

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
CABINET PANEL**

**THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015**

**HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

Report of the Chief Executive & Director of Environment

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Agenda Item  
No.

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present to the Cabinet Panel the 2014/15 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report which was presented to the HWP's Member Group in October 2015 and is attached as Appendix A. This information note provides an overview from a Hertfordshire County Council perspective of its own contribution, through the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network, to the countywide recycling performance.

**2. Recycling and Waste performance**

**2.1. Recycling rates**

- 2.1.1 Overall the HWP's countywide recycling rate (all Waste Collection Authority and HWRC waste) improved slightly in 2014/15 to 49.4% from 49.3% in the previous year.

- 2.1.2 The reported performance of the HWRC contribution to this combined performance can, however, be misleading as the national database used for reporting:-

(a) considers materials sent for recovery processes e.g. wood wastes to biomass as 'residual' wastes and

(b) requires the amount of waste disposed in each year to exactly match that which has been collected.

- 2.1.3 This latter consideration requires a balancing calculation for all residual wastes which have been collected by the district and borough councils or at HWRCs but have been delivered to a transfer facility pending haulage to the final disposal point.

- 2.1.4 The County Council reports this on behalf of all Hertfordshire Authorities and includes any wastes collected, but yet to be disposed, as HWRC residual

waste, thereby artificially affecting the position as reported on the national database.

2.1.5 As a result the 2014/15 recycling performance, reported by the national database and noted in the HWP annual report, understates HCC's actual annual performance at the HWRCs.

2.1.6 It should be noted that this and other subtleties have been considered as part of a significant revamp to the national reporting system which should improve the transparency of future calculations from 2015/16.

2.1.7 Table 1 below highlights the difference in the HWRC recycling rate reported in the HWP annual report and the actual performance, and is primarily the result of circa 1,200 additional tonnes that remained in the transfer station at year end and the classification of wood waste sent for a biomass energy recovery process as 'residual' waste in the same way as if the material had been disposed to landfill.

Table 1 – HWRC recycling rates

	<b>HWP / Nation Database 2014/15 recycling rate</b>	<b>HCC 2014/15 recycling rate</b>	<b>+ / -</b>
HWRC Recycling, reuse and composting	56.9%	59.05%	+2.15%

2.1.8 In addition to Table 1 above, if the HWRC wood waste was to be classified as recovery and not disposal (circa 6,500 tonnes) the HWRC recycling, reuse, composting and recovery rate increases performance to 67.9%. This can also be considered as a 'diversion from landfill' performance figure for household waste managed through the HWRC network.

## 2.2. Waste Minimisation

2.2.1 A key measure of performance is the overall amount of household waste produced, with waste minimisation key in reducing overall costs. In 2014/15 the national database recorded the level of household waste produced per Hertfordshire household as 1,055kg, a slight reduction on the 1,056kg produced in previous year.

2.2.2 Whilst any reduction in total waste is positive, a number of service changes implemented in 2014/15 (for example comingled dry recycling and food waste collections in Dacorum and Three Rivers, and changes to HWRC operating hours) have masked a trend of underlying residual collected waste growth. It should be noted that residual waste growth was experienced in five out of the eleven partner authorities in 2014/15.

## 2.3. Recycling and Composting

2.3.1 In 2014/15 significant increases in dry recycling were experienced as a result of the full impact of comingled recycling service changes and the diversion of cardboard from the organic waste stream into the dry recycling stream.

2.3.2 The main issue for HCC relates to the amount of composted / organic waste collected. In 2014/15, 121,786 tonnes of composted material was collected, a decrease of 5,202 tonnes on the previous year. This is a result of the continued diversion of cardboard into the dry recycling stream, but also less favourable growing conditions at the end of 2014/15.

2.3.3 Whilst reductions in this type of material are also welcomed as it results in lower disposal costs, it has also impacted on HCC's ability to fulfil obligations under organic waste disposal contracts procured on behalf of the HWP. In particular the ability to fulfil Guaranteed Minimum Tonnages (GMT) for the Envar organic waste disposal contract at a facility in Cambridgeshire.

2.3.4 The separate food waste collection service introduced by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) resulted in a significant reduction in mixed food and green waste produced and delivered to Envar. This, combined with an overall reduction in collected green waste, resulted in a shortfall in the GMT of circa 1,740 tonnes in 2014/15. Alternative arrangements have been made to meet the 2015/16 GMT commitment and it should be noted that, despite there being a shortfall in the 2014/15 tonnages, the overall financial effect of DBCs service changes resulted in a net reduction in disposal costs.

## 2.4. Diversion from landfill

2.4.1 New interim waste disposal contracts awarded in early 2014/15 resulted in a significant increase in the amount of waste diverted from landfill. In particular the new contracts included the Ardley (Oxfordshire) Energy from Waste (EfW) facility from May 2014.

2.4.2 The proportion of total local authority managed waste diverted from landfill increased from 65.9% in 2013/14 to 73.6% in 2014/15 and is set to increase further as the full year impact of the Ardley EfW contract is felt and the new Greatmoor (Buckinghamshire) EfW comes online at the end of November 2015.

## 3. Recommendations

3.1 The Cabinet Panel is invited to note the 2014/2015 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report and to comment on Hertfordshire County Council's contribution to the countywide recycling programme via the Household Waste Recycling Centre network.

## 4. Financial implications

4.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report