



milton keynes council



Waste Strategy

2017 – 2022



Context

The Council has had a waste strategy since 1999. It has been reviewed and updated every few years. A major review in 2005 following the implementation of the EU Landfill Directive in the UK put in train a range of infrastructure, including the introduction of a food and garden waste (FGW) collection scheme in 2009 and the construction of a local residual waste treatment plant (MKWRP), which is currently undergoing commissioning. The main driver for this update is the financial position of the Council which has a funding gap of £56m between 2017/18 and 2020/21. The strategy must enable waste services to be delivered to a growing city with reduced resources.

The [Council Plan 2016-2020](#) has three aims: that Milton Keynes should be a City of Opportunity; an Affordable City and a Healthy City. It aspires to a balanced medium-term budget, and has two waste-related priorities: the first is to produce this strategy and the second is to further develop innovative waste treatment schemes to reduce landfill and support optimal recycling rates.

This strategy covers the following waste-related services which have a combined budget of £25m:

- Waste Collection (including refuse, recycling, food and garden waste collections, bulky waste, hospital waste, clinical waste and a small amount of trade waste).
- Waste Disposal (including the MKWRP, the materials recycling facility (MRF) , and FGW treatment).
- Provision of Civic Amenity (CA) sites, which are known locally as Community Recycling Centres (CRC's) mostly for household waste.
- Street cleaning, litter/flytipping removal, mechanical sweeping of roads, waste enforcement, abandoned vehicles, graffiti and weedkilling.

The strategy is constrained by two major factors:

- Most household waste services enable us to fulfil our statutory obligations and must be provided free of charge. The majority of the annual financial budget is spent in these areas, however, there are some services provided for which separate charges can be made as many other Authorities currently do, including the collection of household garden and bulky wastes and the collection and disposal of trade wastes. There is also some flexibility in the way that services can be provided which can provide significant financial savings, such as the frequency of the collection of various waste streams and the number of CA sites that need to be provided.
- All waste services are contracted-out. The two largest of the Council's waste contracts – waste collection and street cleaning, held by Serco and residual waste treatment, held by Amey, are not due to end in the next five years - the lifetime of this strategy. However, the contracts for FGW treatment and CA site operation will end in the next 5 years. Making significant changes mid-contract could result in significant costs to the Council outweighing any potential financial benefits.

Our strategy has been informed by an extensive [options appraisal](#) process which began in August 2016 and considered a wide range of different options.

Previous strategies have had a strong focus on legal compliance particularly regarding the issues of landfill allowances and recycling targets. However, the political and legal environment is very different in 2017 and the financial challenges which face Authorities are much greater. To date almost all UK waste legislation has derived from EU Directives but now there is much greater uncertainty in the future direction of national waste policies. The Council currently does not have to meet any recycling or landfill targets. It does, however, have a duty to separate out paper, metals, plastics and glass for recycling and to have regard to the [waste hierarchy](#). Due to continuing high rates of [Landfill Tax](#), landfill is, and will probably continue to be, the most expensive disposal route for most waste streams. In England recycling rates are static or declining, due mainly to the way this is recorded by weight. This has been affected by the packaging industry reducing the weights of recyclable materials but also the introduction of garden waste charging by Authorities as their overall budgets reduce.

Vision

The vision of the Waste Strategy is:

To deliver a high quality waste service that provides value for money and costs substantially less than it did in 2016

Outcomes and objectives

Two objectives are particularly important:

- To reduce the cost of waste services, contributing to improving the financial position of the Council in the medium term and
- To meet the Council's statutory duties for waste services, including the duty to have regard to the waste hierarchy.

We also aspire, as far as possible, and providing that the above two objectives are met to:

- Minimise negative impacts on customer satisfaction levels.
- Reduce the carbon impact of waste services.
- Contribute to making Milton Keynes a forward-thinking city, known for innovation and attracting inward investment.

