

Durham
County Council



Addendum to County Durham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

March 2010



Altogether better

Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Durham's Unitary Status.....	3
3	Performance Update.....	4
	Municipal Waste Arisings	
	Recycling and Composting	
	Residual Waste Management	
4	Responding To Waste Strategy for England 2007.....	7
	Responding to National Targets for Recycling & Recovery	
	Responding to Targets for Reducing Residual Waste	
	Carbon implications of the Strategy	
5	Planning for the Future.....	10
	Waste Prevention & Reuse	
	Recycling & Composting	
	Household Waste Recycling Centres	
	Waste Recovery	
	Landfill	
6	Making it Happen.....	13



Introduction



Durham County Council produced and adopted a Municipal Waste Strategy (the Strategy) in 2006. This Strategy sets clear policy and actions to improve performance and help guide future waste management decisions in County Durham.

Since 2006, we have made significant progress in delivering the Strategy, particularly in the areas of waste prevention and driving municipal waste management up the waste management hierarchy. However, despite this progress, with increasingly challenging year on year targets and with a greater responsibility to be more environmentally sustainable, performance still needs to improve. A detailed review of the Strategy is therefore being undertaken to ensure there is a clear direction for this additional improvement to be delivered. The Strategy review is in line with Defra Guidance for Municipal Waste Management Strategies, which recommends a periodic review of strategies as good practice.

The key aims and objectives set within the Strategy are still valid and provide a solid platform for identifying the way forward.

This Addendum has been produced as part of a wider Strategy review process. The Addendum is a transition document which aims to provide an update on waste management in County Durham and identify the key challenges for the future. It should be read in conjunction with the existing Strategy and does not attempt to replace it. The Addendum therefore does not set new policy, but does outline our commitment for the future.

Detailed action and implementation plans are currently being developed as part of the Strategy review process. These will be integral to the success of delivering a sustainable waste management future for County Durham.

This Addendum provides an update on:

- current waste management service delivery and performance;
- our plans for the future;
- the impact of Waste Strategy for England 2007;
- the continued implementation of the Strategy and commitments for the future.

Key Objectives within County Durham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006

The overall objectives of the Strategy are to:

- provide sustainable integrated waste collection and disposal services that protect human health and the environment;
- provide value for money in all waste management services while achieving and exceeding government targets for waste;
- manage materials, as far as possible, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, maximising the amount managed at higher levels of the hierarchy;
- manage municipal waste, as far as possible, within the boundaries of County Durham; and
- enable flexibility to allow for new technology developments and changing legislation.



Durham's Unitary Status

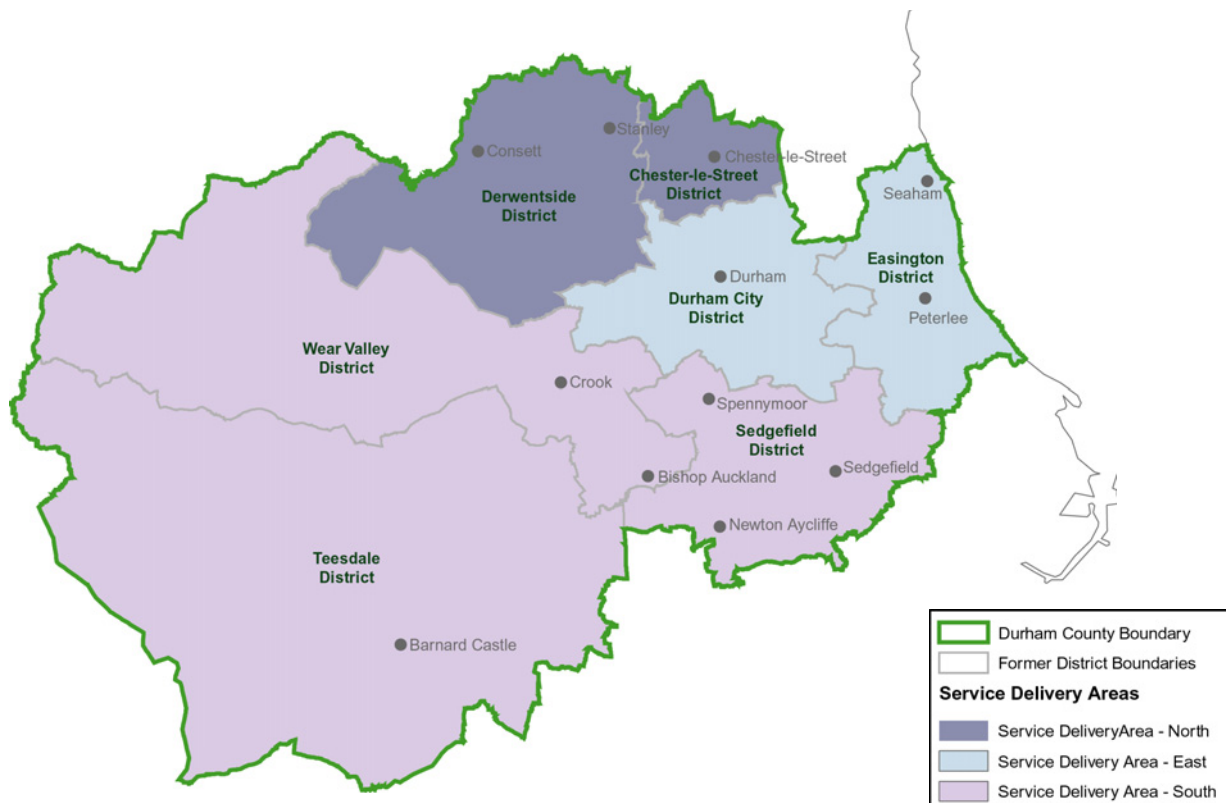
In April 2009, County Durham assumed unitary status and a new Unitary Authority with the title of Durham County Council was created. This Unitary Authority has replaced the former two tier local government system where council services and responsibilities were split between the County Council and seven former district / borough councils.

