

# Environment and Safe Communities Committee

## 21 March 2023

### **SURREY ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP - SEP2025**

#### **Appendix 1**

#### **Index:**

Overarching SEP2025 approach document	Pages 2 – 13
Summary of current SEP work programme 2022/23	Pages 14 – 18
Summary of responsibilities in a two tier waste authority such as Surrey	Page 19
Summary of SEP performance	Pages 20 – 25



**Surrey  
Environment  
Partnership**

## **SEP 2025**

A partnership approach to waste prevention and recycling

<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
1.0	Nick Meadows	5/10/22	First draft	SEP 2025 Steering Group and the SEP Officers Group
2.0	Nick Meadows	27/10/22	Amendments throughout following partner feedback	SEP Officers Group
3.0	Nick Meadows	16/11/22	Minor amendments to give additional information in places	SEP Members Group
4.0	Nick Meadows	23/11/22	Final draft following feedback from the SEP Members Group	SEP Officers and Members Group

## Executive Summary

SEP (Surrey Environment Partnership) continuously strives to improve collection and disposal services in Surrey and aspires to be among the best nationally on all key performance indicators.

Since the Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) for England was published in December 2018, the Government has consulted on a number of the strategy's ambitions across a range of subjects, the results of which will provide policy direction, which we eagerly await. The policy situation combined with Surrey's growing population, increasing numbers of households, and changes in the types of waste produced by our residents means change is a certainty. However, the exact direction of the change and the impact it will have on our collection and disposal services remains unclear.

Whilst things are so uncertain, now is not the right time to update the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) and consult with residents, so we need a short-term approach to help manage Surrey's recycling and waste in the most efficient, effective, economical and sustainable way.

SEP 2025 has been developed to bridge the gap between our existing out-of-date JMWMS and further clarity from central government. It will reflect the vision of SEP and provide clear strategic direction for the partnership for the next three years to 2025 and a longer-term vision that will allow SEP to continue to follow the waste hierarchy and work towards zero waste.

SEP 2025 is therefore a partnership approach to waste prevention and recycling, and has been developed on behalf of all Surrey local authorities through the SEP.

## Background, policy, context and vision

### Background

SEP is made up of Surrey County Council (SCC) and the 11 district and borough councils in the county (as shown in Figure 1 below). It was formed originally as the Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP) in 2009 to overcome the challenges of two-tier service delivery and aims to manage Surrey's recycling and waste in the most efficient, effective, economical, and sustainable way possible. SEP's plan (the JMWMS) outlined our approach to achieving this.

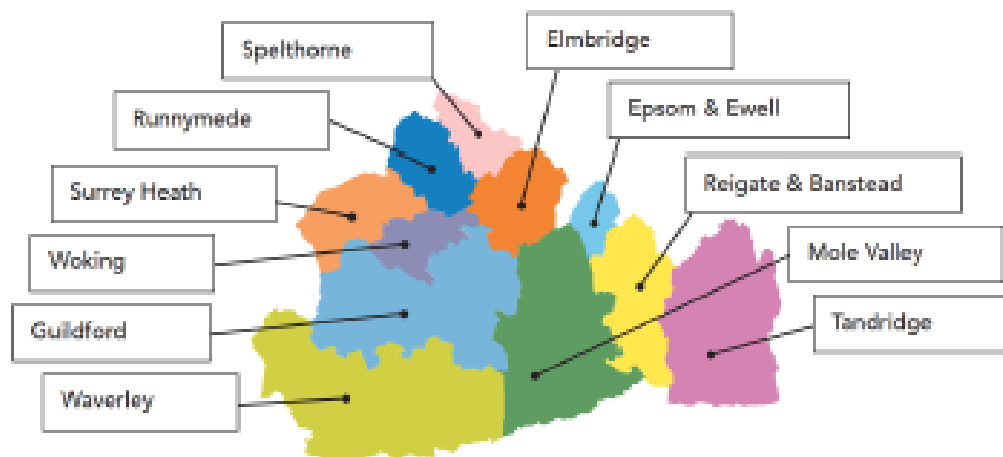


Figure 1: A map of Surrey showing the district and borough council areas

SEP's current JMWMS is meant to run until 2024-25. However, it was last updated in 2015 and is therefore considered to be 'out-of-date'. This was delayed due to the publication of the RaWS, which proposes some fundamental changes on how recycling and waste services will be funded and delivered in the future (further explained below). The key policy to support the RaWS is still emerging and therefore, the review has been postponed until national direction is clearer.

It was also decided to stop the annual monitoring of the JMWMS's action plan at the end of 2017-18 and in its place annual work programmes were developed instead. They have been in place each year through to the latest programme for 2022-23. These have effectively been the plan for working together in partnership since 2018-19. The current SEP work programme for 2022-23 can be found in **Annex 1**.

The partnership name was changed from SWP to SEP in April 2019 to reflect a growing remit and desire to tackle wider environmental issues in Surrey.

### Existing policy

As a group of councils providing recycling and waste management services, we have several duties and responsibilities in accordance with relevant key legislation. These are set out in **Annex 2**, which has been the legislative framework that we have operated under during the last 30 years.

A key concept set out here is the 'waste hierarchy', which ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for reuse, then recycling, then recovery<sup>1</sup> (this is where most of our residual waste goes in Surrey), and last of all disposal, e.g., landfill, as shown in **Figure 2** below.



**Figure 2: Waste Framework Directive - five step waste hierarchy<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> this includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification which produces energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste.

## New and emerging policy

Several policies are currently being developed following the publication of the RaWS. Launched in December 2018, RaWS is the Government's plan to preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. This will see products kept in use for as long as possible, making it easier to reuse, repair, refurbish or recycle them (as illustrated in Figure 3 below).

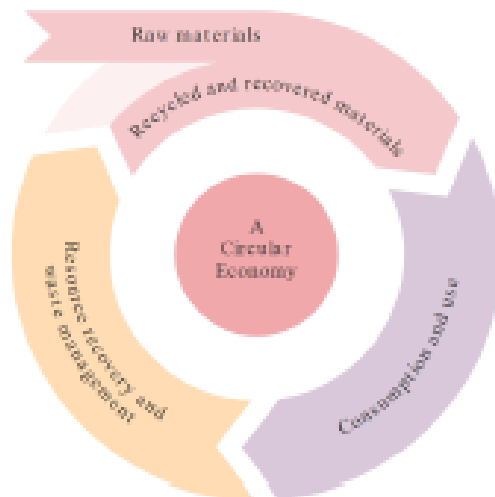


Figure 3: A circular economy<sup>11</sup>

RaWS combines actions the Government will take now with firm commitments for the coming years and gives a clear longer term policy direction in line with its [25 Year Environment Plan](#).

RaWS has set out several proposed policy reforms including to:

- Invoke the 'polluter pays' principle through **extended producer responsibility (EPR)** for packaging to ensure producers of products bear financial responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product's life cycle (except ground litter). The Government has committed to introducing this from April 2024. The key change for local authorities is that they will be compensated for the necessary costs of managing packaging waste from households, community recycling centres and street bins. Defra is still working on the details of this with more clarity expected in 2023.
- Introduce a **deposit return scheme (DRS)** for drinks containers to reward residents for bringing back bottles and encourage them not to litter them; thereby increasing the quality and quantity of recycling. This is to include cans and plastic bottles of between 50ml and 3l and will include containers sold both individually and as part of a multipack. Glass bottles will not be included. The scheme is still under consideration for implementation from late 2024.
- Improve recycling rates by ensuring consistency in **household and business recycling** collections. This is still under consideration for implementation from 2023-24, but are likely to be delayed slightly to coincide with EPR. Key proposals include:
  - Collection of the same dry recyclable materials (glass, metal, plastic and paper and card) as separately as possible (with consideration given to circumstances where separate collection of recyclable waste streams may

not be technically or economically practicable or may not provide a significant environmental benefit).

