



HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

MEMBERS GROUP 27th April 2009

Item 6a: HWP Performance Review

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To report on changes in performance for the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership during 2008/09.
- 1.2. The figures used for quarter 4 are provisional and may be subject to change once they have been verified. However, at this stage it is anticipated that any changes will be minor and will not impact on the Partnership's overall performance.

2. Background

- 2.1. Previously the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) via the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy agreed to work collectively to achieve a 50% recycling rate by 2012. In practice this means by the end of March 2013.
- 2.2. By March 2008 the HWP recycling rate had risen to 38.5% with just short of 206,000 tonnes of waste being recycled or composted out of 533,933 tonnes of household waste generated across Hertfordshire.
- 2.3. Based on a simplistic straight line projection between April 2008 and March 2013, and assuming (unrealistically) that overall tonnages remain static across this period, the HWP needed to recycle an additional 12,250 tonnes each year (61,000 tonnes in total) to achieve a 50% recycling rate by March 2013. If total household waste goes down the required level of additional recycling to achieve the target also goes down. If household waste go up so does the level of tonnage that needs to be recycled to achieve the 50% target.

3. Overall HWP Performance

- 3.1. During 2008/09 total household recycling has increased by approximately 23,320 tonnes with residual wastes decreasing by almost 33,900 tonnes, resulting in a net reduction of approximately 10,580 tonnes.

- 3.2. As a result of these significant changes the provisional 2008/09 HWP recycling rate is 43.9% up from 38.5% in 2007/08. Whilst the figures indicate that the HWP is on track to achieve 50% recycling by March 2013 it should be considered that the last 12 months have seen dramatic reductions in residual waste which have helped to produce these results.
- 3.3. As and when the general economic climate improves nationally it will be important to try and decouple waste generation from economic growth if the trend detailed above is to be maintained.
- 3.4. Whilst the improvement in overall performance is to be welcomed it is important to examine these changes at the waste collection authority level to identify trends in service provision which may impact on performance, and therefore which may highlight best practice which needs to be replicated elsewhere.

4. Waste Collection Authority Performance – Residual Waste

- 4.1. The table below shows relative performance between each waste collection authority. Figures are provided per household and per head of population :-.

Residual Waste – 2008/09					
Kgs Per Household			Kgs Per Head		
Pos	Borough	Total	Pos	Borough	Total
1	North Herts	482.53	1	Three Rivers	205.03
2	St Albans	486.65	2	St Albans	209.84
3	Three Rivers	494.97	3	North Herts	211.10
4	Dacorum	495.29	4	Dacorum	213.24
5	Watford	528.05	5	Watford	234.83
6	Hertsmere	578.53	6	Hertsmere	242.73
7	Broxbourne	641.32	7	East Herts	275.25
8	East Herts	643.75	8	Broxbourne	275.34
9	Stevenage	664.91	9	Stevenage	290.31
10	Welwyn	708.13	10	Welwyn	297.29

- 4.2. Whilst generally speaking both tables result in similar rankings there is some movement most notably for Three Rivers and North Herts whose respective positions change when moving from per household calculations to per head.
- 4.3. This indicates a need for further research into the relative impacts on recycling and residual waste that certain housing types have which may have implications for future planning policy.

4.4. Of immediate concern under both sets of figures is the difference (as a percentage) between the best and worst performers. As part of work scheduled for later this year officers will be assessing these results against collection systems used to identify critical success factors which should inform future service development.

5. Waste Collection Authority Performance – Recycling

5.1. As above the following table details relative performance between each waste collection authority. Figures are provided per household and per head of population :-

Recyclable Waste – 2008/09					
Kgs Per Household			Kgs Per Head		
Pos	Borough	Total	Pos	Borough	Total
1	Three Rivers	481.58	1	North Herts	210.04
2	North Herts	480.10	2	Three Rivers	199.48
3	Dacorum	453.32	3	Dacorum	195.17
4	St Albans	433.31	4	St Albans	186.84
5	Hertsmere	381.98	5	Watford	160.44
6	Watford	360.78	6	Hertsmere	160.26
7	East Herts	349.25	7	East Herts	149.33
8	Broxbourne	342.28	8	Broxbourne	146.95
9	Welwyn	320.42	9	Welwyn	134.52
10	Stevenage	271.84	10	Stevenage	118.69

6. Waste Collection Authority Performance – Overall Performance

6.1. Following on from these results the provisional recycling rates for each of the HWP Partners as well as the Partnership as a whole are shown overleaf :-

Pos	Borough	%age
1	North Herts	49.8%
2	Three Rivers	49.3%
3	Dacorum	47.8%
4	St Albans	47.1%
5	Watford	40.6%
6	Hertsmere	39.8%
7	East Herts	35.2%
8	Broxbourne	34.7%
9	Welwyn	30.9%
10	Stevenage	28.9%
	Herts CC (HWRCs)	59.7%
HWP Overall		43.9%

7. Key Considerations

- 7.1. The figures reflect the implementation of new recycling services in a number of boroughs / districts and at county level. In addition the figures also reflect the economic downturn as evidenced by the dramatic reduction in residual waste.
- 7.2. A significant proportion of the increase in recycling in 2008/09 was due to better organics recycling figures. Whilst this is partly due to better service provision it also reflects the resolution of contamination issues with some collection operations and therefore is not necessarily indicative of better capture or participation rates for existing schemes.
- 7.3. Longer term consideration is currently being given to bringing parts of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy review forward into 2009/10 to assess any likely gaps between current / planned performance and the tonnage changes required to achieve 50% recycling. This will also allow the wider implications of the economic downturn to be assessed permitting the HWP to refine required performance improvements to meet Strategy targets.

8. Achieving 50% by March 2013 – The Impact of 2008/09

- 8.1. Subject to final confirmation of the tonnages for quarter 4 2008/09 has clearly been a pivotal year in the performance of the HWP. Together the very significant increase in recycling combined with the dramatic reduction in residual waste has significantly reduced the size of the remaining task compared to position in April 2008.

- 8.2. Based on the provisional results as of April 2009, (assuming overall tonnages remain static) the HWP now has to recycle an additional 8170 tonnes per annum to achieve 50% by March 2013. As before if household waste goes down the required level of additional recycling to achieve the target also goes down. If household waste go up so does the level of tonnage that needs to be recycled to achieve 50%.
- 8.3. Considering the above whilst it is tempting to assume based on the rate of performance increase in 2008/09 that the revised annual target is easily achievable, it should be considered that the majority of HWP Partners have implemented their major service changes. In others words the momentum of change over the last 2 years is unlikely to be replicated going forward.

9. Recommendations

- I. That members note the report.