

## TOWARDS ZERO WASTE 2020

### A Waste Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset

#### Waste Strategy Review 2014





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## 1.0 Purpose of the Strategy Review

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In 2005 the Council agreed the Waste Strategy, Towards Zero Waste 2020. In 2006<sup>1</sup> and 2008<sup>2</sup> we reviewed and published updates of the strategy. Following this, in 2010 the Council undertook a public consultation on waste and recycling, which we continue to take into account in shaping our services. The Council, with the help of our residents, has made significant progress on actions laid out in the strategy, making changes to how waste is collected and managed, and improving recycling performance.

However, over the last five years there have been changes in the legislative and policy context in which the Waste Strategy operates. These changes prompt new considerations for the Council as it prepares to assess options for the future of waste and recycling in the area.

The purpose of this technical strategy document is to set out the progress we have made since our Waste Strategy was last updated, and to identify the key goals to be achieved by 2020.

The strategy provides an overview of the steps we need to take now and over the next few years to ensure that the service we provide continues to keep up with legal requirements and to contribute to achieving national waste management objectives. Our aims are to:

- maintain and improve the service we offer;
- keep the costs of waste and recycling down;
- help our residents to prevent waste, and to reduce the amount of waste that is produced in our area;
- continue the progress we have made on recycling, and increase the proportion of waste that is recycled; and
- make appropriate use of new ways of treating the remaining waste to maximise its value and divert it from landfill.

By pursuing these aims we will achieve the best results for our residents while reducing the impact that our waste has on the environment.

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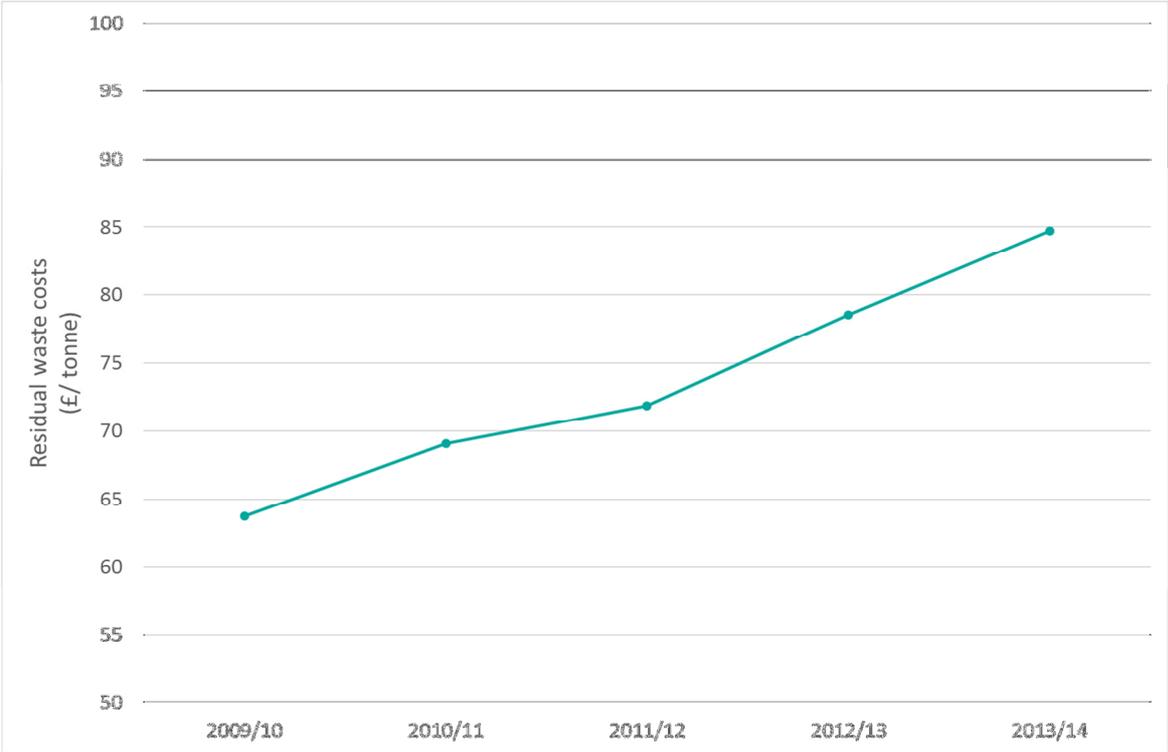
<sup>1</sup> Bath and North East Somerset Council (2006) *Towards Zero Waste 2020: A Waste Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset 2005–2010 (October 2006 Update)*, October 2006, [http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/zero\\_waste\\_strategy\\_-\\_2006\\_update1.pdf](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/zero_waste_strategy_-_2006_update1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Bath and North East Somerset Council (2008) *Towards Zero Waste 2020: A Waste Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset 2005–2010 (February 2008 Update)*, February 2008, [http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/towards\\_zero\\_waste\\_final\\_-\\_2008\\_update1.pdf](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/towards_zero_waste_final_-_2008_update1.pdf)

# 2.0 The Cost of Managing our Waste

In 2013/14 the cost of managing our waste was £131 per household. The costs of dealing with our residual (black bag) waste are increasing, driven by national policy changes. Since 2009/10 the cost to the council of disposing or treating of each tonne of our residual waste has increased from £64 to £85 as shown in Figure 2.1.

**Figure 2.1: Residual Waste Costs**



There is tax to pay on every tonne of residual waste sent to landfill. Since 2009, Landfill Tax has doubled from £40 to £80 per tonne.

The aim of the Landfill Tax is to encourage the use of more sustainable means of waste management. We can substantially reduce the overall cost of dealing with waste by finding ways to reduce the amount we produce, to reuse things rather than throw them away, and by making full use of the opportunity to recycle waste through the services the Council provides.

