore any collection and treatment options associated with the introduction of DRS	X	X	X	█	█	█	█	█																											
	7	Review garden waste collection service with consideration given to Government response to national waste consultation			X	█	█																														
	8	Implement dry collection systems to achieve high quality recycling with consideration given to Government response to national Resources and Waste Strategy for England consultation	X			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																						
1	10	Kerbside collections - Contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035			X	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
1	8, 9	Kerbside recycling collections - Review materials collected (e.g. plastic film) and explore additional collections (absorbent hygiene products (AHP), small WEEE, textiles, batteries, bulky waste)	X			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																						
	5	Food waste treatment - Procure anaerobic digestion capacity to treat the collected food waste (and promote the positives of anaerobic digestion)		X			█	█	█																												
Residual Waste Management																																					
6		Consider options for reducing kerbside residual waste including reduced average weekly residual waste capacity and implementation of side waste policy where not in existence (alongside educating residents on the rationale of recycling, waste prevention etc). Closely monitor where in existence	X			█	█	█																													
7	4	Evaluate options to enhancing separation at HWRCs to maximise recycling/reuse and recovery performance		X		█	█	█																													
1, 7		Align with national residual waste reduction targets (kg/person/yr)			X	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	12	Landfill reduction - Reduce waste sent to landfill to less than 5% by 2025		X		█	█	█	█	█	█																										
7	12	Review options and approach to residual waste treatment to support greater resilience and align with the long-term aim to reduce waste arisings		X		█	█	█	█																												
1, 4		Review/adoption of resource efficiency metric as per data and Government policy			X	█	█	█																													

LRWS Commitments			Responsibility			Year																															
Objective	Pledge	Action	WCA	WDA (LCC)	LWP	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050			
Partnership Working																																					
6, 8	3	Quarterly meetings - To discuss and action strategic and operational resource and waste issues and engagement with existing and new parties or bodies (e.g. producer responsibility organisations)			X																																
6		Adopt and promote the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy			X																																
4		Action Plan review (annual)			X																																
4		Strategy review (5 yearly) or when there are significant changes in waste/environmental policy			X																																
6		Explore efficiencies of joint procurement (e.g. containers and food waste vehicles and collections) at strategic points (dates TBC)			X																																
Lead by Example																																					
1, 9		Lobby both Government and businesses to reduce the amount of waste generated and increase reuse, recycling, composting and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy	X	X	X																																
	1	Each Partner to review/audit their purchasing activities and internal waste management services regularly to promote waste prevention and with a view to reducing, reusing and recycling/developing a Circular Economy	X	X																																	
4		Update EHRIA during review of LRWS			X																																
5, 8, 9		Coordinated publicity campaigns - Maintain high profile of green/sustainable activities/ events and initiatives in Leicestershire (e.g. through Less Waste/signposting enquiries to relevant contacts)			X																																
1, 4		Develop district level action plans for LRWS implementation	X																																		
Communication Actions																																					
5, 8, 9	3	Engage with businesses and local communities to increase participation in waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives to reduce climate change impacts and improve other beneficial outcomes	X	X	X																																
	2	Work together to reduce fly-tipping and litter by educating residents and businesses about their duty of care to dispose of waste responsibly	X	X	X																																
	10	Consider opportunities to improve communications to residents regarding operation and safe use of HWRCs		X																																	
	11	Continue allocation of communications budget			X																																
8, 9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Communication Plan - Develop for LRWS implementation for LWP (working in partnership with local communities and businesses, promoting lead by example etc)			X																																
Carbon																																					
3	6	Explore the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for the waste collection services (and promote leading by example)	X	X	X																																
3		Monitor LWP waste management services carbon emissions in order to reduce environmental impacts			X																																
3	11	Contribute to the County wide Net Zero targets and engagement with all partners to support this aspiration		X	X																																

Activity Deadline

Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

This Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will enable you to assess the **new, proposed or significantly changed** policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** for equality and human rights implications.