The move to unitary status has provided a fantastic opportunity to review and improve all services provided by the authority while providing better value for money for the County Durham council tax payer.

In relation to the management of waste, historically the former district / borough councils were responsible for its collection and the County Council was responsible for its disposal. Under the new unitary status the waste collection and disposal functions are fully integrated and all aspects of waste management are delivered by Durham County Council. This provides significant opportunity for the harmonisation of waste services, in tandem with improving overall efficiency and performance.

Durham County Council is now the largest single authority in the North East. To assist in the delivery of waste management services across this authority, whilst maintaining an element of local distinctiveness, 3 service delivery areas within the authority have been identified.

Durham County Council and Service Delivery Areas



Performance Update

Since 2006, recycling and composting in County Durham has continued to increase and at the same time waste arisings in the county have continued to decline. These achievements come as a result of the combined efforts of county-wide awareness campaigns, collaboration with the private sector, tighter controls on unlawful trade waste deposits and better overall waste monitoring. Detailed information on waste management operations, performance and statistics can be found in the Baseline Data Assessment Report, prepared by ERM in 2009.

Municipal Waste Arisings

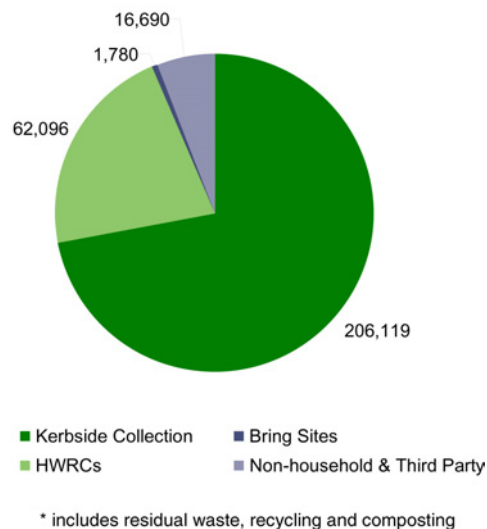
County Durham's municipal waste arisings come from four main sources:

- kerbside collection from the household,
- household waste recycling centres (HWRCs),
- bring sites, and
- non-household and third-party.

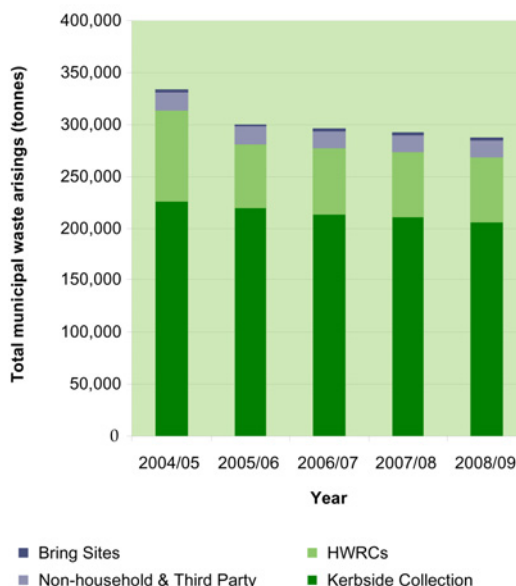
The most significant source is the waste that is collected directly from households with small elements from non-household (i.e. trade and fly-tip) and third-party sources.

