

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Suffolk 2003–2020

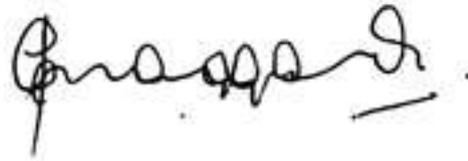
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This Waste Management Strategy has been adopted by the following signatories on behalf of each of Suffolk's Local Authorities (October 2003):



Cllr John Wyn Roberts
Chairman
Babergh District Council



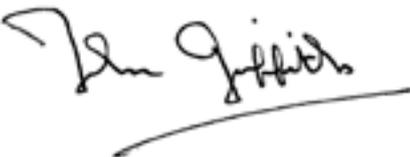
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Foreword

Waste continues to be one of the most challenging areas facing local government today. The Suffolk Waste Partnership has been highly successful in the 5 years since the adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy, attracting substantial sums of external funding that have assisted in the development of services. The resulting improvements have seen levels of recycling and composting performance that are consistently amongst the best in the England. We are committed to working together, and in partnership with the public and other stakeholders, to tackle the challenge of further improvements in both effectiveness and efficiency. The preparation of the Strategy in 2003 and subsequent review during 2007 resulting in this Addendum are important steps in this process.

This document confirms the long term vision for waste management in Suffolk set out in the original Strategy in 2003 and includes some very demanding targets. We believe that the period up to 2020 will see further radical changes in attitudes to waste and approaches to waste management. It is our intention that Suffolk is at the forefront of shaping attitudes and delivering new and innovative approaches to waste management.

It must be realised that the publication of this document is not the end of this process. Indeed, the Action Plans that are associated with the Strategy highlight those actions that will be implemented and developed over the next 5 years and also set out additional activities which could be considered for implementation with the aim of reaching the targets and aspirations set in the Strategy.

We are always keen to hear your views on waste management. If you have any comments to make on this Strategy or on future waste initiatives please either email Suffolk.recycling@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk or go to www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

Contents

Foreword	3
Executive Summary	5

SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND TO THE STRATEGY AND ITS PREPARATION (2003)

1.1	Introduction	8
1.2	Area Covered by the Strategy	8
1.3	Municipal Waste Management in Suffolk	10
1.4	The Strategy Preparation Process	13
1.5	Structure of the Strategy	14
1.6	Policy Background to the Strategy	15
1.7	Targets for Municipal Waste Management	16
1.8	Establishing the BPEO	18

SECTION 2 – THE STRATEGY (2003)

2.1	Partnership Working, Community Involvement and Education	20
2.2	Waste Reduction and Re-use	22
2.3	Recycling and Composting	25
2.4	Disposal	30
2.5	Infrastructure and Facilities	33
2.6	Costs and Market Development	35
2.7	Monitoring and Review	37

SECTION 3 – ADDENDUM (2008)

3.1.1	Introduction	39
3.1.2	The Review Process	40
3.1.3	Current Performance Information	40
3.2	Significant Changes in Policy and Legislation	42
3.2.1	Introduction	42
3.2.2	The Waste Strategy for England 2007	42
3.2.3	Waste & Emissions Trading Act 2003	43
3.2.4	Further Policies and Influencing Factors	45
3.3	Policy Revisions and Indicators	47
3.3.1	Introduction	47
3.3.2	Policies	48
3.3.3	Policies Requiring Amendment	54
3.3.4	Summary of Current JMWMS Policies	56
3.3.5	Strategy Indicators	59
3.4	Future Actions	60

APPENDIX

1.	Glossary of Terms	61
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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (the Strategy) sets out the strategic framework for the management of municipal waste in Suffolk until 2020. It was subject to extensive consultation during preparation prior to its adoption in 2003. The Strategy states that it should be subject to regular review and that the first review should be carried out by the end of 2007. This review has been completed and has resulted in an Addendum (Section 3) to the Strategy, which has been adopted by each of Suffolk's Local Authorities. The Addendum addresses developments in legislation and policy following the adoption of the Strategy in 2003. It also takes account of the improvements in performance achieved by the partner authorities.

Part of the review process was to update the statutory Recycling Plans. This has resulted in the publication of an associated document that includes a new set of Action Plans for 2007 - 2012. These highlight those actions that will be implemented and developed for this period and other activities which could be considered with the aim of reaching the targets and aspirations set in the Strategy. These Plans will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Preparation of the Strategy was and continues to be underpinned by the following 'vision' agreed by all participating authorities:

"Suffolk's Local Authorities will work together, and in partnership with others, to develop a Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The Strategy will seek to minimise levels of waste generated and to manage waste in ways that are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

The Strategy will seek to influence the wider waste stream, providing waste minimisation and recycling in industry and contribute towards the preparation of a Waste Local Plan for Suffolk.

In delivering the Strategy, the Local Authorities will embrace the principles outlined in the National Waste Strategy and aim to recycle or compost at least 60% of municipal waste".

Steps were taken in the preparation of the Strategy to ensure that it accorded with Government Guidance and represented the "Best Practicable Environmental Option" (BPEO).

