



Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy

Public Consultation Response

June 2008



Entec

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Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees Borough Councils

Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to summarise the outcomes of the recent public consultation exercise on the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS). Views were sought from members of the public on the Draft Headline JWMS through a combination of public events, exhibitions and online questionnaires by the five partner Authorities. This report summarises the responses received and provides recommendations with regards to potential amendments to the JWMS. Appendix A contains a summary of all the responses received as compiled by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit.

1.2 The Public Consultation Documents

The Tees Valley Authorities developed a leaflet to summarise the Draft JWMS. This leaflet included the reasons for the update of the JWMS, the draft principles steering the JWMS process and the Draft Preferred Option identified through the strategy process. This leaflet is included in Appendix B to this report.



2. Question 1

2.1 Introduction

Question 1 of the public consultation concerned the JWMS principles. These principles were used to guide the development of the most sustainable option for the future and have informed the development of policies and actions included within the JWMS. These principles are as follows:

- To reduce waste generation;
- To be achievable and affordable;
- To work towards zero landfill;
- To minimise the impact on climate change;
- To have an accountable and deliverable structure;
- To contribute towards economic regeneration.

This leaflet sought the views of the public on the principles through the following question:

- How strongly do you agree or disagree that we should be aiming towards these principles?
 - Strongly agree;
 - Agree;
 - Neither agree nor disagree;
 - Disagree;
 - Strongly disagree.

2.2 Responses Received

In total within the Tees Valley 442 responses were received through the consultation exercise. Figure 2.1 summarises the responses received through the public consultation exercise in



relation to the question regarding agreement with the principles used to steer the JWMS process.

Figure 2.1 Responses Received Through the Public Consultation Exercise

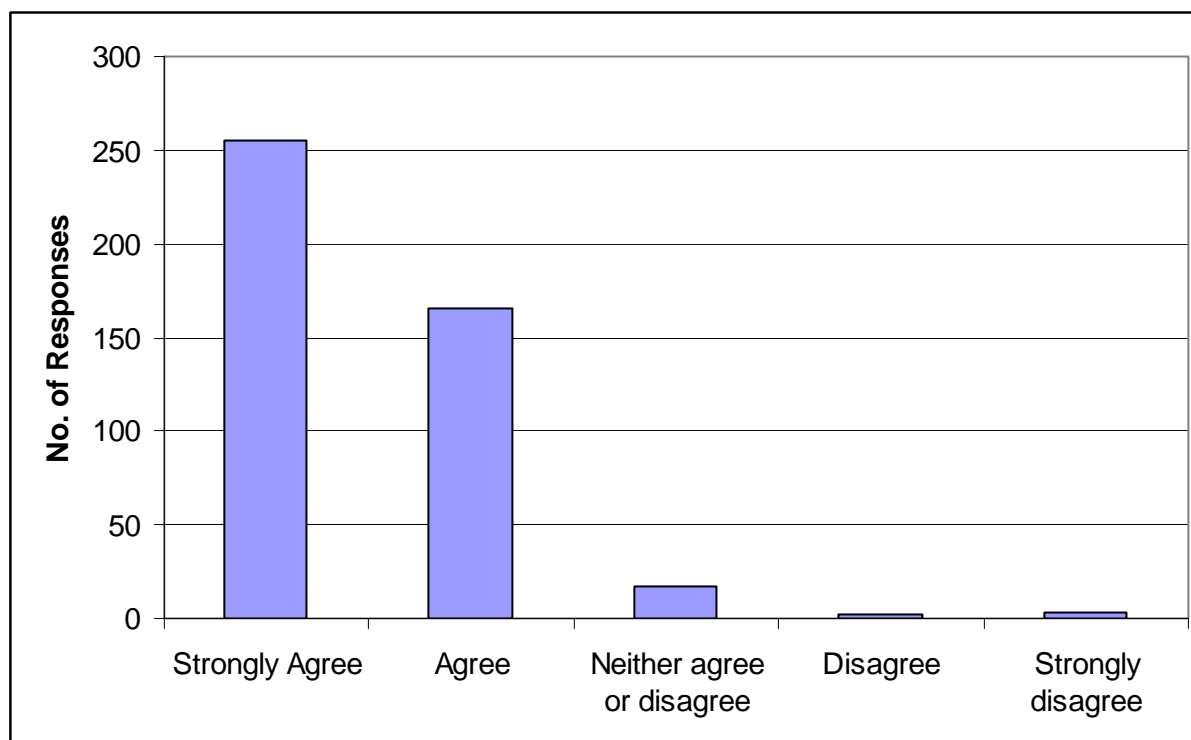


Figure notes: Summary of responses received through the public consultation leaflet by the Tees Valley Authorities

2.3 Conclusion

Figure 2.1 demonstrates that the majority of responders agree with the principles used to steer the JWMS process. Unfortunately the negative responses received did not provide any additional comments with regards to the reason for the disagreement with the principles. As the negative responses constituted only 1% of the total responses received this demonstrates that there is overwhelming public support for the principles used to steer the JWMS process.