As an authority, we have worked hard to reduce municipal waste arisings year on year. Total municipal waste arisings have decreased from approximately 330,000 tonnes in 2004/05 to approximately 280,000 tonnes in 2008/09. The most significant drop was between 2004/05 and 2005/06 when arisings decreased by over 10%. This was largely as a result of a new permit scheme; the objective of which is to prevent the illegal deposit of commercial waste at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs).

Municipal Waste Arisings in 2008/09 (figures are in tonnes)



Municipal Waste Arisings from 2004/05 to 2008/09

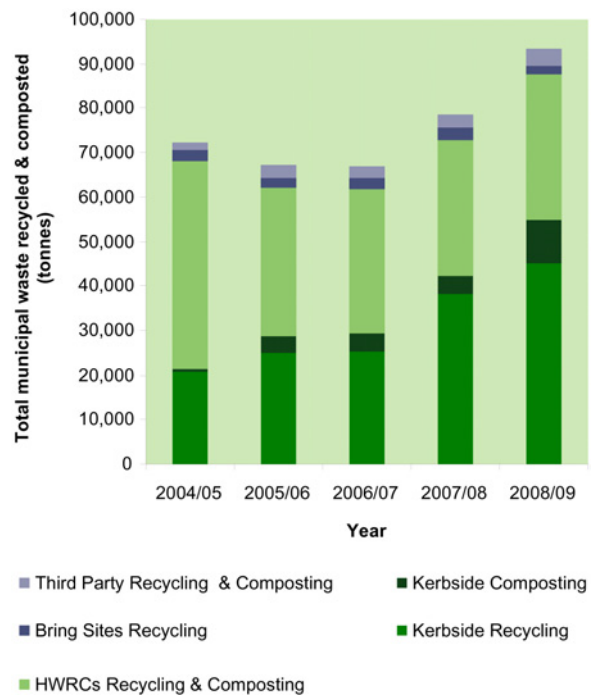


Recycling and Composting



In line with the favourable trend in municipal waste arisings, the rate of recycling and composting is also moving positively. Our efforts to encourage recycling and composting have resulted in a considerable increase in the rate of recycling and composting from 19% in 2004/05 to 30% in 2008/09. The most significant contribution to this achievement has been from kerbside recycling and composting, which has more than doubled in just five years.

Municipal Waste Recycled and Composted between 2004/05 and 2008/09



Residual Waste Management

Reducing the amount of residual waste, i.e. that which is not collected for recycling and composting, is also a major priority. Historically, all of this waste was sent to landfill for disposal. Durham County Council has formalised its commitment to improving the management of this waste stream by committing to National Indicator (NI) 193. This requires an annual reduction in residual waste sent to landfill.



Total residual waste sent to landfill fell by approximately 55,000 tonnes over the past five years, which translates into a substantial 22% decline. The drop in the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) mirrored the decline in total residual waste, falling from approximately 171,000 tonnes in 2004/05 to approximately 134,000 tonnes in 2008/09. In fact, we have gone beyond our legally binding Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) BMW diversion targets.

Reducing Waste Sent to Landfill: Key Legislative Drivers

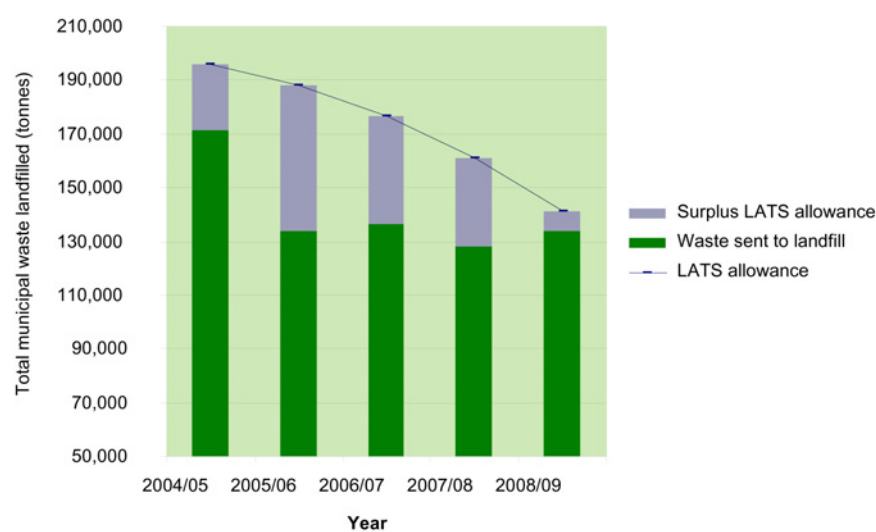
Beyond the need to reduce the environmental impact of waste management, there are key legislative drivers changing the way residual waste is managed.