Municipal Waste Management in Suffolk

Municipal waste consists of all waste produced by a householder that is collected by Waste Collection Authorities or taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres (Household Waste). In addition it also includes commercial waste that is collected by Waste Collection Authorities for which a charge is made. Municipal waste does not include arisings from the commercial, industrial or agricultural sectors that are handled by private waste contractors.

Suffolk has an excellent track record in recycling and composting and has made dramatic improvements in household waste recycling rates from 8% in 1995/6 to 19% in 2001/02 rising to 43.5% in 2006/07. Performance to date has exceeded all Government targets and seen Suffolk consistently achieving one of the highest recycling rates in England. However, in common with much of the rest of the country the amount of municipal waste produced in Suffolk has grown considerably over recent years. 296,000 tonnes was produced in 1995/96, by 2006/07 this had increased to 418,466 tonnes.

Waste Collection

Currently municipal waste in Suffolk is collected by a variety of different means. The vast majority is collected either at the kerbside or via community recycling “bring sites” by the Waste Collection Authority or by the Waste Disposal Authority at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The separate collection of recyclable co-mingled waste is currently offered from the kerbside of most properties in all seven Waste Collection Authority areas. The separate collection of compostable waste, alongside the promotion of home composting, is also currently offered from the kerbside of some properties in all seven Waste Collection Authority areas. In other areas home composting and the 18 Household Waste and Recycling Centres are relied upon.

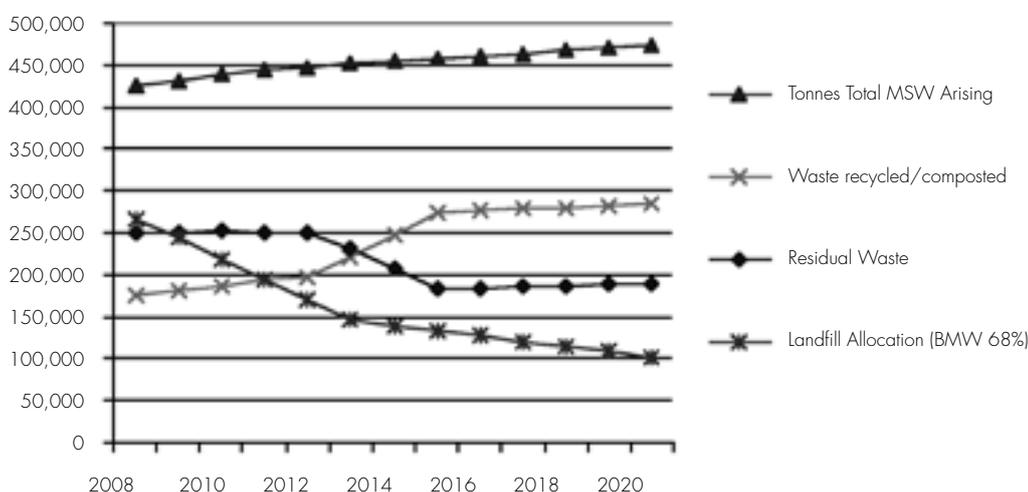
Residual waste is collected from the kerbside in all seven Waste Collection Authority areas either by sacks or wheeled bins and currently landfilled at one of three sites in Suffolk.

The Strategy proposes to introduce the separate collection of recyclable, compostable and residual waste from at least 80% of the households in Suffolk by 2010. This has been partially achieved but, it is recognised that collection systems will continue to vary across the County and not all areas will be suitable for the ‘three stream’ collection system. The detail of all these schemes and potential enhancements can be found in the Action Plans contained in the Annexes document associated with this report.

Disposal and Infrastructure

Suffolk is currently dependent on landfill for the disposal of residual municipal waste. The policies set out in the Strategy and Addendum and the proposals in the Action Plans have been used to forecast future landfill requirements and to prepare a strategic plan for future residual waste disposal. As predicted in the Strategy the Government has set limits for the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) that can be sent to landfill through its Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS). Potentially severe financial penalties will be incurred if these limits are exceeded; this is in addition to the increasing rate of Landfill Tax.

This comparison shows that due to the level of recycling and composting proposed in the Strategy, Suffolk will landfill less waste than the possible level of allowances until at least 2010.



The Strategy recognises that it is not sustainable to rely on landfill for the disposal of all Suffolk's residual municipal waste until 2020. The need for residual waste treatment facilities has been reviewed by the Waste Disposal Authority and several options have been considered. The Residual Waste Action Plan sets out the procurement plan that Suffolk will be following throughout the coming years.

Monitoring and Review

The Strategy includes the eight indicators that have been used to monitor its performance. Monitoring reports have been produced every year since 2004. The current indicators will continue to be employed but they will be reviewed within the next 12 months. This will take account of the changes detailed in Waste Strategy for England 2007 and the Government's new Performance Framework and ensure a robust reporting procedure is in place.

The next review of the Strategy will be completed by the end of 2012. Its exact timing will be kept under review depending on relevant legislation, policy, guidance, local government structural changes and the factors listed in Policy 13.