



Merseyside & Halton
Waste Partnership
Annual Review
2009/10

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Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership Annual Review 2010/11

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1. Introduction

Welcome to Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership's (MHWP) first Annual Review. The Review is the approach now undertaken by the Partnership to report on the achievements made towards the aims and objectives set out in the Work programme in the previous twelve months. The review covers the period April 2009 to March 2010.



David Packard with Cllr Cluskey, Chair of MWDA and representative of WRAP at the Love Food Hate Waste launch

Examples are given of how MHWP has collectively and individually undertaken a wide range of activities for the collective benefit by reducing the amount of waste being disposed of at landfill and thus the financial burden of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

Through a combination of hard work and determination by all those involved in the MHWP we have managed to reduce the waste sent for landfill disposal by some 38,389 tonnes from 2008/09, and increased the recycling and composting performance to just over 33%; against the target of 44% by 2020.

An excellent platform is in place to achieve the challenges we face over the next few years.

It is hoped the effectiveness of the partnership will mature as we move into our second year under the new Chairmanship of St Helens MBC.

David Packard

Chair of the Senior Officer Working Group
Merseyside & Halton Waste Partnership

2. Background

The Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership (referred to herein as the Partnership) was formed in 2005 and comprises the five Waste Collection Authorities (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral), the Waste Disposal Authority (Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority) and since 2006 has included Halton Borough Council who, as a Unitary Authority, has responsibility in its area for both waste collection and disposal.

Collection and disposal of waste are closely linked and the Partnership's role is to manage the 875,000 tonnes a year of Municipal Waste created by the 1.6 million residents in Merseyside and Halton at a collective cost to Merseyside and Halton residents of approximately £100,000,000 per year.

The Partnership works together to seek cost and environmental efficiencies in the management of this waste in line with the waste hierarchy through programmes that influence its prevention, recycling & composting and final disposal of the remaining waste.

The Partnership is managed through a Senior Officer Working Group (SOWG) made up of senior officers of the partner authorities. There is no additional funding set aside for the Partnership. A dedication to joint working is demonstrated by Senior Officers who incorporate their time and effort to the Partnership as part of their existing roles to seek maximum efficiency with a holistic approach to waste management.

The SOWG devises a work programme that is then endorsed by all of the partner authorities. The SOWG is supported by sub groups tasked with focussing on initiatives of the work programme as directed by the Partnership.

Sefton Council undertook the role of Chair of the Partnership in 2009/10 and this annually circulating role has passed to St Helens for the period 2010/11.

3. Partnership Structure

Merseyside & Halton Waste Partnership
Senior Officer Representation from Merseyside
Waste Collection and Disposal Authorities.

Operation
Group

Data
Group

Recycling
Performance
Improvement
Group

Joint
Communications
& Waste Education
Group

4. Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

A Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) was developed and agreed in 2005. This document sets out the guiding principles for the management of waste in Merseyside up to 2020.

The basis of this strategy is to minimise the amount of waste produced, develop services and change behaviour to raise average pooled recycling and composting rates to 44% by 2020 and to develop a sustainable alternative to landfill for the remaining waste. In order that the JMWMS remains relevant and incorporates changes in legislation and policy, a commitment was made to undertake a review every five years. The JMWMS was updated in 2008 and the original overriding aims and objectives remained unchanged.

A fundamental review of the JMWMS is to be undertaken in 2010/11 that will include a full public consultation. This work has already begun with workshops undertaken with officers and Members to identify the options and mechanisms available to manage our waste sustainably. Other work that will influence the direction of the JMWMS will be the two season Waste Composition Analysis planned for 2010, the New European waste framework Directive as well as the newly emerging Carbon Agenda and the need for sustainable solutions for resource management. The Review will also afford residents the opportunity to influence the management of waste in their individual District and the wider Merseyside area.



5. Waste Performance against targets

Each authority provides a prediction of how it anticipates it will perform against targets that have been set. In order to determine the current position of each authority with regard to the amount of waste collected, recycled, composted and landfilled an exchange of data is required between the Waste Collection Authorities and the Waste Disposal Authority. These are reported and presented at the Senior Officer Working Group (SOWG) meetings on a quarterly basis.

