



Hertfordshire Waste Partnership  
Annual Report 2011/12

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(October 2012)



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## Foreword

On behalf of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) we are pleased to present the HWP's second annual report highlighting our work during 2011/12.

2011/12 saw the Partnership achieve a key target 12 months ahead of schedule with our overall recycling rate rising to 50.4% (source – Wastedataflow) compared to 48.4% a year earlier and reflects significant additional tonnages of organic material being captured for composting which along with a modest increase in dry recycling actually saw total household wastes rise slightly to 499,520 tonnes.

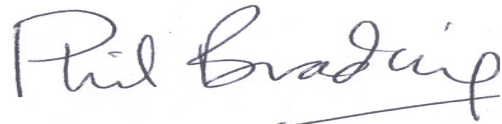
However, perhaps more importantly 2011/12 also saw further reductions in the amount of residual waste disposed of by residents down 6943 tonnes on the previous year. Subject to final population numbers this means that the HWP has already achieved the Governments 2020 target of reducing residual waste to 225kgs per head with a provisional result of 222.49kgs during 2011/12.

All of this has been achieved against a background of ever decreasing resources which has underlined the need for the HWP to continue to pursue opportunities for joint working with work in this area delivering £3.2 million of efficiencies during 2011/12.

We hope you enjoy our latest report and we would welcome feedback on any aspect of the Partnership's work.



**Cllr Derrick Ashley (Chairman HWP)**  
Executive Member for Transformation, Performance &  
Waste Management, Hertfordshire County Council



**Cllr Phil Brading (Vice Chairman HWP)**  
Public Services and Health Portfolio Holder  
Three Rivers District Council

# Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

## Annual Report 2011/12

### 2. Background

The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) was formed in 1992 between the 10 district and borough councils in their capacity as waste collection authorities and the county council as the waste disposal authority. Collectively, these local authorities are responsible for dealing with roughly 520,000 tonnes of municipal waste generated in Hertfordshire each year at a cost of approximately £80 million per annum.

The Partnership is overseen by the HWP Member group which is made up of elected councillors from each of the partner authorities who hold the relevant portfolio for waste management. The Member group is supported by two senior officer groups - the Directors group and the Heads of Waste group.

The HWP has no authority over individual services and instead considers matters of strategic importance and opportunities for joint working. It makes recommendations to partner authorities about the long-term development of waste services in pursuit of targets detailed in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy as well as key objectives and principles detailed in the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Agreement. The HWP unit is jointly funded by all 11 authorities and employs a Partnership Development Manager and a WasteAware Co-ordinator.

The HWP is committed to increasing the amount recycled in Hertfordshire to at least 50% by 2013. However, recycling is only part of the solution. If we reduce the amount of waste we generate in the first place and reuse more household items, we will dramatically lower the amount of waste that needs to be recycled or disposed of.



## 2. Summary

### 2.1. Waste Minimisation

Whilst the HWP's progress in the provision of recycling and composting services has been commendable measuring performance in this way is only part of the picture. Increasingly our focus must be on minimising waste therefore avoiding costs associated with collection, treatment and processing in the first place.

With this in mind each year the HWP tracks total household wastes (residual waste + tonnages sent for recycling and composting) to see what is happening to the waste stream overall.

Long-term success measured by this indicator is overall waste levels declining with an increasing percentage recycled. The table below looks at total waste production per household over the last 3 years :-

<b>Total Household Wastes (kgs per household)</b>	<b>Broxbourne</b>	<b>Dacorum</b>	<b>East Herts</b>	<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>North Herts</b>	<b>St Albans</b>	<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>Three Rivers</b>	<b>Watford</b>	<b>Welwyn Hat.</b>	<b>Herts CC.</b>	<b>H W P</b>
<b>2011/12</b>	990	924	920	968	902	900	870	980	878	983	153	1,083
<b>2010/11</b>	965	911	914	933	913	888	869	948	868	1,034	150	1,074
<b>2009/10</b>	962	962	947	929	909	891	901	950	858	1,032	165	1,100

