

London Borough of Merton

**Municipal
Waste Management
Strategy**

**Implementation Plan
July 2006 – August 2008**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006-2021 sets out the framework and criteria in which all planning, procurement and operational decisions will be made. The Strategy was subject to public consultation in April and May 2006. The Implementation Plan sets out the short-term (2006-2008) activities and measures to achieve the waste strategy's immediate objectives. Developing such a plan will allow the Council to clearly set out the activities it is currently undertaking, the activities it is planning and the timescales for the development of future planning and decisions making.
- 1.2 This Implementation Plan has been developed in consultation with members from the waste services team and follows the aims developed in the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

2. The Implementation Plan

2.1 Overarching policies

- 2.1.1 In developing the Strategy, three overarching policies have been formulated which will underpin decisions made with respect to waste management. These policies are:
- *Merton Council will strive to provide an efficient, sustainable and cost-effective operation for the collection and management of all municipal waste arising within the borough through its continued commitment to the principles of sustainable development, Best Value and the waste hierarchy.*
 - *Merton Council supports the concept of the proximity principle in respect of waste management facilities and the management of wastes produced within the borough and where practicable will seek to manage wastes as close to the source of its production as possible.*
 - *The Council will encourage the development of partnering arrangements with neighbouring authorities, the Community Sector, the waste management industry and other partner agencies that will deliver sustainable waste management solutions.*
- 2.1.2 The Implementation Plan responds to the strategy by developing a number of actions under each of the 6 key aims contained in the Strategy. The 6 Aims are:
- Aim 1: Reduce waste growth in Merton
 - Aim 2: Achieve statutory performance standards for recycling and composting of household waste

- Aim 3: Meet the landfill Directive targets of diverting waste from landfill
- Aim 4: Develop and work in partnerships that ensure sustainable waste management services are affordable and represent value for money
- Aim 5: Provide a service that is in the best interests of Merton residents and businesses whilst managing waste responsibly
- Aim 6: Develop a social contract with residents and businesses, demonstrating best practice within the council

2.2 Aim 1: Reduce waste growth in Merton

2.2.1 Merton's Waste Management Strategy contains four policies relating to waste reduction:

- *The Council will seek to develop an extensive waste awareness and education programme that focuses on all aspects of waste management including waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling, composting, treatment and disposal.*
- *Merton will encourage and strengthen partnerships with the community and voluntary sectors and investigate opportunities for external funding to generate community-based waste minimisation initiatives.*
- *The Council will continue to promote home composting and will make available subsidised home compost bins to all households with gardens and schools.*
- *The Council will examine operational and financial mechanisms to encourage the reduction in residual waste.*

2.2.2 Reduction at source

Waste has a significant environmental impact, but for some people it is an 'out of sight, out of mind' issue; once they have put their rubbish in the bin it is forgotten. The changes and improvement the Council is seeking will not take place unless every resident and business understands the reasons for changing their current behaviour. Increasing awareness is the first stage in achieving behaviour change and changing attitudes to waste, resulting in reducing waste and expanding the current use of recycling and composting services.

2.2.3 As the Council strives to encourage waste reduction in order to achieve its statutory targets and to divert more waste away from landfill, it will be vital that every single resident takes part in reducing, reusing, recycling and composting their waste. As highlighted in the consultation, the development of new facilities is inevitable as we move away from landfill. However, the more waste is reduced or re-used, the less capacity will be required for new facilities.

2.2.4 The comprehensive, subsidised home composting scheme currently operating in partnership with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is estimated to have distributed bins to approximately 5000 households in Merton. This follows on from an extensive promotion in the late 1990s that resulted in approximately 9000 compost bins being delivered to residents free of charge.

2.2.5 The waste composition analysis carried out by MEL consultants in October 2004 and May 2005 showed that approximately 3.23% of household waste consisted of disposable nappies. The Council recognises that this represents a significant proportion of the domestic waste stream.

