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Who We Are

The Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) is a strategic partnership of the county, district and borough councils which works together to continuously improve waste management services throughout Suffolk. The SWP has created a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2003-2020 (The Strategy), which contains 17 policies that sets out the strategic framework for the management of municipal waste across the county.

The members of the SWP are:

- Babergh District Council
- Forest Heath District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Mid Suffolk District Council
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council
- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Waveney District Council

The Partnership is currently chaired by Cllr Roy Barker of Mid Suffolk District Council with Cllr Lisa Chambers of Suffolk County Council as vice chair. The Partnership is structured, administered and operated by Member and Officer Representatives of the above organisations as outlined below:

- SWP Members’ Group – Provides political leadership
- SWP Directors’ Group – Provides strategic direction and governance
- SWP Managers’ Group – Assists with the formulation and oversees the implementation of policy and provides technical expertise
- SWP Waste Reduction Officers’ Group – Provides education, communication, event management and engagement with the public.

For more information on the SWP and its various policies and groups please visit www.suffolkrecycling.org
This Annual Report outlines the work undertaken by the Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) during the period April 2009 – March 2010. It informs the public of the measures that have been implemented to deliver services in line with the 17 policies laid out within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (The Strategy).

The 12 months covered by this annual report have been a challenging time not only for Suffolk but for the country at large. The global economic situation has impacted on us all and local government has not been immune to these effects. All the member authorities of the SWP have therefore endeavoured to forge new ways of working more closely together to overcome these challenges and ensure progress towards the targets we have set ourselves, whilst taking into account the changing financial situation.

As well as formalising the Chairmanship of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, a post which I am honoured to currently hold, officers have been working hard to identify areas in which we can not only improve our overall performance but also the ways in which we communicate our various schemes and services. We have also been looking into other ways in which the eight SWP member authorities can work together more closely to ensure both the separate collection and disposal elements of waste management across Suffolk are as efficient and effective as possible.

It is important that we celebrate Suffolk’s successes and this year we have passed a very important milestone. For the first time ever our households are now recycling more waste than they throw away. This is a fantastic achievement and testament to the sterling efforts of all our residents and collection teams alike. This is a fine example of how far our county has come in a relatively short period of time. Of the many achievements outlined in this document, the past 12 months has seen progression in a number of important areas including:

- An increase in our countywide recycling rate to 50.6%.
- A reduction of almost 41,800 tonnes in the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- The establishment of future long term alternatives to landfill in Suffolk.

None of the improvements would have been possible without every person taking the time to recycle their old plastic bottles, take a glass jar to the bottle bank or compost their kitchen or garden wastes. These efforts are making a big difference and on behalf of the elected members and officers of the SWP I would like to finish by thanking you, our residents for your continued support.

Best wishes

Cllr Roy Barker

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The Strategy was developed by the SWP and formally adopted by all Local Authorities in October 2003. It was reviewed at the end of 2007 to take into account changes to local and national waste policies. The preparation of the Strategy was underpinned with the following vision:

**The Strategy seeks 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.


The SWP also fully supports the national waste hierarchy as shown below:
Progress against Strategic Policies

The Strategy contains 17 policies that are designed to ensure continuous improvement in waste services in Suffolk. This section will outline each policy and provide an update on progress.

POLICY 1

We will enhance joint working between authorities to improve waste management services in Suffolk.

The SWP meets regularly at Member, Director, Manager and Waste Reduction Officer levels to ensure continued improvement to our waste service. The SWP Support Manager attends all groups to ensure clear lines of communications exist throughout the Partnership.

During 2009/10 the SWP has taken a number of important steps designed to bring our efforts into greater alignment and ensure joined up thinking wherever possible. As a first important step towards this aim, the Members’ Group decided to create the post of Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership. They agreed that it was important that these roles should reflect the two-tier nature of waste management currently employed in Suffolk, namely the district and boroughs acting as the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and the county council acting as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). Following elections, Cllr Roy Barker (Portfolio Holder for Waste & Environmental Services at Mid Suffolk District Council) was elected Chair with Cllr Lisa Chambers (Portfolio Holder for Waste at Suffolk County Council) elected as Vice Chair. Both will serve in these roles until June 2011.