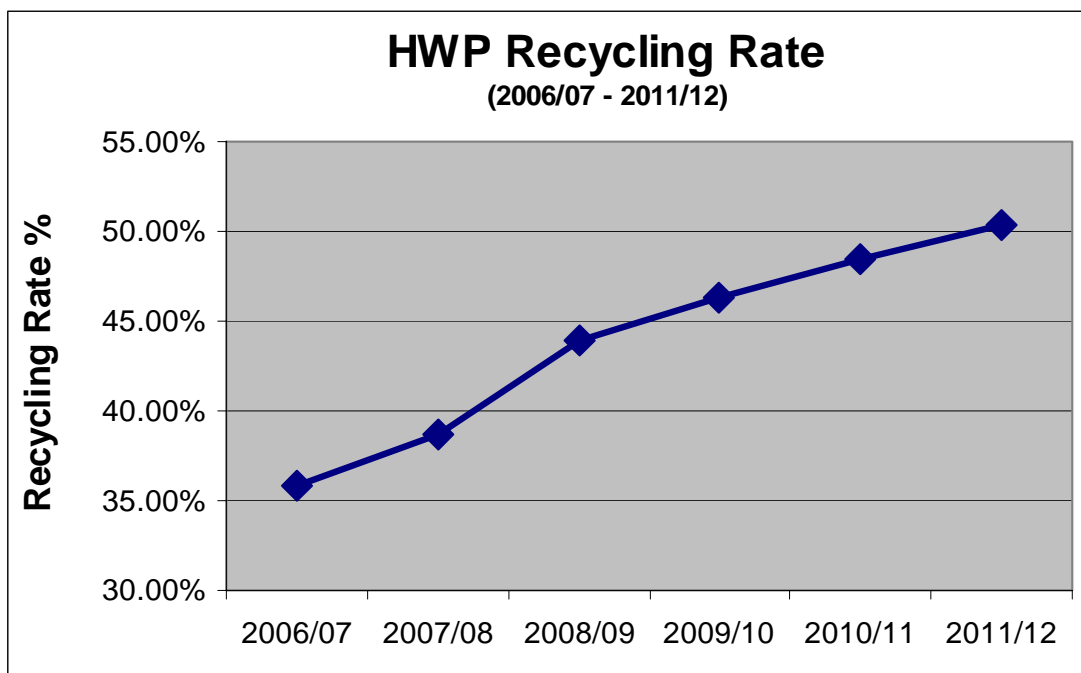
NB – figures for 2010/11 include minor adjustments to reflect updates to household numbers

Even though 2011/12 actually saw a 6943 reduction in residual wastes a modest increase in dry recycling tonnages along with a substantial increase in organic waste tonnages meant that total household production increased overall.

## 2.2. Recycling

The percentage of waste recycled is a national indicator used by the Government which the community and elected Members recognise as a measurement of success. The indicator measures the level of recycling and composting performance. Following early progress in November 2009 the HWP set revised targets including 47% by March 2011, 48.6% by March 2012 and 50% by March 2013.

However, as already noted in March 2012 the HWP achieved the 50% recycling target 12 months ahead of schedule thanks to a large increase in the amount of organic material captured for composting. This reflects the full year impact of a number of new initiatives launched during the preceding 12 months as well as new schemes, such as the weekly organics service in Three Rivers District Council rolled out during the early part of 2011/12.



The graph above confirms that the HWP has achieved its key recycling target of 50% of household waste 12 months ahead of schedule. As the economy improves and consumption levels strengthen the HWP will need to maintain and improve current provision if we are to continue to operate at, and improve upon, current performance levels.

The table below shows progress made over the last 3 years with recycling :-

<b>Recycling Percentage</b>	<b>Broxbourne</b>	<b>Dacorum</b>	<b>East Herts</b>	<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>North Herts</b>	<b>St Albans</b>	<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>Three Rivers</b>	<b>Watford</b>	<b>Welwyn Hat.</b>	<b>Herts CC.</b>	<b>H W P</b>
<b>2011/12</b>	39.6	46.7	48.4	46.7	49.5	48.3	40.0	60.5	41.2	49.9	67.9	<b>50.4</b>
<b>2010/11</b>	39.3	47.7	48.3	42.5	50.0	50.2	39.1	50.9	40.2	36.5	69.2	<b>48.5</b>
<b>2009/10</b>	35.5	47.3	41.4	39.4	48.7	49.7	31.9	49.5	39.7	34.1	68.9	<b>46.4</b>

**Notes :-**

1. All recycling rates taken from confirmed tonnages and rates published on Wastedataflow ([www.wastedataflow.org](http://www.wastedataflow.org)).
2. Broxbourne introduced their 'Green Waste Plus' scheme in August 2010.
3. Hertsmere added glass to their kerbside recycling service and expanded the range of plastics collected during quarter 3 – 2010/11.
4. Stevenage implemented their Alternative Weekly Collection service in October 2010.
5. Welwyn Hatfield implemented their Alternative Weekly Collection service in March 2011.
6. Three Rivers District Council implemented their weekly organics service in June 2011.