# 3.0 Key Drivers

In addition to providing a cost-effective service that meets local needs, the Council needs to ensure that our waste collections are consistent with our legal obligations and fit with our local plans, partnership arrangements and other policies. There have been numerous developments in each of these since our last Waste Strategy, and this section of the strategy explains the changes that have taken place.

### 3.1 Waste Framework Directive

The European Waste Framework Directive<sup>3</sup> (WFD) provides the overarching legislative framework governing for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste across Europe. This important piece of legislation requires all EU Member States to make sure that waste is recovered or disposed of without harming human health or the environment. The WFD's overarching requirements are supplemented by other Directives that concern specific types of waste, such as:

- [Electrical and electronic equipment](#)
- [Hazardous waste](#)
- [Packaging waste](#)
- [End-of-life vehicles \(ELVs\)](#)
- [Batteries](#)

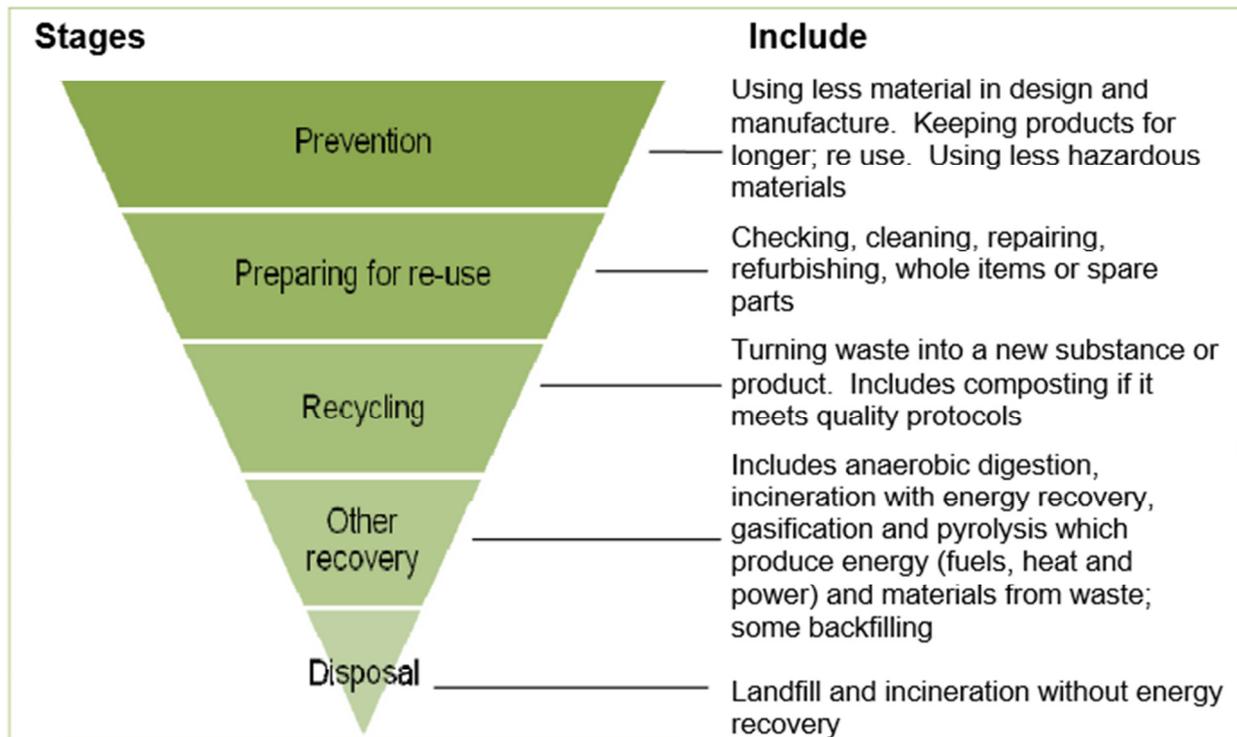
The WFD introduced the principle of the waste hierarchy (shown in Figure 3.1), which guides our thinking about how we manage waste, and is now part of UK law.<sup>4</sup> The hierarchy ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. Organisations that collect and manage waste must take all reasonable measures to apply the hierarchy as a priority order to the waste they handle.

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<sup>3</sup> European Parliament, and Council of the European Union (2008) Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, *Official Journal of the European Union*

<sup>4</sup> HM Government (2011) The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, S.I. 2011/988

**Figure 3.1: Waste Hierarchy**



The hierarchy gives top priority to preventing waste from arising in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then energy recovery (e.g. by generating electricity using waste as a fuel), and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

### 3.1.1 Waste Regulation Requirements

The Regulations that brought the waste hierarchy into the law of England and Wales also introduced a new requirement about how recycling must be collected, intended to improve the quality of recycling.

Specifically, the Regulations now state that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, all waste collectors must collect paper, metals, plastics and glass separately, where doing so is:

- “necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive and to facilitate or improve recovery” (the ‘Necessity Test’); and
- “technically, environmentally and economically practicable” (the ‘Practicability’ or ‘TEEP Test’).

What exactly the law means in practice has been the subject of considerable debate. In response to a threatened judicial review, the Regulations were amended in 2012;<sup>5</sup> another legal challenge to the Regulations in 2013 was unsuccessful.<sup>6</sup> The government has decided not to produce formal guidance on the interpretation of the Regulations, and it is for each waste collector to apply the law in the light of the circumstances in their particular area. However, some assistance has been made available in the form of the Waste Regulations Route-map, a document commissioned by WRAP, the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) and local authority waste network chairs.<sup>7</sup>

‘Separate collection’ doesn’t mean that householder must have a separate bin for each material – when the Council collects material from green boxes and blue bags each week, the different types of recycling are sorted by our crews and put in different compartments of the collection vehicle. The Council’s current approach to collecting household recycling therefore constitutes separate collection, and we expect it to be deemed fully compliant with the law.