The Chair and Vice Chair have, during the course of the year, overseen the strengthening of the SWP in the following ways:

- The Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) – The IAA provides a pivotal working arrangement between the Waste Collection Authorities (the district and borough councils) and Waste Disposal Authority (the county council), in delivering the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and is based around an agreed approach.
An initial investigation into the potential for the formation of a Joint Waste Committee (JWC) for Suffolk – A special officer group was formed to look into the viability of a JWC in Suffolk versus other available options. The JWC option, if chosen, would potentially require the eight member authorities to agree to merge their waste functions and create a single management team to oversee all the waste services provided to our residents. It should be noted however, that at the time of going to press Elected Members, in consultation with officers, have decided that a Joint Waste Committee with a single management structure is not the right option for Suffolk at the current time. Officers have instead been requested to explore other methods to enhance joint working across the partnership.

The development of an SWP Waste Reduction and Communications Plan – This plan seeks to ensure that the users of waste services across Suffolk receive comprehensive and consistent information.

The Seven Suffolk Streets (7SS) project – The 7SS project saw officers engage with residents in one specifically chosen street in each of the seven District and Borough Council areas in Suffolk to try to reduce their waste by 50%. The project also worked with schools and businesses located on each of these streets (further details are outlined under Policy 3).
We will involve the public, community groups, waste management industry and governmental bodies in all aspects of waste management in Suffolk.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership Managers’ group monitors all central governmental waste consultations and responds, where applicable, to ensure the services and policies that work in Suffolk are considered at the highest levels of government planning. We also have representation on regional and national waste organisations to keep abreast of all developments in the waste industry.

In addition, individual members of the Partnership have undertaken multiple projects to ensure all their waste services are adapted to the needs of residents. For example, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils undertook a customer satisfaction survey through a series of focus groups and postal questionnaires in order to identify the main concerns that customers have relating to street cleanliness and waste collection services.

Suffolk Coastal District Council supported the completion of the phased introduction of the Council’s improved household waste recycling service by holding 36 information roadshows. These took place in areas of the district prior to the improved service being rolled out and in total were attended by 1,190 members of the public. In addition three district Member forum briefings were held along with two meetings with Aldeburgh Town Council and Bealings Parish Council to ensure residents’ local representatives were apprised of all developments.

Ipswich Borough Council continued to review its network of bring sites involving a variety of community groups. Ipswich also held discussions with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and DEFRA, to develop plans to allow their compostable waste collections to include cooked food and meat waste once certain operational upgrades to the treatment facility at Cliff Quay had been completed.
POLICY

We will promote education programmes and awareness campaigns to increase knowledge of waste issues and participation in waste management initiatives throughout Suffolk. We will participate in similar schemes at the regional level and ensure that a consistent message is given to promote sustainable waste management practice.

Between April 2009 and the end of July 2009 Suffolk County Councils school waste education officers worked with 28 schools to deliver waste education activities and encourage and enable schools to reduce their residual waste through the Pledge To Recycle initiative. At the beginning of Autumn Term 2009 the team consulted with schools through questionnaires to establish what they needed in terms of waste education. It was apparent from the responses that schools were keen
to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much of their own waste as possible. Waste staff are working to help schools to minimise their waste and began developing a new website to communicate these messages more effectively and to provide support and resources to teachers and pupils. The website has now been developed and will be launched soon.

In January 2010 the Suffolk Waste Partnership was awarded £10,000 from the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme to deliver a pilot waste reduction project in seven streets across Suffolk (involving approximately 500 households as well as businesses and schools). The aim was to carry out an intensive door-knocking campaign, speaking to people about how they could halve their waste over a fortnight. Bins in the pilot areas were weighed ‘before and after’ to assess the impact of the project on people’s waste behaviours. The Seven Suffolk Streets (7SS) project resulted in an excellent response from the households, businesses and schools that took part and did result in 242 households reducing their waste by an average of 38.9%, 64 households reduced their waste by the full 50%, 4 schools reduced their waste by 29%, 11 businesses reduced their waste over the period and 6 businesses extended their recycling activities. The project was a real success and the Partnership has subsequently launched a similar programme scaled-up to cover a whole collection round in each of the seven SWP districts and boroughs in 2010 to influence some 10,000 households. An additional benefit from the project has been the production of a booklet called The Suffolk Waste Reduction Handbook explaining how householders can reduce waste by reducing food waste, being smart shoppers, home composting, stopping junk mail, and reusing and recycling more.

The “No Excuses” for littering campaign saw Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council join forces to spread the message that there’s no justification for dropping any type of litter. The campaign focussed on different litter types, allowing for a targeted communications approach on wider environmental crime. Residents, schools and businesses in West Suffolk were encouraged to get involved and help publicise the campaign within their communities.