### 2.3. Residual Wastes

Recent trends in waste production mean that the HWP needs to continue to develop services to increase the amount diverted from landfill and maintain downward pressure on residual waste which has shown signs of increasing recently.

The table below shows reductions over the last 3 years in the amount of residual waste being disposed of on a per household basis despite annual rises in population :-

Kgs per household	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Welwyn Hat.	Herts CC.	H W P
<b>2011/12</b>	581	488	474	522	453	455	511	387	512	484	49	<b>532.51</b>
<b>2010/11</b>	578	471	469	533	450	438	524	466	505	653	46	<b>548.42</b>
<b>2009/10</b>	620	483	555	567	471	444	612	482	517	679	51	<b>582.27</b>

However, to place the residual waste results in context the table below summarises the quarterly changes in recycling, composting and residual tonnages during 2011/12 :-

Category	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Totals
Recycling	+77	+1	+1924	-377	+1625
Composting	+71	+6205	+4637	-1330	+9583
Residuals	-3765	-4495	+2740	-2203	-7723
<b>Totals...</b>	<b>-3617</b>	<b>+1711</b>	<b>+9301</b>	<b>-3910</b>	<b>+3485</b>

Clearly of key significance was the amount of additional organic waste captured during 2011/12 a significant amount of which was not matched by a corresponding drop in residual wastes resulting in an unwelcome increase in the funding required to manage this waste stream.



## 2.4. Value for Money

To track the 'added value' generated by Partnership activity the HWP maintains a value for money log with supporting narrative against each entry.

Primary responsibility for completing the log rests with the Heads of Waste group who decide which savings are genuinely derived through Partnership working and which would have been realised anyway. The latest version of the log is shown below covering a 3 year period from 2009/10 to 2011/12 :-

<b>Savings</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Paper consortium	£1,435,841	£1,798,348	£2,074,991
Packaging Consortium	£92,500	£555,000	£558,830
Textile Consortium	---	---	£460,048
Round Optimisation	---	£75,000	£150,000
Tescos Funding	£17,518	£17,138	£61,807
HEF Grant	£8,000	£14,000	£0
Kitchen Caddy - savings	£155,365	£0	£0
Other	£214	£0	£0
<b>Sub Total...</b>	<b>£1,709,438</b>	<b>£2,459,486</b>	<b>£3,305,676</b>

<b>Costs</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Salary Costs	£94,000	£135,297	£126,352
WasteAware	£45,339	£52,471	£41,128
Consultancy	£9,580	---	£20,000
Misc. - catering, training etc	£1,197	£1,000	£2,000
Other	£677	£1,364	£0
<b>Sub Total...</b>	<b>£150,793</b>	<b>£190,132</b>	<b>£189,480</b>

<b>Net Savings</b>	<b>£1,558,645</b>	<b>£2,269,354</b>	<b>£3,116,196</b>
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*NB – Whilst the log covers the same period noted in the 2010/11 report the figures for 2010/11 and 2011/12 have been updated based on the latest tonnages available.*

## Notes to the log :-

The schedule has been updated following changes since publication of the 2010/11 report :-