Undertaking this assessment will help you to identify whether or not this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** may have an adverse impact on a particular community or group of people. It will ultimately ensure that as an Authority we do not discriminate and we are able to promote equality, diversity and human rights.

Before completing this form please refer to the EHRIA [guidance](#), for further information about undertaking and completing the assessment. For further advice and guidance, please contact your [Departmental Equalities Group](#) or equality@leics.gov.uk

***Please note: The term 'policy' will be used throughout this assessment as shorthand for policy, practice, procedure, function or service.*

Key Details	
Name of policy being assessed:	Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy
Department and section:	Environment & Transport, Environment and Waste Commissioning
Name of lead officer/ job title and others completing this assessment:	Anna Low, Team Manager Kerry Skeer, Senior Strategic Waste Officer Frith Resource Management consultants
Contact telephone numbers:	0116 305 8127 0116 305 7234
Name of officer/s responsible for implementing this policy:	Anna Low, Kerry Skeer
Date EHRIA assessment started:	September 2021

Date EHRIA assessment completed:	November 2022
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Section 1: Defining the policy

Section 1: Defining the policy

You should begin this assessment by defining and outlining the scope of this policy. You should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights, as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

1	<p>What is new or changed in this policy? <i>What has changed and why?</i></p> <p>This EHRIA refers to the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS). This was previously known as the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (LMWMS). The first LMWMS was adopted by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP) authorities in 2002. The LMWMS was reviewed and revised in 2006 and 2011. An Equality Impact Assessment was conducted in 2006 and again in 2012 on the revised LMWMSs.</p> <p>An updated LWMWS has been developed (2021/2022) following a scheduled review in line with Defra guidance which recommends that a municipal waste management strategy “<i>should be completely reviewed at least every five years to ensure it remains current</i>”. The requirement for a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy falls under the Waste Emissions Trading Act (2003) section 32 (1) to (7).</p> <p>The previous and revised LMWMS sets out the core strategy for how the LWP intends to manage municipal waste including statutory responsibilities for waste management for the partnership and provides a policy framework for sustainable and co-ordinated waste management. The revised strategy covers the period up to 2050.</p> <p>The EHRIA informs the LRWS to ensure the Strategy is fit for purpose, including all subsequent plans and policies that sit below the LRWS in order to implement its aims and objectives.</p> <p>The revised LRWS, as for the previous versions, is not a planning document and does not relate to sites or where infrastructure is developed. This is reflected in the EHRIA scope.</p>
2	<p>Does this relate to any other policy within your department, the Council or with other partner organisations? <i>If yes, please reference the relevant policy or EHRIA. If unknown, further investigation may be required.</i></p> <p>Leicestershire County Council and the seven district and borough councils of Leicestershire work together as the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP). All eight partner authorities in LWP have adopted the previous LMWMS and will refer to the new and updated LRWS in the design of their services.</p>