In total, officers have also attended more than 150 events during the year promoting waste reduction, recycling and composting across the length and breadth of the county. This has included large scale events such as the Suffolk Show, the Lowestoft Air Festival and the Latitude festival as well as a multitude of smaller but no less important events.
**POLICY 4**

We will promote and encourage waste reduction wherever possible to minimise the amount of waste that is produced. We will also make representations seeking changes to national taxation and regulation regimes in order to encourage waste reduction.

From January 2010 Suffolk County Council has been providing the UK lead for the Cradle to Cradle project. This important resource conservation project focuses on the concept that products and processes should be designed so that all the materials embodied within them remain in a perpetual cycle of utility and waste is never generated. Suffolk is leading the “build” strand of the project for the 9 other member European states and is linking with the Suffolk Green Buildings Network to find and promote examples of build design where buildings have been designed for disassembly and reuse or where the materials used in the building are reused or made from recycled materials. The project concludes in December 2011 with an action plan to embed cradle to cradle thinking in future planning and development in Suffolk and beyond.

Pakosaurus Rex supporting waste reduction in schools

[Link to www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk]
POLICY 5

We will promote and encourage waste re-use wherever possible.

During 2009/10, the second year of the Reuse and Recycling Capital fund awarded £127,000 to seven projects in Suffolk. It is anticipated that through this support these projects will reuse and recycle 507 tonnes of waste, and create 270 work placement opportunities for adults with a range of learning, physical and other needs that currently exclude them from the mainstream workplace.

Suffolk Waste Partnership continues to be represented on the Suffolk Community Reuse and Recycling Network (SCRRN) and Suffolk County Council currently host the SCRRN web site.

During the year, Waste Recycling Group, the contractor that manages the HWRCs on behalf of the County Council has continued to support third sector organisations by installing containers on a selection of sites where people deposit items for reuse. The intention is for all HWRCs to have containers for reuse installed in the near future. The reuse organisations make regular collections from the HWRCs and distribute the items for reuse through their networks of shops and other outlets. For example, bikes are sent to the Greenbike Project, which is run by Orwell Mencap and in its first year of operation 7.75 tonnes of bikes (this equates to approximately 600 bikes) were taken from the HWRCs for refurbishment. During the same period 5 tonnes of furniture was collected for furniture projects in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. In addition a very successful partnership with Highpoint prison saw 438 tonnes of CRTs (TVs and computer monitors) being taken from the HWRCs for testing and subsequent onward distribution for reuse overseas.
POLICY

We will seek to maximise the proportion of waste that is recycled or composted, aiming to exceed the Waste Strategy for England 2007 targets, and aim to achieve at least 60% recycling and composting by 2015.

The last 5 years have seen the amount of waste recycled in Suffolk rise significantly and this year the SWP is pleased to announce that this trend has continued. For the period April 2009 to March 2010 the overall percentage of waste recycled, composted or re-used in Suffolk was 50.62%. This is an increase of 2.2% on the previous year’s performance and places Suffolk firmly amongst the top recycling counties in England. Waveney District Council remained the highest performing individual member of the partnership recycling and composting 53.17% of their waste. However, it should also be noted that 66.9% of the household waste collected at the Household Waste Recycling Centres was recycled in 2009/10. This is an increase of 14.3% on the previous year.

The SWP believes we remain on course to achieve our 60% target by 2015.

For further information regarding recycling levels in Suffolk, please refer to Appendix 1 Indicators 2a and 2b.

Cllr Barker celebrates 50% recycling
POLICY

We will seek to introduce ‘three-stream’ collection systems from the kerbside of at least 80% of the households in Suffolk by 2010.

All households in Suffolk now have access to a separate collection of recyclable materials. This has been achieved by all SWP member authorities providing alternate weekly collections for both recyclable and non recyclable waste. During 2009/10, Suffolk Coastal District Council completed the accelerated roll out of their alternate weekly collection system. Throughout Suffolk Coastal all homes are now able to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and food containers and tin cans. Due to financial constraints, the new system was introduced across the Suffolk Coastal area on a phased basis since July 2006 and superseded a paper-only kerbside recycling collection service.

Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council jointly offer a ‘paid for’ garden waste collection scheme for composting and between April 2009 and March 2010 almost 700 new homes joined up. Unfortunately, due to the overall countywide increase in housing numbers, especially new-build flats in urban areas, the Suffolk Waste Partnership has been unable to achieve its 80% target this year but has maintained coverage at 75%. It should be noted that with the expanding schemes such as that in Babergh and Mid Suffolk and other projects such as Ipswich Borough Council’s plan to begin collecting kitchen wastes in their brown bins in 2010/11 there is still a great deal to be optimistic about. The Suffolk Waste Partnership remains confident that the 80% target can be reached in the near future.

For further information regarding three stream collections in Suffolk, please refer to Appendix 1 Indicator 3.
POLICY 8

We will investigate the possibility of introducing the kerbside collection of glass.

The collection of glass at the kerbside remains a topic of regular debate for the Suffolk Waste Partnership. The co-collection of glass, along with other materials in residents’ kerbside recycling bins, would have certain technical and financial implications which will need to be carefully considered before any final decision can be taken.

Officers have continued to work closely with colleagues within the Suffolk Recycling Consortium and Viridor Waste Management, the organisation which operates the facility where the materials placed in your recycling bins are taken for sorting *, to investigate the viability of processing glass in the future.

We do fully recognise however that the increased recycling of glass, along with improving the amount of our kitchen wastes that are composted, remains one of the most important areas for development across Suffolk. In the latter part of 2010/11 work will commence regarding the long term processing of the mixed recyclable materials collected in your bins and the potential addition of glass will form a major part of this workstream.

* This applies to all Suffolk district and borough councils with the exception of Waveney District Council. Waveney’s recyclables are taken to a separate facility in Norfolk.
We will continue to promote home composting in all areas of the County through promotional and educational campaigns and by ensuring compost bins are available at competitive rates. In areas where the kerbside collection of compostable waste is introduced, special care will be taken to minimise the amount of waste collected that would otherwise have been composted at home.

SWP staff and Suffolk Master Composter volunteers (MCs) delivered home composting awareness activities throughout the county, in tandem with WRAP’s Home Composting Campaign which enabled Suffolk residents to purchase basic models of home compost bins at significantly subsidised prices. Government subsidy for compost bins was withdrawn in September 2009 and the scheme ceased, however in total 1,301 bins were sold from the 1st April 2009 to the end of the scheme. New and existing home composters continued to receive support through SWP co-ordinated Master Composters (see Policy 10) and the WRAP-delivered national advice line and website services which continued throughout this period.

Early in 2010 the SWP signed up to the new National Home Composting Framework and by mid-March were able to provide Suffolk residents with subsidised basic compost bins at 2008/09 prices and offer a far greater range of bins and accessories, including wormery units and Bokashi food digesters, at heavily subsidised prices. Master Composters and SWP staff attending public events between September and March reported residents’ frustration at the lack of availability of affordable compost bins, which suggests there is still potential growth in home composting.

The promotion of home composting was a key element of more than 20 SWP public events through the year and National Compost Awareness Week (May 2009) was again a key period in the promotion of composting in Suffolk. SWP staff helped deliver 35 ‘Compost Giveaway’ events during the week at HWRCs and other locations, as a thank you to Suffolk residents for their participation with SWP Councils’ green waste collection schemes. These events also provided an opportunity to highlight the benefits of home composting, with Suffolk Master Composter volunteers providing advice and support via ‘Compost Clinics’.

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk
We will support community composting initiatives.

As outlined in Policy 9, the SWP’s Master Composter volunteers have been instrumental in supporting the work of SWP staff in promoting home composting throughout the county. The volunteers encourage Suffolk residents to compost organic kitchen and garden waste by promoting the wider environmental benefits and by providing advice on how to compost effectively. The active Master Composters kindly contributed more than 300 volunteering hours in 2009/10 through displays, demonstrations and activities at public events, within community organisations, at schools and in Suffolk households.

This year Master Composters have taken on a wide range of events and activities such as Compost Awareness Week displays in workplaces (including Suffolk County Council’s Endeavour House office), 6 compost clinics which have taken place in conjunction with SWP compost giveaway events in locations across the county and articles in community magazines. They have also delivered talks to a range of community groups and in Suffolk schools and attended many key public events including the Suffolk Show, Eye Show, Suffolk Smallholders Show and the Suffolk Green Fairs. In April 2010 a team of 6 volunteers delivered 5 different home composting activities at the Suffolk Schools Farm Fair which was attended by 3,500 schoolchildren in the county.