- tonnages going through each consortium are re-profiled on a regular basis.
- confirmed savings from Hertsmere's route optimisation project have now been included with part year savings in 2010/11 and full year savings from 2011/12 onwards.
- The revised schedule also includes updated projections for total additional income generated through the textile consortium which has decreased from £812k to £460k with the main difference being a reduction in the added value generated at the HWRCs due to initial problems which required a new approach to be taken which impacted significantly on income levels. With new arrangements now in place it is anticipated that HCC should be able to generate approximately £160k worth of additional income (compared to 2011/12) during 2012/13.
- The updated schedule also includes reworked numbers for the Packaging Consortium which take into account the drop in glass income effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 as well as the increase in prices paid for packaging materials from Pearce effective from October 2011 which were negotiated to partly off set the anticipated loss in glass income (see 3.1).
- The schedule includes £61,807 of indirect funding secured by WasteAware during 2011/12 in support of various initiatives including :-
  - European Recycling Platform UK Ltd - WEEE Event – cost of logistics.
  - Apple Inc - promotion of WEEE Event to public.
  - Asda (Walmart Inc) - donation of tins of Baked Beans – Recycling Awareness Campaign at the University of Hertfordshire & West Herts College).
  - University of Hertfordshire - donation of prize for Recycling Awareness.
  - Hatfield House - pitch fee for County Show.
  - Tesco's - store locator.
  - JACK FM - Jacktivities DJ Announcements (IT Takeback series of events).
  - Ecosystems – cost of logistics (IT Takeback series of events).
  - Whitehouse Enterprises - creation of bench made from 100% plastic bottles, and donated as prize to the winning Hertfordshire school.
  - European Recycling Platform UK Ltd (2<sup>nd</sup> - WEEE SDA Event Feb 2012)
  - Cumberlow – contribution towards design and production of 'Contamination' suite of material.
  - Envar – contribution towards design and production of 'Contamination' suite of material. (Specific partnership with HCC)

### 3. Key Achievements in 2011/12 – External Projects & Issues

#### 3.1. Glass Consortium Contract – Phase II

In recent years the HWP has become well known for the development of consortium contracts where Partner authorities sell their recyclable materials together.

2011/12 was no exception with market testing resulting in the extension of the HWP's main Packaging Consortium until January 2014. However, this same exercise indicated significant problems in the market for recycled glass following changes in Government policy which resulted in values declining to the point where acceptable conditions for extending arrangements could not be met. As a consequence during the latter half of 2011/12 the HWP initiated a fresh procurement exercise which for the first time was opened up to local authorities from across the region.



As a result the HWP awarded a new 2 year consortium contract to Viridor Resource Management with colour separated tonnages going to a glass recycling plant in Harlow with mixed

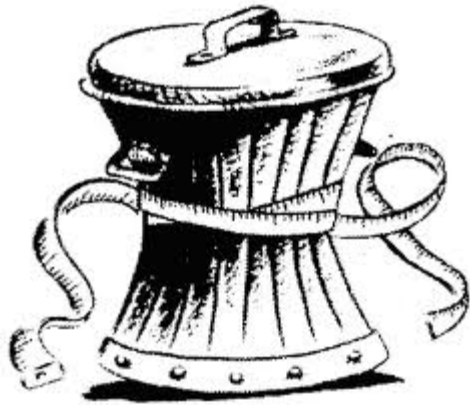
colour tonnages going to a specialised colour sorting facility in Sheffield before being used in remelt. This approach provides significant protection for the HWP in view of changes to the Packaging Regulations which will see greater value attached to glass sent for remelt applications from 2013 onwards.

The differential will be created by capping the number of Packaging Recovery Notes that can be issued against glass tonnages recycled into aggregates at their current level which means that future target increases will have to be met by glass tonnages sent for remelt. This development also underlines an important consideration for future glass consortium procurements. Whilst the returns from the new contract are significantly below that achieved previously market testing undertaken to inform the Partnerships approach indicates that the value obtained is still some £120,000 per annum greater than could have realistically been achieved by Partners letting individual contracts.

### 3.2. Carbon & Waste Prevention Research Consortium

Throughout 2011/12 representatives from the HWP participated in and chaired Stage 1 of an innovative research project that has developed a tool to calculate the tonnage, cost and carbon benefits of waste prevention initiatives.

The project is a collaboration between a consortium of research partners, including the Environmental Resources Management consultancy, central and local government. The collaborative nature of the project is, in itself, a natural extension of the joint working ethos developed by the HWP in recent years enabling the sharing of experience and the selection of the best examples of good practice. This has been a major benefit of the project and has encouraged interaction between parties who would not normally work together.



The tool, known as the Waste Prevention Benefits Calculator (WPBC), is the first of its kind, filling a data gap not currently addressed elsewhere. Whilst other tools and software address the management of wastes once they are produced, the WPBC answers the question of how to measure the benefits of waste prevention. The tool quantifies the improvements secured by ensuring waste does not arise in the first place, taking account of the investments required and alternative routes for delivering any 'function' that the

waste materials might have delivered. Full implementation and quantification of waste prevention is a fundamental driver in the waste sector, and a key requirement of the European Waste Framework Directive. DEFRA is obliged to develop a national Waste Prevention Plan by 2013 and this project is helping to fill a key data gap in its evidence base. DEFRA is fully supportive of the project which featured in a recent conference workshop on waste prevention evidence.