3. Question 2

3.1 Introduction

Question 2 sought views from the public on both the principles and the preferred option.

The preferred option was defined through the JWMS process as:

- A new approach to Waste Awareness and Minimisation;
- A new approach to Waste Collections;
- Additional Waste Treatment Facilities to divert additional waste from landfill;
- Continued use of the Energy from Waste facility for waste recovery (except Darlington).

The question posed to members of the public was ‘Have we missed out anything from the principles or the preferred option of this strategy?’

In total 75 respondents provided comments. Entec has grouped the responses received into the various subject areas, within three main categories of the principles, the preferred option and other within the following sections as shown in Figure 3.1. This shows that the majority of responses were concerning waste collections. It should be noted that some of the feedback covered a range of issues all of which have been included in the following sections, and therefore these total more than 75 responses.



Figure 3.1 Summary of Comments Received

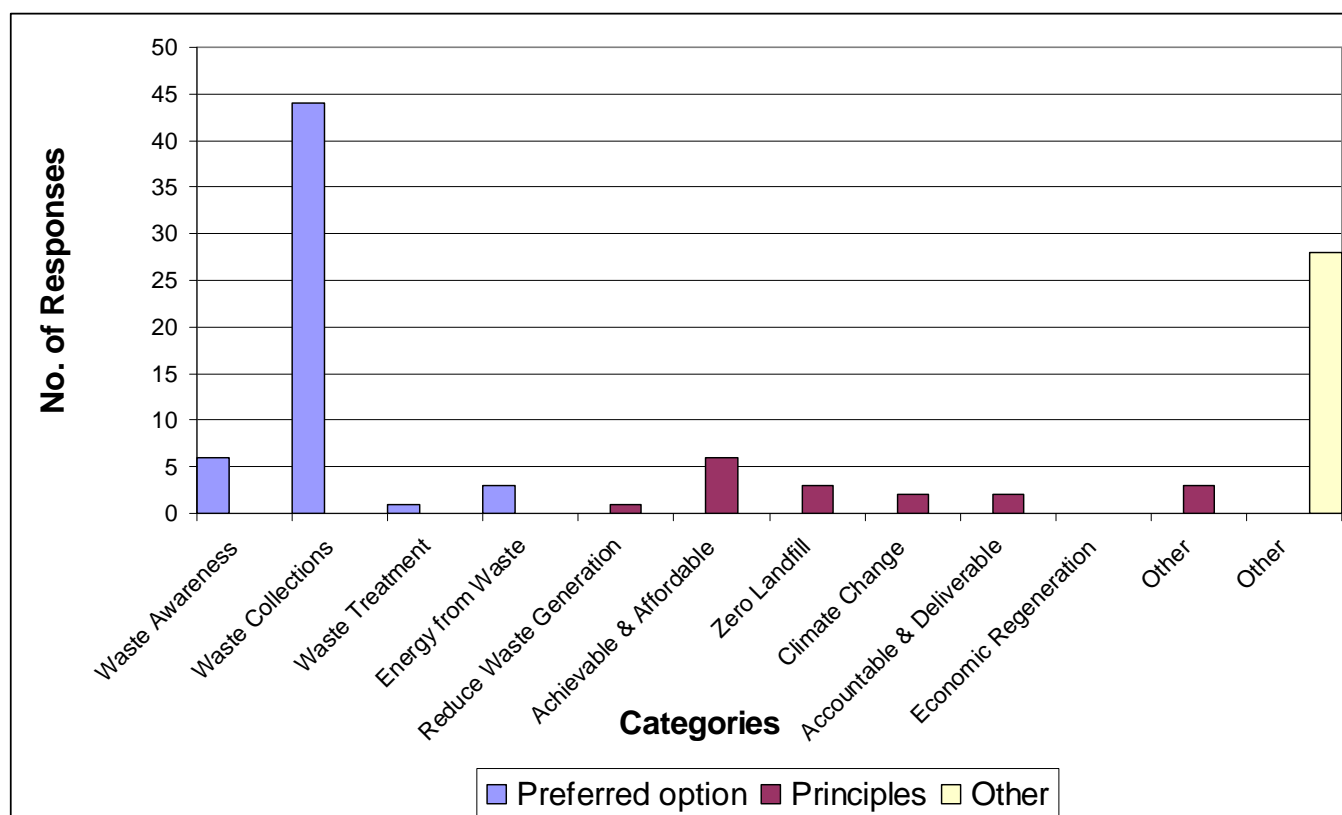


Figure notes: 75 individual comments were received with a number of these comments covering a range of issues

3.2 Principles

3.2.1 Reduce Waste Generation

One general comment was received endorsing the requirement to reduce the amount of waste generated at source.

3.2.2 Achievable and Affordable

Six individuals provided feedback with regards to the affordability of sustainable waste management. Three of the replies suggested that further financial support was required from national government, with two comments received that further amendments to waste services provided should not place an additional financial burden on tax payers within the Tees Valley.



In addition, one general comment agreed that the strategy needs to be achievable and affordable.

3.2.3 Work Towards Zero Landfill

Three replies supported the general principle of working towards zero waste to landfill. However, two comments recommended that disposal to landfill should continue, both with particular reference to the perceived availability of landfill capacity and the potential for landfill sites to reclaim land.

3.2.4 Minimise the Impact on Climate Change

Two comments were received that may in general terms fit with this principle. The first recommended recovery and utilisation of Landfill Gas (LFG) to minimise impacts and the second was concerned with the issue of transportation of materials for recycling, particularly haulage abroad.

3.2.5 Accountable and Deliverable Structure

A number of general comments were received with regards to accountability and deliverability. One response stated that there must be transparency within the strategy development process. Another stated that 'a management framework (is required) that is measurable, simple and understood by stakeholders and is easily checked, ie everyone can identify the goals.'

3.2.6 Contribute Towards Economic Regeneration

No feedback was received regarding the principle of contributing towards economic regeneration.

3.2.7 Other