However, our current collection system may not be the only way to comply with the law. If a council can show that materials collected mixed together (or ‘commingled’) will be properly separated so that they meet the necessary quality standards, separate collection may not be necessary. Equally, if it is clear that separate collection is too costly in comparison with a commingled system, it can be argued that separate collection is not economically practicable. We will need to weigh these considerations as part of the decision-making process regarding how we will collect waste in future.

The rules don’t just apply to household waste – the same requirements affect all kinds of collections of recyclable material, including that collected from businesses, received at Household Waste and Recycling Centres, or swept up from the streets. We therefore need to make sure they are taken into account wherever we make changes to our waste service.

### 3.2 MRF Regulations

In February 2014 the Government introduced new regulations with the aim of improving the quality of recyclate that is collected commingled and then separated out again at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) so that it can be recycled.

These were incorporated into the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations.<sup>8</sup> Since they came into effect in October 2014, all MRFs processing more than 1,000 tonnes of recyclate each year are required to measure and report on the quality of the input, output and residual waste streams every three months. This

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<sup>5</sup> HM Government (2012) *The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012*, S.I. 2012/1889

<sup>6</sup> Hickinbottom J (2013) *R (UK Recyclate Ltd & Others) v SSEFRA & Welsh Ministers*

<sup>7</sup> WRAP, and LWARB (2014) *Waste Regulations Route-map*, April 2014

<sup>8</sup> HM Government (2014) *Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014*, S.I. 2014/255

reporting will help to ensure that the material they produce is up to the standards necessary for recycling.

The Council therefore needs to ensure that, wherever our services make use of sorting on this scale, our arrangements are in line with the Regulations.

### 3.3 Local Plans, Policies and Partnerships

The Waste Strategy is just one of a set of documents that forms the Council's key strategic environmental sustainability direction. These documents provide a framework of policies for developing action plans and budgets to achieve our Zero Waste objective. These plans and strategies have been developed to ensure that Bath and North East Somerset moves towards an environmentally sustainable, low carbon future that is resilient to climate change, whilst maintaining a high quality of life for those who live and work in the district. The key documents are outlined in Table 3.1, and their relationship is explained in Figure 3.2.

**Figure 3.2: Relationship Between the Waste Strategy and other Key Strategic Environmental Sustainability Documents**



**Table 3.1: Overview of Key Documents**

| Document                                                     | Overview                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sustainable Community Strategy</b>                        | The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out what type of place Bath and North East Somerset should become. It deals with a range of challenges and changes that impact on our daily lives. It is viewed as the umbrella strategy and sets out the challenges, how they are going to be addressed and contains clear ambitions to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Environmental Sustainability Partnership and Strategy</b> | <p>The Bath and North East Somerset Environmental Sustainability Partnership oversees the work across the Local Strategic Partnership to <i>'lead Bath and North East Somerset to an environmentally sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient future'</i>.</p> <p>In taking this action on climate change, a wide range of strategic issues are encompassed, including energy infrastructure planning and sustainable buildings, transport, peak oil, air pollution and waste management, as well as local green space, bio-diversity and protection of the natural environment.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2012-2015</a> outlines the vision and approach that is being taken by the partnership.</p> |
| <b>Carbon Management Plan</b>                                | The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) details Bath & North East Somerset Council's aimed to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from its own operations by 30% by 2014 from 2007/08 levels. The Carbon Management Plan is currently being refreshed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Environmental Position Statement</b>                      | The Position Statement sets out the Council's vision to become an authority that is moving towards a strong and diverse low carbon economy, cutting carbon emissions through avoiding unnecessary energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency and switching to sustainable sources of energy, bringing our environmental footprint within natural limits and delivering improvements in quality of life, health and community well-being as a result.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Core Strategy</b>                                         | The Core Strategy is the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It sets out the long-term spatial vision up to 2026 and the broad locations for new housing, jobs and other strategic developments including the necessary infrastructure requirements which will be planned through an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

### 3.3.1 West of England Partnership

As part of the West of England Partnership we have developed a Joint Waste Strategy which is driven by the need to divert waste, particularly biodegradable waste, from

landfill sites.<sup>9</sup> It offers a package of waste management solutions for the West of England area, including maximising recycling and reuse, promoting waste minimisation and proposing how the remaining 'residual' municipal waste that cannot be recycled should then be dealt with. It suggests technologies and methods that could be implemented to sustainably manage the residual waste, but is not responsible for identifying sites or locations for new facilities. The West of England Partnership Strategy is currently under review.

The Council has worked within the partnership to deliver Phases 1 and 2 of the strategy, whilst continuing to develop our recycling and waste reduction processes to achieve the long term aim of Zero Waste.

As part of Phase 1, all four councils have co-operated to develop a range of joint programmes to reduce waste, encourage re-use and increase recycling and composting. Each council continues to strive for improvements in their local services and remains committed to increase public participation in recycling and re-use initiatives.

As part of Phase 2, all four councils have procured a treatment contract to divert mainly household black bag waste from landfill. This residual waste is now being treated at New Earth's Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) plant in Avonmouth, so that material can be recovered from it for recycling and composting, whilst the remainder can be used as fuel to generate electricity.