Actions

1. Continue to work in partnership with WRAP to promote composting at home through the subsidised sale of home composting bins (subject to WRAP funding review).
2. Carry out composting workshops throughout the borough and provide displays and information boards at borough shows, such as the Mitcham Carnival.
3. Develop customer support through reviving links with the Merton Gardens & Allotment Habitat Action Plan group (or successor).
4. Continue to support and review Kingston and Merton Real Nappy Network through the provision of start up funding up to March 2007 and ongoing advice and support.

2.2.6 Schools

The council also considers that education and awareness-raising are an essential element of Strategy implementation and key to promoting the reduction of waste raising awareness of waste. The council has already been running a comprehensive education and awareness raising campaign in schools for a number of years and wishes to continue and extend this programme.

Actions

5. Continued development of and commitment to funding the waste education programme in primary schools including, exploring options for extending the waste education programme into secondary schools.
6. Developing a programme to train teachers (cross service) with a view to embedding waste education within the curriculum.
7. Encouraging borough primary schools to participate in the London Schools Environmental Awards scheme.
8. Governors' services presentation training.

2.2.7 General public awareness

The council also wishes to raise the awareness of waste issues within the wider community and plans to develop a wider community education programme that will concentrate on promoting waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

2.2.8 The key principles of the programme will be to engage the community through consultation, information, education and involvement. The emphasis of the programme will be to raise awareness of the services provided, increase levels of participation in recycling services and to increase levels of public satisfaction with waste services overall. Key activities will include:

Actions

9. A targeted door stepping campaign to Merton residents to increase participation in the kerbside recycling scheme.
10. Developing and expanding arts competitions/projects for the community.
11. Development of a Communications Plan (September 2006) which is to include:
 - Any changes to services and proposed new developments will be coupled with extensive consultation with local stakeholders through Merton's Environment and Safety Forum (or future equivalent) and other appropriate forums and organisations.
 - The provision of appropriate and timely information leaflets, including information of hazardous waste, and other forms of media to householders and businesses, such as the delivery of Christmas cards informing residents of collection day changes over the holiday period. This will include the borough wide delivery of "refresher" information on the "Recycle from Home" scheme during 2006/07.
 - Increasing public awareness of treatment and disposal technologies.
 - Within the Communications Plan develop a more pro-active approach to be PR, including using the Green Guardian.
 - Develop role for education in encouraging repair and reuse of items.
 - Consider development of a 'Road show' resource that can be taken to events, schools etc. (subject to WRAP funding), exploring possible partnering arrangements with neighbouring boroughs.

2.3 Aim 2: Achieve statutory performance standards for recycling and composting of household waste

2.3.1 All local authorities have been set statutory recycling and composting targets. Merton has significantly increased its recycling and

composting rate in recent years and is 8th highest achieving borough in London (2004/05). The Council needs to continue being innovative and forward thinking if it is to retain this position and move closer to its statutory target of 27% (2005/06). Figure 1 below shows Merton's household recycling and composting performance since 2001 and the target set for the current year.