	<p>The LRWS supports the Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26 Working together for the benefit of everyone. It also supports, influences or is influenced by a range of other policies and plans applying to the LWP partners, covering a wide remit:</p> <p>Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicestershire Environment Strategy (2018-2030) • District level carbon reduction commitments (specific to each district) <p>Waste and Recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Disposal Authority Plan (2018-2030) • Leicester and Leicestershire Waste Development Framework (up to 2021) • Leicestershire Minerals & Waste Local Plan (up to 2031) <p>Air Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Management Areas • District level Air Quality Strategies <p>Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Action Plan for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland • District Biodiversity and Habitat Plans <p>Population / Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester & Leicestershire (up to 2050) • Communities Strategy (2017 – 2021) <p>Economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicestershire County Councils Strategic Plan (2022-2026) 								
<p>3</p>	<p>Who are the people/ groups (target groups) affected and what is the intended change or outcome for them?</p> <p>The target people/groups are all residents within the Leicestershire Waste Partnership area.</p> <p>The intended outcome for the target population is continued effective and sustainable waste management service delivery. Delivery of waste and recycling services to Leicestershire's residents includes kerbside collections, provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), and initiatives designed around the principle of the waste hierarchy, which, in order of preference, aim to prevent waste, reuse materials, recycle and compost, treat waste and dispose of residual waste.</p> <p>The Vision of the strategy applies to all residents as follows:</p> <p><i>To work towards a circular economy and contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050 in Leicestershire. This means fully embracing the waste hierarchy by preventing waste and keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, through reuse, repair and recycling, to realise their maximum value whilst minimising environmental impacts.</i></p>								
<p>4</p>	<p>Will this policy meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements to have due regard to the need to meet any of the following aspects? (Please tick and explain how)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 1868 1399 2054"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="280 1868 580 1906"></th> <th data-bbox="580 1868 692 1906">Yes</th> <th data-bbox="692 1868 804 1906">No</th> <th data-bbox="804 1868 1399 1906">How?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1906 580 2054">Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</td> <td data-bbox="580 1906 692 2054" style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td data-bbox="692 1906 804 2054"></td> <td data-bbox="804 1906 1399 2054">The LRWS has a vision, objectives and pledges which are broad and <i>aspirational</i> in nature. It is relevant to all of Leicestershire's residents equally within</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	How?	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	✓		The LRWS has a vision, objectives and pledges which are broad and <i>aspirational</i> in nature. It is relevant to all of Leicestershire's residents equally within
	Yes	No	How?						
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	✓		The LRWS has a vision, objectives and pledges which are broad and <i>aspirational</i> in nature. It is relevant to all of Leicestershire's residents equally within						

			the LWP jurisdictions. It does not seek to introduce specific changes to services that would have a unique impact on the protected characteristics as defined in the Equalities Act 2010.
	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	✓	<p>Equalities advancement is mainstreamed within the LWP and therefore within the implementation of the LRWS. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Translated communication materials and accessibility to ensure no single group is favoured. -Engagement of Equalities Officers to ensure appropriate service delivery. -Equalities Impact Assessments are conducted at the district level before major service changes are implemented.
	Foster good relations between different groups	✓	All services and events delivered under the LRWS will be open to all different groups and as currently applies; all events and activities undertaken under the LRWS implementation will encourage a wide breadth of engagement from the community groups.

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Screening

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Screening

The purpose of this section of the assessment is to help you decide if a full EHRIA is required. **[Completed pre-consultation of the LRWS strategy]**

If you have already identified that a full EHRIA is needed for this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service, either via service planning processes or other means, then please go straight to [Section 3](#) on Page 7 of this document.

Section 2

A: Research and Consultation

5.	Have the target groups been consulted about the following?	Yes	No*
	a) their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;		✓
	b) any potential impact of this change on them (positive and negative, intended and unintended);		✓
	c) potential barriers they may face		✓

6.	If the target groups have not been consulted directly, have representatives been consulted or research explored (e.g. Equality Mapping)?		✓
7.	Have other stakeholder groups/ secondary groups (e.g. carers of service users) been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?		✓
8.	*If you answered 'no' to the question above, please use the space below to outline what consultation you are planning to undertake, or why you do not consider it to be necessary.		
<p>LR&WS Consultation</p> <p>The LRWS is an over-arching strategy, as such when specific parts of it are implemented at the district or county level, service change consultations are generally undertaken, leading to a substantial amount of evidence from engagement around current waste practices that is actively utilised to enhance implementation. Examples of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consultation and research on barriers to using waste services, which has led to understanding communication issues on waste and using multi-language waste hangers; -Feedback on a new pilot scheme including the impact of disabilities on the service using a recycling trolley; -Engagement with minority groups for Equalities Impact Assessments; and -Full public consultation for the 2006 strategy which obtained views and opinions on the appropriateness of waste services from residents. <p>Before the LRWS is finalised, a public consultation will be held between 31st January and the 25th April 2022 on the LRWS to offer residents the opportunity to identify any barriers or needs which are not currently identified or anticipated. The consultation will be as accessible as possible to all, noting at the time the country was managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>It is suggested that Mental Health, Age and Dementia charities are included in the consultation of the LRWS so their feedback in respect to any barriers they feel they may have to engaging with the waste services can inform the final LRWS.</p>			