In addition, the West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS) has been adopted and came into effect on 25 March 2011. The JWCS is a Development Plan that explains the vision and objectives for sustainable waste management and sets the planning framework up to 2026. It contains development management policies and has superseded most of the Local Plan waste management policies. The waste hierarchy was taken into account in the development of the JWCS.

It allocates two potential residual waste facility sites in the Bath and North East Somerset area; the former Fuller's Earth Works in Bath and Broadmead Lane in Keynsham. Other sites have been allocated in other Partnership authority areas – Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. Unlike the Joint Waste Strategy which is only concerned with residual municipal waste, the JWCS Development Plan is concerned with all waste, including that generated by business.

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<sup>9</sup> European Commission (1999) Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the Landfill of Waste, 1999/31/EC

## 4.0 What Have we Done so far?

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As well as considering the legislation, policies and plans at European, national and local level that impact on our waste services, it is important to understand where we are now in regards to service provision and performance. Before setting our goals to 2020 we first need to review the progress made since the strategy update.

### 4.1 Current Service

The Council provides householders with a weekly collection of recycling, food waste and rubbish. It also offers a fortnightly charged-for collection of garden waste.

Across the district, the Council provides three recycling centres for larger unwanted or broken household items, and extra recycling or rubbish.

We also offer a number of other charged-for services such as bulky waste collections, trade waste and recycling collections (including collections from schools).

### 4.2 Strategy Progress

We've put a lot of emphasis on education and awareness-raising campaigns so that people know how to reduce, reuse or recycle their waste. This includes schools talks and visits, distributing leaflets and other publicity materials, and the delivery of roadshows, events and talks to community and residents groups by our communications team of waste advisers.

Figure 4.1: Our Waste Advisers at Work in Keynsham



Our teams of operations staff, who collect the waste and send it for recycling or disposal, are supported by strategy and contracts officers, all working together to provide a high level of service to our residents.

We also continue to look at new recycling or composting services we can introduce to help make it easier for everyone to recycle more:

- ✓ in 2009 we introduced a new weekly cardboard collection and made it possible to recycle a wider range of household plastics as part of the kerbside recycling system;
- ✓ in 2010 we introduced weekly food waste collections and nearly 60% of our residents are now using that service;
- ✓ in 2011, we improved the mini recycling centres for flats in all 130 locations to include cardboard recycling;
- ✓ in 2012 we introduced kerbside collection of small WEEE for recycling;
- ✓ in 2013, we launched our new trade waste collection and recycling service to provide an improved service for our businesses, and will soon be launching a commercial food waste offering.

We've also made our recycling centres easier to use, and have been promoting food waste recycling in schools. Many other initiatives over the last five years have continually

improved our service, enabling a greater range of materials to be collected for recycling and helping to prevent litter. A full list of the actions completed can be found in Appendix A.1.0.

### **4.3 Infrastructure and Contract Developments**

If the Council is to create sustainable communities, providing housing and employment opportunities alone is not sufficient. There is a need to ensure there is access to the necessary supporting 'infrastructure' of utility services, transport, schools, open space, community, health and leisure services and green networks, to support the local population and those who visit or work in the district. Waste infrastructure is an important element of the district's overall requirements.

Early in 2011 we centralised our waste transfer operations and refuse collection activities at our existing site in Bath. We continue to operate three Recycling Centres for the public, and are currently reviewing the rest of our waste infrastructure to ensure we are operating as efficiently as we can.

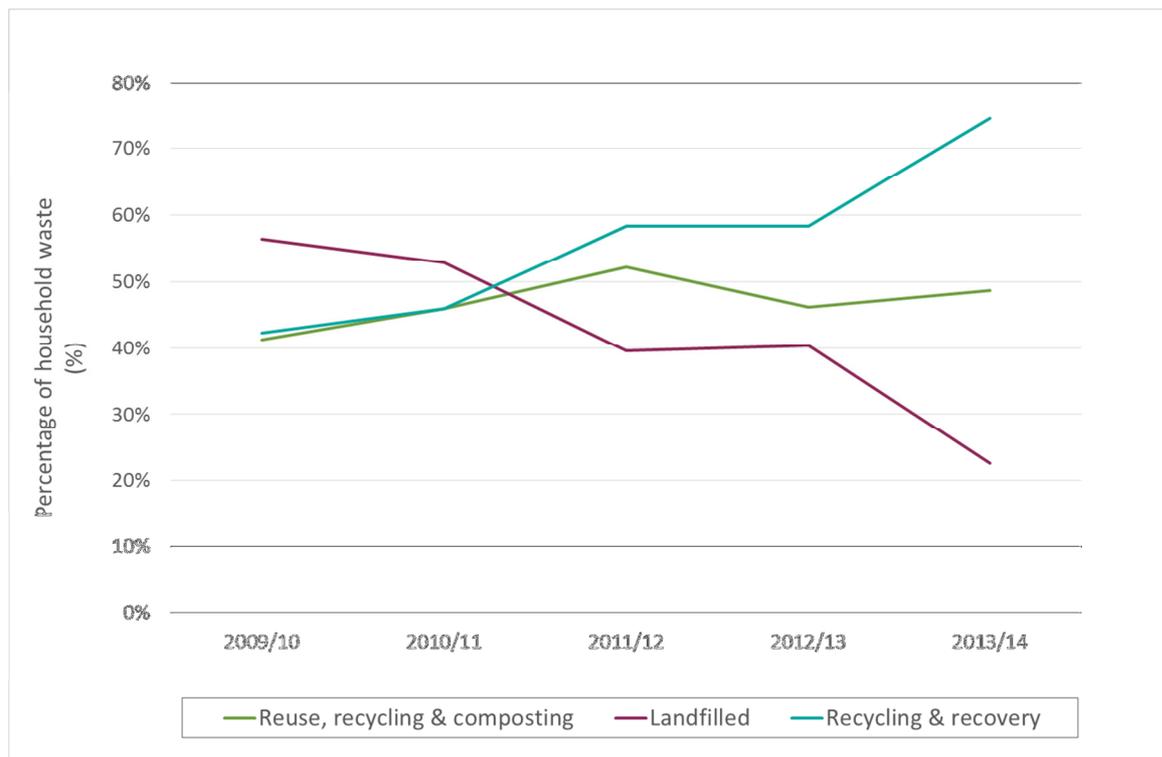
Our waste disposal and treatment currently relies on waste treatment and disposal facilities outside the district. We send residual waste to the New Earth MBT facility in Avonmouth as part of the West of England Partnership. This enables us to benefit from economies of scale by using facilities that are shared with other authorities and commercial waste collectors, giving us access to competitive prices. In addition we have our own contract with New Earth for treatment of residual waste. We seek to maintain flexibility in our contracts for these services and monitor existing and developing facilities to ensure we achieve value for money as well as good environmental outcomes.