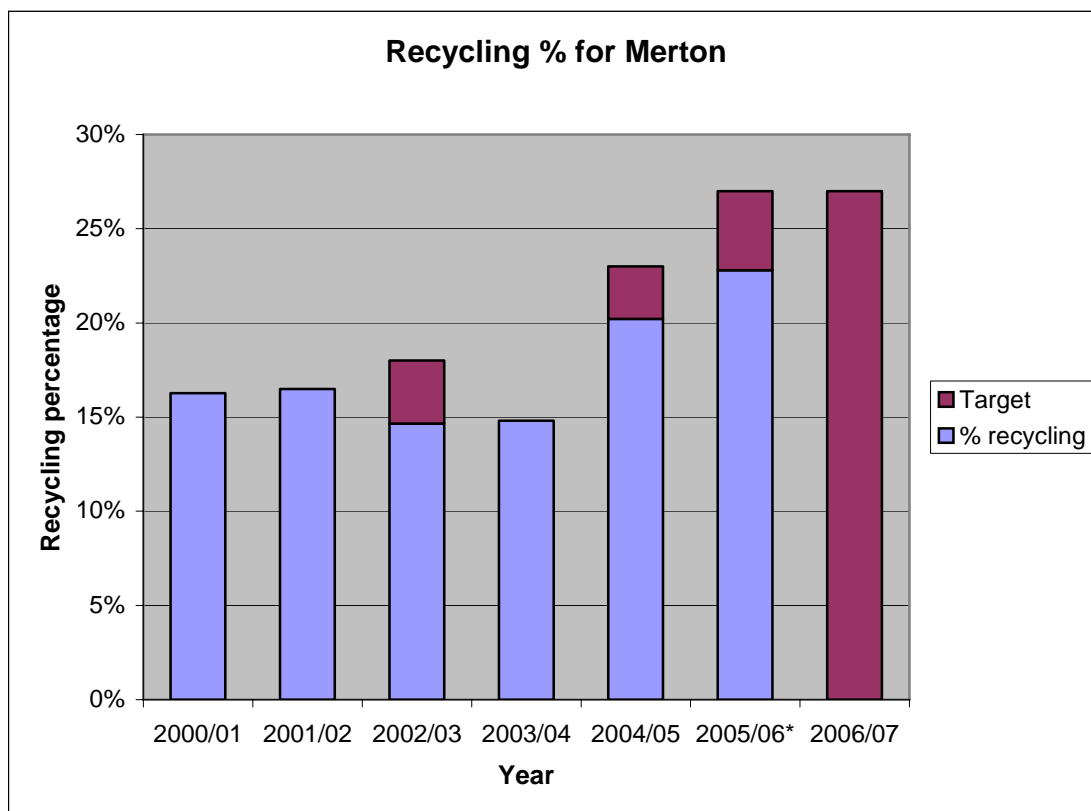


Figure 1: Recycling % for Merton 2000/01 – 2004/05. *Please note that the 2005/06 recycling figure is provisional.

2.3.2 The overall recycling and composting performance for 2004/05 was at 20% - 3% under the target set for that year. For 2005/06 the recycling and composting target went up to 27%. Table 1 shows the current recycling and composting targets.

2.3.3 Defra is currently consulting on the proposal for the extension of the existing Statutory Performance Standards for recycling and composting to the year 2007/08. It does not propose any targets are set for the year 2006/07 as local authorities need sufficient time to plan for new targets. Regardless of which of the four options currently being consulted on is finally adopted, Merton's targets for 2007/08 will not change.

Performance Indicator	Target 2005/6	Target 2006/7	Target 2007/08
Recycling	23.5%	23.5%	23.5%
Composting	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

Recycling and composting	27%	27%	27%
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Table 1: Best Value Performance Indicators (*BVPI Performance standards for 2008/09 are yet to be determined)

2.3.4 Merton has also set its own targets in its Business Plan as outlined in Table 2.

Waste targeted	2007	2008	2009
Percentage of household waste recycled and composted	27%	28%	29%
Amount of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled	53,700 tonnes	49,800 tonnes	44,900 tonnes

Table 2: Merton Council Business Plan targets

2.3.5 The Mayor's Strategy sets out key aspirational targets for the management of municipal waste in London and concurs with the House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs recommendations that the following targets should be set:

- Recycling target for municipal waste by 50% by 2010
- Recycling target for municipal waste by 60% by 2015

2.3.6 A number of policies were developed in the Strategy relating to recycling and composting including:

- *The Council will ensure that all residents have convenient access to recycling services.*
- *The Council will ensure that a minimum of five materials are collected through the "Recycle from Home" scheme.*
- *The Council will continuously review the range of materials collected through the existing kerbside collection systems, bring sites and Reuse and Recycling Centres and introduce additional materials where appropriate.*
- *The Council will seek to maximise the efficiency of its on-street recycling facilities (bring banks) ensuring that they are located in convenient and accessible areas in accordance with agreed siting criteria.*
- *The Council will provide a network of Neighbourhood Recycling Centres and will seek to ensure they are attractive facilities that enhance the street scene as far as practicable.*
- *The Council will consider introducing measures to encourage increased participation in recycling schemes.*

2.3.7 A number of initiatives aimed at increasing recycling rates are planned, including recycling from home. Proposed actions elsewhere in this Implementation Plan may also contribute to increased recycling rate, such as those aimed at waste reduction, and are not duplicated in this section.