- Collection of additional dry recycling (metal jar lids, aerosols, cartons, aluminium foil and trays, aluminium tubes, and plastic films and pouches). The Government has so far stated that plastic films and flexibles must be collected by local authorities for recycling by 31 March 2027.
  - Collection of food waste separately at least once a week.
  - Collection of garden waste for free or for a maximum cost.
  - Service standards for collection arrangements and frequency.
- The above proposals on recycling consistency together with EPR and DRS are now collectively known as the collection and packaging reforms (CPR).
  - Stimulate demand for recycled plastic by introducing a **tax on plastic packaging** manufactured in or imported into the UK that contains less than 30% recycled plastics. This came into effect on 1 April 2022.
  - Reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastic (SUP) products including bans on items such as plastic straws, cotton buds, and drink stirrers. These were banned from 1 October 2020 and supply stopped from 3 July 2021. Proposals to ban plastic plates and cups, balloon sticks, polystyrene cups, expanded polystyrene food boxes, trays and pots. If agreed these proposed bans would come into effect in April 2023.
  - The introduction of a mandatory takeback scheme for the collection and recycling of fibre-based composite cups (disposable coffee cups). This is set to come in from 2024.

The measures in RaWS alongside other key plans have set out strategic ambitions to be achieved nationally over the next 30 years such as:

- Increase the municipal recycling rate to 55% by 2025 and 65% by 2035.
- Near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill from 2028.
- Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030.
- 76% recycling rate for packaging by 2030.
- Business fleet owners and operators work towards 100% of vehicle fleets being zero emission by 2030, or earlier where markets allow (COP28 ambition).
- No more than 10% of municipal waste to landfill by 2035.
- 50% reduction in per capita residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) by 2042 from 2019 levels (proposed).
- Work towards eliminating avoidable waste by 2050.
- Net zero domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

To that end, the Government introduced the [Environment Act 2021](#) in November 2021 that makes provision for most of these targets and gives them the legislative power to introduce the measures above. The act will also make some changes to existing legislations to enable consistency in collections.

## Context

In Surrey about £105 million<sup>2</sup> is spent each year collecting, managing and processing recycling and waste. By increasing the amount of waste prevented and the proportion

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<sup>2</sup> From the Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing: 2020-21 Final Outturn, England

recycled in the county it enables the cost of this service to reduce. It also benefits the environment; less raw materials are required, saving energy, emissions and protecting natural resources.

Significant achievements have been made possible by working together as a partnership; the most notable being our improved recycling rate, which in 2010-11 was 46.4% (13<sup>th</sup> highest nationally) and by 2020-21 was 55.1% (3<sup>rd</sup> highest nationally). More information on current performance can be found in **Annex 3**.

Despite this, it's now the right time to revisit how we work together, considering some of the challenges we face including the emerging policy to support RaWS. The direction of travel is not clear on this yet but should become apparent over the next couple of years. So, while now is not the right time to update the Surrey JMWMS and consult with residents whilst things are so uncertain, we do need a short-term approach to help us ensure we continue to manage Surrey's recycling and waste in the most efficient, effective, economical and sustainable way.

Therefore, our response to this emerging situation is to develop a partnership approach to waste prevention and recycling in Surrey for the next three years. This will look to, as a minimum, align with the Government's ambitions such as a 55% recycling rate by 2025 and 65% by 2035. There might be a requirement as a high performing county in England to go beyond this. In any event, we will strive to go beyond the national targets where possible and begin to respond to decarbonisation by planning changes to our vehicle fleets and infrastructure to reduce emissions in the shorter term and move towards net zero emissions in the longer term. The approach will.

- Bridge the gap ahead of further clarity from central Government.
- Consider the anticipated changes that may result from the key emerging national policy to support RaWS.
- Provide clear strategic direction for the next three years and a longer-term vision for the partnership that will continue to follow the waste hierarchy and work towards zero waste<sup>3</sup> reducing emissions in the process. This will aid the future development of a new JMWMS for Surrey post-2025.
- Enable us to drive down waste (particularly food and SUP waste) and increase the quality and quantity of our recycling.

#### Our vision

With the above in mind, we have developed the following vision statement for SEP 2025:

*Our vision is to eliminate avoidable waste and reuse, repair, recycle and recover any waste which cannot be eradicated in the most economical way.*

*Surrey's councils will continue to work in partnership to ensure our residents receive the highest quality of collection and disposal services possible and encourage our residents to reduce their household waste and own their impact on the natural environment.*

*Our ambition is to decarbonise our fleet and ensure that any new infrastructure is built and operated to minimise carbon emissions.*

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<sup>3</sup> means that at least 90% of operational waste has been reduced, reused, repurposed or recycled compared to the original baseline.

## Key drivers and priorities

### Drivers for change

We are at a crucial point now where we must reconsider how we can prevent more waste from arising, increase the quality and quantity of recycling and manage waste in the long term to minimise the impact on the environment and move towards a circular economy, which is being driven by several pressures including:

#### Emerging national policy

We will need to align with emerging national policies (as outlined above) that will be enshrined in legislation. While the policies aren't clear yet, they will fundamentally change the way recycling and waste services are funded and delivered. Therefore, we'll need to be mindful for future service provision and well prepared to deliver any required changes resulting from new national policy in the best way possible.

#### Reducing carbon at pace

Most authorities in Surrey have declared a climate emergency and all have set a target for reaching net zero emissions as individual organisations. Of the 12 authorities in Surrey, nine have agreed to be carbon neutral organisations by 2030, one authority by 2035, and two by 2050. The climate change strategies and action plans that have been produced by Surrey authorities recognise the carbon that recycling, and waste collection and disposal operations emit. They also recognise the role that preventing and reducing waste, increasing reuse and recycling and planned changes to vehicle fleets and infrastructure will play in tackling climate change.

#### Increasing population and number of households

The population of Surrey could rise to an estimated 1,309,500 by 2041, which could translate into 34,000 new houses being constructed<sup>4</sup>. This will result in more recycling and waste and therefore more pressure on our waste collection and disposal services.

#### Budget pressures

Surrey's authorities are facing unprecedented challenges because of reduced financial support from the Government combined with an increasing population and greater demand for our services. In addition, we are now experiencing the cost-of-living crisis in which prices for many commodities have risen sharply meaning services and infrastructure projects will cost more. This situation is being caused in part by a rise in inflation in the UK, in addition to the economic impact of global issues including the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic (which had already reduced economic activity across the county whilst further increasing the support our communities need from us).

#### Infrastructure limitations

There is only one energy from waste type facility (an Eco Park which includes a gasifier<sup>5</sup> and an anaerobic digestion<sup>6</sup> plant), a lack of recycling processing infrastructure and there are

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<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics

<sup>5</sup> A process used to convert waste into energy

<sup>6</sup> A process which uses micro-organisms to break down biodegradable material



limitations with transfer stations in the county such as the distance to/from them for some waste collection and street cleansing rounds. This situation drives up cost and emissions, which come from transporting waste over longer distances. Also, where we use third party sites to sort recycling, we are limited by what the operator chooses to accept, which drives up inconsistency and causes confusion for household waste collection regimes. Over the next two to three years, SEP will need to consider infrastructure options for future service delivery that reflects the plans and strategies across authorities and enables successful attainment of the performance objectives and targets set out in this document.

Stalling performance

The amount of residual waste per household in Surrey has been falling since 2013-14, hitting a low of 450.9kg per household in 2019-20. However, the COVID-19 pandemic saw this figure increase with more people being at home. While this is starting to decrease again as we move away from the pandemic, much more will need to be done to reach the proposed national target of a 50% reduction on 2019 levels by 2042.

Also, recycling rates levelled off back in 2016-17, and Surrey’s performance has stayed around the 55% mark. While this meets the national target for 2025, significant investment and/or changes to approach will likely be required to meet the 65% recycling rate target by 2035.

A recent composition analysis (set out in Annex 3) highlighted there is still an estimated 90,000 tonnes of material in residual bins which can be recycled. So, the scope for significant improvement on both residual waste reduction and recycling does exist.

**Key priorities**

The challenges set out above mean that the current situation is unsustainable. We need to reduce costs where possible whilst increasing performance and still providing a high-quality service to Surrey residents. To that end, we believe our key priorities should be to:

**Table 1: SEP 2025 priorities**

<p><b>Reduce all residual waste with a particular focus on food waste</b>          To ensure focus is applied at the top of the waste hierarchy and to align with national targets, we will focus on reducing residual waste by preventing it in the first place. Compared to high performing authorities in England, Surrey has a much higher level of residual waste. We will use the learning gained from these authorities in our future work programmes, and we will continue to engage with Surrey residents to reduce their waste, especially food waste.</p>
<p><b>Promote and maximise reuse</b>          To support the principle of a circular economy, we will seek to maximise opportunities to keep products in use for as long as possible through sharing, reuse, repair and refurbishment. This is an area we’ll provide focus and priority to by developing a reuse strategy for Surrey.</p>
<p><b>Increase participation in food waste recycling</b>          Of course, it’s best to reduce food waste where possible, but any food that is left over should be composted<sup>7</sup> or recycled, not only for the environmental benefits, but because of the money that can be saved, as it costs less than a third to recycle food waste than it</p>

<sup>7</sup> This should be done in a completely enclosed process such as a food waste digester as to not attract vermin

does to dispose of it as rubbish. Our capture rate for food waste recycling in Surrey in 2021 was 43%, and as the composition analysis highlighted, there is still an estimated 50,954 tonnes of food waste in residual bins that could be recycled. Therefore, as well as trying to reduce food waste from arising at all, increasing participation in food waste recycling will continue to be a priority for us.