The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) and Government's landfill tax escalator both act as clear incentives for local authorities to divert waste away from landfill. The legislation is significantly increasing the costs of landfill year on year. This has the effect of making more sustainable waste management technologies increasingly competitive.

The Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 implements the EU Landfill Directive 1999 and requires local authorities to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. The Act introduced the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), which allocates all local authorities annual landfill allowances. If a local authority exceeds its allowance, it must either purchase allowances from other authorities or face a penalty of £150 for every tonne by which it has exceeded its allowance.

Unlike LATS, the landfill tax applies to all waste streams. The tax is paid on top of normal landfill fees by businesses and local authorities, and every year, it is increasing substantially, currently by £8 per tonne.

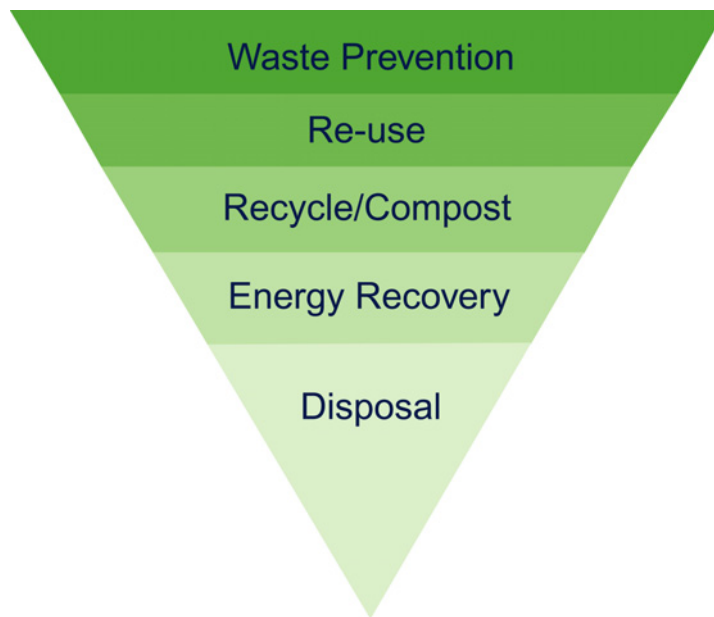
Residual Biodegradable Municipal Waste Sent to Landfill in respect to LATS allowances



Responding To Waste Strategy for England 2007

In May 2007, the Waste Strategy for England 2007 (WS2007) was published setting clear objectives for national waste policy. The overall objectives of County Durham's Waste Strategy are broadly consistent with those set within the new national policy, with a clear emphasis of moving waste up the hierarchy. However, WS2007 does include some additional key themes which are being considered as part of the Strategy review.

The Waste Hierarchy



Key Objectives of the Waste Strategy for England 2007

Decouple waste growth from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and reuse.

Meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020.

Increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste.

Secure investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill.

Get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increasing recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies.

Responding to National Targets for Recycling & Recovery

The national targets for recycling, composting and recovery are significantly more challenging than the targets originally set within County Durham's Waste Strategy. We have already achieved the target we set ourselves for recycling and composting for 2010, and so welcome this further challenge.



Recycling & Recovery Targets

	2010	2015	2020
Original recycling and composting targets set within Durham's Strategy	30%	33%	-
Local Area Agreement recycling and composting target	40% (2009/10) 41% (2010/11)	-	-
National Household Waste reuse, recycling & composting	40%	45%	50%
National Municipal waste recovery*	53%	67%	75%

* Recovery includes recycling, composting and energy recovery



Commitment:

Durham County Council welcomes the national policy aspirations for recycling, composting & recovery and as part of the Strategy review process, will set clear actions to work towards these new targets.

