



HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

MEMBERS' GROUP 26th October 2009

Item 6: HWP Performance Action Plans

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1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Members' group on progress with action plans from the constituent authorities in pursuit of agreed targets detailed in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007.
- 1.2 To present an overview of the main changes in performance during the first 6 months of 2009/10.

2 Background

- 2.1 Over recent months a number of reports have been presented to both the Directors and Members groups detailing significant progress in the provision of recycling services across the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, (HWP).
- 2.2 This progress combined with the continuing decline in residual waste is likely to increase recycling levels to 45+% by March 2010. This compares favourably against the national average with performance starting to rival continental levels.
- 2.3 However, a report submitted to the Heads of Waste meeting in May (Item 7 – Performance Review – Update) projected that despite these improvements a number of the constituent authorities were likely to fall short of JMWMS targets, raising concerns with respect to the HWP's ability to achieve 50% recycling by March 2013.
- 2.4 To address this the same report recommended that the constituent authorities report back with written summaries detailing anticipated service developments that were likely to take place in the period to March 2013. Reports were to include approved service changes as well as any that are aspirational and subject to funding and / or political approval.

- 2.5 The reports were to also detail specific assistance that may be required from the HWP. Key themes emerging from these reports would then be discussed with the Directors' and Members' groups with a view to seeing what additional support maybe required to address areas of lower performance. The recommendation was agreed with summaries to be completed and submitted by the 29th June 2009.
- 2.6 The same report was presented to the Directors' group at their meeting on the 22nd June 2009 (Item 8 – Performance Review – Update) following which it was also agreed that the constituent authorities would report back by 29th June 2009.
- 2.7 The Member group received and discussed the performance review report on the 13th July 2009 (Item 11 – Performance Review – Update). Following debate Members endorsed the request that each authority compile a bullet point action plan which detailed how each authority intends to either close any performance gap, or sustain performance above the 50% recycling rate. These plans would be discussed at the HWP Member meeting on the 26th October 2009.

3 Progress To Date

- 3.1 All 11 constituent authorities have provided summaries as shown in Appendix A. The Director's group is asked to note that since the plans were submitted a number of the developments detailed for implementation have taken place. In addition some of the items detailed under the plans are subject to approval and funding.
- 3.2 Key themes arising from the summaries are continued financial support from the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant, (WICG) to assist the roll out of additional collection services such as food waste recycling, services for residents in flats and on street recycling.
- 3.3 In response to the points noted in the actions plans a number of developments have taken place including the amendment to the WICG selection criteria (agreed by the Member Sub Group on 26th August 2009) which now allows for the funding of residual waste bins. To date 1 authority has taken advantage of this change by submitting a number of bids as part of a future move towards a restricted residual waste model. There is also the possibility of a similar bid from another authority by the end of November 2009.
- 3.4 A number of other important service developments detailed in Appendix A such as the provision of schools recycling services, again supported by the WICG have also been initiated in pursuit of the targets detailed in the JMWMS 2007.
- 3.5 In addition the new Packaging Consortium being put together for cans, glass and plastic bottles (as reported elsewhere on the agenda) will also try to develop opportunities for providing outlets for mixed plastic grades in response to a number of aspirations detailed throughout the action plans.
- 3.6 Clearly given the turbulent economic back drop to these developments no-one can guarantee to achieve 50% recycling by March 2013. However, the plans detailed in Appendix A do detail a clear commitment to making further meaningful contributions towards achieving the targets detailed in the JMWMS.

4 Performance Update

- 4.1 Based on provisional results for quarter 1 and projected results for quarter 2 changes to household waste figures across Hertfordshire for the period April to September are as follows :-

CATEGORY	2008/09	Apr – Sept '09
RECYCLING	118,509	-2217
COMPOSTING	111,009	1881
RESIDUALS	293,334	-13,432
TOTALS...	522,853	-13,768
RECYCLING RATE	43.9%	48.2%

- 4.2 As we can see from the table above when looking at recycling and composting together there has been a small net reduction in the tonnages recycled across the County. The figures also show that there has been another significant reduction in residual tonnages as the effects of the recession continue to be felt.
- 4.3 Analysis due to be presented during the next cycle of meetings will show that one of the most significant impacts of the recession is the reduction in paper tonnages collected across the County helping to explain the reduction in 'recycling' tonnages detailed above.
- 4.4 At the July meeting the Member Group received a report (Item 11 – Performance Review) which included a table (paragraph 4.1) showing the gap in performance for each of the constituent authorities as of the end of 2008/09.
- 4.5 In order to relate and track the impact of the action plans detailed in Appendix A the table below details the changes that have taken place in the period April – September 2009 for each of the constituent authorities.