The following table outlines the performance of each authority both in 2008/09 and 2009/10 and the comparative percentage change between the two periods:

2008/09	Wirral	St Helens	Sefton	Liverpool	Knowsley	Merseyside	Halton
NI191	592.64	685.02	535.36	637.32	725.09	63	837.91
NI192	36.30%	28.80%	37.70%	26.40%	25.00%	33.87%	29%
BVPI82a	22.36%	12.34%	18.56%	16.29%	15.25%	20.53%	17.40%
BVPI82b	13.95%	16.39%	18.70%	10.01%	9.80%	12.58%	11.22%
NI193	64.49%	69.15%	59.21%	74.73%	76.89%	64.31%	74.04%

2008/09	Wirral	St Helens	Sefton	Liverpool	Knowsley	Merseyside	Halton
NI191	575.13	660.93	513.38	639.64	697.13	62	793.86
NI192	36.20%	29.80%	39.40%	25.50%	27.80%	33.19%	30.80%
BVPI82a	21.75%	13.48%	17.49%	15.73%	16.50%	20.37%	18.80%
BVPI82b	14.86%	16.32%	21.50%	9.64%	11.37%	13.13%	12.04%
NI193	63.84%	61.97%	64.38%	75.57%	73.83%	65.33%	66.2%

Nb Current target: 44% aggregate Merseyside average Recycling and Composting rate (NI 192) by 2020

- NI191 - Residual household waste per household (kg)
- NI192 - Household waste reused, recycled or composted (%)
- NI193 - Municipal waste landfilled (%)
- BVPI82a - %age of household waste sent for dry recycling
- BVPI82b - %age of household waste sent for composting

6. Inter Authority Agreement

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2005, the Partnership has made significant progress towards formalising joint working arrangements through an Inter Authority Agreement.

The Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) is the next stage in the development of Partnership working between the partners. It is the legal framework for joint working between all the partners of the Merseyside and Halton Waste partnership.

The IAA will support the cost effectiveness of the estimated £3 billion 20 year waste contracts for landfill, recycling and recovery. It will also support the management solution for residual waste and determine the capacity of facilities and inform the infrastructure required to meet the needs of the waste produced in Merseyside. It will mitigate some of the financial risk associated with such a large procurement by demonstrating the partners' legally binding commitment to work in partnership to deliver the objectives laid out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside. The IAA will identify the roles, obligations and responsibilities between all the partners and demonstrate commitment.

The next year will see efforts made to ensure the remaining partners, Liverpool and Wirral, join the others in signing the agreement.

7. Challenges/Drivers for the Partnership

The MHWP operates in a dynamic business environment. A number of external and internal factors such as policy & strategy influence both the strategic and operational direction of the Partnership and how we collectively manage municipal waste across Merseyside in the coming years.

Each year a Work programme is developed and agreed to by the Partnership outlining the priority areas for the coming twelve months. It is a live document linked to our Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and incorporates new and challenging legislative and policy changes.

Progress against the member-approved 2009/10 work programme activities (activity areas from the 2009/10 work programme appear in bold):

1. Establish best practice and systems to increase recycling and composting of residual waste.

An evaluation of dry recycling services by Sefton and St Helens has taken place and has concluded that recycling yield gains can be made by Sefton and St Helens moving to commingled dry recycling collection. Discussions have identified a potential £2million net saving to the Waste Partnership if Sefton and St Helens changed to commingled collection. There is an appetite by Waste Officers to do this from April 2011. However, the current formula for apportionment of the Waste Disposal Levy creates a significant financial barrier to change. Discussions to remove financial barriers in the Waste Disposal levy formula to facilitate change have to date failed to deliver a workable solution.

Collection authorities have also been busy over the last twelve months through individual efforts for a partnership aim.

Activity in Knowsley has included:

- Raising awareness of the need to recycle and the benefits of such action.
- Motivating residents to change their behaviour to embrace the need for change.
- Targeting low performing areas and removing barriers to recycling.
- Minimising contamination in recycling bins and mitigating issues arising from incorrectly presented bins through education and encouragement.
- Delivering education and awareness programmes and a recycling audit across all schools whilst simultaneously delivering Eco-Schools and Sustainable Schools initiatives.