During 2009/10 SWP gained membership of the Community Composting Network (CCN) and began discussions with this advisory organisation to be involved in a proposed Local Partnership Programme to begin developing community composting pilot projects in the county in 2010/11.
We will increase the number of bring sites for the collection of glass throughout the County.

As previously mentioned in policy 8, the Suffolk Waste Partnership recognises glass as one of the major recyclable materials and an area in which further improvements to service provision and capture rates can be made.

During 2009/10 over 17,000 tonnes of glass was collected and recycled across Suffolk. This includes almost 13,300 tonnes collected via district and borough bring sites, 3,100 tonnes collected at the Household Waste Recycling Centres and over 400 tonnes collected from businesses.

In addition, Waveney District Council and Ipswich Borough Council operate source separated kerbside glass collections from a limited number of homes. The Waveney scheme, which sees 5,500 homes in North Lowestoft and Halesworth receive a weekly collection of glass bottles and jars, collected 130 tonnes in 2009/10 and the Ipswich scheme, which targets flats and communal areas using specially adapted 240 litre bins, collected 123 tonnes.

Currently, each district or borough council, along with the county council at Household Waste Recycling Centres, make their own contractual arrangements for the siting, cleansing and emptying of glass recycling banks. It has however been identified as an area of potential improvement and investigations commenced in 2009/10 to consider the letting of a single, countywide contract. The intention of this would be to improve the standard of the banks, increase the tonnage collected and reduce the overall cost of the service to the tax payer.

Investigating a joint glass bank contract is being undertaken as part of the greater overall strategy for glass which includes the potential for the future kerbside collection of this material. Therefore further progress on this issue is expected in 2010/11.
POLICY 12

We will work to optimise the number and location of Household Waste and Recycling Centres and enhance the quality of service provision to Suffolk householders.

Suffolk County Council owns and manages the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). In February 2009 the County Council awarded the contract for the day to day operation of the HWRCs to Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG), a waste management company of international renown.

Waste Recycling Group has been operating the service for over a year and has increased the amount of waste being diverted from landfill by around 20% over the previous contract.

WRG operates an incentive scheme for all staff on the contract that rewards employees for exceeding recycling targets, delivering a high level of customer service and working safely. WRG has also enrolled all site staff on a national competence-based assessment scheme and all staff receive regular training on a wide range of waste related subjects. The annual customer satisfaction survey showed an overall satisfaction result of over 97%.

As part of its bid to operate the HWRC sites, Waste Recycling Group committed to increase recycling and composting rates at each site with the aim to increase recycling to 60% in the first year and rise to 65% from 2015 onwards. Currently the recycling and composting levels are over 68%.

Other improvements WRG has carried out in the first eighteen months include:-

- Improved facilities at the Lowestoft, Foxhall near Ipswich, Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds HWRCs. These are high throughput sites that offer the full range of recycling facilities and also have a greater number of staff available to assist customers at busy times.
- Repairs and improvement to standard sites with improved layout, traffic management and changes to the waste handling equipment.
- Improved customer experience with “meeters and greeters” at the Lowestoft, Foxhall, Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds sites.
POLICY 12 CONTINUED

- Improved health and safety environment on sites.
- Increased range of recyclables accepted (e.g. rigid plastics, spectacles, ink cartridges and media banks).
- Diverting materials delivered to the site to local re-use organisations.
- 130 new containers and 96 sets of new walkways.
- 28 new low level compaction containers
- Extra containers for soil and rubble that aid in diverting this waste type from landfill.

These phase 1 improvements were implemented across Suffolk. Suffolk County Council and the SWP will be looking to work with WRG to achieve further improvements and areas that are currently being investigated with WRG include:-

- Acceptance of Trade Waste at some or all HWRCs
- Reviewing the number and location of the sites
- Opportunities for co-location with Waste Transfer Stations and other waste infrastructure.
We recognise that there will be a need to introduce non-landfill facilities for the treatment of residual waste over the life of this strategy. The need for such facilities will be kept under constant review.

Due to the reducing levels of landfill in the county and our desire to use waste as a resource, the Suffolk Waste Partnership has been negotiating a long term contract that will provide a better waste treatment solution.

Following a highly competitive procurement process, Suffolk County Council has signed a contract with SITA UK to build and run (for 25 years) an Energy from Waste facility at the former highways depot at Great Blakenham, near Ipswich.

Energy from Waste (EfW) uses tried and tested technology to offer a cheaper, greener solution to disposing of waste which cannot reasonably be recycled.