Authority	Qrt 1	Qrt 2	Qrt 3	Qrt 4	Total	Gap at the end of 2008/09	Gap so far in 2009/10
BBC	-271	-161			-432	5,640	5,208
DBC	-10	267			258	1,910	2,168
EHDC	56	514			570	8,528	9,098
HBC	43	70			113	3,998	4,111
NHDC	119	252			370	-40	330
SADC	-1,029	-460			-1,489	1,466	-23
SBC	5	-68			-63	6,867	6,805
TRDC	29	5			34	216	250
WBC	-43	-58			-102	3,048	2,946
WHBC	-47	-100			-146	8,781	8,641
HCC	-3,890	-3,516			-7,406	-7,739	-15,145
Total HWP Gap						32,682	24,389

- 4.6 The figures shown under quarters 1 and 2 indicate the change in the gap between current performance and what 50% recycling would look like in each constituent authority based on present data. Minus figures indicate improvements, i.e. by how much the gap has shrunk with plus figures indicating the gap has widened.
- 4.7 On this basis we can see that there have been small reductions in the performance gap in Stevenage, Watford and Welwyn with larger reductions in Broxbourne and St Albans. Conversely the gap has worsened in Dacorum, East Herts, and to a minor extent in Hertsmere and Three Rivers.
- 4.8 The figures for HCC indicate a further increase in the margin by which they are exceeding the 50% target.
- 4.9 The figures for North Herts indicate that their performance has declined slightly in the first six 6 months.
- 4.10 Looking at the data in a more familiar form we can track changes in quarterly recycling rates over the first 2 quarters for 2009/10 as shown below:-

Authority	2009/10		2008/09		Change	
	Qrt 1	Qrt 2	Qrt 1	Qrt 2	Qrt 1	Qrt 2
Broxbourne	39.63	39.75	37.54	38.14	2.10	1.62
Dacorum	50.58	50.06	50.50	50.76	0.08	-0.70
East Herts	39.28	34.56	39.80	39.05	-0.52	-4.49
Hertsmere	45.30	40.08	45.82	40.62	-0.52	-0.53
North Herts	51.34	50.92	52.06	52.83	-0.72	-1.91
St Albans	53.76	52.70	46.50	48.21	7.26	4.48
Stevenage	33.36	33.88	34.05	32.55	-0.69	1.33
Three Rivers	52.74	51.81	52.99	51.74	-0.25	0.07
Watford	44.45	41.38	44.04	42.47	0.41	-1.09
Welwyn Hat.	35.87	35.21	35.76	33.70	0.11	1.51
Herts CC	69.92	70.08	52.48	60.22	17.44	9.86
HWP	49.16	47.71	45.77	46.42	3.39	1.29

- 4.11 In conclusion, whilst as a whole, the gap between the Partnership's overall performance and 50% recycling has shrunk significantly since April (by 8293 tonnes - 25.37%) we can deduce that this improvement is mainly as a result of the continuing decline in residual wastes.

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Members' group notes the report.

5.2 That the situation is kept under review through the submission of further tonnage gap analysis provided as part of future reports on the HWP performance indicators.

Appendix A

Broxbourne Borough Council :-

Broxbourne's recycling rate for the first quarter in 2009/10 was 39.8% , an increase of 4.7% on the 2008/09 recycling rate of 35.1.

Broxbourne is currently undertaking a full scale review of its waste management service. The review so far has generated a number of issues with respect to the configuration of Broxbourne's collection services which need to be worked through.

A final report is due to be submitted to Broxbourne's Members for consideration by the end of November following which Broxbourne will be able to confirm what changes are being made to its waste and recycling services. Irrespective of the outcome of the review the Council's plans are as follows:

a) Planned developments

- Consolidate the purple sack scheme in its first full year of operation (2009/10)
- Trial schemes make it easier for flatted properties to recycle their waste (2009/10 and 2010/11 and 2011/12)
- Maintain and develop the network of bring bank sites so they are fit for purpose (2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12)
- Install "on the go" recycling bins in town centre locations, railway stations and public places (2009/10)
- Provide recycling bins to schools.

b) Communications and promotions (continuous)