2.3.8 Recycling from home

There is an extensive recycling network throughout the borough including a kerbside collection (the “Recycle from Home” scheme), two Reuse and Recycling Centres, and a network of highways recycling sites (bring sites) located throughout Merton. There is potential for refining current services and increasing participation to increase recycling levels to assist in meeting statutory performance standards.

Actions

1. Roll out recycling to all flats. Paper, glass and plastics to be collected for recycling.
2. The repair and clean up of bring sites as well as the introduction of new sites and re-branding them as Neighbourhood Recycling Centres (NRC), and reviewing opportunities for increasing the number of sites across the borough and the range of materials that are targeted for collection.
3. Investigating opportunities to form partnerships with supermarkets and other large stores to encourage bring sites to be established with a view to promoting greater awareness of producer responsibility
4. The provision of mixed paper and card recycling banks to all borough schools and colleges.
5. Investigating the feasibility of extending the range of materials collected separately for recycling from borough schools and colleges.

2.3.9 Street Cleaning

Merton provides an extensive street cleansing service to keep roads as far as practicable free of litter and refuse. The service now includes evening sweeping in town centres and additional cleansing as part of the patch working. As well as these recent improvements, gully cleansing is now operating at improved efficiency to improve the rate of gully clearance. The council will consider opportunities of increased recycling in all areas including street cleaning.

Actions

6. Introduce litter bin recycling in the town centres.
7. Investigate options for recycling commuter-targeted waste.

2.3.10 Reuse and recycling centres

An additional Reuse and Recycling Centre opened at Weir Road in Wimbledon in September 2005. Items that can be brought to the site

for recycling include: green garden waste, paper and card, plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles and jars, textiles, wood, items of furniture that are in suitable condition for reuse, and electrical and electronic equipment. No general waste or trade waste is accepted at the site.

- *The Council will seek to increase levels recycling and composting rates achieved at its Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs).*
- *The Council will seek to extend the number and types of materials that can be separated for recycling and composting at its RRCs.*
- *The Council will actively seek to minimise the amount of non-household waste being deposited at the site from commercial users.*

Actions

8. Utilise available space at the Garth Road Reuse and Recycling Centre to develop a fast track recycling lane to encourage greater use.
9. Constantly review opportunities for recycling new and additional waste streams at Reuse and Recycling Centre.
10. Review the opening hours at Weir Road Reuse and Recycling Centre.

2.4 Aim 3: Meet the Landfill Directive targets of diverting biodegradable waste from landfill

2.4.1 Each year about 100,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste is generated in Merton, which is over half a tonne per person. Approximately 80% of this is sent to landfill, putting increasing pressure on landfill capacity and the environment. The increasing cost of landfill and new legislation are also adding pressure to rethink the way we manage our waste.

2.4.2 The biggest challenge is drastically reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW – that waste which degrades naturally, such as paper and card and garden and kitchen waste) we send to landfill. Approximately 68% of waste sent to landfill is biodegradable, which could otherwise be turned into high value composting material for home gardens and market sale.

2.4.3 The Government has introduced the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) to regulate the amount of BMW each authority is allowed to send to landfill. Each authority in England is given an annual (decreasing) “landfill allowance” for biodegradable waste. Under the Scheme, each authority will be able to determine how to use its allowances in the most effective way. It is able to trade allowances with other authorities, save them for future years (bank) or use some of its future allowances in advance (borrow). The penalty incurred on a local authority for not complying with its LATS allowances is £150 per additional tonne of biodegradable waste landfilled.

2.4.4 Merton’s LATS allowances for the next four years are shown in Table 3. To comply with the 2006/07 allowance, it seems likely that the Council will need to divert an additional 4000 tonnes of biodegradable waste from landfill (based on 2004/05 figures), or utilise the options mentioned previously. This will increase to requiring to divert an additional 10,000 tonnes to meet our 2007/08 target, and more than 16,000 tonnes in 2008/09.