**Increase the quality and quantity of dry mixed recycling (DMR)**

The recent composition analysis highlighted that there are still over 20,000 tonnes of plastic, paper and card, glass and metals that could be collected for recycling. Increasing the quantity collected and reducing contamination of DMR further (13,837 tonnes of recycling was rejected in 2020-21) will boost performance towards the 65% recycling rate target and will improve the quality of material and the prices we receive for selling it to re-processors. Therefore, we will work to improve the quantity and quality of the DMR recycling that we collect, which aligns with emerging policy.

**Decarbonise our waste collection and street cleansing vehicle fleet**

To align with our ambition to reach net zero emissions, we must look to reduce emissions from our collection vehicle fleet and switch to alternative fuels<sup>9</sup>. Therefore, SEP will develop a plan over the next couple of years to look at how we can achieve this objective to decarbonise our waste collection and street cleansing vehicle fleet that recognises the challenges that exist including affordability.

**Support the development of infrastructure**

We will consider what appropriate infrastructure is required to power our vehicles and how we create it, addressing limitations with the lack of recycling and waste infrastructure in the county and work together to develop solutions that address our collective needs.

**Support optimised collections**

We will help review collections, especially with the upcoming national changes in mind, so services run in the most optimal way from a financial and emissions viewpoint.

**Reduce fly-tipping**

We will work with enforcement teams to help bring those who fly-tip to justice, with the longer-term impact of reducing fly-tipping.

**Reduce litter**

We will develop a strategy which sets out our approach to tackling litter, and how we will work with different groups to take advantage of any funding opportunities that arise to reduce litter.

## The partnership approach to delivering our vision and priorities

### Targets

We appointed Eunomia Research and Consulting to develop a long-term waste flow model for Surrey. The model was created to help us understand how far upcoming national changes and the work we do will get us towards achieving national and existing local targets. Working with Eunomia, we reviewed a range of different scenarios to enable us to set realistic targets for the next three years (the monitoring period of SEP 2025) that keep us

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<sup>9</sup> This could include renewable diesel, biodiesel, electric or hydrogen. Options appraisal to be determined.

on track in the short term to meet longer term national targets. Our partnership targets are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: SEP 2025 targets

Measure	2021-22 (unaudited) <sup>9</sup>	SEP 2025 (monitoring period)		
		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Residual waste per household (KG)	470.95	461	449	446
Recycling rate (inc DRS)	54.43%	56%	57%	58%
Food waste capture rate	43% <sup>10</sup>		48% <sup>11</sup>	
DMR contamination rate	8.9%	<8%	<8%	<8%
Waste to landfill	15.1%	<6%	<3% <sup>12</sup>	<3%

The targets set out above have factored in the following measures that we think will happen nationally and locally over this three-year period:

#### National measures

- The SUP bans on plastic plates and cups, balloon sticks, polystyrene cups, expanded polystyrene food boxes, trays and pots come in from April 2023.
- The implementation of EPR from 2024, through a combination of mandatory labelling, consistency in collections and national communications campaigns, is expected to increase capture rates of recyclable packaging material.
- It is expected that there will be a change in waste composition due to EPR fee modulation and recyclability requirements when this comes in from 2025. There is likely to be a shift from non-recyclable pots, tubs and trays and composite packaging to recyclable alternatives, and some change from flexible composites to mono-material flexible polyethylene. There could be further changes in the recyclability of 'other plastics'; more challenging formats (composite flexible packaging and tubes) could also become recyclable.
- The UK Government introduce an additional set of core materials that must be collected at the kerbside for recycling. This will result in kerbside collections of at least cartons, aluminium foil and trays (from 2024), and film and plastic bags (from 2027).
- The UK Government introduce a DRS for plastic bottles and cans from late 2024, whereby materials will be returned via a separate network, but the recycling rate is apportioned to local authorities.

#### Local measures

- Food waste collections will be rolled out to all flats in Surrey where space and operations permit.
- The food waste recycling and DMR contamination reduction intervention work will continue to be developed and delivered by SEP in collaboration with Surrey's councils.

<sup>9</sup> Data for a financial year is confirmed and made available to the public once information has been validated by the WasteDataFlow team and the Environment Agency. This usually happens on the following December.

<sup>10</sup> Figure from 2021 composition analysis

<sup>11</sup> To be measured when the next composition analysis is carried out in 2024/25

<sup>12</sup> Aligns with SCC's target set out in their waste disposal contract re-procurement

- SEP will continue to encourage Surrey residents through multiple platforms to participate in food waste recycling.

### Strategic objectives and actions

To address our priorities above and meet our targets, we must deliver the work which is described in the strategic objectives and key actions in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: List of strategic objectives and key actions**

Strategic objective	Key actions
Deliver joint work programmes that focus on partnership priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued creation of annual work programmes that address the key priorities of the partnership to reduce waste, increase food waste recycling, reduce contamination to improve the quality and quantity of DMR and decarbonise our vehicle fleet. This will move to a new level of focus which will tie in with the individual authority delivery plans mentioned below.</li> <li>• Develop an infrastructure and transport plan that enables us to comply with the RaWS and key emerging policy; and decarbonise the fleet ideally by 2030 but in line with existing local authority policies.</li> <li>• Develop key countywide strategies for reuse and litter.</li> </ul>
Set local targets and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and agree annual performance indicators for each Surrey council that will contribute towards the overall partnership targets, along with individualised delivery plans that will enable the realisation of local and countywide targets.</li> </ul>
Exploit further opportunities to work jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on past work and look at opportunities to carry out joint processes where viable to procure required products (vehicles and bins/containers) to introduce consistent collections as determined by emerging Government policy.</li> </ul>
Respond to policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to respond to consultations held by Government on proposed policy to ensure our collective views are heard and that SEP 2025 remains aligned.</li> <li>• Engage positively with industry groups such as the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning &amp; Transport (ADEPT), The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) and The National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) to raise concerns and share thoughts and ideas on future policy and its implementation.</li> </ul>
Adopt best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to research top performing authorities in England that are comparable to Surrey's authorities using rurality and deprivation as a starting point, and overlaying delivery factors, and then feed this learning into the development of the above annual work programmes and individual delivery plans.</li> <li>• Work with the fly-tipping enforcement teams to continue to share and develop intelligence, knowledge and best practice.</li> </ul>

## Monitoring

Progress against the targets, key actions including the annual SEP work programme and local delivery plans will be monitored quarterly. A standard template will be developed for this, and it will be reported back to the SEP Officers and Members Group at their quarterly meetings.

## Review

Targets and the work programme/individual delivery plans will be reviewed annually with adjustments to targets made where necessary including adding new projects to the annual SEP work programme and individual delivery plans, where required to support target achievement. This will be developed and agreed with the SEP Officers and Members Groups.

## Revision process

SEP 2025 is set to run to 2025. At the start of 2025 (the final year for SEP 2025) we'll begin work on developing a new Surrey JMWMS. At this point we should have further clarity from Government on the way forward following the implementation of the RaWS measures which are set to start from 2024-25. Once the Surrey JMWMS is drafted, consulted on, approved and adopted, this will be our new plan for partnership working from 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> Waste Framework Directive 2008. Image taken from [Waste Framework Directive \(eur-lex.europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/1225/oj).

<sup>2</sup> Resources and Waste Strategy. Image taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england/resources-and-waste-strategy-at-a-glance>



# Surrey Environment Partnership Work Programme

2022 - 2023



## Objectives

The focus for 2022-23 will be supporting the SEP priorities which are waste reduction, food waste recycling and reducing contamination of dry mixed recycling. Activity will include making service improvements that ensure Surrey residents are enabled to make the changes we are asking of them, as well as communicating and engaging with residents to influence their behaviour and help them understand how their current behaviours impact the environment.