EfW puts the waste to good use as a fuel to generate electricity (in Suffolk enough to power a town about the size of Lowestoft). This will reduce our dependence on increasingly scarce resources, such as oil, coal and gas, and over the 25 year life of the contract will be around £350 million cheaper than continuing to landfill.

Now that SITA UK have been appointed, they are required to submit planning and permitting applications. Should these applications be successful, then construction would commence in spring 2012 and the facility would be operational by the end of 2014.
We will seek to minimise the amount of waste landfilled by maximising reduction, re-use, recycling and composting, and in the longer term by introducing non-landfill residual waste treatment facilities.

During 2009/10 the Suffolk Waste Partnership has seen good progress against this policy. The continued support for and use by residents of services such as the 3 bin system for the collection of household recycling and compostable wastes has seen the amount of residual waste generated per household for disposal fall from 571kg in 2008/09 to 530kg in 2009/10. In addition, the proportion of waste sent to landfill over the same period has fallen from 54.5% to 45.2%.

Further information regarding these figures can be found in Appendix A Indicator 1 and Indicator 5. Individual member authorities have also looked to divert additional tonnages of waste from landfill through schemes such as “Recycle on the Go”. Recycle on the Go aims to provide the ability to recycle paper, cans and plastic bottles in heavily used public locations such as town centres, using dual use litter bins (one side of the bin for rubbish and the other for recyclables). During this year Suffolk Coastal District Council installed these dual use bins in Felixstowe and in lay-bys on the A12 and A14 whilst Ipswich Borough Council now has 25 bins located throughout the town centre recycling over 10 tonnes of litter that would have otherwise gone to landfill.

Councils have also commenced the recycling of street sweepings. Previously street sweeping wastes, collected either mechanically or manually, were sent straight to landfill but during 2009/10 Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils along with Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal District Council have worked with local waste companies to find ways to sort through the collected street sweepings and capture the recyclable elements. This has resulted in over 2,250 tonnes of additional waste being diverted from landfill. Babergh and Forest Heath District Councils have also commenced this type of service this year.

It should also be noted that member authorities have continued to work with local businesses to divert ever more commercial and non-domestic waste (such as local authority parks and grounds maintenance wastes) from landfill. 11,839 tonnes of commercial waste was recycled by the Suffolk authorities last year from a total of 35,656 tonnes collected. This equates to 33.2% of our total commercial waste stream. It is hoped that this percentage will continue to rise as commercial recycling becomes increasingly attractive to businesses as the cost of landfilling waste rises year on year.

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk
POLICY 15

We recognise that all authorities will see significant increases in the costs of providing waste management services. We will work together to seek to minimise these increases.

This policy seems ever more poignant given the worldwide economic slow-down. The Suffolk Waste Partnership has not been immune to these global effects and our member authorities have been working together in a number of ways, both collectively and in their geographical areas, to identify ways to work more efficiently.

During 2009/10 the Suffolk Waste Partnership has developed an Inter Authority Agreement. This legally binding agreement, also mentioned under Policy 1, is designed to establish a long-term economic mechanism between Suffolk County Council, in its capacity as the Suffolk’s Waste Disposal Authority, and the 7 district and borough councils, in their capacity as the Waste Collection Authorities. The agreement supports the efforts of the districts and boroughs to continue to drive up the amount of waste reduced, reused and recycled whilst also controlling the composition of waste and helping the county council to fulfil its obligations under the its new residual waste contract outlined in Policy 13.

Towards the end of 2009/10 the SWP Members Group instructed officers to commence work to investigate the potential for a Joint Waste Committee to be formed in Suffolk. In short, a Joint Waste Committee is a form of waste management structure where all collection and disposal issues are managed collectively rather than in the 2 tier structure we have at present. However, as previously mentioned under Policy 1, at the time of going to press Elected Members, in consultation with officers, have decided that a Joint Waste Committee with a single management structure is not the right option for Suffolk at the current time. Officers have instead been requested to explore other methods to enhance joint working across the partnership.