Activity in St Helens has included:

- Targeting low performing routes using Area Based Grant Funded Recycling Promotions Officers (doorstep contact with residents) to increase participation.
- Introduction of a kerbside textile recycling service.

2. To identify ways of improving performance to optimise recycling rates at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

In June 2009 Veolia Environmental Services were awarded a contract by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) on behalf of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership. The new contract heralded a massive £6.6 million saving thanks to tough contract negotiations by the Authority and a drop in the overall amount of waste produced on Merseyside.

As part of the 20 year contract Veolia will be responsible for operating the existing four transfer stations servicing the waste collection authorities, the area's network of 16 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) plus pioneering Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF). Included in the contract is an ambitious programme of refurbishment and replacement of HWRC to ensure each site is fit for purpose and that recycling and re-use targets are met.

The success of a pilot that saw the introduction of a permit scheme on all HWRC on the Wirral has led to a planned programme to introduce the permit scheme on all HWRC throughout 2010/11. The permit scheme has been successful in restricting commercial vehicles from taking waste to the HWRC for disposal as these sites are for household waste only.

Investment is also being made in the construction and operation of an advanced new MRF at Gillmoss Transfer Station, Liverpool with a capacity of up to 100,000 tonnes per annum, Veolia are also committed to investing in improving the performance of the existing Bidston MRF for which work will be undertaken in the summer of 2010.

3. Sign up to Inter Authority Agreements and commence a financial review as part of the Merseyside IAA development.

Progress towards a commitment by all the partners to the IAA has been made. MWDA, Sefton, St Helens and Knowsley have signed the agreement; Wirral has delegated authority to sign subject to resolving an external contracting detail and Liverpool Council are expected to give authority to sign soon.

4. Develop and agree a clear strategy for the collection and treatment options to process kitchen waste.

Sefton received £300k from Waste & Resource Action Programme (WRAP) to extend the service of food waste collections. Over 60,000 Sefton homes now have the equipment to participate in the food waste collection service.

Similarly, Knowsley introduced an 'opt in' food waste recycling service which is presently being delivered to circa 8,000 households. Further expansion of the service on a borough-wide basis will be considered as part of a wider review of future waste collection system options during 2010/11

The Partnership, with WRAP support, is to progress the feasibility of providing food waste collections to residents throughout the Merseyside area, using data gathered from existing schemes in Sefton and Knowsley and taking into account the carbon agenda. This project will also inform the development option in the WMRC contract to provide a treatment facility for food waste.

5. Develop, agree and implement a Joint Communications Strategy.

MHWP have also been part of the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign. This joint two year waste minimisation campaign was launched funded by £205k from WRAP and £105k from MWDA.



This project sees the partnership endorsing WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste campaign and requires joint communication of key messages following research which found Merseyside homes throw away over 130,000 tonnes of food each year (a third of what people purchase) costing families an average of £50 per month.

The initiative was launched at the Southport Food Festival in July 2009 and has been supported by a large number of community engagement events across each of the Merseyside districts throughout 2009/10.

6. A Partnership Annual Performance Report to be written and published including climate change and energy impacts.

An annual performance report will be produced to communicate the Partnership's successes against the identified priorities in the SOWG Workplan during the previous twelve months.

7. Develop, agree and implement a Joint Education and Awareness Plan.

A Waste Education SOWG Subgroup was formed consisting of officer representatives from each of the partnering authorities. The group takes the lead on co-ordinated activities to deliver consistent messages to the residents of Merseyside. The group has worked to the Education Subgroup Delivery plan 2009- 2010 which identifies a number of work streams that will encourage a change in behaviour. Progress against the workplan is then reported to SOWG on a regular basis.

MWDA, in conjunction with Veolia, has developed a Waste Education and Awareness programme with the aim of providing educational tours of Recycling Facilities with accompanying waste resource packs, aimed at schools and community groups. The facilities and resources are expected to be fully up and running in the autumn of 2010.