Work will also include providing the required data and insights to inform decision making and improve resident understanding of what happens to their waste, as well as managing the partnership and defining the future waste strategy for Surrey.

The objectives are to:

1. Develop and deliver initiatives to support the priority area of waste reduction, with a particular emphasis on food waste.
2. Develop and deliver initiatives to support the priority area of food waste recycling.
3. Develop and deliver initiatives to support the priority area of reducing contamination and improving the quality and quantity of dry mixed recycling.
4. Educate and encourage residents and their children to take action to reduce, reuse and recycle quality material.
5. Develop and implement a new recycling and waste strategy for Surrey and associated delivery plans.
6. Further improve our use of data and insight in order to better inform decision-making and communication with partners and residents.
7. Ensure partners are kept informed and the reputation of SEP continues to be protected and developed.
8. Manage the partnership effectively to ensure activities are delivered with appropriate governance and oversight.
9. Develop and maintain links with other groups and initiatives to ensure that our work remains relevant in the wider context.
10. Ensure that we have the capacity to be able to respond to new issues and opportunities as they arise.

## Programme of activity

For each objective we have detailed below the activities for 2022-23. These will be reviewed regularly and updated as appropriate. Also included is how success will be measured for each objective and the input required from partners to ensure successful delivery.

Objective 1: Develop and deliver initiatives to support the priority area of waste reduction, with a particular emphasis on food waste reduction			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Waste reduction incentive scheme	Continued management of the Rethink Waste scheme currently being trialled in Elmbridge. The trial will run until March 2023, but it will be evaluated from November 2022 to establish whether it should be rolled out more widely within the county in 2023-24.	Reduction in residual waste tonnage in Elmbridge, and resident sign up and engagement with the scheme.	Elmbridge Borough Council: Promotion of scheme.
Compost bin and hot composter 'sales'	Run and promote a series of time-limited 'sales' which offer residents the opportunity to buy a discounted compost bin or hot composter to manage their garden and food waste at home.	Sales of compost bins and hot composters and return on investment from tonnage diverted.	All partners: Use communications toolkits to share messages and promote sales.
Food waste reduction partnerships	Carry out a review of any organisations that operate within Surrey which we could partner with to promote food waste reduction and reuse, promoting a local circular economy for any food waste which cannot be prevented.	Identification of organisations who are willing to partner with us to reduce food waste.	All partners: Provide details of any known organisations that could be approached.
Food waste reduction online toolkit	Create a new section of the SEP website featuring links to existing food waste reduction tools and national initiatives.  Communications to signpost residents to the resources – paid promotion to be covered by campaign budget included under objective 4.	Web page views plus communications reach and engagement.	All partners: - Add link to new section to own websites. - Use communications toolkit to share messages and promote the new online resource.

Objective 2: Develop and deliver initiatives to support the priority area of food waste recycling			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Food recycling at flats	Introduce food recycling at flats where there is currently no collection, including providing bins, liners and communication materials to engage residents in the new service.	Number of properties a new food waste service is provided to. Monitoring of fill levels to assess participation in new services.	All partners: - Provide site details. - Review and approval of communication materials. - Carry out delivery of food bins and caddies. - Carry out crew training (where bins are different from current) including testing on vehicles. - Work with contractor / DSO supervisors to plan new collection routes. - Resolve any collection problems. - Briefing of local customer service team and members. Provide safe storage of bins / associated items.
	Re-launch existing food recycling services at flats with improved bins, signage, liners and communication materials to engage residents in the re-launch and increase use of the service.	Number of properties covered. Comparison of pre-monitoring and post-monitoring fill levels and caddy orders to assess increases in participation.	All partners: - Provide site details. - Review and approval of communication materials. - Carry out delivery of food bins and caddies. - Carry out crew training (where bins are different from current) including testing on vehicles.

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			- Resolve any collection problems. - Briefing of local customer service team and members. Provide safe storage of bins / associated items.
Food waste recycling targeted interventions	Roll out of interventions which were successful in previous trials, i.e., use of no food waste stickers on residual bins combined with communications delivered through letterbox. Will be targeted at low performing households, identified via in-cab exceptions data if available, or round tonnage/ local operational knowledge.	Increase in resident participation in the service and/or tonnages depending on data availability.	All participating D&Bs: - Discussion and agreement of data to be used/ areas to be targeted. - Review and approval of intervention materials. - Briefing of local customer service team and members. Provision of any caddies or food bins requested.
Explore adding 'no food waste' to new residual bins	Explore options for all D&Bs to include a 'no food waste' message on all new residual waste bins, to direct residents to use the food waste recycling service.	Identifying a practical approach that can be implemented to include a 'no food waste' message on new residual waste bins.	Provide input to discussions of options.
Review replacement food bin policies	Carry out a review of current policies for providing replacement food bins and caddies and assess options to make them easily available to residents.	Reaching agreement on an approach that could align policies to make food bins and caddies easily available to residents.	Provide input to discussions of options.
Investigate regular flats bin cleaning	Investigate and trial options for introducing regular cleaning of communal food waste bins, to resolve hygiene issues and make the bins more appealing for residents to use.	Carrying out trials and producing an options appraisal with a cost benefit analysis for introducing regular bin cleaning.	Provide input to discussions of options. Partners participating in trials: - Provide suitable site details. - Assist in co-ordinating with timing of collections. Briefing of local customer service team and members.

Objective 3: Develop and deliver initiatives to support the priority area of reducing contamination and improving the quality and quantity of dry mixed recycling.			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Contamination reduction at flats	Continuing the rollout of measures to reduce the contamination of communal recycling bins at blocks of flats with significant issues. This will include reviewing bin capacity, introducing reduced aperture lids and locks or providing one-off replacements of broken locks, updating signage and providing communication materials to encourage residents to recycle the right items.	Number of properties covered. Comparison of pre-monitoring and post-monitoring observations of contamination levels to assess improvements in material quality.	All partners: - Provide site details and attend site visits where required. - Review and approval of communication materials. - Carry out delivery of DMR bins. - Carry out crew training (where bins are different from current), including testing on vehicles. - Resolve any collection problems. - Briefing of local customer service team and members. Provide safe storage of bins / associated items.
Contamination interventions	Continuing the trial of targeted letters to residents who repeatedly contaminate. Taking learnings from trials started in the joint contract areas and carrying out further trials in other authorities.	Reduction in the number of repeated contaminators.	All participating D&Bs: - Provide in-cab lock out data as required and agree address lists to target. - Review and approval of communication materials. Briefing of local customer service team and members.
	Scope options to procure a third party to carry out monitoring or interventions. This could potentially involve monitoring whether collection crews are correctly identifying and not emptying contaminated bins or tagging bins that are contaminated.	Summary of actions taken by individual authorities to improve crew performance in response to monitoring results. This may include the results of locally managed spot checks/monitoring	All participating D&Bs: - Provide training/guidance to contractor on the expected practise for locking out bins. - Provide round data on streets to target.