Year	Target allowance	Projected BMW to landfill - if we continue as we are	Projected shortfall
2004/05	N/a	59379	-
2005/06	56,701	56,320	-381
2006/07	53,739	58,010	4271
2007/08	49,790	59,750	9960
2008/09	44,854	61,543	16,689
2009/10	38,930	63,389	24,459

Table 3: LATS target allowance for Merton (please note that the projection are based on a 3% increase in the annual rate of growth of waste)

2.4.5 Failure to comply with these targets could result in financial penalties as mentioned above. These are very challenging targets and require everyone in Merton to act. The Actions section below outlines a series of activities to be undertaken by the Council to help comply with its LATS allowance over the next 2-3 years. The Council will mostly focus on encouraging more composting of kitchen and green waste at home, and through collections.

2.4.6 As a result of funding gained from the London Recycling Fund the council, in partnership with Croydon and Sutton, negotiated a contract with Viridor (Thames) Ltd to construct and operate an In-Vessel Composting plant at the landfill site in Beddington Lane. This plant can process up to 15,000 tonnes of green garden waste each year and does so at a rate of less than half of the cost of landfill. The agreement also allows for soil improver produced at the facility to be passed back to residents free of charge.

2.4.7 The Council, through an innovative partnership has also secured £2million of funding to assist in the development of a mechanical biological treatment facility (MBT) at the Beddington Lane landfill site. This agreement includes the London Boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Sutton and Merton, together with SITA (UK) Ltd.—the Council’s current waste disposal contractor—and Viridor Waste (Thames) Ltd.

2.4.8 The MBT facility, known as the “Dano Drum”, mechanically separates mixed municipal waste. It is designed to treat the residual waste stream produced when source separated recycling is operational, insuring maximum diversion from landfill. The Dano Drum will:

- Extract metals from the household waste stream for recycling
- Process waste by Bio-drying to reduce disposal costs (in the short term)
- Prepare waste for further processing (in the longer term)
- Provide additional composting capacity (in the longer term).

2.4.9 The plant is designed to receive and process 110,000 tonnes of municipal waste from the partner authorities (London Borough of Sutton, London Borough of Croydon, Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and London Borough of Merton). Merton's allocation is 33,333 tonnes, of which approximately 22% is expected to be diverted from landfill through composting and recycling. Table 4 illustrates the impact of the Dano Drum on recycling rates – with the assumption that the existing levels of borough-wide recycling are maintained.

Financial year	Recycling tonnage	Compost tonnage	BMW Diverted	Extra BMW diversion required	Recycling rate achieved
2004/5	13,028	2,249	11,206	N/A	20.1%
2005/6	14,323	3,179	12,882	-381	22.9%
2006/7	15,446	6,547	17,845	-306	27.9%
2007/8	16,396	9,039	21,581	2,046	31.3%
2008/9	16,541	7,673	19,867	10,898	28.9%
2009/10	16,826	6,905	19,051	19,907	27.5%

Table 4: Impact of the Dano Drum (introduced 2006/07) on recycling rates and biodegradable waste diverted from landfill

2.4.10 Access to the facility has been secured through a variation to the current waste disposal contract with SITA (UK) Ltd. and will be available until 31 August 2008 when the current waste disposal contract expires.

2.4.11 The Municipal Waste Management Strategy developed two specific policies relating to meeting our LATS targets:

- *Minimise the need to borrow and purchase allowances where practicable, and ensure the Council avoids financial penalties associated with the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.*
- *The Council will seek to maximise the diversion of biodegradable waste through the development of organic waste collection schemes.*

Again, some of the activities that will help us achieve the aim of reducing biodegradable waste going to landfill overlap with other aims contained in this Plan and are included in those sections. The actions we have developed relate to reducing the biodegradable waste going to landfill:

Actions

1. Continue to provide the current on-request garden waste collection and pilot a scheduled collection for 2007/08 for a trial collection area.
2. Carry out a feasibility study to carry out a wider organics collection including kitchen waste.
3. Continue on an annual basis to provide a separate collection of Christmas trees from householders for the purposes of composting.
4. Continue to collect leaf-fall separately from street litter and detritus, ensuring that the materials are effectively treated to provide a mulch product for reuse.