### **4.4 Waste and Recycling Facts and Figures**

We continue to monitor every tonne of our waste and have compiled detailed information on waste flows since the authority was formed in 1996. We submit data to a national database called WasteDataFlow, which the government introduced in 2004.

Recording our performance in this way allows us to assess the impacts of our efforts, and how we are progressing towards our goals of reducing waste, increasing recycling and recovery, and reducing waste to landfill.

**Figure 4.2: How the way we Manage Waste is Changing**



We have introduced new schemes and intensified our waste awareness programme to encourage participation in recycling schemes. As shown in Figure 4.2, our recycling rate increased from 41% in 2009/10 to 52% in 2011/12. After falling back to 46% in 2012/13, (when a clarification from Defra altered the way we classified some wastes, and we also changed the way we treated waste wood), it rebounded to 49% in the most recent year for which we have data, 2013/14. Recycling in Bath and North East Somerset saved the equivalent of 80 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per resident in 2012/13.<sup>10</sup>

We have started to send residual, black bag waste to the New Earth MBT facility in Avonmouth. As a result, the proportion of waste we send to landfill has reduced from 56% in 2009/10 to 23% in 2013/14, and our recycling and recovery rate has increased from 42% in 2009/10 to 75% in 2013/14.

Business waste recycling and diversion from landfill across our three recycling centres have both increased compared to five years ago.

Table 4.1 and Table 4.2 show our performance over the last five years against a number of the key waste statistics that we use to monitor our performance.

<sup>10</sup> Eunomia Research & Consulting (2014) *Recycling Carbon Index: England, Wales & Northern Ireland Local Authorities 2012/13*, August 2014, <http://www.eunomia.co.uk/carbonindex/>

The amount of waste produced per household has fluctuated over the last five years. , As the number of households in the district increases, we need to continue our efforts to help householders reduce the amount of waste they produce if we are ensure that a downward trend is achieved.

**Table 4.1: Recycling and Diversion Key Performance Indicators**

| Recycling/ Diversion                                         | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13             | 2013/14 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Household recycling rate (see note 1)</b>                 | 41%     | 46%     | 52%     | 46%<br>(see note 2) | 49%     |
| <b>Recycling Centre diversion from landfill (see note 3)</b> | 69%     | 72%     | 74%     | 74%                 | 73%     |
| <b>How much business waste we recycle</b>                    | 20%     | 21%     | 19%     | 19%                 | 27%     |

**Notes:**

(1) – The percentage of household recycling includes waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.

(2) – Clarification from Defra changed the way we classed wastes from places like hospitals and schools, which affected our recorded performance figures.

(3) – This includes construction and demolition wastes and wastes used for energy recovery.

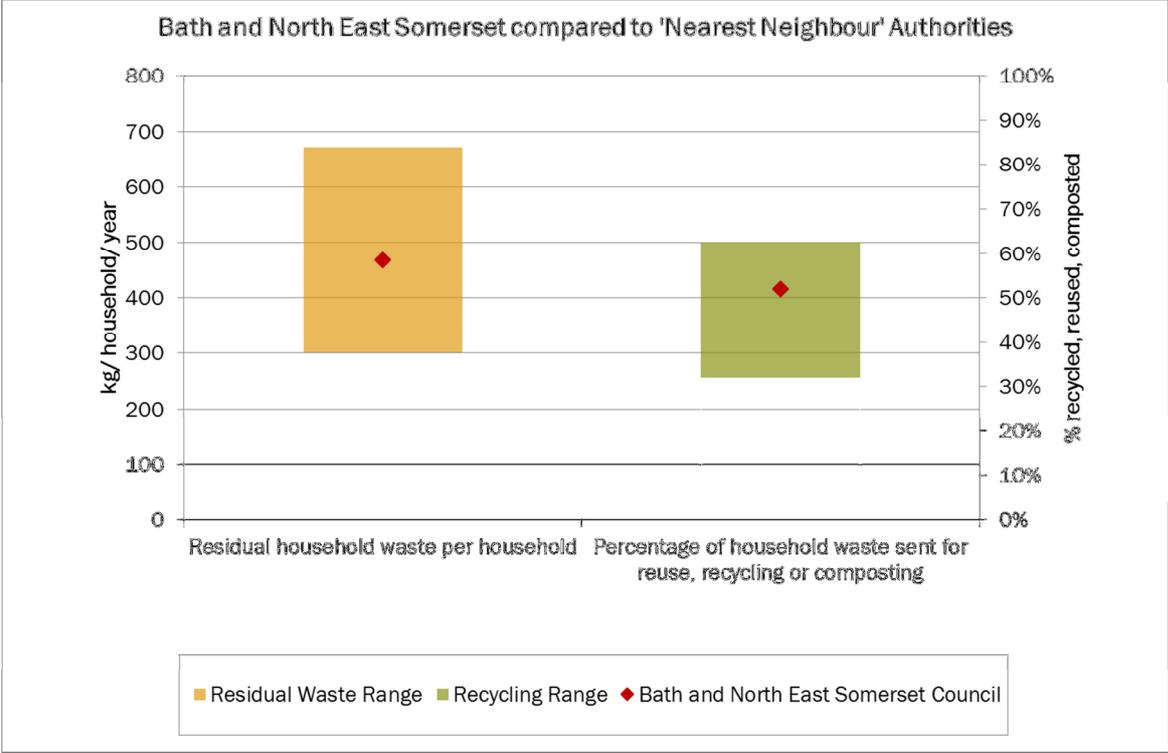
**Table 4.2: Waste Arisings and Landfill Key Performance Indicators**