4

		showing any improvements to performance.  Reduction in rejected loads and reduced contamination levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Briefing of local customer service team and members.</li> <li>- To act on the results of monitoring, to deliver any required local improvements e.g. crew training.</li> </ul> <p>To conduct spot checks following the delivery of any improvements and share the results within three months.</p>
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Objective 4: Educate and encourage residents and their children to take action to reduce, reuse and recycle quality material			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Own Your Impact campaign	<p>Year-long communications campaign badged under a new theme 'Own Your Impact'.</p> <p>To include the following specific campaign phases to support SEP's priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 x food waste reduction.</li> <li>- 2 x food waste recycling.</li> <li>- 1 x contamination reduction/ recycling education.</li> <li>- 1 x festive season contamination reduction.</li> </ul> <p>Ongoing communications activity to encourage and motivate residents to reduce waste, including single-use plastics and to reuse or repair where possible. This will link to national awareness days/weeks and events where relevant.</p> <p>Support and promotion of national WRAP initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recycle Week (2022 theme TBC).</li> <li>- Food Waste Action Week (reduction focus).</li> </ul>	<p>Independent research to evaluate the impact of the campaign and service guides with residents. This will look at a range of measures such as awareness, message penetration, relevance, persuasiveness, engagement and claimed behaviour change.</p> <p>Digital channel metrics including website visits and social media reach and engagements (e.g., shares, retweets, video views and comments).</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use campaign toolkits to share messages with residents and staff through own channels.</li> <li>- Share posts/tweets from SEP social media channels.</li> </ul>
Surrey Recycles search tool, app and waste sorting game	<p>Ongoing management, updates and improvements to the search tool, app and waste sorting game which aim to educate residents and specifically reduce contamination of mixed recycling bins.</p> <p>Communications to encourage and increase usage of the tool, app and game undertaken as part of the Own Your Impact campaign.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of searches and downloads of the Surrey Recycles search tool and app and plays of the waste sorting game.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of the search tool, app and waste sorting game.</li> </ul> <p>Providing updates when services or acceptance criteria changes.</p>
Service guides and calendars	<p>Creation and distribution of printed annual recycling guides tailored for each area but based on a consistent template. Optional calendars also included where requested.</p> <p>Communication activity on social media to highlight the recycling guides to residents and encourage them to read and retain them.</p>	<p>Independent research to evaluate the impact of the campaign and service guides with residents. This will look at a range of measures such as awareness, retention and message penetration.</p> <p>Social media reach and engagement.</p>	<p>All participating D&amp;Bs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing content for guides.</li> <li>- Reviewing and signing off content.</li> <li>- Providing residential postal addresses where relevant.</li> </ul> <p>Use of communications</p>
SEP digital channels	<p>Ongoing management, development and promotion of the SEP website and social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Budget also covers subscriptions to a photo library for design use, film editing and animation tools, social media management system and e-newsletter software.</p>	<p>Digital metrics including website page views, social media reach and engagements (likes/shares/comments/retweets etc) and video views.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adding relevant SEP website links to own websites.</li> </ul> <p>Sharing content from SEP channels on own channels.</p>
Primary schools'	<p>Promotion of SEP website educational resources to primary school teachers.</p>	<p>Website visits and downloads of resources.</p>	<p>All partners</p> <p>Promotion of the resources.</p>

5

education programme	Development of additional new resources for the 2022/23 academic year to add to the SEP website.		
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Objective 5: Develop and implement a new recycling and waste strategy for Surrey and associated delivery plans			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Key waste policy consultation responses	<p>Produce and submit partnership responses to possible further consultations on the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy including a new written assessment process for separate recycling collection, minimum service standards, recycling credits, proposals from the Waste Prevention Programme for England, and any other waste related consultations that may arise throughout the year.</p>	<p>Agree and submit responses ahead of deadlines.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and input into SEP responses where necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Produce individual response where required using the SEP responses as a template.</p>
SEP 2025: A partnership approach to waste prevention and recycling	<p>Development of 'SEP 2025: A partnership approach to waste prevention and recycling', which will look as a minimum to align with the Government's ambitions such as a 55% recycling rate by 2025 and 65% by 2035 and strive to go beyond this, and begin to respond to decarbonisation by planning changes to our vehicle fleets and infrastructure to reduce emissions in the shorter term and move towards net-zero emissions in the longer term. SEP 2025 will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bridge the gap ahead of further clarity from central government;</li> <li>• take into account the anticipated changes resulting from the key emerging national policy to support the Resources and Waste Strategy;</li> <li>• provide clear strategic direction for the next 3 years and a longer term vision for the partnership that will continue to follow the waste hierarchy and work towards a net-zero waste trajectory. This will aid the future development of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey post 2025; and</li> <li>• enable us to drive down waste (particularly food and single use plastic waste) and increase the quality and quantity of our recycling.</li> </ul>	<p>All partners endorsing and adopting SEP 2025 by March 2023.</p> <p>Delivery of the associated targets.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input into the design of SEP 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Endorse and adopt SEP 2025.</p>
Infrastructure & Transport Delivery Plan	<p>To review and document the existing infrastructure, it's capacity and usage.</p> <p>To consider future infrastructure requirements for managing waste in accordance with the national Resources and Waste Strategy and develop a delivery plan.</p> <p>To develop a plan to decarbonise the collection and disposal transport fleet and establish the supporting infrastructure requirements.</p>	<p>All partners endorsing and adopting the delivery plan by September 2023.</p> <p>Delivery of the associated targets set out in the final delivery plan.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input into the review and documentation of existing infrastructure, it's capacity ad usage and in the development of future requirements.</li> <li>- Input into the plan to decarbonise the collection and disposal fleet and to understand supporting infrastructure needs.</li> <li>- Endorse and adopt the agreed final delivery plan.</li> </ul>
Future governance arrangements	<p>Agree a pathway towards formalising Surrey Environment Partnership governance and approvals processes.</p>	<p>Greater transparency of decision-making.</p> <p>SEP has delegated authority to make decisions on matters such as budget</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input into development of proposals.</li> </ul> <p>Provide information on individual authority governance arrangements and approvals processes.</p>

6



		agreement and approvals for strategy consultations.	
Funding mechanisms	Carry out a review of options to introduce a short-term financial incentive to increase food waste recycling and/or reduce contamination, prior to any new burdens funding from government, as part of the SEP funding mechanism. This would recognise the additional cost to D&Bs of expanding services.  Agree SEP and WCA funding arrangements for 2023-24 onwards in light of changes that will arise from the national Resources and Waste Strategy.	Reaching agreement on a financial incentive to introduce.	All partners: - Provide input to discussions of options. SCC: Agree and communicate funding arrangements for 2023-24 in time for individual authority budget setting cycles, with the aim of establishing a financial mechanism that will remain year-on-year until further funding arrangements develop through government policy.
Support the development of disposal contract requirements	Support SCC in developing the requirements for new waste disposal arrangements for 2024 onwards to ensure a strategic fit with the future direction of travel.  Ensure sufficient provision and management mechanisms within the new disposal contract(s) to ensure quality data is issued and updated in a timely manner and consistent format.	SCC are supported to ensure that future waste disposal arrangements are aligned with the strategic direction of the SEP.  The contractor(s) provide quality and reliable data within timescales required	SCC: - Consultation with partners as appropriate Districts and Boroughs: - Provide feedback on proposals.

Objective 6: Further improve our use of data and insight in order to better inform decision-making and communication with partners and residents.			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Performance reporting	Use up to date data to provide analysis and insights to current trends and performance against targets, including recycling performance, emissions and contract performance.  Produce quarterly performance reports for SEP members and officers.	Members and officers are well informed regarding strategic and operational performance.  Strategic decision-making processes are based on a robust and transparent evidence base.	All partners: - Review performance reports and provide feedback on format. Help identify opportunities for performance improvement.
Data management	Management of the SEP waste data system, including contract management and managing the supply of weighbridge data.  Management of third-party contractor data so that performance reporting incorporates up to date data regarding materials collected by third parties.	Data gathering from all parties becomes fully automated, without need of further development.	All partners: Support the introduction of new processes and reporting data issues.
What happened to Surrey's waste	Creation of report and infographic highlighting what happens to the waste collected in Surrey.  Communications activity to share the report findings with residents.	Resident engagement with 'What happened to Surrey's waste' report (e.g. website visits, social media engagements).	All partners: - Promotion of the report/ sharing of communications. Surrey County Council: Help with responding to media requests relating to waste disposal.

7

Future data management system	Develop options for when Open Sky contract ends in February 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake analysis of the OpenSky contract and data system performance, and future development requirements.</li> <li>Complete an appraisal of the options to manage data following the end of the current contract, with support of D&amp;Bs and SCC.</li> <li>Undertake procurement/implementation of the chosen option to ensure that there is no degradation of data availability / analysis.</li> </ul>	Report identifying the outcome of the review of the OpenSky contract and the potential options for the end of the contract.  Successful procurement & implementation of new system.	All partners: - Engagement of officers in the review of OpenSky and the future options.
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Objective 7: Ensure partners are kept informed and the reputation of SEP continues to be protected and developed			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Protecting and building the reputation of SEP	Respond to media enquiries from local and trade media, drafting responses and liaising with partners if appropriate.  Generate coverage in key trade media (local Surrey media engagement will be undertaken as part of the Own Your Impact campaign).  Identify, draft and submit entries for key award schemes to highlight the work being done in Surrey.	Positive media coverage. Nominations for awards. Involvement in industry/Government panels.	None.
Keeping partners informed	Monthly email updates detailing progress, outcomes and upcoming activities in the SEP programme.  An end of year report prepared for the June meeting cycle and an Annual Review of activity and outcomes created and published on the SEP website following release of Defra waste statistics.  Creation of quarterly Environment Matters email newsletter and distribution to all members and senior officers in partner authorities.	Partner feedback.	All partners: Share information with internal stakeholders.
Member seminars	Develop and deliver a programme of seminars on recycling and waste for all members across Surrey.	Partner feedback.	Help design and deliver seminars where required.