8. Consider further opportunities to improve value for money in waste management services through joint procurement.

Sefton/St Helens are discussing the feasibility of aligned service end points for potential joint procurement on a kerbside sort service. Joint / national compost bin supply service arrangements have been put in place. Purchasing of wheelie bins and caddies etc have been made through established procurement frameworks that provide local authorities with economies of scale.

Knowsley commenced a green waste composting procurement exercise in February 2010 that includes provision for other partnership members to join the arrangement in the future.

9. Develop and implement a co-ordinated enforcement action plan including controls at HWRCs.

Following the success of a permit scheme to prevent non-household waste being delivered to the HWRC on the Wirral, a full implementation programme is now in place for HWRC across Merseyside in 2010/11.



10. All partners to improve the quality of recyclate collected, treated and delivered to the market place, reduce contamination and agree a protocol for acceptance of collected materials with relevant parties.

The SOWG is supported by the Operations Group which is dedicated to addressing operational activities and issues surrounding collection and delivery of material to the MRF. The group brings together expertise in the form of officers from each of the collection authorities, the disposal authority and its contractor. The group reports progress and issues on a regular basis to the SOWG and informs work taken forward by the Joint Communications Group in the form of co-ordinated messages for the whole Partnership.

The Operations Group has been reviewing the level of compacted, non-target and contaminated materials entering the MRF in order to reduce residual waste levels at the MRF, optimise the quality of recyclable material offered to the market and reduce processing downtime associated with contaminants. This activity has been supported through collection crew training, district collection vehicle trials and a range of communications material designed to reduce contamination levels at kerbside.

11. Enhance links with Envirolink Northwest and support development of local markets for recycle.

Support for market development was made through Envirolink Northwest who commissioned Urban Mines to carry out an Impact Study of the HWRC Permit Scheme. This piece of work was used to inform the expansion of the permit scheme across Merseyside.

12. Influence the development and implementation of sustainable procurement policies and guidance.

2009/10 has seen a drive towards sustainable procurement in local authority purchasing/contracts where it is economic to do so. The aim is to support markets for recyclable materials and reduce natural resource use through ongoing Environmental Management Systems development activities in MWDA and in districts.

St Helens, Knowsley and Sefton received support as subscribers to the Buy Recycled Code of Practice from Envirolink and Action for Sustainability to develop a Sustainable Procurement Framework. This developed actions to improve sustainability in areas of major council procurement expenditure.

Knowsley have established a Sustainable Procurement Working Group which is leading on the development of a corporate Sustainable Procurement Strategy.

13. Engage, and develop relationships with, research, business and third sector to support delivery of sustainable waste management.

The Partnership, through its work and that of the collection authorities, works with and supports social enterprise organisations that carry out a variety of refurbishment and reuse projects throughout Merseyside.

This section of the community will play an important and active role in stakeholder engagement as part of the JMWMS review during 2010/11



14. Engage with organisations generating non-municipal waste to identify how MHWP can support them in improving the overall sustainability of waste management.

Engagement with organisations throughout Merseyside who generate non-municipal waste continues with the aim of identifying how the Partnership can support them in improving the overall sustainability of waste management.

St Helens has an Area Based Funded post that is working with other partners and external organisations to develop ways to improve recycling and support our mainstream activities.

15. Maintain a watching brief on waste and resources research and development with regards to service delivery, environmental protection and health impacts.

Relevant issues identified by MWDA's Waste Strategy Policy Officer are presented and discussed at regular SOWG. Liverpool City Council and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority hosted the National LARAC conference in November 2009 with Liverpool and Sefton providing speakers.

The Partnership also benefits from a Policy Support Officer secondment arrangement with LARAC via Knowsley.

16. Ensure that all public waste management facilities are built to the highest environmental standards and accessible to all members of the community.

MWDA contract specifications have high-level environmental design standards (BREEAM) for new build and refurbishment of public waste management facilities that make better use of resources.

17. Develop an agreed annual resourced work programme for the SOWG. Work programme agreed by all partners with quarterly monitoring, evaluation and annual review.