The calculator has been externally peer reviewed by an international expert in the field of life cycle assessment. The calculator's scope, ease of use and application of modelling techniques exceeded the expectations with the project's outputs considered to be impressive. The project is now entering a second phase to further develop and refine the tool.

The calculator enables local authorities to quantify their prevented waste tonnages, and the related cost and carbon savings. Partner authorities are able to use these figures in their business planning and to focus on spending decisions which best meet their local needs.

A full report on this exciting and innovative project can be accessed from the Chartered Institution of Waste Management (CIWM) website at :-

[http://www.ciwm.co.uk/CIWM/TrainingandEvents/EventManagement/FurtherInformationPage/Waste\\_Prevention\\_and\\_Carbon\\_Tool\\_Report.aspx](http://www.ciwm.co.uk/CIWM/TrainingandEvents/EventManagement/FurtherInformationPage/Waste_Prevention_and_Carbon_Tool_Report.aspx)

### **3.3. Textile Consortium Contract – first year of operation.**

The HWP's textile consortium covers approximately 140 sites generating in the region of 2400 tonnes of material per annum and was 1 year old in April this year.

Some of the headlines from the first year of operation are :-

- borough tonnages – 40 tonnes down compared to pre-tender projections. However, this can be attributed to the phase started in a number of authorities at the time of launch with tonnages anticipated to be on or above target during 2012/13.
- borough number of lifts – reduced by 139 compared to pre-tender projections as a result of work to optimise collections in each borough. This work is on going with further efficiencies being pursued during 2012/13.
- borough added value – results for 2011/12 indicate that during the first year of operation the new consortium generated £399,000 of additional income for the 10 districts that make up the County. This income has been reinvested and at least in part has helped to reduce the need to cut services in other areas.

The situation with respect to tonnage from the County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres is more complex as significant problems were initially experienced which required a different approach to be taken.

As a result added value secured against the County Council's tonnages was limited to £90k during 2011/12. However, subject to tonnages for the year it is anticipated that the County Council should be able to generate an additional £160k worth of added value during 2012/13 compared to that achieved during 2011/12; for a net increase of approximately £250,000 compared to pre-consortium levels.

Finally whilst the textile consortium now represents an important source of much needed income for the Partner authorities helping to fund services the HWP remains keen to promote alternatives further up the hierarchy and encourages residents to make full use of charity shops to allow good quality clothing to be re-used thus avoiding the waste stream altogether.

### 3.4. WasteAware Campaign 2011/12

The 'public face' of the Partnership is managed by the HWP's WasteAware team and includes representatives from each partner authority that together design and implement the annual WasteAware campaign. Each year the campaign tackles different aspects related to behavioural change with the long-term objective of reducing the amount of waste we have to deal with in the first place. The programme is funded via a pooled budget contributed to by all partners as well as various sources of external funding that maybe secured from time to time in relation to specific projects.



The campaign includes over 120 different techniques and methods ranging from annual events to bespoke programmes designed to tackle specific issues like the highly successful school plays initiative which WasteAware have used to tackle issues ranging from litter to food waste reduction.

2011/12 saw the team launch a number of different initiatives with a common objective of driving participation in the recycling and composting services as well as tackling regular issues such as litter.

Innovative approaches included awareness messages on specially produced baked bean tins and beer mats, and WasteAware jingles on local radio stations covering a number of distinct messages.

The most notable part of the 2011/12 campaign was a number of 'Take Back' initiatives to promote the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). These were put together on the back on implementing the CoBRA battery recycling scheme during 2011 which identified an opportunity for WasteAware to work in partnership with a number of service providers and other Hertfordshire bodies to deliver a number of Take Back initiatives during the summer of 2011.

The scheme was designed to target the recycling of WEEE from the University of Hertfordshire as well as schools, businesses and residents at multiple sites that would be co-ordinated by the WasteAware team.



In addition to bringing logistical expertise to support the collection phase of the project, ERP working with WasteAware also secured sponsorship from Apple to support the processing of the material.

There were three main elements to the campaign:

- A three day Electrical and Electronic Recycling Event on 8th, 9th and 10th June 2011 at County Hall in Hertford for both residents and businesses to bring unwanted e-waste for recycling.
- All schools in the county were offered a free pick up of unlimited WEEE goods for recycling.
- Cages were made available at the University of Hertfordshire for students to deposit their unwanted WEEE goods prior to them leaving at the end of the academic year.