Objective 8: Manage the partnership effectively to ensure activities are delivered with appropriate governance and oversight			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
SEP governance	Agenda planning in consultation with SEP Member and Officer Chairmen.  Administration of all the SEP member and officer meetings, including booking meeting venues, dispatch of papers and minute taking.	Smooth running of partnership governance processes.	Attendance at relevant meetings.

8

Financial management	<p>Monthly budget monitoring processes and production of quarterly reports for partners.</p> <p>Administration of Surrey waste financial mechanisms payments and administration of recycling credits payments for organisations in the Surrey (furniture) re-use network.</p> <p>Identification of potential savings opportunities, service efficiencies and budget reductions.</p>	<p>Timely and accurate reports available for partners to review.</p> <p>Payments are made in a timely manner.</p> <p>Development and approval of a savings plan for 2023-24 and delivery of actions set out in the plan.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To invoice for services within appropriate timescales to enable effective and efficient budget management.</li> <li>- To support the delivery of the actions set out in the savings plan.</li> </ul>
Programme management	<p>Develop work programme proposals.</p> <p>Manage the SEP work programme for 22-23 by administering a process to plan and design projects and other work that the partnership has agreed to.</p> <p>Monitor and report against progress with delivery to SEP partners on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>Ensuring projects and other work have an agreed plan to work from.</p> <p>Providing accurate and informative updates on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>All partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input into planning and help delivery of projects and other work where required.</li> <li>- Review reports and ask for additional information where necessary.</li> </ul>

Objective 9: Develop and maintain links with other groups and initiatives to ensure that our work remains relevant in the wider context			
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities
Fly-tipping/ Enforcement Group	Provide administration support to the Enforcement Group, which is made up of officers from each Surrey authority.	Partners are kept up to date with what is happening across Surrey and issues can be dealt with as they arise.	All partners - relevant officers to attend meetings.
Waste industry groups	Attend meetings and monitor updates from groups such as ADEPT, South East Waste Partnership Managers, NAWDO and LARAC.	Good relationships built with industry and authority colleagues. Insights and intelligence gained from industry experts.	None.
Surrey Comms Group	Attend meetings to share details of SEP work programme and keep informed about other countywide communications work being undertaken.  Share toolkits for upcoming SEP activities via Surrey Comms Group for partner communications teams to use.	Use of toolkits/ sharing of messages by partner communications teams.	All partners: - Encourage communications teams to support and share SEP messages.
Planning Officers	Liaise with planning officers to ensure that guidance on bin storage and access is provided to developers.	Best practice shared and consistent guidance used by authorities.	Districts and Boroughs: - Provide case studies and best practice examples. - Liaise with planning officers in their authorities - Publish guidance on websites where appropriate.

9

Objective 10: Ensure that we have the capacity to be able to respond to new issues and opportunities as they arise.				
Activity	Description	How will success be measured?	Partner responsibilities	Budget
Crisis and issues management	Rapid response to any crises or issues that arise during the year.	To be determined by the nature of the crisis or issue and the response required.	To be determined by the nature of the crisis or issue and the response required.	Covered by underspends or reserves as appropriate.
Maximising opportunities	Allocate resource to research, develop or deliver new opportunities that emerge during the year.	To be determined by the nature of the opportunity.	To be determined by the nature of the opportunity.	Covered by underspends or reserves as appropriate.



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10

## **Annex 2 - Duties and responsibilities in accordance with relevant key legislation**

- **Environmental Protection Act 1990.** This is the main legislation that has covered waste management for the last 30 years. Key responsibilities include (but are not limited to):
  - A duty to provide a domestic waste collection service to households. Local authorities can also offer collection services to businesses for which they can charge. This is exempt from VAT.
  - A duty to provide domestic waste disposal and provide the necessary facilities for homeowners to dispose of their own refuse.
  - And a duty of care to handle waste responsibly.
- **EU Landfill Directive 1999.** This set minimum standards and targets to reduce reliance on landfill as a disposal option.
- **Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003.** The JMWMS requirement sits under this. It sets out that in a two-tier area, local authorities have a legal requirement to have a joint strategy for the management of recycling and waste from households. This legislation also states that the strategy must be kept under review, and any significant future revisions will require public consultation.
- **Waste Framework Directive 2008.** This includes basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of recycling and waste, and a legally binding five-step waste hierarchy.
- **Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, 2012.** This legislation chiefly transposes the requirements of the 2008 EU revised Waste Framework Directive into UK law. A key part of the regulation is to prioritise recycling over disposal. Local authorities are required to have regard to the waste hierarchy (above) in the preparation of waste development frameworks including local development plans.
- **Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 -** Classifies waste according to household, industrial and commercial for the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act. Sets out where charges for the collection or disposal of certain types of non-domestic household waste can be made.
- **MRF Regulations and Code of Practice 2014 -** The main aim of the regulation (implemented via the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014) is to improve transparency on material quality in the supply chain, through provision of accurate information on contamination levels.

## Annex 3 - Current performance and waste composition

### Current performance

Recycling and waste performance in Surrey is currently monitored by measuring the amount of household waste generated within the county and how much of it is either recycled, recovered or sent to landfill. The most recent revision of the Surrey JMWMS gave performance data up to and including 2013-14, which showed that:

- The quantity of household waste generated in Surrey decreased by 9% from 583,518 tonnes in 2006-07 to 532,773 tonnes in 2013-14.
- The proportion of household waste that was recycled increased from 31% in 2006-7 to 52% in 2013-14.
- The amount of rubbish sent to landfill declined dramatically from 67% in 2006-07 to 11% in 2013-14.
- The amount of rubbish sent for energy recovery went from 2% in 2006-7 to 36% in 2013-14.

Since 2013-14, the total amount of household waste generated in Surrey has continued to fall, reaching a low of 507,428 tonnes in 2018-19 (a 5% reduction from 2013-14). In 2020-21 it increased significantly to 539,777 tonnes as shown in 1 below. However, this large spike correlated with the coronavirus pandemic and more people being at home. Provisional data for 2021-22, currently being audited by Defra ahead of publication in December 2022, shows that household waste decreased to approximately 520,000 tonnes.