A number of comments were received about partnership working. One of these stated that the principles should be expanded to include an additional principle on partnership working.



Box 1 Partnership Comment Received

'Big acknowledgement for partnership working with public, businesses and wider. Essential for success of policy - needs to be a principle of strategy'

3.3 Preferred Option

3.3.1 Waste Awareness and Minimisation

There were a range of responses received with regards to Waste Awareness and Minimisation. These included:

- Increase Home Composting;
- Help householders reduce 'Junk Mail';
- Increase waste education;
- Councils should commit to greater paperless working;
- Local Authorities should use their position to lobby national government and steer policy.

3.3.2 Waste Collections

The majority of comments received through the consultation process were regarding waste collections either currently provided by the Authorities or that may be provided in the future by the partner Authorities. These types of responses have been split into a number of sub-sections as follows.

Material Types

There was significant interest in the types of materials that are, or should be collected by the Authorities, with 15 of the total comments received regarding this area. The comments received regarding materials were different depending on the area where the respondent lived. For example, respondents from Middlesbrough frequently requested additional plastics and cardboard collections where these types of collections are not currently available. Whereas the



comments regarding materials that were received from residents in Redcar and Cleveland where these types of collections are currently in place concentrated on clarity for householders about the types of materials that may be accepted in schemes and uncertainty surrounding why specific materials are not included in current schemes, e.g. yoghurt pots. One of the respondents from Darlington requested a separate green waste collection for composting.

Alternate Weekly Residual Waste Collections

Four responses concerned either the current or potential residual waste Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC). In particular these responses were linked to either public health issues, or a perceived service reduction for householders. Two of the comments received were for Stockton Borough Council (SBC) where this type of collection has not been introduced. This demonstrates that there is some anxiety with regards to the perceived potential introduction of an AWC scheme. These responses were received via the web based questionnaire which is discussed again in Section 4.

The other comments about AWC were for Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) where this system is currently in place. It should be noted that 4 negative responses from the total 75 responses (only 5%) is somewhat less than might have been expected and indicates that these systems may have become accepted within the communities that they have been introduced in to date. Although there is some degree of apprehension in neighbouring Authorities regarding this collection type, this again may be less than expected.