Responding to Targets for Reducing Residual Waste

WS2007 sets a national target for reducing the amount of residual waste produced per person to 225 kg in 2020. For County Durham this would equate to approximately 500 kg of residual waste per household per year. This figure includes all waste remaining after waste prevention, recycling and composting.

To help work towards this target, Durham County Council has agreed and set targets as part of National Indicator 191: Residual Household Waste per Household. Significant work needs to be undertaken in both waste prevention and recycling and composting to continue to reduce the amount of residual waste arising within the county.

National Indicator for Residual Waste per Household

	2007/8 (actual)	2008/9 (actual)	2009/10 (target)	2010/11 (target)
NI 191: Residual Household Waste per Household (kg based on 227,829 households)	839	741	684	673

Carbon implications of the Strategy

The importance of climate change and the carbon implications of waste management run throughout WS2007. A key outcome of WS2007 is to seek the reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions from waste management operations.

As an authority, we have also set demanding targets to address climate change that exceed those set nationally, with an overall aim to reduce CO2 emissions within the County by 40%, compared with 1990 levels, by 2020.

County Durham's existing Waste Strategy does not specifically identify any carbon related targets and the CO2 impacts of current waste management operations are not fully understood. To assist the delivery of both national and local policy objectives, it is essential that the quantities and sources of these impacts are known to enable appropriate measures to reduce them to be implemented.

Commitment:

Durham County Council will seek to quantify the carbon impacts of its waste services and look to set future targets and actions for reducing them.

Planning for the Future

We fully recognise the need to establish and implement clear, detailed plans for how waste generated within County Durham will be managed in the future. A significant amount of work has already been undertaken, although more work is continuing, to ensure the timely implementation of these plans. An outline of key work areas is provided below.

Waste Prevention & Reuse

The prevention and reuse of waste continues to be the top priority. By reducing waste and reusing material we can not only reduce our demand on the environment, but also assist in reducing the overall cost of waste management to the residents of County Durham.

We are working closely with Government's Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to establish best practice and implement a series of waste prevention measures across the county. A Waste Prevention Action Plan 2010 - 2012 is being finalised and will be published as soon as it is available.

Three priority waste prevention and reuse areas have been identified through gaining an understanding of the type and quantity of materials currently being left within the residual waste stream.

Priority Waste Prevention & Reuse Work Areas



Home Composting:

promotion through targeted awareness campaign, subsidised compost bins, and implementation of the Master Composting training initiative.



Love Food Hate Waste:

to build on the national campaign with promotion through a 'leftover' recipe competition, cookery demonstrations, and *'going shopping with a plan'* initiative.



Furniture Re-use:

including the promotion of collection and donation via local furniture reuse organisations, local council collection, charities and swap shops (give or take days).

Recycling & Composting

Recycling and composting within County Durham is continuing to increase. All householders are now able to put out at least 3 materials for recycling. However, the method and frequency of collection of waste and recyclables varies considerably. There is therefore scope for improving the operation and performance of our Unitary collection services.



To ensure recycling and composting is maximised across the authority, these services need to be harmonised and improved. The new unitary status of the authority will make this easier to achieve.

Detailed technical work is currently underway to establish the best way forward. Issues being considered include the:

- value for money of alternative options
- range of materials being collected
- frequency of collection services
- environmental performance of different schemes

Public consultation relating to the harmonisation of collection services is expected during 2010 with any service alterations expected to be introduced in 2011/12.

Durham County Council has formally signed up to the national Waste Collection Commitment, promoted by WRAP. This provides the first set of principles for a good waste and recycling service based on the views of the public.

Work is also being undertaken to review how bring banks, schools' and trade waste collections can help contribute to increasing recycling performance across County Durham.

Commitment:

Durham County Council will seek to harmonise waste collection services across the County to maximise performance and ensure value for money.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have an important role to play in both providing a service to our residents and improving recycling and composting performance across the county.

There is currently a network of 15 HWRCs across County Durham. In total they managed about 62 000 tonnes of municipal waste in 2008/09, of which 53% was recycled and composted.

The quality and the extent of the services provided at each site vary considerably. The rationalisation, harmonisation and improvement of services across the existing sites will be required to achieve our overall recycling and composting aspirations.



Commitment:

Durham County Council will seek to improve both the service provided and performance achieved at HWRCs through site and service rationalisation, harmonisation and improvement.

Waste Recovery

Despite the significant improvements achieved to date in waste reduction, recycling and composting and the targets set out in this Addendum, a residual waste fraction will always remain.