2.5 Aim 4: Develop and work in partnerships that ensure sustainable waste management services are affordable and represent value for money

2.5.1 Whilst the council can provide core infrastructure, there are elements of the service that lend themselves to joint delivery with the other partners. Such partners are usually community based, environmentally focused and able to reach out to a range of sectors not easily contacted by the Council.

2.5.2 Community based partnerships

Two policies were developed within the Strategy that aim to strengthen Merton Council's relationship with the community:

- *Merton will seek to implement initiatives that maximise the reuse of goods and materials before they enter the waste stream. The Council will seek to develop partnerships with community groups and charities to implement such initiatives.*
- *The Council will investigate opportunities for maximising the diversion of bulky household waste collected through the Council's bulky waste collection service and will seek to ensure the beneficial reuse of such materials by those in need in the community.*

Action

1. Feasibility study for the separate collection of reusable/recyclable bulky household waste
2. Continue partnership arrangement with the Vine Project and ARC (Croydon).
3. Investigate opportunities for developing further partnerships with community groups and charities.

2.5.3 South London Waste Partnership

The Best Value Review of Waste Services carried out in 2002 recognised the need to put in place new management arrangements

and partnerships to meet the challenges of current and emerging drivers to manage waste in a more sustainable fashion. In response to this need Merton Council has with the neighbouring borough of Kingston, Croydon and Sutton reconvened the South London Waste Disposal Group as a means to invite discussions on possible partnering arrangements with neighbouring authorities.

2.5.4 There are a number of significant advantages to partnering between authorities, which include:

- Economy of scale;
- Greater market appetite;
- More integrated waste services;
- More consistent provision of waste services across authorities;
- Less risk for delivery of services;
- Potentially shared targets; and
- Increasing investment and funding opportunities.

2.5.5 In 2004 the partnership was successful in bidding for consultancy support from Defra's Waste Implementation Programme Local Authority Support Unit to investigate the scope for joint partnering and procurement of waste disposal services. The initial stages of this work highlighted that a joint approach could benefit from economies and efficiencies of scale and is likely to improve market appetite and hence competition.

2.5.6 The Council recognises the value of this partnership, in particular the potential for scoping of joint waste procurement. The following Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between the partner boroughs to provide for the development of closer partnership working:

"To enable the Boroughs to work together to manage municipal waste within the geographical area of the four Boroughs in the most efficient, effective, economical and sustainable manner"

A joint waste statement is currently being prepared to provide a framework around which the four London boroughs can further develop their waste management infrastructure.

2.5.7 The following policy has been developed reflecting our intention to work with neighbouring boroughs:

- *The Council will continue to work with boroughs within the South London Waste Partnership with a view to establishing formal partnering arrangements for the joint procurement of waste treatment and disposal services.*

In the context of this partnership:

- *The Council will seek to use new and emerging technologies in order to maximise the recovery of value from residual waste.*
- *The Council will encourage the treatment of waste at the highest level of the waste hierarchy as is economically practicable.*

2.5.8 It is the council's intention to manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and a number of policies designed to optimise waste reduction reuse, recycling and composting have been outlined above. However, it is not expected that intensive recycling and composting will deliver the targets set out in the European Landfill Directive or compliance with LATS. In order to minimise the need to landfill residual waste alternative treatment and disposal facilities will be required. The Borough is keen to develop waste management facilities to ensure the infrastructure is in place to deliver the strategy bearing in mind current disposal contracts expire in August 2008.

Actions

4. Formalise the Joint Procurement partnership with neighbouring borough of Kingston, Sutton and Croydon.
5. Soft Market Testing – new disposal contract as part of South London Partnership with Kingston, Sutton and Croydon (August 2006).
6. Official Journal of the European Union Notice to be published for long term contract (September 2006).
7. Preferred bidder selected (Feb/March 2007)

2.6 Aim 5: Provide a service that is in the best interests of Merton residents and businesses whilst managing waste responsibly

2.6.1 Commercial waste collection

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the council to provide a commercial waste collection service if requested.