Containers

Five specific responses were regarding the types of containers that are currently used. These comments related to either problems with the current containers, or recommendations with regards to potential future collection containers. In particular there was some concern noted with regards to the bags used for recycling collections and the possibility of these generating windblown litter.

Box 2	Container Comment Received
'What about making white bags have a weight in them as they blow everywhere also blue bags'	



Enforcement

Two comments were provided with regards to general enforcement issues. However, it is of note that these comments did not necessarily state that they were concerning enforcement issues, rather they were general statements including:

- 'Make more people to check the bins what they put in it';
- 'People held accountable for their actions in terms of not recycling'.

Type of Collections

There were three comments received that were general comments about the type of collections supplied by the Authorities (in addition to comments received about AWC systems). These comments were as follows:

- 'Wheelie bins for all different recyclables';
- 'Should have national scheme – not localised ones';
- 'A second wheelie bin for cardboard, plastic and glass containers etc., collected every second week, as trialled in 2007' (comment received for SBC).

Other

Other issues that were mentioned that fit with the general waste collections category included:

- Service standards with reference to collection crews;
- Improvements required to recycling provided at current Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and improved access to these facilities;
- Provision of hazardous waste collections;
- Recycling of litter waste;
- Potential for food waste collections;
- Separate collection of materials for recycling in schools;
- Recycling of Highways materials.



3.3.3 Additional Waste Treatment

There was only one response that may fall into this category. This stated that there may be an opportunity for commercial waste producers to utilise any additional capacity that may become available through the development of additional waste treatment facilities.

3.3.4 Continued use of the EfW Facility

Three comments were received regarding the continued use of the EfW facility. These included:

- That energy recovery should count as recycling for waste targets;
- The Authorities should utilise the heat generated through the EfW process in public buildings;
- That there should be additional EfW facilities provided.

3.4 Other Comments Received

In addition to the comments received regarding the principles and the Preferred Option a number of comments received were of a more general nature. These are included within the summary of responses contained within Appendix A. These comments were on the following areas:

- Three comments were received on the problem of littering and perceived lack of litter bins;
- Five comments were received with regards to commercial waste (including a request for additional facilities);
- Four comments were received with regards to working with industry and retailers to reduce excess packaging;
- Two comments about the council encouraging a reduction in plastic bag use;
- One comment about the need for more beach cleaning;
- One comment about importing waste into the area, with particular reference to ghost ships;
- Two comments about the Authorities role in minimising fly tipping;



- One comment was regarding increased Local Authority powers with regards to the movement of waste;
- Four comments were received that were on general issues (including renewable energy and the EU).



4. Electronic Responses

4.1 Introduction

Three of the Tees Valley Authorities provided residents with the opportunity to respond to the JWMS through an online questionnaire in addition to through the leaflet. Two of these response forms differed slightly in format to the public consultation leaflet, so these responses are dealt with separately to those received through the public consultation leaflet. 11 responses were received through the online consultation process.

Respondents were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with the different aspects of the Preferred Option, in terms of required alteration to the current services:

- How strongly do you agree or disagree that we should be aiming towards these principles:
 - Question 1 -A new approach to Waste Awareness and Minimisation;
 - Question 2 - A new approach to waste collections;
 - Question 3 - Additional Waste Treatment Facilities to divert additional waste from landfill;
 - Question 4 - Continued use of the Energy from Waste facility for waste recovery (excluding Darlington).

The results of the web-based consultation are presented in Figure 4.1 below.