Overall the publicity for the public / business facing element was very successful in raising awareness of the 3 day event. Key forms of awareness raising included, press releases, press adverts, bus back advertising, WasteAware Facebook and Twitter feeds, local radio adverts, promotional work with the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce, train station advertising, posters and flyers in all libraries, to name a few!

During the course of our three day event, businesses, residents, schools and students in Hertfordshire collected in excess of 57 tonnes of e-waste for recycling, reflecting a drive to encourage local people and companies to clear out their workplaces, sheds, lofts and garages of unwanted or broken electrical items and recycle them rather than throwing them away. Over 33% of the schools in Hertfordshire took part in the event, as did students at the University of Hertfordshire.

The collected items were sent to SWEEP Kuusakoski Ltd for recycling, a specialist WEEE reprocessor based in Sittingbourne, Kent, where they were treated to recover metals and plastics. The recovered materials were then sent on to manufacturers and used to make new products. Recycling services were provided courtesy of Apple.

The WEEE take back initiatives are a good example of how the HWP is constantly looking to extend partnership working by establishing effective working relationships with key service providers that include everyone from manufacturers to collectors to recyclers; all playing their part to provide a range of inclusive events that included schools, businesses and the public.



Reactions from the public were very positive with 96% of the people participating agreeing that events like this should be held more often. The success of this initiative has generated interest from the CIWM and other local authorities and also led to a follow up event for schools in February this year which generated a further 31.28 tonnes of e-waste. As a result of this initiative similar



events are planned as part of the 2012/13 programme. The successful operation of the scheme also resulted in the WasteAware team being short listed as finalists in the 2012 National Recycling Awards.

### 3.5. Response to government consultations

When relevant the HWP continues to compile joint responses to major government consultations on waste related matters.

This approach encourages Partner authorities to raise concerns and issues which are then debated before being incorporated into joint responses. The process is also useful in supporting a number of individual authorities to submit their own responses to address specific concerns.



Each consultation requires scoping of relevant issues, compilation of draft responses for discussion and amendment before joint responses are submitted to ensure that the key issues from a local government perspective are properly considered by central government prior to any changes to the legislative framework.

Of key significance during the last 12 months was a consultation on recovery and recycling targets for packaging waste. This dealt with proposals to increase recovery and recycling targets under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations.

Crucially, from the HWP's perspective, the consultation failed to consider that the Government's transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive was likely to be the subject of a judicial review sponsored by the Campaign for Real Recycling (CRR) – an action that was indeed initiated but then suspended pending revisions to how the Government intends to transpose the Directive.

In addition the HWP also pointed out that the consultation appeared to miss the fact that to a large extent businesses obligated under the Packaging Regulations are now relying on the large scale supply of recycled materials from English local authorities that no longer have statutory recycling targets. This appears to be a significant risk in the Government's long term approach especially when considered from the perspective of material security.

Following from this and given the removal of statutory targets for the majority of local authorities the HWP also recommended that the Government may wish to consider whether or not it is time for a more fundamental review of the Packaging Recovering Note system to ensure that the added value is directly invested in funding additional collection activity.

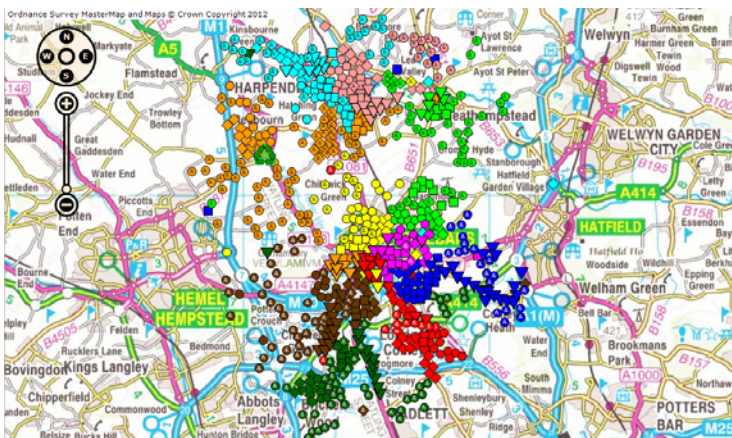
Such a review would also allow wider consideration and co-ordination of related fiscal drivers such as landfill tax to ensure that a range of Government policies are used to 'push and pull' changes in behaviour that benefit the UK as a whole.