Commercial waste collected by or on behalf of the council is regarded as municipal waste and therefore impacts on the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. It is also regarded as good practice to encourage waste minimisation across all sectors.

2.6.2 The following policies relating to commercial waste have been developed:

- *The Council will review the current arrangements for the delivery of commercial waste services to identify improvements and enhance financial performance.*
- *The Council will seek to maximise the amount of recycling achieved through the commercial waste collection service.*

2.6.3 We propose to undertake a number of activities designed to meet our aim and policies:

Actions

1. Encourage existing commercial customers to recycle through phone surveys and financial incentives.
2. Encourage and provide support for commercial waste audits which encourage greater consideration for reuse.
3. Encourage commercial users to separate recyclable materials before depositing waste at the Garth Road transfer station.
4. Investigate opportunities for clusters of businesses to share recycling facilities.
5. Minimising the impacts of implementing the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and ensuring the Council's responsibilities are managed efficiently.

2.6.4 Residual household waste collection

Merton Council is always considering new ways to improve the service it provides to its residents and recognises the impact the household waste collection can have on the visual appearance of streets and neighbourhoods in the borough. Our policy is:

- *The Council will examine operational mechanisms to improve service efficiency and to improve significantly the impact of residual waste collection on the street scene.*

2.6.5 The London Borough of Merton is committed to providing a refuse collection services that meets the needs of its residents. This includes maintaining tidy streets and providing an efficient service.

Action

6. Review the provision of waste containers for domestic properties currently in receipt of a weekly front-of-property refuse collection.

2.7 Aim 6: Develop a social contract with residents and businesses, demonstrating best practice within the council

2.7.1 In-house policies

In addition to raising awareness of the issues of sustainable waste management within the community as a whole, the Council recognises that it is imperative to demonstrate good practice within its own organisation. It is believed that setting a positive example with respect to the management of its own waste and resources will reinforce the message and demonstrate the practicalities of adopting such practices. The council has therefore adopted the following policies:

- *The Council will establish a programme of waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and composting of waste materials in respect of its own functions and the services it provides.*
- *The Council is committed to the Mayor's Green Procurement Code and will explore practical opportunities for specifying and purchasing products made from recycled and recyclable materials.*
- *The Council will seek to encourage service providers to minimise waste arisings and maximise recycling of any waste products arising from the provision of services and/or goods, as far as practically possible.*

Actions

1. Carry out an audit of all council offices and identify where improvements can be made.
2. Agree an Action Plan for all council offices including input from facilities and stakeholders.
3. Identify opportunities for maximising recycling opportunities with offices and refurbishments, including a role for education.

2.7.2 Enforcement

Merton believes that much can be done through the provision of a range of effective services designed to promote and encourage the community to act sustainably by choice. However, it is recognised that in some instances enforcement action will be required to ensure actions are not detrimental to the aims and objectives of this Strategy. The Council has therefore developed the following policies on enforcement:

- *The Council will seek to use its statutory powers to the full in order to ensure abuse of civic facilities and services is minimised.*
- *The Council will seek to use its statutory powers to the full in order to ensure that businesses manage their waste in accordance with agreed regulations and to minimise and where possible prevent the illegal deposit of waste (fly tipping) within the borough.*
- *The Council will work in co-operation with the Environment Agency, the local Police, neighbouring boroughs and other partner agencies to minimise the instances of fly tipping in the region.*

Actions

4. Business premises in the town centres and shops in shopping parades will be visited and advised of their trade waste obligations under section 34 Environmental Protection Act 1990.
5. Undertake to pro-actively visit premises where building work is taking place and advising them not to use unlicensed waste carriers.
6. Placing of advisory information in trade circulars and the press to ensure business deal with their waste legally and therefore not being fly tipped.
7. Visiting food premises separately to advise them about dealing with litter originating from their premises.

