

NGO Workshop Outputs

November 2006

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1.0 Introduction & Workshop Aims

As part of the work being undertaken by the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership to develop its Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS) for Gloucestershire, Eunomia Research & Consulting facilitated a consultation workshop with key stakeholders on 14th November 2006. The workshop took place between 6.30pm and 9.00pm in the Redwell Room of the GL1 Leisure Centre, Gloucester.

The aim of the workshop was to canvass ideas and opinions regarding the draft objectives presented within the MWMS, which will operate until 2020. By obtaining the input and participation of key stakeholders, it is hoped that the final strategy will be one which fulfils its aim of producing the best strategy possible for Gloucestershire.

Invitees to the workshop were taken primarily from the community and NGO sector, local to Gloucestershire. Prior to the workshop invitees were provided with a set of the draft objectives and an Agenda. A list of attendees is detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Workshop Attendees

Name	Organisation
Joe Papineschi	Eunomia
Claire Stonier	Eunomia
Wayne Lewis	GCC
Carlos Novoth	Stroud DC
Nick Boase	Vision 21
Rebecca Dobson	Vision 21
Graham Stanley	Stroud Valleys Project
Mary Newton	Friends of the Earth (Forest of Dean)
Jack Newell	Hempsted Residents Association
Oliver Perrin	Sunhill Action Group
Jill Roxon	Sunhill Action Group
Ted Friar	SWARD
John Beeting	SWARD
John Sime	Cheltenham Disability Forum
Brenda Howe	Cheltenham Disability Forum
Beki Hoyland	Dean Composting
Kate Deselincourt	Dean Composting
Rosalind Cookson	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Preeti Bharadia	FSB & Stroud Local Strategic Partnership

2.0 Outline of the Event

Table 2 below outlines the format for the day with intended timings. The structure of the workshops allowed for some flexibility in the timing of each of the sessions as required. It was clear at an early stage that there was a high level of interest from the delegates. In order to get through the agenda delegates were asked whether they would be prepared to continue discussing the issues until 9pm if necessary. This approach was generally agreed among attendees and the workshop eventually ended at 9.10pm.

Table 2: Workshop Agenda

Time	Activity
6.15	Buffet and Registration
6.30	Welcome & Ground Rules
6.35	Introductions
6.40	Presentation – Waste In Gloucestershire (where we are now)
6.55	Presentation – The Draft MWMS
7.10	Discussion of Issues
8.20	How the Information will be Taken Forward & Next Steps
8.30	Meeting Close

3.0 Workshop Presentations

The day started with a presentation by Eunomia Research & Consulting, which set out the some of the current issues affecting waste arisings within the County and some headline data issues.

This was followed by a presentation by Wayne Lewis (GCC) setting out the key aims of the draft MWMS and the key drivers for developing the strategy.

These presentations are provided for reference in Appendix 1 & 2.

4.0 Discussion of Issues

The notes below represent the key points that were made during the discussions. It is not intended to reflect every comment made.

4.1 General

Prior to discussion of the core objectives, a number of general views were expressed.

Firstly, views were expressed around the impact that individual households have as opposed to the wider issues of waste arisings as a whole (i.e. from businesses). The definition of municipal waste (MW) was explained and it was highlighted that although significant, industry and commerce do produce more waste than that collected by the local authorities. There was some desire to see set out within the strategy the varying impacts of commercial and household waste set out within the strategy, and also to set out what impacts on issues such as climate change the Gloucestershire residents can make. **There was a desire to see that the strategy was, where possible, putting pressure on businesses to adopt more sustainable waste management practices.**

There were some comments on individual kerbside systems currently operational – e.g. shredded paper could not be accepted as part of the kerbside collection scheme in one district. However, whilst important, focus was necessarily steered towards discussion of where Gloucestershire should be heading up to 2020.

Packaging waste was a significant concern. There was some discussion about the role of local authorities in trying to reduce packaging waste and the need to lobby central government to change the legislation in this area.

In relation to alternate weekly collections of residual waste, the comment was expressed that this should not be introduced until comprehensive kerbside recycling systems are introduced – this is particularly important for the disabled community who do not have easy access to bring banks or household recycling facilities.

It was acknowledged that there is the potential for conflict between waste collection/disposal companies who want to collect and dispose of more waste and the councils who are trying to encourage more sustainable practices. Also if a company is to invest in an incinerator then a specific feed flow will be required which may compromise moves towards increased recycling and waste prevention. It was expressed that there is a need to specify within the strategy how the contracts are let – waste companies should work together with local authorities to meet the aims of sustainable waste management. **Contracts should be worded such that waste companies are incentivised to encourage waste activities further up the waste management hierarchy.**

Would like to see some moves towards uniformity in terms of service provision across the districts (e.g. same colour bins).

4.2 Questions to Establish the Baseline

1. Is it right for the strategy to place primary emphasis on waste prevention?

There was consensus that this should be the case.