## 4. Key Achievements in 2011/12 – Internal Projects & Processes

### 4.1. Route Optimisation (Update)

Previously working in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council and Improvement East (the East of England's Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership) funding was secured to allow Hertsmere to run a route optimisation exercise driving further efficiencies in their collection services resulting in kerbside recycling collections for glass and a significant improvement in their overall recycling rate by March 2012 (46.7% in 2011/12 compared to 42.5% in 2010/11).

However, more importantly this exercise created an in house capability which allows the Partnership to support similar exercises in other Partner authorities with work now underway in Broxbourne, North Herts, St Albans and Welwyn Hatfield.



Initial work is concentrating on identifying what efficiencies can be delivered for each participant on an individual basis. However, once this is complete the next phase of the project will assess what additional efficiencies might be obtained by planning collection services across a number of different authorities.

### 4.2. Composting Strategy Review

During the latter half of 2011/12 a special working group was formed to consider various challenges presented by changing legislation that require the Partnership to review the suitability of its long term arrangements for collecting and processing organic wastes which includes the collection of garden wastes, food wastes and cardboard from the vast majority of households throughout the County. As such the review also fulfils a requirement under the Joint Waste Strategy Action Plan to review composting arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Whilst the review is still on going its primary purpose has been to help inform the HWP about the alternative options for collecting and processing organic wastes including garden waste, food and cardboard in the medium and long term. A range of 'scenarios' have been considered and broad 'costs of change' estimated, based on a number of assumptions.

Subject to further testing a key conclusion of the review is that cardboard which is currently collected with garden and food waste for composting will either need to be removed from the organic waste processing mix or at least substantially reduced from its current levels.

The lowest cost 'stand alone' option for removing card from the organic stream, which does not involve a reduction in kerbside services, is likely to involve co-mingling card with paper as part of dry recycling collections. Co-mingling card with other dry recyclables may be an option for some authorities, subject to how this affects the market price for their materials.

Weekly food waste collections are likely to cost the partnership more overall as savings in landfill costs are unlikely to cover the additional collection costs. This is of course a 'snapshot' in time and costs may change depending on what happens to landfill tax and impact of the planned Energy from Waste facility. For the purpose of this exercise any external funding (e.g. from ongoing bids for grant funding to the DCLG) is ultimately a cost to the taxpayer. These may be a driver for change but do not impact on the costs of options.

Options for managing organic waste in the future that are likely to cost less involve a reduction in kerbside collection services (e.g. replacing a kerbside card collection with recycling banks) or the introduction of a charge for services, which reduce take up and encourage home composting (e.g. charging residents for garden waste collections).

The majority of options that involve finding alternative ways of collecting cardboard or increasing diversion of food waste from landfill are likely to result in an increase in collection costs, but a saving in processing / treatment costs. In line with the HWP's overall approach to joint working the review is assessing how a shared approach to costs and savings might best deliver the necessary changes.

Longer term the Partnership will need to consider whether organic waste treatment options using anaerobic digestion can be used to offset some of the higher costs of separate weekly food waste collections. This was recognised in the agreed action plan of the Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, which recognised the need to review composting services with the aim of capturing more biodegradable material and removing it from landfill.

### 4.3. Hertfordshire Waste Partnership – follow up audit report

In our 2010/11 annual report we noted that the HWP had been subjected to a rigorous audit inspection by a joint team from the Borough's of Broxbourne, Hertsmere and Welwyn Hatfield. At the time the inspection concluded that “...**substantial assurance could be given concerning the effectiveness of controls in meeting Partnership objectives...**”. Further to this inspection a follow up audit was conducted during December 2011 to review progress made with implementing the recommendations made in the original report.



Eight recommendations had been made of which seven were agreed at the time. The follow up inspection found that “...**significant progress has been made in implementing all recommendations...**”. This included the production of the HWP's first risk management plan and register which is now reviewed on a quarterly basis by senior officers and Members to ensure that Partner authorities are fully aware of risks and issues they could impact on their operations now or in the

future. The follow up audit opinion was formed based on inspection of relevant Partnership documentation and the results of sample testing.

The HWP was originally identified for audit review as it was assessed as being a significant Partnership for a number of Hertfordshire's districts and boroughs. Following the joining together of a number of internal audit sections throughout the County to form the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) future HWP inspections will be conducted by SIAS with initial discussions already taken place to ensure that this is incorporated into SIAS's future plans as necessary.