Figure 4.1 Responses Received Through Online Public Consultation

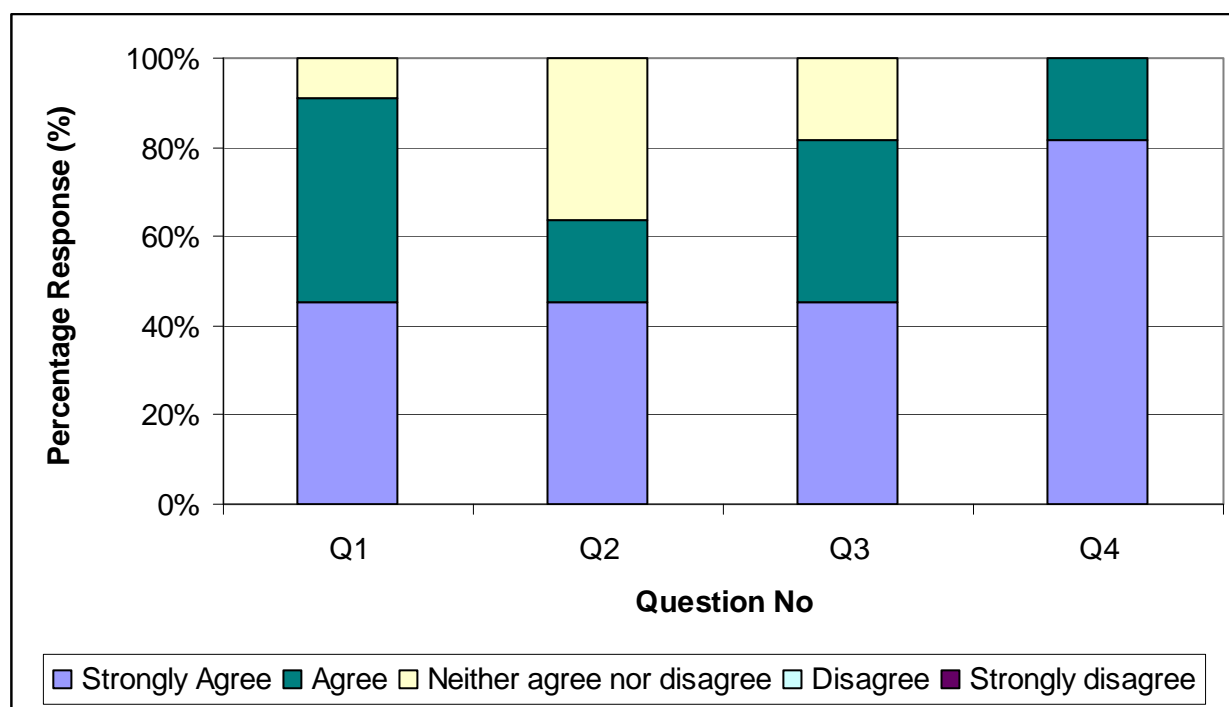


Figure notes: A total of 11 responses were received electronically in this question format.

The responses received through the online questionnaire suggest that there is overwhelming public support the Draft Preferred Option. The majority of responders are supportive of the continued use of the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility and recognise the need for investment in waste awareness and minimisation.

However, there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding the potential for changes to the waste collection service currently provided. It is also apparent that some of the 'strongly agree' responses from the householders for changes to the waste collection service refers to a change in service that may result in a reduction in the levels of recycling achieved by the Authorities. This is supported by some of the comments received which are provided in Box 3, that refer to AWC collections, as discussed in Section 3.3.2.



Box 3 Two of the Web Based Responses Received About Waste Collections

'You cannot continue with the principle of leaving rotting waste at peoples homes for up to two weeks at a time....What about providing the service we used to get?'

'Many single people and couples will volunteer to put their bins out only on non-recycling week. Not collecting all of the rubbish means more car trips to the tip....We have an incinerator – burn it!'



5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

It is clear from the responses received from the public consultation exercise that there is overwhelming support for the Draft JWMS. In particular the principles that were developed to steer the process were broadly acceptable to members of the public with 95% of the responses received either strongly agreeing or agreeing with the principles as they were defined, 4% neither agreeing nor disagreeing and only 1% of responses disagreeing with the principles.

A wide range of comments were received within the free text section of the questionnaire, referring to the principles, the draft Preferred Option and a range of other waste related issues.

5.2 Recommendations

The findings of this public consultation exercise generally endorse the approach taken to date by the Tees Valley Authorities. However, Entec consider that the following points should be considered by the Authorities:

Should an additional principle be added to those steering the JWMS process identifying the requirement for partnership working? This principle could state: 'To enhance partnership working with the public, and the commercial and Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS)'.

However, it is Entec's opinion that the requirement to work in partnership for the delivery of the JWMS is a clear Policy of the JWMS document and that no added value would be provided by an additional Principle.

Should additional policies be included that specifically address:

- Plastic bags – a potential policy may be 'We will work with retailers and the general public to encourage a reduction in the use of disposable plastic bags.'
- Packaging – a potential policy may be 'We will work with partners at a national level to lobby the commercial sector to reduce excess packaging. We will educate members of the public to help them make informed shopping decisions, including considering the amount of packaging on goods they purchase.'
- 'Junk' (or unsolicited) mail – a potential policy may be 'We will advertise the services of the Mailing Preference Service (MPS) and how to opt out of the Royal Mail's 'Door



to Door' service to householders to empower them to reduce the levels of unsolicited mail that is received.'