- Build on the purple sack communication plan and deliver actions to promote the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste using all available media including the web-site, leaflets, posters, the helpline, One Stop Shops, and face to face (continuous)
- Consult with community groups, including the Environmental Panel and Neighbourhood Community fora, and the Borough Consultative Panel, on service delivery and developments.
- Publish and circulate an environmental quarterly monitor reviewing performance on waste management related services
- Circulate to each householder a recycling calendar twice each year promoting the Council's refuse and recycling services.
- Promote recycling at schools

c) Aspirational objectives

- Promote recycling at schools
- Reprocess and reduce the weight of street arisings sent to landfill
- Introduce incentives to encourage the business community to recycle more of its waste

Dacorum Borough Council :-

A) Planned Developments

1) Infrastructure

- Introduce schools recycling facilities (2009/2010).
- Launch pilot for trade waste recycling (2009/2010).
- Increase food waste capture (2009/10 & 2010/11).
- Provide further recycling facilities to flats/hard to reach areas (2009/10).
- Install litter bins for recycling (2009/2010).
- To refurbish bring sites (2009/10).

2) Increase Participation / Capture

- Continue to improve service reliability (reduce missed collections).
- Continue to raise awareness via road shows, school talks, press releases etc.
- Continue to promote waste reduction e.g. subsidised home composters, reusable nappies etc.
- Continue with a policy of not collecting excess waste.
- Continue to monitor for contamination for organic waste and address as necessary.

B) Aspirational Developments

- To reuse bulky household collection items.
- To compost / treat mechanical street sweepings.
- To divert fly tipping from the street cleansing waste stream.
- To target areas of low recycling participation.
- To return compost to residents.
- To collect other materials on kerbside recycling service e.g. other plastics (subject to funding / sustainable markets).

East Herts District Council :-

The main thrust of service improvements in East Herts are centred around the roll out of the Alternate Refuse Collection (ARC) system and in the main include the following elements :-

1) Implement Alternate Refuse Collection Scheme adopting fortnightly collection of residual waste and kerbside collection of plastics, card and food. Roll out scheduled to be completed by November 2009. Projected outcomes include:

- Achievement of a recycling rate of 47% significantly reducing residual waste sent to landfill.
- Implementation of a new education and enforcement approach to encourage compliance and address potential contamination issues.
- Raise awareness / encourage food waste minimisation in line with national and local 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaigns.

2) Develop a programme to roll out food waste collections to flats. Time scale is subject to successful implementation of ARC. Projected outcomes include:

- Increase recycling rates / reduce biodegradable waste sent to landfill in accordance with HWP targets.

3) Deliver an ongoing campaign to promote recycling and waste minimisation both directly and through WasteAware. Time scales are ongoing, but subject to review following ARC implementation. Projected outcomes include:

- Achievement of HWP target of 50% recycling by 2012.

Hertsmere Borough Council :-

In 2008/09 Hertsmere Borough Council achieved a 39.7% recycling rate.

In pursuit of the targets agreed in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy the authority is currently working on a new waste strategy with a target recycling rate in excess of 50%. The new strategy will be based on 4 main elements :-

- Service Improvement i.e. increasing the range of recycling options available to residents.
- Education – extending our current education primarily focusing on schools, parish council meetings and other interested groups.
- Enforcement Strategy
- Communications – a comprehensive communication program designed to both educate and inform.

Within our planned service improvements we are considering a number of options to take us beyond our current 40% recycling rate and these will be discussed with our members in due course.

Hertfordshire County Council :-

Hertfordshire County Council is 1 of 2 constituent authorities to have already achieved the 50% recycling target in 2008/09.

Consequently the HCC action plan includes initiatives to maintain and improve their own recycling performance as well as support the efforts of Hertfordshire's waste collection authorities. Some actions have been completed since the original action plan was put together. Actions include :-

Actions to Improve HCC recycling performance :-

- Consideration and implementation of revised layouts to various HWRCs to improve overall user satisfaction leading to an increase in recycling. Timescale – April to October 2009.
- Commence longer procurement for plaster board recycling from HWRCs (March 2010)
- Agreement for the recycling of soils and hardcore from HWRCs (June 2009)
- Redevelopment of HWRC recycling information leaflets (Dec 2009)
- Develop and let contract for rigid plastic recycling from HWRCs (Jan 2010)
- Consider and implement improvements to on site signage for recycling layouts at HWRCs (March 2010)
- Liaise with Watford BC over the possible expansion of the Watford HWRC (March 2010)