#### 4.4. Risk Management

The inaugural 2010/11 report confirmed the implementation of the HWP Risk Management Plan which sees quarterly reports submitted to the Partnership detailing current risks and measures being taken to address them.

The reports along with a copy of the latest risk register are always published on the HWP website – [www.wasteaware.org.uk](http://www.wasteaware.org.uk) – to allow public scrutiny of the issues being tackled by the Partnership and how these may impact on current or future service provision.

The quarterly update recommends appropriate changes to the existing register as well as identifying risks that can either be removed or new risks which need to be added.

Under this context during 2012/13 key issues being faced by the HWP include: -

- **PAS100:2011** – PAS stands for Publicly Available Specification with PAS100:2011 being the revised standard that applies to compost materials produced from municipally sourced organic wastes. Across the UK these have historically included garden and food waste and in some areas including Hertfordshire cardboard. As part of a drive to improve confidence in and therefore demand for such materials the standard has significantly increased the quality specification for the finished product.

Linked to this the Government, subject to discussions at the European level, is highly likely to formally establish a link between PAS100:2011 and 'end-of-waste criteria' requirements by 2015 that need to be met if the composting of organic waste is to count towards recycling targets. The direct impact of this is the need to ensure future feedstocks sent to the reprocessors are of sufficient quality such that they can achieve and maintain the required accreditations.

These developments have prompted a strategic review of the materials currently collected in Hertfordshire and sent for composting. The review started in the latter half of 2011 is due to conclude shortly and will be making recommendations with respect to the future configuration of organic waste collections services.

- **End of Waste Criteria for Glass** – in July the European Commission adopted an ‘End of Waste Criteria’ for glass. Initial interpretation of the standard indicates that for ‘end of waste’ to be achieved glass cullet must be of a quality suitable for remelting into bottles or other products such as fibreglass. However, glass sent to non remelt applications such as aggregates would still be classed as waste and would be unlikely to count towards recycling targets detailed in the revised Waste Framework Directive. If adopted as such glass being sent for remelt will clearly become the preferred method for dealing with cullet with potential implications for the UKs Packaging Recovery system.

The criteria were drawn up by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre - the EU’s scientific and technical research laboratory - and state that glass cullet must comply with a customer specification, an industry specification or a standard for direct use in the production of glass substances or objects by re-melting in glass manufacturing facilities. The criteria place limits on the amount of contaminants such as metals, organics and stones which can be contained in glass cullet in order for it to be classed as a secondary raw material.

Now the glass criteria have been approved, they will now need to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union which is expected by the end of the summer. If this happens, it is anticipated that the criteria could come into force in the UK as early as 2013.

The clear intent of the criteria is to deter some councils and waste management companies from collecting lower quality material. Material collected commingled and sent to a MRF, which is often not of a high enough quality to send to remelt, has been sighted a particular concern. This will have implications for future HWP procurements including both stand alone glass consortiums as well as any consortium for the bulk collection and processing of commingled materials that include glass.

- **Markets / funding** – one key area of permanent risk faced by the Partnership is how best to manage the sale of dry recyclables into the market place for secondary materials. Key to our approach is how we package our contracts and interface with the market place to ensure the best result for the Hertfordshire tax payer whilst at the same time minimising risks associated with the markets inherently volatility linked to wider fluctuations in the global economy.

When combined with the recent significant reductions in local government funding adverse market impacts can result in monetary fluctuations worth £'s million per annum.

To address these issues in recent years the HWP has developed a number of highly innovative and nationally recognised consortium contracts which sees the Partner authorities come together to let a single contract governing the sale of either individual or multiple material streams. These consortiums have stimulated the creation of private sector consortiums sometimes including international partners that have generated additional value for the Partnership.

A key indicator of success in this approach being able to package the HWP's tonnage in a way that is beneficial to the market place attracting a premium that would not otherwise be paid to individual authorities acting in isolation. To date consortiums for textiles, newspapers, magazines, plastics and cans have all been developed which are generating income levels significantly above current market averages all based on fixed term contracts. This provides surety for Partner budgets allowing the HWP to plan longer term and is just one example of how the Partnership's member authorities work together to generate additional value for the tax payer.



## 5. How to contact us

If you have any questions about this report please contact the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership at :-

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To find out more about the HWP why not try our quick response code :-