The SOWG Work programme is approved by all partners and regular SOWG meetings take place. Work programmes are developed by all subgroups. Agreed performance indicators, data and intelligence reports are submitted to SOWG on a quarterly basis to address issues of performance. Actions for improvements and further work are fed back from SOWG to the relevant work group

18. To ensure all District Council Action Plans are kept up to date and relevant to wider JMWMS issues including waste prevention.

A refresh of District Council Action Plans information was undertaken in December 09, and will form part of the JMWMS review process to be undertaken in 2010/11.

19. Commence a full resourced Review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy including public consultation and a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

A steering group has been formulated to drive the review of the JMWMS forward. Senior officer and Members' workshops took place in March to determine the short list of mechanisms for delivery of the revised Strategy. These will inform the development of the Public consultation late 2010 with the aim of publishing a ratified JMWMS covering the period of 2012-2030.



20. Ensure effective management, development and governance of the Merseyside Waste Partnership.

Evidence of improved JMWMS delivery through joint working and a fit for purpose Partnership that includes:

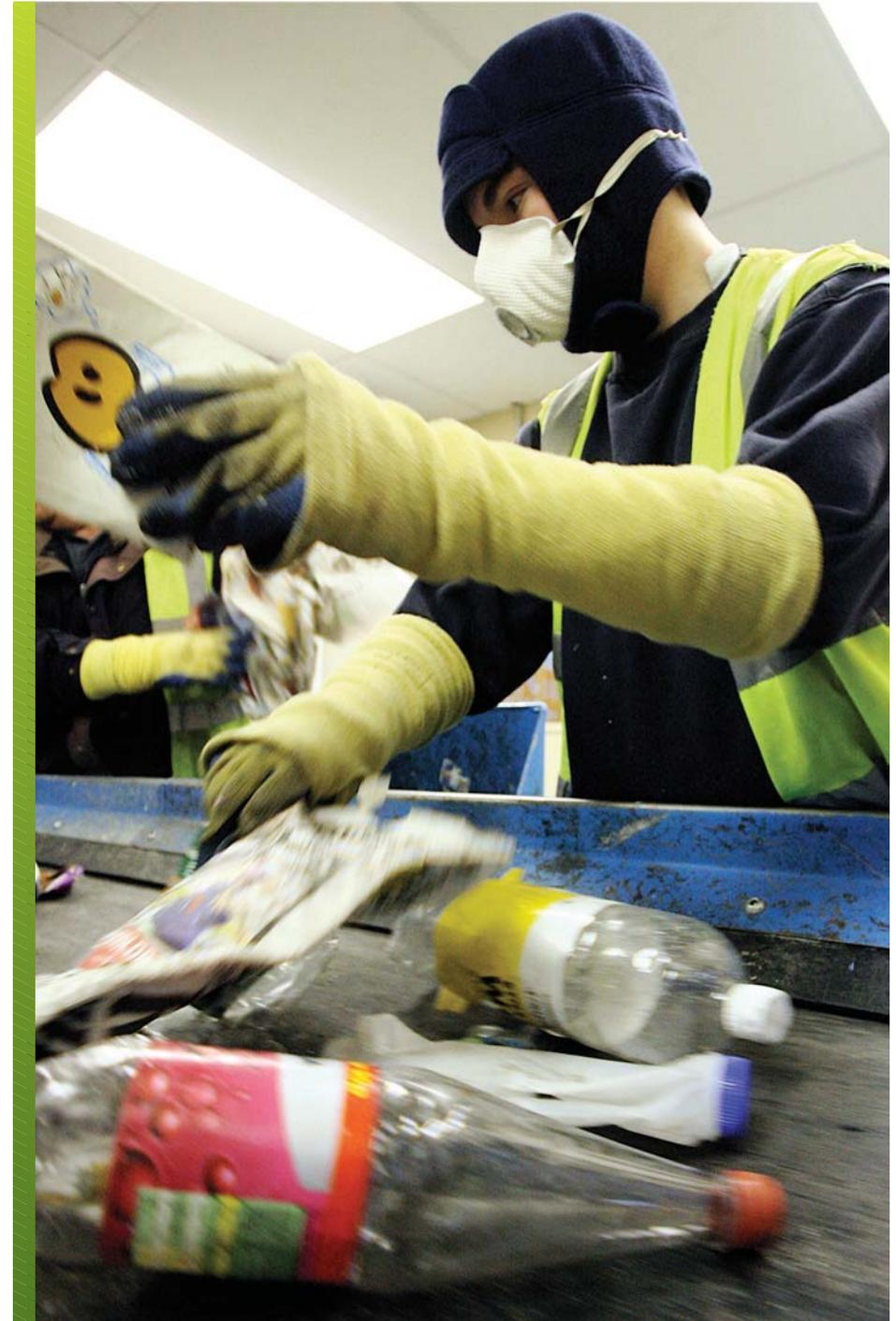
- Regular attendance and participation by partner authorities in SOWG and Subgroups with agreed actions delivered in a timely manner.
- Using the Waste Implementation Network the Partnership has undertaken a benchmarking exercise to establish the effectiveness of the Partnership. This is to be further developed using best practice from the Kent Waste Partnership and to be undertaken on an annual basis.