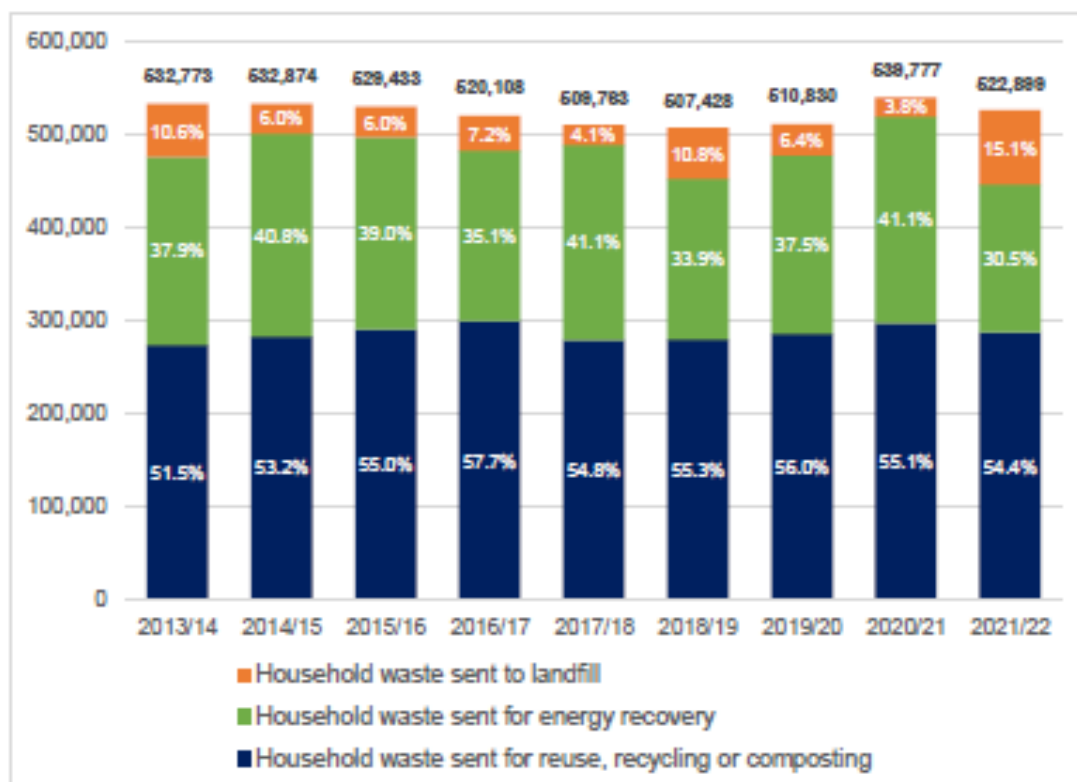
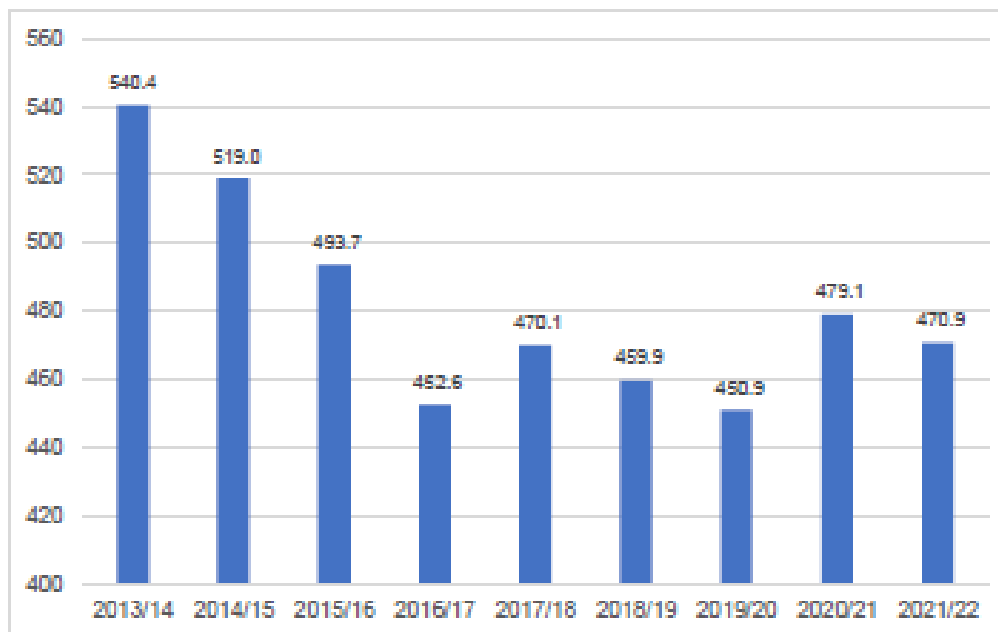


Figure 1: Household waste treated in Surrey from 2013-14 to 2021-22

Between 2013-14 and 2016-17 there was a steady increase in the proportion of household waste that was recycled each year, reaching a peak at 57.7% in 2016-17. From this point forward, SCC lost markets for recycling carpets and rigid plastics, and the ability to compost autumn leaf litter from street cleansing. Also, standards applied by the Environment Agency around what could be recycled began to tighten at this time with re-processors focussing more on quality, and not quantity, and demanding material with less contamination, which led to more recycling being rejected by materials recovery facilities (MRFs). Furthermore, Surrey had already realised most of the benefits associated with changes to recycling services such as the rollout of separate food waste collections from households, which has been provided by every Surrey authority since around 2012-13. With the above in mind, Surrey's recycling rate has fluctuated, but has remained around 55% for the last four years (Figure 1). Provisional data for 2021-22 indicates an unaudited recycling rate of 54.4%.

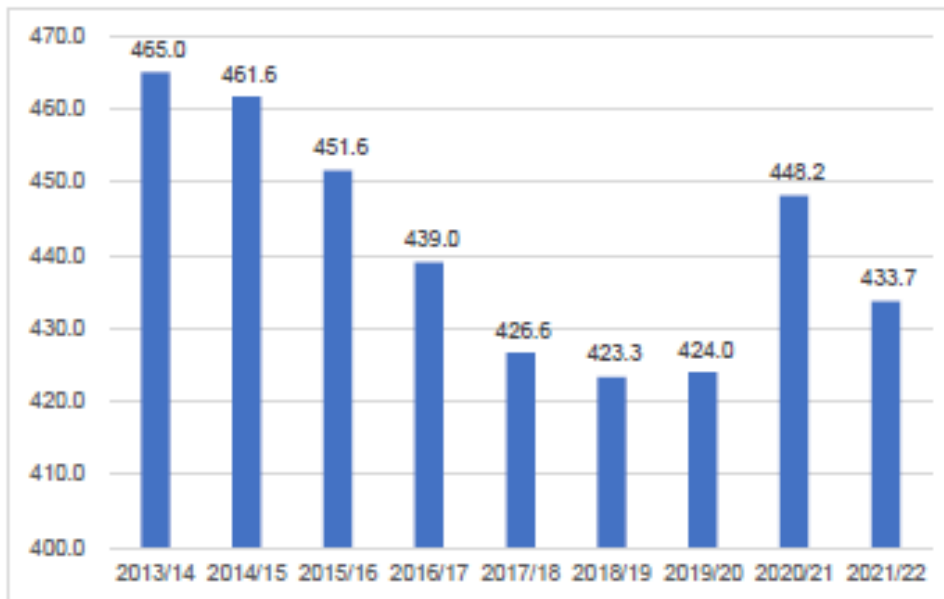
We have continued to reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill (Figure 1), hitting lows of around 4% in 2017-18 and 2020-21, although it has fluctuated around an average of 6 - 7%. However, provisional data for 2021-22 indicates that it has gone up to an estimated 15.1%. This was due to operational shutdowns at facilities used to treat Surrey's rubbish and a reduction in the amount of waste that was sent to facilities in Europe.

The amount of residual household waste collected per household in Surrey has been falling since 2013-14 hitting a low of 450.9kg per household in 2019-20 (Figure 2). However, there was a large spike in 2020-21, taking it up to 479.1kg per household, but again this correlates with the coronavirus pandemic and more people being at home. The unaudited data for 2021-22 now puts this at 470.9kg per household.



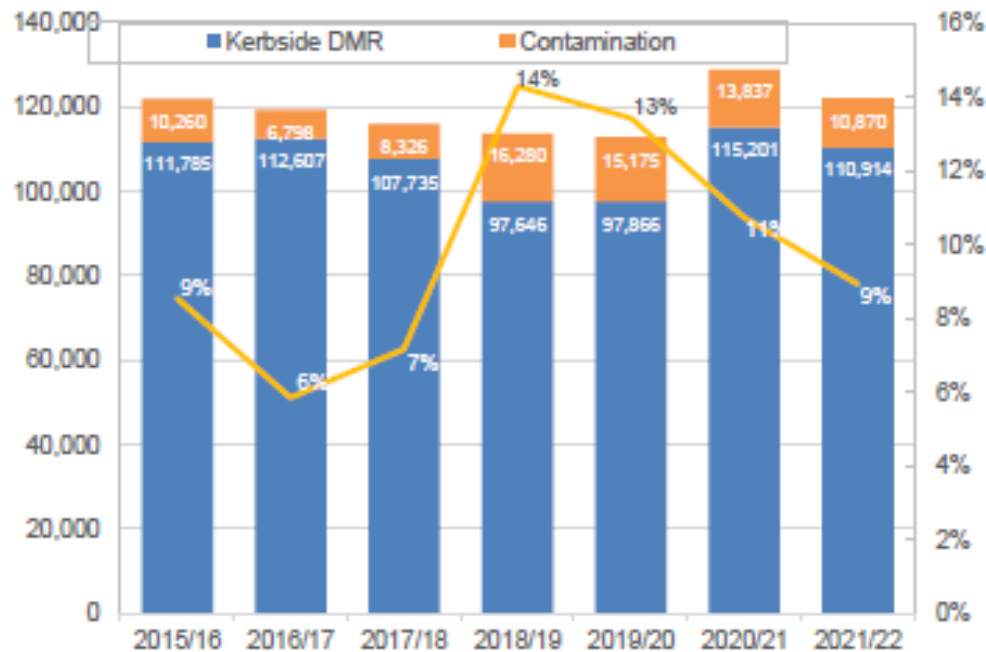
**Figure 2: Residual household waste per household (kg) in Surrey from 2013-14 to 2021-22**

The amount of household waste collected per person in Surrey has also been falling since 2013-14 (Figure 3) hitting a low of 423.3kg per person in 2018-19. Again, there was a large spike shown here in 2020-21, taking it up to 448.2kg per person, but again this correlates with the coronavirus pandemic and more people being at home. The unaudited data for 2021-22 indicates that this has dropped to 433.7kg per person.