3. Medium term solutions

- 3.1 The actions identified above may help deliver short-term targets with respect to recycling and composting performance standards but will ultimately fall short of achieving the longer-term requirements to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. It is recognised that significant capital investment in waste treatment infrastructure will be required in order to meet this short fall.
- 3.2 The council recognises that it is unlikely to secure the necessary infrastructure alone and is therefore committed to working on a sub-regional basis with the London Boroughs of Croydon, Kingston and Sutton through the South London Waste Partnership. An initial scoping report for joint partnering and procurement, carried out by Enviros on behalf of the partnership, suggests that partnership working should deliver improved efficiencies of scale with respect to procurement, management, operating and client costs and increased market appetite.
- 3.3 The partner boroughs have committed to further joint working through an agreed Memorandum of Understanding. However, in order to deliver the medium to long-term solutions, the following issues will need to be addressed in the short term:
- The development of formal partnering arrangements.
 - The production of a joint waste statement.
 - The appraisal of the waste management options available to the partnership of a sub-regional basis.
 - The development of a procurement strategy for the Partnership.
- 3.4 Current waste disposal contracts for the London Boroughs of Croydon, Kingston and Merton are due to expire in Autumn 2008. It will therefore be necessary to finalise the above arrangements during the summer of 2006 in order to commence procurement of facilities in time. The options appraisal will incorporate waste flows, projections and composition of the partner boroughs jointly and has not been included as part of this Strategy. The cost implications and affordability of the options will also be assessed as part of this process. Full consultation on the preferred options will be carried out once the draft Joint Waste Statement has been completed.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that Merton will be in a position to complete this section of the waste strategy when the partnership arrangements have been considered further and agreement concluded.
- 3.6 Planning**
A critical aspect in securing the appropriate treatment facilities will be the identification of suitable sites on which to place the facilities. The Council is currently working with Enviros consultancy, with funding from

the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Waste Implementation Programme's Local Authority Support Unit (LASU), to further the work on identifying sites within the sub-region that may be suitable for waste treatment facilities.

- 3.7 As part of this project officers are investigating the feasibility of producing a joint waste development plan document together with the partner boroughs that will ensure that the planning process supports this Strategy and the joint waste statement of the partner boroughs. It is anticipated that actions will be established following the completion of the 'planning tasks' of the LASU funded project and that this section will incorporate the strategic actions which need to be completed in order to fulfil the objectives of the strategy.

3.8 Public Consultation

The Strategy was consulted on in April/May 2006 and the document will be adjusted where appropriate following appropriate analysis. The Implementation Plan will, where possible, take into account changes within the Strategy resulting from the consultation. As the Plan is subject to frequent monitoring and review, suggestions arising from the consultation not included in this current version will be considered as part of future reviews.

- 3.9 Future decisions regarding procurement of facilities within the borough would be subject to consultation through the planning process. The Implementation Plan will be consulted on internally with staff but will not be subject to public consultation.

3.10 Monitoring

Progress toward statutory targets is monitored monthly and reported to the appropriate authority on an annual basis. The statutory targets are challenging and therefore there are no targets exceeding these have been set in the Strategy. Existing targets are subject to their own reporting requirements (e.g. Community Plan targets). The annual review and development of the action plan will monitor progress against the agreed aims and objectives of the Strategy.

3.11 Review of the Implementation Plan

It is proposed to formally review the Implementation Plan annually from its inception in June 2006. Following its initial implementation, it is envisaged that the Implementation Plan review process will eventually be brought into line with the business planning cycle. However, given the importance in securing a new disposal contract for Merton for September 2008, there is a need to look beyond the business plan cycle. The main purpose of the review will be to assess the extent to which the Plan has furthered the aims and objectives of the Strategy as well as progress towards meeting targets. The review will involve input

from various members of staff from different departments within Council. The review will be reported to senior officers and members and, as well as reviewing progress of the Plan against aims and objectives, will seek agreement for any revisions plan.

- 3.12 A dedicated officer will monitor the initiatives in the Action Plan monthly to ensure initiatives are being implemented and progress is maintained.