

Appendix 3 - Roles and Responsibilities

European Commission

The main role of the Environment Directorate of the European Commission is to initiate and define new environmental legislation, which includes policies on waste management, and to ensure that the measures that have been agreed are actually put into practice in the Member States.

National Government

The Government, through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Local Government and Communities (DLGC) - [formerly known as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister], has a number of roles to play in establishing more sustainable waste management across England and Wales. In addition to their role of encouraging voluntary action, introducing, monitoring and amending various legislative and economic instruments to encourage and enforce the safer and more sustainable management of the waste we all generate, they also have a role in raising waste awareness across all sectors of society, in encouraging the various stakeholder groups to talk (and listen) to each other with the aim of establishing waste management partnerships.

DEFRA has lead responsibility for waste policy and strategy while DLGC leads on planning policy issues.

Regional Planning Bodies, Regional Assemblies and Regional Technical Advisory Bodies on Waste.

The Regional Planning Body, which in the case of Warrington is the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA), is responsible for the development of Regional Waste Strategies, which inform the Regional Spatial Strategy and local development plans.

Waste Collection and Disposal Authorities

Where two tiers of local government exist, the Government expects both tiers to work together to achieve the following:

- Effective working relationships that will deliver a comprehensive Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy that includes clear objectives and timescales for action
- Put in place effective arrangements to reduce waste and maximise recycling and recovery. These should achieve the statutory performance for waste
- Raise awareness of the costs of dealing with waste and the role that individuals can play in reducing waste
- Involve local people in decisions on waste and work with community schemes to promote reuse and recycling
- Form consortia and other arrangements that will gain improved terms with re-processors and other outlets for recyclable materials.

Where single tier Unitary e.g. Warrington Borough Council, or Metropolitan Authorities are concerned the Government still wishes to see joint working where it is appropriate to do so.

Waste Planning Authorities

The Government wants Waste Planning Authorities to look to achieve a number of goals when carrying out their responsibilities of identifying suitable sites for waste facilities. The most significant of these are:

- To help to deliver sustainable development by driving waste up the waste hierarchy.
- To provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste.
- To enable timely and sufficient provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of communities.
- To help implement the national waste strategy and supporting targets.
- To support and complement other guidance and legal controls relating to waste management.
- To secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.
- To reflect the interests and concerns of communities.
- To reflect the needs of waste collection authorities, waste disposal authorities and business and to encourage competitiveness.
- To ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.
- To protect green belts but recognise the particular locational needs of some types of waste facilities.

Regional Development Agencies

The Regional Development Agencies (RDA) have a statutory purpose to contribute to sustainable development that must be reflected in their actions and decisions. The Government sees them contributing to sustainable waste management by:

- Developing and supporting secondary materials industries in their region
- Seeking to attract private sector investment into the recycling sector
- Encouraging companies to consider the impact of waste on economic performance
- Promoting waste reduction
- Making links between suppliers of secondary materials and re-processors

The RDA for Warrington is the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency's primary role in relation to waste is to ensure that waste management activities do not cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. The Agency also has an advisory and information gathering role. The most

significant actions that the Government want the Agency to achieve in relation to improving waste management practices are to:

- Develop life-cycle techniques to help waste managers determine BPEO
- Use the IPPC legislation to bring about a reduction in waste produced by industry and to ensure waste is used as a resource wherever practicable
- Improve information on wastes accepted at waste management facilities in terms of type and source of waste
- Repeat the survey of industrial and commercial waste to improve information on waste

Warrington currently falls within the North West Region of the Agency for regulatory purposes. Data relating to the management of wastes arising within Warrington forms part of the Strategic Waste Management Assessment conducted for the North West Region.

The State Veterinary Service

The State Veterinary Service is the responsible authority for the regulation of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003. These regulations apply to municipal waste for any process where waste identified as catering waste is treated. The definition of catering waste includes wastes from domestic kitchens and thus organic wastes separately collected for biological treatment have the potential to be included in the definition. Catering wastes require specific treatment conditions including cleaning regimes, minimum times and temperatures and enclosure if the waste is to be used on land. The SVS are responsible for authorising the processes that have to comply with these regulations.

The Community Sector

The strengths of the community sector are in its ability to be innovative and its commitment to change. The Government wants community groups to call on these strengths in order to:

- Be fully involved in local authority efforts to build partnerships for more sustainable waste management
- Develop partnerships with local authorities in line with published guidance
- Continue to motivate public involvement and participation in recycling and composting schemes.