Certain SWP member authorities have also been working together collectively within their geographical areas during 2009/10. Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council have continued to strengthen their own Joint Waste Collection Committee. This Committee oversees the strategic and operational development of waste collection within the two authorities whilst the operation elements are still carried out separately. Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council have a joint collection contract with Serco, the first of its type in England. In conjunction with Serco, the two authorities reviewed their collection rounds during 2009/10. This review allowed more efficient cross-border collections between the two authorities which reduces the net cost of the service. In the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council areas, the innovative and publicly owned partnership Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) Suffolk Coastal Services and Waveney Norse (which are both part of Norse Commercial Services), provide comprehensive waste management services as part of a range of strategic operational services. As part of a joint working initiative between both JVCs, opportunities for cross-border waste and recycling collection and data administration support were explored and are being implemented in 2010.
We will work with the Waste and Resource Action Programme, businesses and the community in order to develop markets for recyclable waste and outlets for waste derived compost and products made from recycled materials.

The development of stable markets for the materials derived from recyclable or compostable sources remains a long term aim for the Suffolk Waste Partnership. We look to work with the Waste and Resource Action Programme and other governmental and non-governmental organisations to seek out and develop new ways for waste to be sustainably diverted from landfill. An example of this is the ongoing work with Waste Recycling Group (WRG), the organisation which operates the Household Waste Recycling Centres on behalf of Suffolk County Council, to find outlets for reusable materials that are collected at HWRCs.

Another example would be in Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council where they send their collected compostable material to a facility at Lackford. Here it is processed to BSI PAS 100 certification and used as agricultural soil improver before being applied to land which is often less than 5 miles from the Composting Facility.

As mentioned elsewhere in this document, the Suffolk Waste Partnership also works closely with the Suffolk Recycling Consortium and Viridor Waste Management to ensure secure long-term markets exist for the recyclable materials collected from your homes.

We will publish a report monitoring this strategy every year.

This document has been prepared in response to this policy. The information contained within its pages is correct at the time of print.
With each new year waste management in Suffolk brings new challenges. Foremost amongst these will be the continued financial pressures that local government will face to maintain services and continue to improve performance at a time of shrinking budgets. The Suffolk Waste Partnership does however remain committed to achieve the aims and objectives set out in our Strategy and to ensure that the best value possible is provided to you, our residents, in the waste management services you receive.

In particular, the following issues will form the basis of our priorities in 2010/11:

- To maintain Suffolk’s position as one of the country’s best recyclers.
- The development of our partnership through actions such as the signing of the Inter Authority Agreement and the strengthening of the Suffolk Waste Partnership.
- The continued development of long-term alternative solutions to landfill for the disposal Suffolk’s residual waste.
- Working closely together to ensure new projects are designed in such a way that the tax payer receives the utmost value for money.
- Continue to pursue the principles of the waste hierarchy
- Developing joint communications across Suffolk to encourage residents to reduce, re-use and recycle whenever possible.
- Continuing to identify new projects and schemes that will help us move towards our 60% recycling target.
- Responding to all legislative changes both from central government and the European Union.
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Monitoring Indicators 2008/09

Monitoring Indicators
The following five sets of figures are used to monitor the progress of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and give some indication of its success to date.

1. Kilograms of Residual Household Waste Collected per Household (National Indicator 191)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Babergh/Mid Suffolk</th>
<th>Forest Heath</th>
<th>Ipswich</th>
<th>St Edmundsbury</th>
<th>Suffolk Coastal</th>
<th>Waveney</th>
<th>HWRCs</th>
<th>Suffolk Wide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
(1) From April 2008 Central Government introduced a new format for Local Authority performance measurement called National Indicators. These National Indicators (NIs) replaced the previous Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). There are 3 relevant National Indicators which are applicable to the performance of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, which are:

- NI 191 – Residual Household Waste per Household. This indicator records the number of kilograms of residual household waste collected per household that is not sent for recycling, re-use or composting. This indicator is similar to the Best Value Performance Indicator on total household waste per head (BVPI 84). There are, however, two key differences:
  i. Firstly, NI 191 only measures household waste that is not re-used, recycled or composted, whereas BVPI 84 measured the total kilogrammes of waste, including that which was recycled and composted.
  ii. Secondly, NI 191 is measured against the number of households in each given area whereas BVPI 84 measures per head of population in each given area.

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk
Suffolk Waste Partnership 2009/10 Annual Report

- NI 192 – Percentage of Household Waste sent for Re-Use, Recycling or Composting. This indicator shows percentage of household waste arisings which is sent by the authority for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion. This indicator combines the two previous Best Value Performance Indicators for household waste recycled (BVPI 82a) and composted (BVPI 82b). NI 192 can also include reuse tonnages which were previously excluded from both BVPI 82a and b.