Appendix A

Summary of Responses Received



Appendix A

Question 1					Question 2
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Comments
	1				Cigarette ends since the smoking ban came about. They are n every creice in the pavements outside shopping sentres and pubs. Which look unsightly
	1				what about making white bags have a weight in them as they blow everywhere also blue bags
	1				have an easy managed structure to be understandable by everyone. Easily checked and recognised by all and everyone to understand the goals. Burn road rubbish tip not segregated enough
	1				How many people have been fined to date for dropping litter etc. It adds insult to injury when the white bag which we put out is emptied and we find that our drive way is littred wirh other people rubbish, enough to fill another white bag
1					the word recycling is present by its omission
1					increased recyling and promote home composting
1					No Response
1					provide a management framework that is measurable, simple and understood by stakeholders and is easily checked, ie everyone can identify the goals. Look at collecting all waste in one and sort it.
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					I would have preferred to hear that commercial waste problems are being addressed to an equivalent level. Also there should be no importing of foreign waste, eg ghost ships etc at graythorp/seaton meadows
1					No Response
	1				Big acknowledgement for partnership working with public, businesses and wider. Essential for success of policy - needs to be a principle of strategy
1					No Response
1					Kerbside collection of plastic and carboard
1					No Response
1					Kerbside collection of plastic and cardboard
1					Kerbside collection of plastic bottles
1					Kerbside collection of plastics & batteries
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
	1				No Response
1					Kerbside collection of carboard
1					No Response
1					Persuade government to recognise Energy from waste as recycling
	1				Kerbside collection of plastics
1					No Response
1					No Response
	1				Kerbside collection of plastics
1					Need a heavy box or bag for the blue pages and the green bags
	1				No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					Kerbside collection of plastic and cardboard
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
	1				Better public education
	1				More easy access, more recycling
1					No Response
1					Kerbside collection of plastics
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
				1	No Response
1					No Response
1					No Response
		1			WHEELIE BINS FOR ALL DIFFERENT RECYCLBLES
		1			RECYCLABLES SHOULDN'T BE SENT ABROAD
		1			SPLENDID
	1				Weekly Collections

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Electronic Responses

Question 1					Question 1b					Question 1c					Question 1d					Question 2				
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree					
1						1					1					1				No Response				
	1					1					1					1				No Response				
1					1					1					1					You cannot continue with the principle of leaving rotting waste at peoples homes for up to two weeks at a time. Look to the methods applied for our holiday destinations where invariably waste bins are emptied daily, obviously not required so frequently in the uk. you the authority are not meeting your obligations to manage our waste for which we pay you. Vermin are thriving and the only thing you seem obsessed with is hitting targets. What about providing the service we used to get. Why not use the considerable revenue you are receiving from bottles, paper and cans to benefit the local tax payers?				
	1				1					1					1					Additional guidance on reasons for exclusion of certain materials ie yoghurt pots, is this because of residue contamination or print or type of plastic. We are doing the job for you give us better guidance.				
	1						1				1				1					No Response				
1					1					1					1					No Response				
1							1			1					1					Council Offices generate huge amounts of waste paper unnecessarily. The strategy should include a commitment to greater paperless working by companies particularly councils who claim they are committed to modernisation but lack experience from the Private Sector. Plastics recycling is currently too low and the Strategy lacks suitable recognition of this and specific detail on how to address this. Junk mail amounts for a lot of waste. The Strategy should include a commitment to push Central Government to introduce legislation banning unsolicited mail to "The Householder" or the occupier. I get this despite signing up to the mailing preference service.				
		1					1			1					1					No Response				
	1						1					1								1. Retain weekly collections. (Using standard bins). 2. A second wheeler bin for cardboard, plastic and glass glass containers etc., collected every second week, as trialled in 2007. 3. Retain garden waste collection. 4. This country has sufficient land to keep a certain percentage landfill, unlike European countries, so to avoid fines leave the EU.				
	1						1					1								MANY SINGLE PEOPLE AND COUPLES WILL VOLUNTEER TO PUT THEIR BINS OUT ONLY ON NON-RECYCLING WEEK. NOT COLLECTING ALL OF THE RUBBISH MEANS MORE CAR TRIPS TO THE TIP. FAMILIES WITHOUT CARS WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE RUBBISH FAIRY TO COLLECT THE EXCESS. IT HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! FLY TIPPING WILL INCREASE SOME PEOPLE WILL BE FINED A WEEKS WAGES IF THEY DON'T COMPLY WITH THESE MAD SCHEMES. THIS IS CREATING A CLIMATE OF FEAR AMONGST MANY LAW ABIDING CITIZENS. WE HAVE AN INCINERATOR - BURN IT!! WASTE CAN BE USED TO HELP RAISE THE LEVEL OF SOME FLOOD PLAINS FOR HOUSING.				
1					1						1				1					No Response				