Section 2 B: Monitoring Impact			
9.	Are there systems set up to: a) monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups; b) enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities	Yes	No
		✓	
		✓	
Note: If no to Question 8, you will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics.			
Section 2 C: Potential Impact			

10.	Use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any of the ' protected characteristics ' may <u>potentially</u> be affected by this policy and describe any positive and negative impacts, including any barriers.			
		Yes	No	Comments
	Age	✓		Implementing the LRWS pledges requires households to present bins for collection and sort recyclables. Incidences of disability increase with age and older residents with increased frailty or reduced mental capacity, for example, as a result of dementia, may find bin presentation or sorting of recyclables more difficult. HWRCs do not allow unsupervised access to children under 16 meaning children are prevented from entering the sites alone.
	Disability	✓		As above, both physical and mental health conditions including neurological conditions and dementia may prevent people from presenting waste, sorting recyclables in the household for kerbside collection or taking waste to a HWRC.
	Gender Reassignment		✓	No barriers are identified.
	Marriage and Civil Partnership		✓	No barriers are identified.
	Pregnancy and Maternity	✓		The physical requirements of waste presentation may become a barrier for women particularly in third trimester pregnancy, this would include wheeled bins, boxes or other containers. Also at HWRCs, the current temporary policy is that no physical assistance can be provided at the sites. A resident should not set off on the understanding or intent that they can request assistance. A resident that feels a reasonable adjustment to this policy should apply, can contact customer

			services in advance so it can be considered.
	Race	✓	There are no barriers associated with race, but the language diversity associated with racial diversity may be a barrier to communications on waste issues and waste services.
	Religion or Belief	✓	No barriers are identified.
	Sex	✓	No barriers are identified.
	Sexual Orientation	✓	No barriers are identified.
	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities	✓	<p>Rural isolation and poverty means distances from HWRC services as well as no access to a private vehicle may be a barrier to access.</p> <p>Areas with more multiple occupancy houses, or shared waste facilities, or no outdoor space may have challenges with waste segregation and physical space for multiple containers.</p> <p>People new to the country or area such as recent asylum seekers or refugees may need specific guidance on waste services if they have not used kerbside collections before, and specific communications in their own language.</p> <p>Residents experiencing deprivation may need support from Housing Officers to ensure they are aware of waste services.</p> <p>As shown by evidence collected through the 2021 LLEP Digital Poverty Call for Evidence Analysis Report (May 2021), deprivation and poverty can result in lower levels of computer access and therefore potentially less ability to find out about specific waste services unless materials are printed.</p> <p>Deprivation and poverty may also mean no car ownership</p>

				restricting those without a car to travel to and access the HWRCs. Health and safety policy dictates no pedestrians are allowed onto sites except at the Barwell and Mountsorrel sites where this permitted.
	Community Cohesion		✓	No barriers are identified.
11.	<p>Are the human rights of individuals <u>potentially</u> affected by this proposal? Could there be an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics? (Please tick)</p> <p>Explain why you consider that any particular <u>article in the Human Rights Act</u> may apply to your policy/ practice/ function or procedure and how the human rights of individuals are likely to be affected below: [NB. Include positive and negative impacts as well as barriers in benefiting from the above proposal]</p>			
		Yes	No	Comments
	Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms			
	Article 2: Right to life		✓	No impact
	Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way		✓	No impact
	Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour	✓		LRWS implementation requires the engagement of contractors by LWP members who offer employment terms, conditions and contracts which are not under direct control of LWP members. As a result, contractors are monitored closely, only accredited agencies used and anti-slavery clauses integrated into contracts.
	Article 5: Right to liberty and security		✓	No impact
	Article 6: Right to a fair trial		✓	No impact
	Article 7: No punishment without law		✓	No impact
	Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life		✓	No impact
	Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion		✓	No impact
	Article 10: Right to freedom of expression		✓	No impact

	Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association		✓	No impact
	Article 12: Right to marry		✓	No impact
	Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against		✓	No impact
Part 2: The First Protocol				
	Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment		✓	No impact
	Article 2: Right to education		✓	No impact
	Article 3: Right to free elections		✓	No impact
Section 2				
D: Decision				
12.	Is there evidence or any other reason to suggest that:		No	Unknown
	a) this policy could have a different affect or adverse impact on any section of the community;			✓
	b) any section of the community may face barriers in benefiting from the proposal			✓
13.	Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the likely impact of this policy			
	No Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Neutral Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Impact or Impact Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Note: If the decision is 'Negative Impact' or 'Impact Not Known' an EHRIA Report is required.				
14.	Is an EHRIA report required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 2: Completion of EHRIA Screening

Upon completion of the screening section of this assessment, you should have identified whether an EHRIA Report is required for further investigation of the impacts of this policy.

Option 1: If you identified that an EHRIA Report is required, continue to [Section 3](#) on Page 7 of this document to complete.

Option 2: If there are no equality, diversity or human rights impacts identified and an EHRIA report is not required, continue to [Section 4](#) on Page 14 of this document to complete.

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Report

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Report

This part of the assessment will help you to think thoroughly about the impact of this policy and to critically examine whether it is likely to have a positive or negative impact on different groups within our diverse community. It is also to identify any barriers that may detrimentally affect under-represented communities or groups, who may be disadvantaged by the way in which we carry out our business.

Using the information gathered either within the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, this EHRIA Report should be used to consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

Section 3

A: Research and Consultation

When considering the target groups it is important to think about whether new data needs to be collected or whether there is any existing research that can be utilised.

15. Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, how have you now explored the following and what does this information/data tell you about each of the diverse groups?
- current needs and aspirations and what is important to individuals and community groups (including human rights);
 - likely impacts (positive and negative, intended and unintended) to individuals and community groups (including human rights);
 - likely barriers that individuals and community groups may face (including human rights)

How this has been explored

The LWP recognise that for the majority of the Partners, barriers in the community are associated with: Age, Disabilities (particularly physical, mental and neurological health conditions), Race (language diversity), Pregnancy, Other (rural/urban poor, deprivation, rural isolation).

The public consultation survey for the LRWS took place between 31st January and 25th April 2022. The survey included sections on "Keeping Communities Informed" and "Making Sure Everyone Is Included" to understand potential barriers. The survey was available electronically and in hard copy and in various languages if requested.

Public consultation findings:

- Age and Disabilities (physical, mental and neurological) - concern about understanding recycling requirements, getting bins / recycling containers to and from the kerbside.

- Consideration of how to access HWRCs (as no pedestrian access allowed at all but two sites) or offer alternative recycling / re-use facilities where no access to car / private transport.
- Consideration to space for storage for multiple waste containers, particularly where limited space is available such as areas with more multiple occupancy houses, or shared waste facilities, or no outdoor space.
- Clear and simple instructions on recycling procedures.
- Printed materials as well as on-line communications (deprivation, poverty and age may mean lower levels of computer access/digital discrimination).
- Information in various languages to accommodate language diversity associated with racial diversity.

When the actions within the LRWS are implemented, further exploration of barriers and impacts will take place potentially as pilots, trials and feedback (see Q16).

16. Is any further research, data collection or evidence required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known affects of the policy on target groups?