Actions to support Borough / District performance :-

- Install bays to enable transfer of ABPR organic wastes from Hertsmere and Welwyn Hatfield at the Waterdale transfer station (July 2009 – *completed*)
- Continued promotion of LFHW campaign through WasteAware (October 2009)
- Ensure delivery of expanded capacity at the Cumberlow in-vessel facility (Nov 2009)
- Investigate possibility of working with Hertfordshire Furniture Forum (Dec 2009)
- Formalise replacement contract for home composting after WRAP scheme ends (Jan 2010)
- Develop designs with WasteAware for advertising banners on HWRC containers (Mar 2010)
- Ensure delivery of Agrivert in-vessel composting (March 2010)

North Herts District Council :-

In 2008/09 North Herts District Council also achieved a recycling rate in excess of 50%. However, mindful of the need to drive further improvements in performance the following are actions either due for implementation and / or under consideration by the Authority in pursuit of agreed targets and include :-

- Continued roll out of the flats recycling service across the District – anticipated to be completed by the end of 2009 / early spring 2010.
- Assessment of participation rates across the District. The initial assessment has been completed. The results are due to be assessed by officers by the end of the calendar year.
- Linked to the previous point consideration is also being given to conducting a new waste compositional analysis of both the recycling and residual waste streams. This will enable the calculation of capture rates for the current range of recyclables being collected. Information gleaned from this exercise will also allow North Herts to target specific recyclables still being thrown away by residents as well as identify the need for new markets for specific materials such as mixed plastics not currently catered for.
- Proposals for a schools recycling programme have been put together and are due to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration in due course.
- In line with the policy agreed at the HWP meeting in January 2009 options for implementing trade waste recycling are also currently be considered by officers with recommendations due to be considered by the Authority prior to the end of the financial year.

St Albans District Council :-

St Albans currently operate a 'Twin Bin' service, households have one green and one black bin along with a minimum of two recycling boxes with the exception of approximately 3400 properties who have remained on a sack collection for refuse and have reusable bags and the option of a kitchen caddy for green waste.

Refuse is collected on one week and all recycling on the next.

During June / July 2009 an extra recycling box will be delivered to all households, residents will be given the option to opt out. The extra box will not only encourage more recycling but also improve the street scene with fewer carrier bags put out with excess.

In July the next delivery of refuse bags is due. These will now be purple instead of black and there will be a limit of four to be collected per household every fortnight. This will give residents the same capacity as those households that currently use wheeled bins for the collection of their refuse and will help to minimise the uncontrolled quantity of excess waste currently put out for collection.

We will continue to put bulk recycling bins into flats across the district. Approximately 8,000 flats currently have access to recycling. All of these have receptacles for paper, plastic bottles and cans. Glass banks are being rolled out to those that have space and will accept the additional bin.

There are currently 16 sets of on street recycling litter bins across the district with another 16 sets about to go out, these are for paper and plastic bottles / cans. We are currently looking at smaller dual purpose litter / recycling bins for residential areas and outside schools.

We are going to look at the logistics of collecting mixed low grade plastic at the kerbside and the impact this will have on the MRF and the collection process along with the availability of processors willing to take the material for recycling.

Stevenage Borough Council :-

As a member of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) has agreed a waste strategy which includes target recycling rates of 45% in 2011 and 50% by March 2013.

SBC remains committed to achieving these targets; however with a current recycling rate of 29% SBC needs to make considerable improvements to its recycling performance. This action plan aims to set out the methods we hope to employ in order to achieve a 50% recycling rate although it must be noted that the wholly urban nature of Stevenage makes this target particularly challenging not least because of the small gardens in the town coupled with a large number of flatted properties making the tonnages of compostable material available low compared to some other authorities in Hertfordshire.

A range of actions to improve SBC's recycling rates have been investigated and these are set out below. The implementation of these actions is strongly linked to the resources available to SBC and support and assistance from the HWP is sought both in financial terms and in learning from best practice employed elsewhere across the County.

Food waste and cardboard

The composting of food waste and cardboard along with green waste will be introduced in Stevenage from 1st September 2009, and this service will be offered throughout the year (currently green waste is collected for 42 weeks out of 52).

Based on the performance of other authorities, adding food waste and cardboard and running a 52 week service should add around 7% to our recycling rates, taking our total recycling rate to 36%.

Recycle street cleansing arisings.

Currently our street cleansing arisings are sent to landfill.

Recovering the gravel fines from street sweepings together with the recycling of items collected by our cleansing teams is achievable using suitable screening equipment that could be installed at our transfer station.