| Collected/landfilled                                                               | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Household waste collected (tonnes)</b>                                          | 77,779  | 74,727  | 75,107  | 73,770  | 74,220  |
| <b>Total tonnes of waste collected (includes non-household wastes we manage)</b>   | 89,808  | 86,169  | 85,402  | 83,860  | 85,015  |
| <b>Total tonnes of waste to MBT (includes non-household wastes we manage)</b>      | -       | -       | 9,091   | 9,505   | 24,747  |
| <b>Total tonnes of waste to landfill (includes non-household wastes we manage)</b> | 50,660  | 45,413  | 33,800  | 33,957  | 19,242  |

## 4.5 How do we Compare with Other Authorities?

To see how we are performing compared with other councils we can look at our ‘nearest neighbours’. These are authorities that are similar to Bath and North East Somerset in terms of demographics. Figure 4.3 shows how we compare against the highest and lowest-performing in our nearest neighbour group.

**Figure 4.3: Nearest Neighbour Assessment 2011/12**



The figure above shows that the Council is towards the middle of the performance range of our nearest neighbours. However, out of the 16 authorities in our nearest neighbour group, we have the fifth lowest residual waste per household, and the fourth highest recycling rate.

## 5.0 What do we Need to do Now?

### 5.1 Waste Projections

We carry out detailed analysis and forecasting of waste tonnages to ensure that our recycling targets are met and that budgets and trends are closely monitored. This is done on a regular basis and enables us to develop our services in the most cost effective way to achieve maximum benefits.

We have seen the connection between waste growth and increasing housing numbers weaken considerably in recent years, and have reviewed and revised our complex waste model to take account of these changes. The key outputs of our latest waste projections are shown in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1: Waste Projections**

|                                                                              | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>No. households</b>                                                        | 76,720  | 77,150  | 77,950  | 78,750  | 79,550  | 80,350  | 81,150  | 81,950  | 82,750  |
| <b>Residual household waste per household (kg/household)</b>                 | 448     | 505     | 476     | 439     | 439     | 439     | 439     | 439     | 439     |
| <b>Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting</b> | 56.7%   | 50.3%   | 51.6%   | 54.9%   | 54.9%   | 54.9%   | 54.9%   | 54.9%   | 54.9%   |
| <b>Total recovery rate (recycling, composting and energy recovery)</b>       | 60.1%   | 59.2%   | 75.9%   | 78.5%   | 78.5%   | 78.6%   | 78.6%   | 78.6%   | 78.7%   |
| <b>Percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill</b>                        | 39.9%   | 40.8%   | 24.1%   | 21.5%   | 21.5%   | 21.4%   | 21.4%   | 21.4%   | 21.3%   |

## 5.2 Key Development Areas for the Strategy

In the section below we discuss the key development areas for our waste strategy over the coming five years. Our proposed policies are structured around the waste hierarchy, which informs our thinking about how to prioritise our efforts.

### 5.2.1 Reduce

We will expand our campaign strategy, including our community engagement and education programme, and work with our West of England partners to maximise the impact that these initiatives have throughout the sub-region.

We will continue to promote initiatives aimed at reducing waste at source, such as home composting, reusable nappies and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.<sup>11</sup>

### 5.2.2 Reuse

We will seek to maximise the reuse of materials that we collect, including preparing items for reuse. We will work with third parties, and in particular charities, to further develop reuse networks throughout the area.

Where we do not provide help with reuse directly, we will continue to promote other reuse facilities available through charities and commercial operators, whether based locally or accessible via the Internet.

### 5.2.3 Recycle

We will continue to provide a comprehensive range of recycling and composting services to households across the district, and aim to increase the range of materials we recycle as and when new markets develop. We will work with local businesses to seek to continue the increase already achieved in commercial waste recycling, in particular through the roll-out of a commercial food waste service.

We will increase and widen our community engagement and communication activities to maximise awareness, participation and understanding, to ensure our services are used to maximum effect by residents.

### 5.2.4 Recover

Where waste cannot economically be prevented, reused or recycled, we will continue to reduce reliance on landfill for black bag and other residual waste through new treatment

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<sup>11</sup> See: <http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

technologies to ensure the most advantageous outcomes, taking account of carbon dioxide emissions, wider environmental considerations and the cost to local residents.

## **5.3 How will we do it?**

This section sets out the steps we will take to achieve our overarching goals described above.

### **5.3.1 Contracts and Infrastructure**

A number of the contracts through which the Council delivers its waste and recycling services will end within the next five years. We have taken the necessary steps to ensure that we can use these opportunity to assess our needs and requirements, and to respond flexibly to achieve the best results.