The LRWS is high level and as such will be implemented appropriately within the partner jurisdictions. At the **implementation level**, further exploration of barriers and impacts will take place (for example through doing trials or pilots with varied community groups to understand the practicalities of the target activity).

In response to the findings identified in Q15 above, engagement with **specific groups** would be beneficial prior to full LRWS implementation, for example:

- Mental Health, Neurological Disorders and Dementia** The impacts of mental health, neurological conditions and dementia on waste service access have not explicitly been explored, whereas the issues of physical health and disability are better known. Therefore, engagement with mental health charities or experts will be promoted prior to the implementation of actions within the LRWS.
- Age** Given the UK-wide aging population, further engagement with elderly care charities will be promoted prior to the implementation of the LRWS.
- Deprivation** On-going feedback, either formal or informal, would be collated from LWP officers with access to representatives of or communities from deprived areas.
- Language Diversity** On-going feedback, either formal or informal, would be collated from LWP officers with access to representatives of, or communities with, high language diversity.

When considering who is affected by this proposed policy, it is important to think about consulting with and involving a range of service users, staff or other stakeholders who may be affected as part of the proposal.

17. Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, how have you further consulted with those affected on the likely impact and what does this consultation tell you about each of the diverse groups?

N/A – see response to Q15 and Q16.

18. Is any further consultation required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy on target groups?

On-going consultation and feedback will take place during implementation of the LRWS actions and initiatives.

Section 3

B: Recognised Impact

19. Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any 'protected characteristics' are likely be affected by this policy. Describe any positive and negative impacts, including what barriers these individuals or groups may face.

	Comments
Age	Implementing the LRWS requires households to present bins for collection and sort their recyclables. Incidences of disability increase with age and older residents with increased frailty or reduced mental capacity, for example, as a result of dementia, may find bin presentation or sorting of recyclables more difficult. HWRCs do not allow children under 16 meaning children are prevented from entering the sites alone.
Disability	As above, both physical and mental health conditions including neurological conditions and dementia may prevent people from presenting waste, sorting recyclables or taking waste to a HWRC.
Gender Reassignment	No barriers are identified.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No barriers are identified.
Pregnancy and Maternity	The physical requirements of waste presentation may become a barrier for women, particularly in third trimester pregnancy, this would include wheeled bins, boxes or other containers.
Race	There are no barriers associated with race per se, but the language diversity associated with racial diversity may be a barrier to communications on waste issues and waste services.
Religion or Belief	No barriers are identified.
Sex	No barriers are identified.

	Sexual Orientation	No barriers are identified.
	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities	<p>Rural isolation and poverty means distances from HWRC services may be a barrier to access.</p> <p>Areas with more multiple occupancy houses, or shared waste facilities, or no outdoor space may have challenges with waste segregation and physical space for multiple containers.</p> <p>People new to the country or area such as recent asylum seekers or refugees may need specific guidance on waste services if they have not used kerbside collections before, and specific communications in their own language.</p> <p>Residents experiencing deprivation may need support from Housing Officers to ensure they are aware of waste services.</p> <p>As shown by evidence collected through the 2021 LLEP Digital Poverty Call for Evidence Analysis Report (May 2021), deprivation and poverty can result in lower levels of computer access and therefore potentially less ability to find out about specific waste services unless materials are printed.</p> <p>Deprivation and poverty may also mean no car ownership/access restricting those without a car to travel to and access the HWRCs. Health and safety policy dictates no pedestrians are allowed onto sites apart from at the Barwell and Mountsorrel sites where this is permitted.</p>
	Community Cohesion	No barriers are identified.