The amount of residual waste in County Durham has already decreased significantly since 2006 and will continue to do so as future targets are achieved. By 2020 residual waste will account for less than half of the municipal waste handled in the County.



Lakeside Energy from Waste, Colnbrook, Berkshire

In the past residual waste was primarily disposed of to landfill. This can not continue and the Council is developing waste management solutions that maximise beneficial recovery from residual waste. This may be, for example, in the form of the recovery of raw materials or the generation of energy. The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme and increasing Landfill Tax remain key economic as well as environmental drivers.

In 2008, Durham County Council explored opportunities for applying to Defra for PFI funding to help deliver the appropriate waste management infrastructure. Following discussions with Defra and other technical advisors, we have made the decision not to pursue this avenue of funding at this time.

Durham County Council however, remains committed to maximising the value recovered from residual waste and is currently working actively with Defra along with its local waste management partners and the wider industry to develop an effective residual waste treatment solution.

Commitment:

Durham County Council will work with Defra, its waste management partners and the wider industry to deliver a residual waste treatment solution that will seek to maximise landfill diversion and create value from residual waste.

Landfill

Landfill will inevitably remain a small but significant part of the long term waste management solution as there will always be a requirement for some waste to be disposed of to landfill which is unable to be recycled or otherwise treated.

Through following and implementing the waste hierarchy, the amount of waste that needs to be sent for disposal to landfill is expected to reduce significantly over time.

The Council is fortunate to own one landfill site in County Durham which accepts municipal waste for disposal. Some of our waste is also transported out of the county for disposal. The site in County Durham, at Joint Stocks, Coxhoe, does currently have spare capacity, although it is important that this is preserved as far as possible to maximise flexibility for planning waste management in the future.

This landfill site is currently managed and operated by Premier Waste Management Ltd a trading arm of Durham County Waste Management Company, the County Council's arms length "Local Authority Waste Disposal Company" (LAWDC). The current contract with Durham County Waste Management Company has a two years termination clause which has not yet been implemented

Making it Happen

Action Plans: the development and update of Actions Plans are an integral part of the delivery of the Strategy.

The significant amount of technical work being undertaken as part of the Strategy review will inform the Action Plans being developed. Action Plans have or will be developed in the key areas of Waste Prevention, Recycling & Composting Collection Service, HWRCs and Residual Waste Procurement. Clear timelines within these Action Plans will be set. The Action Plans will be monitored and revised as the Strategy is implemented and will be updated regularly to respond to changing circumstances.

Engagement: the delivery of the Strategy aims and objectives relies upon behavioural change and greater involvement from the residents of County Durham.

Without the commitment of the County's residents, limiting waste growth and achieving high levels of recycling and composting will be unachievable. Effective consultation, awareness raising and communication is essential and will be delivered as an integral part of all key Strategy areas.

Procurement: for services to be developed and improved to meet the growing demands of the Strategy objectives, new services and infrastructure will need to be procured and delivered.

A timely, well thought through procurement programme is vital for the successful delivery of the Strategy. Any services procured must represent value for money for County Durham's residents and provide the deliverability and flexibility required.

Monitoring & Review: the Strategy will continue to be monitored to ensure that it is current and relevant in light of changing circumstances.

The Strategy objectives and commitments will continue to be tested through consultation, technical work, procurement and implementation. Updates resulting from the wider Strategy review will be consulted upon and integrated into Action Plans which will be monitored and updated regularly.

If you need this information summarised in another language or format such as Braille, large print, CD or talking tape, please call the number below.

إذا اردت معرفت ملخص هذه المعلومات باللغة العربية اتصل علي الرقم التالي

Arabic

আকারে এই তথ্যটি পেতে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন:

Bengali

假如您需要這份資料的中文摘要，請致電下面的號碼。

Chinese

यदि आप यह जानकारी का संक्षेप हिन्दी में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निचे दिए हुए नम्बर में सम्पर्क करें ।

Hindi

Jezeli potrzebujesz streszczenia tych informacji w jezyku polskim zadzwon prosze na ponizszy numer

Polish

ਜਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹੁ ਖ਼ਬਰ ਦਾ ਨਿਚੋੜ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਥੱਲੇ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਹੋਏ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ।

Punjabi

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں درکار ہیں تو اس نمبر پر کال کیجیے۔

Urdu



(0 1 9 1) 3 8 3 5 6 9 1



Addendum to County Durham's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

March 2010