### **5.3.2 Collections Contract and Infrastructure**

The legal requirement to collect four types of recycling in separate streams takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. We will review our current collection services to ensure they are compliant, whether because material is already collected separately, or because it is either not necessary or not practicable to do so. We will also consider what flexibility there may be within the law for any changes to our services whilst remaining compliant.

In 2017 we will be developing a new transfer station, depot and recycling facility due to a relocation necessitated by the riverside development in Bath. We are already planning for the development of new facilities, which we will ensure are suitable for our service's current and future requirements.

Although refuse collection is carried out by council staff, our recycling collection is delivered under a contract with Kier Services, which comes to an end in 2017. Prior to that date, we will need to review the type of service we want to offer and how it might be delivered. We will consider:

- The range of recyclables to be collected at the kerbside
- The extent to which recyclables should be collected in separate streams
- The potential for changes to residual waste collections (e.g. frequency, containment) to facilitate recycling collection

The new collection service will be developed to take account of our overarching goals of reducing waste, and increasing recycling.

### **5.3.3 Treatment and Disposal Contract and Infrastructure**

A number of contracts for the disposal of our residual waste will end in 2016/17. These contracts do not have a direct effect on the public, but are important in ensuring that we achieve good environmental and financial results. We will assess our options and seek new disposal contracts that minimise cost and maximise diversion from landfill.

### 5.3.4 Key Actions

We continually monitor the quantities of waste we manage, and research best practice throughout the country. We develop an annual service plan in accordance with local needs and financial pressures. We will continue to look towards external funding to support our reduction, reuse and recycling activities.

The following are actions to be undertaken over the coming 5 years.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Action 1</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Continue to monitor and research the recyclables markets</b>                                 |
| <p>We will work closely with our current and any future recycling contractor to identify when new markets develop sufficiently to make it financially viable to collect additional materials at the kerbside or via our recycling centres for recycling. We will act only where markets are sufficiently established to provide assurance that we can commit to collecting these materials on a long-term basis.</p>                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                 |
| <b>Action 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Evaluate collection methodology to limit volumes of waste collected</b>                      |
| <p>We will review our waste collection policies to ensure that we are maximising the amount of waste we recycle and are using the most appropriate systems for local communities. This will include looking at the types of containers we use, the volumes of waste we pick up, the frequency of our collection services and the impact collecting waste and recycling has on our streets.</p>                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                 |
| <b>Action 3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Progress transfer station and recycling centre infrastructure relocation and development</b> |
| <p>We will relocate our Waste Operations and Public Recycling Centre to alternative sites by 2017. We will build a Recycling Centre that is modern and well-designed so that we have the scope to expand our range of recyclables and improve the site for residents.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |
| <b>Action 4</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Develop new annual communications, education &amp; engagement strategy</b>                   |
| <p>We will communicate to all our residents about what we're doing in waste and recycling and why. We will explain how they can help support our efforts by using the services we offer to their maximum. This will include a focus on flats and other hard to reach areas and groups.</p> <p>We also take steps to ensure we continue to listen to what people are saying they want to do to reduce the waste they produce, to reuse more of it and to increase recycling so that we can take account of their views in future service changes.</p> |                                                                                                 |

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| <b>Action 5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Develop carbon reduction activities</b>                                                                                 |
| <p>We will assess the carbon impacts of our activities to ensure we are making informed choices. Initially this will focus on key areas such as training drivers to drive more efficiently, operating more fuel-efficient vehicles and reducing energy consumption in our office and depot accommodation.</p> <p>We will explore other opportunities as part of our overall approach to managing our service area to reduce our carbon impacts.</p> |                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Action 6</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Propose efficiency savings and cost reductions in line with the Council's financial plans</b>                           |
| <p>The national and local financial climate will require tough decisions, and we anticipate that efficiencies or cuts may be required to meet financial objectives. Proposals will be assessed in line with the Council's core vision and waste strategy objectives.</p>                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Action 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Assess recycling collection contract to ensure compliance with Waste Regulations coming in to force in January 2015</b> |
| <p>We will conduct a high level review of our current recycling collection services to ensure they meet the requirements for separate collection.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Action 8</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Prepare for and conduct recycling collection contract procurement process</b>                                           |
| <p>In 2017 our existing recycling collection contract will come to an end. We will consider how best to replace this contract, and will work to specify a new recycling collection service, to include consideration of the materials to be collected, and the types of containers in which materials will be collected. Our aim will be to maximise our recycling rate and achieve value for money.</p>                                            |                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Action 9</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Consider future residual waste treatment options</b>                                                                    |
| <p>We currently dispose of residual waste at the New Earth MBT facility, and to landfill. The contracts for disposal of a proportion of our residual waste end in 2016/17. We will assess a range of options for alternative disposal methods, and will seek a solution that minimises cost and maximises the amount of material that is recovered for beneficial use.</p>                                                                          |                                                                                                                            |

## 6.0 Monitoring our Progress

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This strategy provides the overarching direction for managing our waste, outlining the steps we need to take now and over the next 5 years to reduce the amount of waste we produce, to recycle as much as possible and to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill.

We will manage the delivery of the strategy through:

- development of our annual service plan;
- annual target setting;
- reviewing progress against annual targets;
- development of specific project plans; and
- development of annual communication plans.