- NI 193 – Percentage of Municipal Waste Landfilled. This indicator covers all municipal waste collected and not just those wastes which are generated from domestic households. No direct comparator to this NI previously existed within the BVPI structure.

(2) Household number data is taken from the Government’s WasteDataFlow database system. For more information please visit www.wastedataflow.org

(3) 2008/09 HWRC total previously reported as 121 kg per household. This figure has now been revised to take into account waste defined as non-household i.e. Rubble

(4) Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have a combined result on account of the two authorities operating a joint waste collection contract.

### 2.a Percentage of Household Waste Recycled and Composted (National Indicator 192)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Babergh</th>
<th>Forest Heath</th>
<th>Ipswich</th>
<th>Mid Suffolk</th>
<th>St Edmundsbury</th>
<th>Suffolk Coastal</th>
<th>Waveney</th>
<th>HWRCs (See note 3 for details)</th>
<th>Suffolk Wide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>33.30</td>
<td>46.11</td>
<td>36.53</td>
<td>28.35</td>
<td>48.62</td>
<td>33.48</td>
<td>46.59</td>
<td>48.11</td>
<td>40.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>36.46</td>
<td>46.02</td>
<td>36.78</td>
<td>34.20</td>
<td>50.03</td>
<td>38.31</td>
<td>48.41</td>
<td>46.81</td>
<td>42.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>39.22</td>
<td>46.43</td>
<td>39.92</td>
<td>37.82</td>
<td>50.81</td>
<td>42.97</td>
<td>51.62</td>
<td>49.64</td>
<td>45.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>39.77</td>
<td>46.53</td>
<td>40.89</td>
<td>39.78</td>
<td>51.32</td>
<td>48.46</td>
<td>55.91</td>
<td>52.64</td>
<td>48.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>See Mid Suffolk</td>
<td>45.17</td>
<td>40.22</td>
<td>40.17</td>
<td>50.07</td>
<td>51.81</td>
<td>53.17</td>
<td>66.93</td>
<td>50.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. (1) Policy 6 of the Strategy (Addendum) aims to achieve at least 60% of waste to be recycled or composted by 2015.

(2) Figures from 2005/05 to 2007/08 are based on Best Value Performance Indicator 82a and 82b. Figures from 2008/09 onwards are based on National Indicator 192 (Percentage of Household Waste sent for Re-Use, Recycling or Composting).

(3) From 2009/2010 Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have a combined result on account of the two authorities operating a joint waste collection contract.
3. Percentage of Households that have a Separate Collection of Dry Recyclable and Compostable material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Babergh/ Mid Suffolk</th>
<th>Forest Heath</th>
<th>Ipswich</th>
<th>St Edmundsbury</th>
<th>Suffolk Coastal</th>
<th>Waveney</th>
<th>Suffolk Wide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% households offered kerbside collection of dry recyclables</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households offered kerbside collection of compostables</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| % households offered a three stream kerbside collection | 17  
See note (4) | 91           | 78       | 100    | 100            | 100            | 75     |

Notes

(1) Policy 7 of the Strategy (Addendum) seeks to introduce a three stream collection to at least 80% of households by 2010.

(2) The Strategy (Addendum) defines dry recyclable waste as paper, cardboard, textiles, cans and plastics.

(3) The Strategy (Addendum) defines compostable waste as garden and certain types of kitchen waste.

(4) Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council jointly offer a customer paid for service available to all householders within the respective Districts.
4. Number of Home Composting Units Distributed via Partnership Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Home Composting Units Distributed up to March</th>
<th>Suffolk Wide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>59,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>70,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>78,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>80,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>81,777</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

(1) The Strategy (Addendum) has a target to sell 50,000 composters by 2005/06. This target has been achieved and exceeded.

(2) The composters have been distributed using funding from Defra and WRAP.
5. Percentage of Municipal Waste Landfilled (National Indicator 193)

| Percentage of waste landfilled |  
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| % of waste landfilled in Suffolk during 2008/09 | 54.5 |
| % of waste landfilled in Suffolk during 2009/10 | 45.2 |

Notes

(1) The 9.3% reduction between 2008/09 and 2009/10 is due to a combination of improved recycling performance with more waste being diverted from landfill and also some residual waste being diverted from landfill to an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility.
For more information please contact:

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Suffolk Waste Partnership Support Manager

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F 01473 216889

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Endeavour House  
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IP1 2BX

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

For more information about how Suffolk will face the challenge of waste disposal in the future, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/thefutureofwaste