20.	Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any particular Articles in the Human Rights Act are <u>likely</u> to apply to your policy. Are the human rights of any individuals or community groups affected by this proposal? Is there an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics?	
		Comments

Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms	
Article 2: Right to life	No impact
Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way	No impact
Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour	LRWS implementation requires the engagement of contractors who offer employment terms, conditions and contracts which are not under direct control of LWP. As a result, contractors are monitored closely, only accredited agencies used and anti-slavery clauses integrated into contracts.
Article 5: Right to liberty and security	No impact
Article 6: Right to a fair trial	No impact
Article 7: No punishment without law	No impact
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life	No impact
Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	No impact
Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	No impact
Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association	No impact
Article 12: Right to marry	No impact
Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against	No impact
Part 2: The First Protocol	
Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment	No impact
Article 2: Right to education	No impact
Article 3: Right to free elections	No impact
Section 3	
C: Mitigating and Assessing the Impact	
Taking into account the research, data, consultation and information you have reviewed and/or carried out as part of this EHRIA, it is now essential to assess the impact of the policy.	
21.	If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons.

No actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination is anticipated from the LRWS.

N.B.

i) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.

ii) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

- 22.** Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.
- a) include any relevant research and consultations findings which highlight the best way in which to minimise negative impact or discrimination
 - b) consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary, and how any unmet needs that you have identified can be addressed
 - c) if you are not addressing any negative impacts (including human rights) or potential barriers identified for a particular group, please explain why

Potential barriers have been identified for the following:

Age, Disabilities (physical, mental and neurological), Race (language diversity), Pregnancy, Other (rural/urban poor, deprivation, rural isolation).

The mitigation measures taken to reduce or remove the barriers are discussed below, and also identify where barriers cannot be mitigated.

Age:

- a) Provide an assisted collection service for those who are unable to present waste and recycling containers. Waste and recycling operatives collect and return containers from an agreed location on the property.
- b) For visual and hearing impairment which can be associated with aging, see below.

Disabilities (physical, mental and neurological health conditions):

- a) Provide an assisted collection service for those who are unable to present waste and recycling containers. Waste and recycling operatives collect and return containers from an agreed location on the property.
- b) All partners within the LWP provide website accessibility links which give details on interpretation and translation services.
- c) Residents can request information in accessible PDF, audio recording, braille, large print and easy read.
- d) The AbilityNet link provides advice on making a user's device easier to use if they have a disability.
- e) At HWRCs where a customer feels they may be unable to effectively communicate with site staff, they can contact the customer service centre so the County Council can consider whether any reasonable adjustments are appropriate.

- f) Accessible standard material is sent generically to managers at the HWRC.
- g) Updated materials from the Equalities representatives are distributed to HWRC managers.

Race (language diversity):

- a) Communications are available in relevant languages to explain waste services and how they can be accessed.
- b) Housing Officers collaborate with waste teams to ensure refugees and asylum seekers in the area who may not speak English are supported and are aware of waste services.

Pregnancy and maternity:

- a) Assisted collection services for those who are pregnant or who have had a recent C-section and live alone or in a household where no-one else is able to present the waste. Waste and recycling operatives collect and return containers from an agreed location on the property.

Other (rural/urban poor, deprivation, rural isolation):

- a) Collaboration with housing teams to ensure refugees new to the area and residents experiencing deprivation are aware of waste services.
- b) Doorstepping with Housing Officers, to ensure awareness of waste services in more deprived areas.
- c) Working with Housing Associations to ensure residents have access to waste services.
- d) For rural isolation or those without cars, the issue of requiring private transport for HWRC attendance cannot be overcome by the LWP however the partners offer bulky waste collections which can support management of waste that is not suitable for kerbside containers.
- e) For those without a car, Barwell and Mountsorrel HWRCs allow pedestrian access.

Training (LWP):

In order to raise awareness of issues associated with protected characteristic groups:

- a) Operational and office based staff are required to undertake mandatory diversity and equalities training. Note that the application of training to operational staff varies across the LWP, and in some cases agency staff will be delivering services. This is mitigated by ensuring the most direct customer facing roles (staff at HWRCs or Recycling Officers) will be subject to appropriate mandatory diversity and equalities training.
- b) Managers have options for more advanced training which includes specific unconscious bias training.
- c) New starters receive mandatory equalities training and updates as appropriate.