# APPENDICES

## A.1.0 Completed Actions from 2008 Strategy

| 2009/10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Impact on                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awarded Phase 2 residual waste treatment contract for facility at Avonmouth, with West of England partner authorities                                                                                    | Cost/efficiency<br>Recovery<br>Landfill diversion |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implemented Waste Day Change - same day refuse/recycling/composting collections                                                                                                                          | Cost/efficiency<br>Recycling                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced weekly collections of cardboard and pots, tubs and trays plastic packaging (range expanded from bottles only)                                                                                 | Recycling                                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointed two additional Waste Adviser staff to further increase public and community engagement, develop special waste minimisation projects and school/student activity                                | Reduce<br>Reuse<br>Recycling                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed and put on hold infrastructure plans due to changes in Bath Western Riverside development strategy                                                                                              | Cost/efficiency                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAFED (Safe and Efficient Driving) training provided to frontline collection and disposal drivers                                                                                                        | Carbon reduction<br>Cost/efficiency               |
| 2010/11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Impact on                                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced weekly food waste recycling collections to 74,000 households, including major communications programme and extensive crew, vehicle and round developments with May Gurney (now Kier Services) | Recycling<br>Carbon reduction<br>Cost/efficiency  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procured refuse and garden waste and disposal haulage vehicles                                                                                                                                           | Cost/efficiency<br>Carbon reduction               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continued working with West of England partner authorities and residual waste treatment contractor on                                                                                                    | Cost/efficiency<br>Recovery                       |

|                                                                                                                                                                                              |                              |
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| progress with the building of the facility at Avonmouth                                                                                                                                      |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved awareness and participation at Mini Recycling Centres and implemented plans for introducing cardboard facilities at as many Centres as possible | Cost/efficiency<br>Recycling |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed and revised systems and processes for missed collection handling, to improve performance and customer experience                                | Cost/efficiency              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ran a special small electrical/electronic appliances competition to increase recycling at our Recycling Centres, with WEEE partner, Repic                | Recycling<br>Cost/efficiency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procured new landfill and treatment contracts for this year and later years to save rising Landfill Tax costs                                            | Cost/efficiency<br>Recovery  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried out a programme of resident door-knocking and particular work around student house areas at moving out time                                      | Recycling                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centralised refuse collections and waste transfer operations at Midland Road, Bath                                                                       | Cost/efficiency              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted the Joint Waste Core Strategy with our West of England partner authorities                                                                       | Cost/efficiency<br>Recovery  |
| <b>2011/12</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Impact On</b>             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set up and ran Give and Take days and second hand Furniture sales with plans to do more in future                                                        | Reduce<br>Reuse              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Installed Recycling on the Go litter bins in a number of locations with more planned so that people can recycle when they're not at home.                | Recycling                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed waste disposal and Recycling Centre operations and introduced new rotas and an apprentice programme with Radstock College                       | Cost/efficiency              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved refuse collections efficiencies through route optimisation after centralising operations in Bath                                                | Cost/efficiency              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed and changed the clinical waste collection                                                                                                       | Cost/efficiency              |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnered in the Keep Britain Tidy University Challenge research project investigating engaging students in pro-environmental behaviour                                                                            | Reduce<br>Recycling                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worked with Neighbourhood Services to join up public messages through the Love Where You Live campaign                                                                                                             | Improved<br>street scene                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helped businesses to “green up” by working with the Bath BID on Keep Britain Tidy Business Awards                                                                                                                  | Improved<br>street scene                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awarded funding to run a Reward and Recognition trial project based on the Bath “Oliver” local trading scheme by DEFRA                                                                                             | Improved<br>street scene                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved national recognition for our Health and Safety Practices winning a ROSPA award                                                                                                                            | Cost/<br>efficiency                             |
| <b>2012/13</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Impact On</b>                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-going programme of Give and Take days, and furniture sales delivered. Extensive programme of roadshows and events throughout the year focussing on Love Food Hate Waste                                         | Reduce<br>Reuse                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trialled reusable rubbish bags to reduce mess caused by scavenging birds and animals, and then developed new prototype as a result of the trial. Now rolled out to 2,000 properties in the city of Bath.           | Improved<br>street scene                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worked in partnership to deliver the ‘student move out’ project, helping and advising students on waste matters, and developing an annual programme of door-knocking and awareness raising in student communities. | Reduce<br>Recycling<br>Improved<br>street scene |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undertook a comprehensive reward and recognition scheme rewarding residents for recycling more, minimising their waste and presenting their waste correctly to improve the street scene                            | Reduce<br>Recycling                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced a kerbside collection for small electrical items                                                                                                                                                        | Recycling                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved NVQs in Team Leadership for operational staff                                                                                                                                                             | Cost/<br>efficiency                             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                  |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried out extensive door knocking to promote our food waste collection service                                                              | Recycling                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved national recognition for our Health and Safety Practices winning a ROSPA award – for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year running                | Cost/<br>efficiency              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved national recognition for our Leadership Academy and our apprenticeship programme – highly commended in the National Training Awards. | Cost/<br>efficiency              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewal of all signage at the Recycling Centres using WRAP icons and implemented layout changes to make sites more user-friendly.             | Recycling                        |
| <b>2013/14 – Actions completed and in progress</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>Impact On</b>                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ran Give and Take days and second hand furniture sales – increasing our work with volunteers                                                  | Reduce<br>Reuse                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rewards for schools – ‘you pledge we reward’ incentive programme delivered in partnership with Ainsworth and Parkinson                        | Recycling                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undertook participation rate monitoring.                                                                                                      | Recycling                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residents permit scheme introduced at recycling centres                                                                                       | Recycling                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of social media – waste services Facebook page and Twitter account set up and brought into use                                            | Reduce<br>Reuse<br>Recycling     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New trade waste collection and recycling service launched.                                                                                    | Recycling                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced baling and selling our own materials directly – trialling what works for us and the economics involved.                            | Recycling<br>Cost/<br>efficiency |