Appendix B

Public Consultation Leaflet



Appendix B

If you need this leaflet in another language then please contact your local council's call centre

Darlington	01325 388 777
Hartlepool	01429 523 333
Middlesbrough	01642 726 001
Redcar and Cleveland	08456 126 126
Stockton	01642 39 39 39

 **recycle now**

Want to find out more?

You can find all the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy documents on our websites. This includes the Joint Strategy and our Implementation Plan.

We welcome all your views and suggestions on these documents and the policies contained within them. Please send us your views before 29th February 2008 to make sure that we can consider them in time for the finalisation of this Strategy.

Web pages:

www.darlington.gov.uk

www.hartlepool.gov.uk

www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

www.stockton.gov.uk



Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy

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The Joint Waste Management Strategy

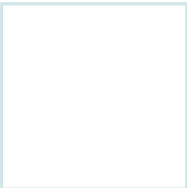
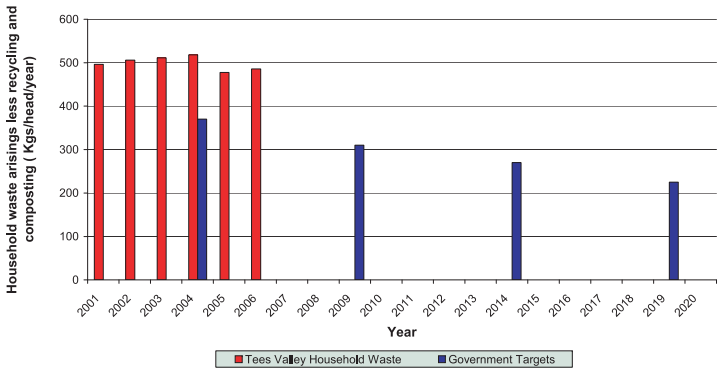
The five Tees Valley Authorities have joined together to review recycling and waste issues and to develop a Waste Strategy for the Tees Valley up to 2020.

We need this strategy to meet EU and government targets that have been set to reduce the emissions from landfills that contribute to Climate Change.

If government waste targets for the UK are met by 2020 it will save 9.3 m tonnes of carbon dioxide – the same as taking 3.5 m cars off the road.

The size of the challenge ahead

The graph below shows how the Tees Valley under current practices compares with the Government set National Targets for waste reduction.



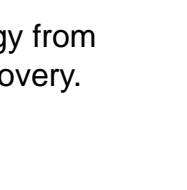
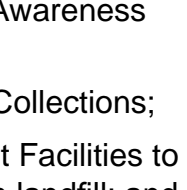
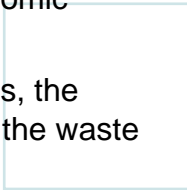
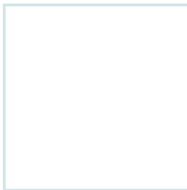
How do we do this?

The principles of this strategy are:

- To reduce waste generation
- To be achievable and affordable
- To work towards zero Landfill
- To minimise the impact on climate change
- To have an accountable and deliverable structure
- To contribute towards economic regeneration

To deliver the above principles, the preferred option as set out in the waste strategy requires:

- A new approach to Waste Awareness and Minimisation;
- A new approach to Waste Collections;
- Additional Waste Treatment Facilities to divert additional waste from landfill; and
- Continued use of the Energy from Waste facility for waste recovery. (Except Darlington)



Your Views

We are interested in what you think about our strategy, and would appreciate you spending a little of your time to fill in the questionnaire below.

1. How strongly do you agree or disagree that we should be aiming towards these principles?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5

2. Have we missed out anything from the principles or the preferred option of this strategy?

3. Please can you provide your postcode so we know which local authority you belong to?

Thank you for completing this survey.