Section 3

D: Making a decision

23.	Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Leicestershire Waste Partnerships responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity, community cohesion and human rights.
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The EHRIA demonstrates that the LRWS will meet Leicestershire Waste Partnership's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity, community cohesion and human rights. Consideration needs to be given to further engagement during the implementation and operational phase of the LWRS strategy to ensure the LWP's responsibilities are met.

Section 3**E: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy**

24.	<p>Are there processes in place to review the findings of this EHRIA and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?</p> <p>Barriers and impacts will be monitored through the existing mechanisms in place which are applicable to waste services, noting that translation services are subscribed to, ensuring that feedback is captured in a variety of languages. These mechanisms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Periodic feedback and surveysb) Website e.g. 'speak up services' on website and via emailc) Councillor or other face to face meetingsd) Social media monitoring including corporate social media forums
25.	<p>How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? <i>e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems</i></p> <p>The recommendations and assessment of impacts will be considered within the final draft of the LRWS. Also this EHRIA will be considered during implementation of the LRWS within the partner jurisdictions and shared with partners to inform delivery and added to team plans if appropriate.</p>

Section 3:**F: Equality and human rights improvement plan**

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

The following forms the basis for plans for the LWP that will need to be developed into Equality and Human Rights Improvement Plans at a local level with specific responsibilities and targets.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer Responsible	By when
Accessible Services	Waste collection authorities (WCAs) to ensure Assisted Collections are available to all those who need them	All requests for Assisted Collections are followed up as required	WCA officers	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS
	HWRC staff to direct members of the public who feel unable to effectively communicate with site staff to the customer service centre	HWRC staff ensure all queries of this type are handled as required	Site managers/team supervisors	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS
	LCC to ensure service details of the HWRCs (including those accessible on foot) are listed on the LCC website and through their social media platforms	HWRC information published on LCC website and social media platforms	Comms team/waste operations	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS
	WCAs to ensure details of collections including bulky collections are available through district websites and printed council information	Bulky waste collection information published on district websites and printed on council information	WCA district collection managers	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS

Accessible Information	Staff to ensure interpretation and translation services (for language translations) and type talk services (for people hard of hearing) and the AbilityNet link are clearly identified on the LWP websites and within the LRWS itself	Accessible information details are identified on LWP website and in the LRWS	Comms team/waste policy team	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS
	Accessible material and equalities material is sent to managers at the HWRC	All HWRC managers receive accessible service information for dissemination to staff	Waste Operations	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS
	Consult with key bodies e.g. Housing Officers to ensure hard to reach groups are engaged	Collaborative partnerships are fostered to deliver accessible service information	WCA district officers	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS
Equality training	Operational and customer service staff, new starters and managers to receive appropriate equalities and diversity training and unconscious bias training	100% for all mandatory training	LCC Customer Services Manager / LCC Waste Team Managers / WCA Customer Service Teams and collection managers	Ongoing and throughout implementation of the LRWS

Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Upon completion, the Lead Officer completing this assessment is required to sign the document in the section below.

It is required that this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is scrutinised by your [Departmental Equalities Group](#) and signed off by the Chair of the Group.

Once scrutiny and sign off has taken place, a depersonalised version of this EHRIA should be published on Leicestershire County Council's website. Please send a copy of this form to louisa.jordan@leics.gov.uk, Members Secretariat, in the Chief Executive's department for publishing.

Section 4

A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EHRIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report

1st Authorised Signature (EHRIA Lead Officer):Anna Low

Date:7 November 2022

2nd Authorised Signature (DEG Chair):Alex Scott (on behalf of Ann Carruthers)

Date:16 November 2022.....

3rd Authorised Signature (Senior Representative Officer on behalf of district and borough councils)Edd de Coverly

Date: 12 January 2023