Based on current tonnages collected it is estimated that this would add around 2% to our recycling totals bringing them to 38%.

Financial assistance from the WICG would be required to assist in the purchase of capital equipment. This equipment could also be used to improve our trade waste recycling rates, which although not considered here may improve WICG eligibility.

If WICG funding is available this action could be instigated in late 2009.

Introduce plastic bottle recycling

Based on recent consultation with residents in Stevenage, introducing kerbside plastic bottle recycling is the service they would most like to be introduced, and is likely to have a knock on effect on improving other materials' recycling rates. Adding kerbside plastic bottles to our current collection operations would be simple to implement with little impact on configuration of the dry recyclables service, although there would be an added revenue cost with vehicles returning to the transfer station more frequently.

Difficulties would arise when handling the materials once at the transfer station and additional plant and equipment would need to be purchased to manage this new stream of materials. In addition a number of homes (around 50%) would require additional kerbside boxes although many would be able to add plastics to their existing boxes.

The addition of plastic bottle recycling would only add around 1% to our recycling totals bringing them to 39%,

Capital investment in plant and equipment would be required plus an additional requirement for new kerbside boxes and SBC would seek assistance from the WICG to implement this action.

The addition of plastic bottle recycling may not seem to offer value for money in terms of cost per additional tonne recycled. However, our consultation feedback would suggest that offering this service is a pre-requisite to successfully adopting further and more efficient actions to improve recycling rates.

SBC aim to implement this action, resources dependant, in the first half of 2010.

Restrict the amount of residual refuse collected

Currently SBC offer residents an unrestricted black sack collection service for residual waste. Restricting the amount of residual refuse collected, (based on experience from other authorities) is a major factor in improving recycling rates.

Once the other recycling streams described above are made available to residents and have become established, SBC aim to alter the configuration of refuse services such that a restricted collection service is employed where feasible, (the design and layout of houses and flats in some areas of the town may prevent the use of bins for example).

It is estimated that restricting the amount of residual waste collected would, based on results from other authorities, add a further 7 -10 % to the district's recycling rates taking the total for SBC to 46 – 49%.

Prior to any rolling out of a new system help, in terms of experience from other authorities in the HWP, would be sought in order to avoid any major pitfalls. Financial assistance in terms of capital funding from the WICG would also be required by SBC in order to fund any initial purchase of bins and the reconfiguration of our vehicle fleet, should these be required. It is anticipated that funding assistance would need to be at a rate of around 75% of total cost for any bins, and 50% for vehicles.

Once other recycling actions have been established SBC would look to take this final action in time to achieve the waste strategy targets as far as the particular circumstances of the town in terms of demographics and layout allow.

Common to all of these actions it's the need to successfully inform and communicate with residents in Stevenage and allow them the opportunity to shape the implementation of new services. Assistance from the HWP in terms of best practice and ideas to undertake this element of all the action points will be sought and actively considered.

Three Rivers District Council :-

Three Rivers District Council's recycling rate in 2008/09 was 49.27%, which is marginally under the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's 2012/13 target of 50%.

The Council is mindful, however, that the rate achieved in 2008/09 may be superficially inflated, due to the economic downturn and less residual waste. It is therefore seeking to maximise it's recycling by the following actions:

ACTIONS

Food waste

The waste audit carried out in 2007 showed that, although TRDC had high levels of recycling for most forms of waste, that only 1% of cooked food waste was collected in the brown organic waste bins. A subsequent survey revealed that the 2nd most common reason for not doing so (the first being smell and hygiene) was lack of storage space. Kitchen caddies, procured by HWP have therefore been delivered to all households within the District throughout September 2009.

It is too early to assess the caddies' full impact, but feedback has been positive and it is estimated that their introduction will increase the authority's recycling rate by 4%

Possible weekly organic waste.

Smell was the most prevalent reason given for not recycling food waste. In turn, whilst the deployment of kitchen caddies should increase TRDC's recycling rate, many residents will not place food waste out for recycling during the week that their brown bins are not emptied. TRDC therefore believes that it could maximise the amount of food waste recycled by moving to a weekly organic waste collection.

At this stage the move to weekly organic waste is only under consideration and will be subject to budget and Member approval.

Expanding Trade Recycling

Although trade recycling does not contribute towards HWP's 50% target, TRDC recognises that the recycling of any biodegradable waste impacts favourably on the County as a whole with respect to Hertfordshire's LATS allocation. For this reason, the trade recycling service has recently been expanded to include paper, in addition to the glass and cardboard already collected.