21. Ensure the Partnership plays an active role in regional, national and European waste management policy development.

Officers have been engaged in the development of the Regional Waste Strategy and the national proposals for implementing the revised Waste Framework Directive. Consultations are evaluated and where relevant a co-ordinated Partnership response is produced and submitted to influence national, regional and European policy development.

22. Implement inspection programmes to ensure that local manufacturers comply with the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003.

Sefton has lobbied and ensured a project has been adopted in the Trading Standards North West annual work plan to identify and approach generators of packaging in the region. Envirolink have offered consultancy support to businesses to encourage designing out excess and unrecyclable material.



8. Summary

Progress has been made in all areas of the agreed 2009/10 work programme. Momentum on longer term projects such as review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Food waste prevention has been established through the work of standing and task and finish subgroups. Incomplete work streams have been grouped and carried forward to the 2010/11 work programme.

9. Forward Plan

There is a commitment by those involved in the partnership that 2010/11 and beyond will result in further effectiveness of the partnership as the annual rolling Chairmanship passes to St Helens Council.

External pressures in the form of budgetary constraints, legislation and policy are likely to continue but it is felt that the partnership has developed further in the last twelve months to the extent of being able to manage the challenges whilst continuing with the aims and objectives set out.



10. Merseyside Waste Partnership Work Programme 2010/11

The 2010/11 work programme provides the focus for the Partnership, incorporating the individual areas and objectives:

Theme	Objective	Who
Ensure effective management, development and governance of the Merseyside Waste Partnership	Agree work programme, hold regular SOWG and oversee working group progress, publish Partnership Annual Report	SOWG
Sign Inter Authority Agreements & Commence financial review	Review Levy mechanism to create incentives for mutually desired waste management activity.	SOWG / District Treasurers
RRC & Joint procurement	Progress RRC & explore potential benefits of joint procurement	SOWG
Waste Strategy	JMWMS Review / options /consultation / SEA / adoption	JMWMS Steering Group
Food waste	Joint collection / Disposal facility procurement evaluation	Food Waste task & finish review group
Common enforcement approaches for common collection systems	Develop and implement a co-ordinated enforcement action plan	Operations Group

Theme	Objective	Who
Maximise recyclate quality and quantity	All collection partners to deliver DCAPs, improve the quality of recyclate collected, treated and delivered to the market place & reduce contamination	Operations Group
Trade Waste Recycling	Pursue opportunities for trade waste recycling	Operations Group / Veolia
Reduce residual waste	WCA Landfill diversion initiatives / street sweepings / gulley / bulky items / restricted collection (AWC)	Operations group
Maximise recycling at HWRC	Enforcement controls and recycling opportunities at all HWRC	Contract Management/Veolia
Assist Recyclate Market Development	Enhance links with Envirolink Northwest and support development of local markets for recyclate	MWDA / Envirolink - account vfm for local benefit
Waste Prevention education /communication Programmes Support	Deliver / coordinate agreed communication & lead waste minimisation programmes	Joint Comms / Group Ed subgroup
Third Sector Development	Find niche opportunities for 'added value' third sector involvement in waste management	WCAs & MWDA