**Figure 3: Collected household waste per person in Surrey from 2013-14 to 2021-22**

In 2015-16, data began to be collected on contamination of dry mixed recycling (DMR) following the introduction of legislation that required Material Recovery Facilities to sample material being delivered. Figure 4 shows a large spike in 2018-19, which was when data was consistently reported for all D&Bs, as it was limited before this. Since then, SEP has worked to drive down contamination, the effects of which can be seen in 2019-20 and 2020-21.



**Figure 4: Contamination of DMR in Surrey from 2015-16 to 2021-22**

## How we compare with others

Defra publishes performance data on an annual basis for each local authority in England. Table 1 below shows Surrey's position in a league table with all other local authorities in England in relation to performance data on recycling rates, residual waste per household, and collected household waste per person for 2020-21.

**Table 1: Position in the Defra league table for 2020-21**

Authority	% recycled, reused or composted	Rank in the league table	Residual household waste per household (kg)	Rank in the league table	Total household waste per person (kg)	Rank in the league table
<b>Disposal Authorities Only (out of 30)</b>						
Surrey County Council	55.1%	3rd	479.1	6th	448.2	17th
<b>Waste Collection Authorities Only (out of 308)</b>						
Elmbridge Borough Council	54.5%	37th	469.1	101st	440.5	264th
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	53.7%	43rd	447	77th	388.3	129th
Guildford Borough Council	58.9%	15th	389.2	32nd	373.7	102nd
Mole Valley District Council	56.6%	25th	426.5	59th	437	259th
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	53.2%	51st	413.2	49th	368.3	92nd
Runnymede Borough Council	49.0%	76th	411.9	47th	334.8	31st
Spelthorne Borough Council	46.4%	102nd	457	85th	369.8	95th
Surrey Heath Borough Council	61.3%	5th	364.9	22nd	397.1	155th
Tandridge District Council	59.9%	10th	379.6	29th	397.8	157th
Waverley Borough Council	57.0%	22nd	388.9	31st	391.2	140th
Woking Borough Council	54.3%	40th	434.5	66th	408.2	190th

Surrey has one of the best rates of recycling, reuse and composting at 55.1% (3<sup>rd</sup>) and residual waste per household at 479.1kg (6<sup>th</sup>) of all disposal authorities in England. However, it ranks around mid-table for landfill usage (14<sup>th</sup>) and collected household waste per person (17<sup>th</sup>).

Landfill rates are also provided, but this can only be compared by disposal authority. In 2020-21, Surrey ranked 14<sup>th</sup> out of 30 disposal authorities with a landfill rate of 3.8%.

Most waste collection authorities in Surrey (9 out of 11) rank in the top 50 for recycling, reuse and composting performance with Surrey Heath Borough Council placed at fifth.

However, performance on residual waste is less encouraging with just over half (8 out of 11) place in the top 50 for residual household waste per household with the rest between 50<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup>. Only one authority of 11 is in the top 50 for collected household waste per person with the rest between 92<sup>nd</sup> and 264<sup>th</sup>.

In summary, while recycling performance is mostly encouraging, residual waste volumes are high compared to other authorities in England. To that end, there is more that can be done to improve performance in Surrey. We have looked at the top authorities in England that are comparable to Surrey's authorities in terms of rurality and deprivation to see what we can learn from them, and this thinking has been incorporated into the key actions referred to in the section on the **partnership approach to achieving our vision, objectives and targets** in the main SEP 2025 approach document.

### Where our recycling and waste goes

Surrey's residents have a keen interest in what happens to their recycling and waste with previous research suggesting that increased transparency around what happens to recycling and waste once collected can positively affect recycling behaviours. A report, *What Happened to Surrey's Waste, 2020/21*, is available on [SEP's website](#). In summary, Figure below shows that of the 539,777 tonnes of household recycling and waste generated in Surrey in 2020-21, 76.9% of it remained in the UK, 15.7% was treated in Europe (largely Germany and the Netherlands) and 7.4% was treated outside of Europe (largely India).

Of the 287,409 tonnes of recycling collected in 2020-21, 83.4% was processed in the UK, 3.1% in Europe and 13.3% outside of Europe.

Of the 242,368 tonnes of rubbish collected in 2020-21, 69.2% was treated in the UK with the remaining 30.8% treated in Europe.



**Figure 5: Where our recycling and waste went in 2020-21**

### Waste composition

Understanding the composition of waste in Surrey provides a valuable insight on where to target future resource to reduce waste and increase recycling. To that end we undertook detailed sampling and analysis of recycling and residual bins at houses and flats in the



summer of 2021. Based on the materials that each of the authorities are currently able to accept for recycling, Error! Reference source not found.shows the proportion of each material that was presented in the rubbish bin but that the analysis shows could have been recycled.

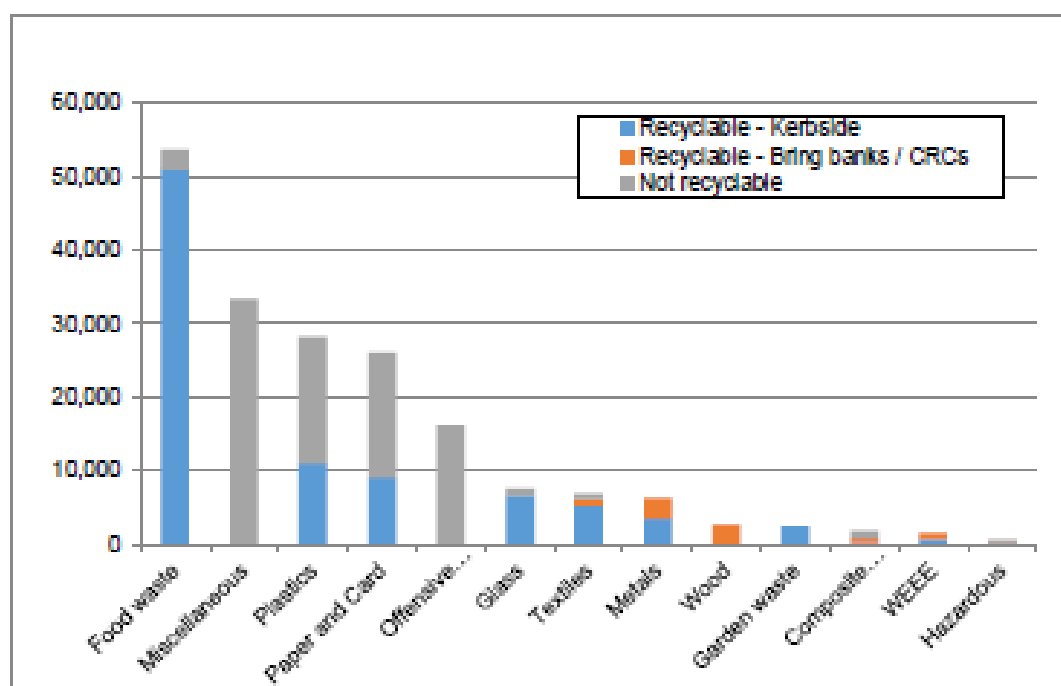


Figure 6: Recycling potential of residual waste 2021

In summary this shows that:

- Nearly 90,000 tonnes of material in kerbside rubbish bins could be recycled. Likewise, nearly 90,000 tonnes are not currently recyclable. A further 7,600 tonnes could be recycled at bring banks or Community Recycling Centres.
- The largest proportion of material which could be recycled is food waste at nearly 51,000 tonnes, over half the recyclable material. Only a small proportion of food waste is not recyclable – 2,700 tonnes of liquids and oils.
- There are significant quantities of plastics and paper and card in residual waste. However, only 40% and 30% of these respectively are recyclable, at 11,000 and 9,000 tonnes. Some plastics such as films and flexibles aren't accepted at the sorting facilities we use. This is because they can become entangled in equipment causing blockages increasing machinery downtime and, crucially, the current onward market for these materials isn't substantial. Paper and card can become contaminated when mixed with food waste, so is rejected for recycling when presented in this state. Some paper and card (shredded paper, glittery Christmas cards and wrapping paper etc.) aren't accepted for recycling as it can cause problems at the sorting facilities we use and the paper fibres are often of low grade or can't be separated.

END.