Priorities

The Strategy's priorities are:

1. Garden Waste Charging	We will implement a system of garden waste charging during 2017/18.
2. Trade waste collection review	We will research and develop a trade waste collection model for small and medium sized businesses.
3. Communication and education	We will undertake a comprehensive communication and education plan to reduce overall waste volumes, minimise the impact on recycling rate by the introduction of garden waste charging, improve quantity and quality of recycling, promote reuse and reduce litter and flytipping.
4. Operational Policies	We will publish new operational policies which contribute to improving customer service levels.
5. Retender the FGW treatment contract	Upon the completion of the existing FGW treatment contract we will retender the service to maximise value for money.
6. Review of the waste/street cleansing collection service	Within the constraints of the existing contract provisions, we will continue to review our service delivery provision and prepare for the end of the existing collection contract in 2023.
7. Preparation for new MRF service provision	We will work with neighbouring Authorities and prepare a plan to replace the existing MRF contract when it ends.
8. Investigation of the potential for microgeneration plants¹	Together with our service providers and any other relevant partners, we will investigate the potential for local microgeneration plants.
9. Review provision of CA site provision.	We will review the provision of CA sites in Milton Keynes to ensure they are fit for the future. Improved controls on trade waste, other non-household wastes misuse and

¹ A microgeneration plant is small energy-generating plant, capable of using refuse-derived-fuel produced at the MKWRP to generate local heat and power on a smaller scale than the MKWRP.

	restrictions on the use by those residents living outside Milton Keynes will be implemented.
10.Implementation of minor improvements	We will implement other activities which bring minor financial improvements including hospital waste charging, changes to mechanical sweepings disposal, changes to the supply of extra sacks and the use of reusable sacks at flats which have Eurobins as they are identified.

Measuring the effects of our strategy

The strategy will be measured by three main indicators – financial, waste hierarchy rates, and customer satisfaction.

Financial Costs

It is anticipated that garden waste charging will reduce the Council’s revenue budget from the current level by £332,000 annually². The minor improvements could collectively give an improvement of c£100,000.

Other priorities may yield possible further reductions in budget as they are developed further, however, the largest opportunities for financial reductions will be delivered as our existing long term contracts end at the end of this strategy.

Waste hierarchy rates

This is measured using the benchmark national indicator known as “NI192” – the percentage of household waste recycled, or by using the percentage of total waste collected by the Council that is recycled.

The current measurements of these are

Performance Indicator	2015/6 Outturn	2016/17 Forecast	Effect of the strategy
% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (NI 192)	51%	52%	The strategy is likely to reduce recycling rate by 3-4%
% of all waste collected by Milton Keynes Council that is	52%	52%	The strategy is likely to reduce recycling rate

² This assumes an average price point for the garden waste charge at £33. The options appraisal report assumes a £35 price point, which generates a higher saving level

sent for reuse, recycling or composting			by 3-4%
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The percentage of waste collected by the Council that is sent to landfill is also a national benchmark indicator.

Performance Indicator	2015/6 Outturn	2016/17 Prediction	Effect of the strategy
% of municipal waste sent to landfill (NI 193)	27%	34%	With the MKWRP coming on-stream, the amount of waste being landfilled is expected to be below 5% by 2022

Two thirds of garden waste which is not collected by the new chargeable scheme is predicted to be taken to the CA sites. Extra controls on the use of CA sites are likely to reduce the usage of the facilities by out-of-Milton Keynes residents and trade waste misuse.

Customer Satisfaction

The Council's waste services presently have high satisfaction. The strategy aims to maintain these levels whilst improving on communications and education to mitigate any adverse reactions:

Performance Indicator	Annual rolling at Jan 16 benchmark	Annual rolling Nov 16	Effect of the strategy
% citizens satisfied with refuse collection	89.6%	89.4%	The strategy is unlikely to affect this
% citizens satisfied with recycling collection	92.6%	89.8%	The strategy is unlikely to affect this
% citizens satisfied with food and garden	94.8%	95.1%	The strategy is likely to result in a decrease in satisfaction as a charge

waste collection			for this service is implemented
% citizens satisfied with community recycling centres	95%	91%	The strategy could result in changes to this indicator as improvements to the misuse of existing sites are implemented.
% citizens satisfied with street cleaning	75.0%	76.3%	The strategy may result in changes to this indicator as service changes are implemented.