Again, the scheme is in its infancy and the full impact cannot be assessed at this stage; however it is estimated that this will increase the Council's trade recycling rate to 15%.

Adoption of best practise

TRDC is committed to maximising recycling wherever possible. As such it will share best practise with other members of HWP and if new recycling streams become available (e.g. recycling of street arisings), consider implementing them, subject to cost and Member approval.

Watford Borough Council :-

Promotions

Ongoing promotions and campaigns to support waste initiatives, annual calendars, compost awareness week, big recycle, leaflets etc. To be carried within current budget allocations.

It is anticipated that increased awareness will translate into higher participation and overall greater levels of recycling.

On street recycling

WBC is aiming to provide on street recycling facilities for flats above shops to be delivered in 2 phases. Funding has been sought and approved under the current selection criteria for the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant which provides 100% recycling for such facilities.

It is anticipated that this will result in an increase of approximately 4 tonnes a week in recycling tonnage equating to 200 tonnes a year. This would represent an increase in Watford's recycling rate by approx 0.5% for phase 1 and 0.5% for phase 2.

Kitchen caddies

To provide kitchen caddies to 10,000 households in phase 1 and another 10,000 in phase 2. Funding has been sought and approved under the current selection criteria for the WICG.

It is anticipated that based on an extra 10% diversion, this could add another 2% on to Watford's recycling rate in Phase 1 plus another 2% in phase 2.

Flats and multi occupancy facility review

To review each individual site to assess the suitability of recycling facilities available.

Funding will be sought from the WICG. It is anticipated that this work stream will reduce the amount of contaminated loads being sent to landfill. This will have a positive effect on recycling rates, but at this stage hard to quantify until all surveys are complete.

Domestic Waste Containment

WBC will review 'assisted collection' customers and re-advertise the service taking the opportunity to emphasize the range of recycling services now available to residents.

We will also review properties still on black sack collections with a view to moving more onto wheelie bins combined again with an emphasis on recycling.

We will also review the entitlements for all properties currently issued with 240 litre domestic wheelie bins and where possible migrate households to the 140 litre bins to work in conjunction with the Borough's enhanced recycling services emphasising new elements such as the kitchen caddies for food waste recycling.

Excess Waste Policy

WBC will be putting together a new policy with respect to the management of excess waste with a view to establishing a formal approach across the Borough resulting in improved control and uniformity.

Whilst this is anticipated to result in a reduction in household waste, clearly the magnitude of the impact on overall performance at this time is difficult to quantify.

Targeted campaigns to increase participation Waste minimisation

Use the Bartec vehicle management system WBC will identify non / low recyclers and properties with excess waste.

The information will be used to provide targeted campaigns to these residents to assist with recycling and waste minimisation. This work will be carried out within existing budgets.

Again whilst this will result in a decrease in household waste to landfill and an increase in recycling participation and tonnages, the magnitude of these changes is difficult to quantify.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council :-

Welwyn Hatfield's recycling rate in 2008/09 declined slightly to 30.9%. As a consequence and following the presentation of HWP performance review data a number of new and revised initiatives have been put in place to improve the Borough's overall recycling performance including :-

- Additional funding for increased communications including general leaflets for households and improved communications for residents living in flats. Both will encourage greater participation and waste reduction. The new information is currently being delivered to residents and will be completed by the end of the financial year.
- Capital funding to increase the number of mini-recycling centres available for residents in flats. This will be carried out subject to available funding including any secured from the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant, (WICG)
- Expansion of the organics collection service to collect food and card waste. Phase 1 is almost complete with the roll out of 15,000 kitchen caddies to enable residents to separate food waste. The revised collections will begin in October 2009. A bid for capital funding to support the second phase has been submitted to the WICG and is subject to approval by the Member Sub Group at their meeting on the 1st December 2009. If approved the second phase should be completed by March 2010.
- Introduction of on-street recycling bins to busy shopping parades. Initiative currently being considered for roll out between December 2009 and February 2010. Will be subject to funding from the WICG.
- Identification and installation of sites for additional bring bank facilities for more rural recycling centres and flats. Due for implementation during 2010/11 subject to available funding.
- Following implementation of the services identified above Welwyn will then give further consideration to different collection systems with a view to curtailing waste production. This is scheduled for 2011/12 allowing sufficient time for any service changes to be implemented prior to the deadline for achieving 50% recycling by March 2013.