2. Do you accept that there is a need to recycle and re-use more?

There was consensus among the group accepting this statement.

3. Do you accept that in order to recycle and re-use more, that householders, community groups and businesses must do more?

There was consensus among the group accepting this statement.

One person commented that households should be positively incentivised to reduce waste.

GCC stated that the County want to promote and incentivise waste prevention through the use/payment of community champions. This was seen as a very good idea by the workshop members with no dissenting voice.

4.3 Draft Objective 1

“To further develop our communications campaign and education programme to promote waste minimisation and to maximise participation in sustainable waste management services. In the long term we aim to transform consumer behaviour and society’s attitude to consumption and disposal”.

There was a general comment that people are willing to change behaviour over and above what the council already provide.

Views were expressed that there needs to be some explanation as to what the sustainable waste management services are, and giving some prioritisation to them.

4.4 Draft Objective 2

“To reduce Gloucestershire’s municipal waste”.

It was expressed that education measures should be included within this objective. Education was seen as critical to the working of the strategy and future waste management. The current level of one education officer is not enough.

Suggestions were made that the initiatives chosen should have a waste reduction footprint study conducted to determine their impact, so that the impacts can be assessed before the decisions are taken.

There was a suggestion that home economics should be taught more in schools so to reduce the amount of food wasted.

4.5 Draft Objective 3

“To provide collection systems that enables all householders to segregate their waste into three streams: dry recyclables, biowaste (kitchen and/or garden waste) and residual waste”.

Some members of the group thought that the reference to ‘3’ waste streams should be removed since it is too restricting. It may be that in future more waste streams are

separated out – e.g. uncooked vegetable kitchen scraps and other kitchen organic waste.

There was a general desire expressed to see local authorities being ‘honest’ about what can and cannot be recycled, and why certain materials are not collected at the kerbside.

4.6 Draft Objective 4

“To promote home and community composting where possible, and also provide facilities to compost biowaste that is collected at the kerbside and received at HRCs. We aim to produce high quality composts that can be used locally”.

Suggestion to remove the ‘where possible’.

Suggestion that the strategy should state why home and community composting is best.

It was pointed out that this objective (the statement in the accompanying text relating to the fact that garden waste collections are popular) implies a value judgement and just because it is popular does not make it the best option.

There was a suggestion to have a separate objective based around ‘waste miles’.

There was a suggestion that there should be some analysis as to who ‘home composts’ most and to generation of positive incentives for such activities.

4.7 Draft Objective 5

“To maximise recovery of recyclables and gain further value from residual waste before disposal. We will provide residual waste treatment capacity to divert waste from landfill, and find/or develop markets for recovered materials”.

There were some mixed views around the table in response to this objective. Whilst one person declared it was 10 out of 10, another said 9 out of 10 whilst still others had more considerable reservations, with one person stating that the objective should be removed altogether.

A preference was expressed to see a reference to minimising residual waste as a first option.

A suggestion was that the strategy should spell out that this policy will be instigated with best regard for health and public feeling.

The overall objective (and accompanying wording) was felt to be too positive in nature. The specific reference to energy from waste was of particular concern as the wording appears to be favouring this technology. There were suggestions to either remove the reference altogether (although a note of caution was given to this that if an EfW plant were to be proposed then the public could claim not to have been made aware of it until too late), or to list other available technologies. There were mixed views around the table with respect of this.

The title of the objective should be changed – one suggestion was ‘making the most of a bad job’.

4.8 Draft Objective 6

“To implement this Strategy, through clear leadership, accountable decision-making, timely investment and resourcing. We will look to secure sustainable funding to continuously improve Gloucestershire’s waste management service”.

There was a question raised as to the relevance of this as a specific objective within the strategy.

4.9 Draft Objective 7

“To develop an effective partnership between the seven Gloucestershire authorities and investigate the formation of a suitable organisational framework for delivering this Strategy. We plan to develop strong partnerships with the Waste Planning Authority, businesses, community groups and other organisations to ensure effective management of the municipal waste stream”.

There was a desire to see the membership, role and remit of the GWP spelled out in detail within the strategy.

The need to ensure contracts are set up correctly so to incentivise Sustainable waste management was again highlighted.

One suggestion was to link waste production with payments to council tax (although the words ‘council tax’ were not used in discussion, this is what seemed to be implied).

4.10 Draft Objective 8

“To reprocess waste materials at the most appropriate location; recycling locally wherever practical by supporting reprocessors within Gloucestershire. We will seek to ensure that our waste materials are recycled into high quality products, helping to generate jobs and create wealth and mitigate the impact of climate change”.

There was a feeling that the wording should be changes to read ‘most appropriate **and sustainable** location...’ in order to recognise the importance of sustainability – even if it will cost more to the householders.

In relation to this objective, the point should be made that it is a negative thing to waste resources.

4.11 Draft Objective 9

“To segregate and safely treat or dispose of hazardous materials from the municipal waste stream.”

Again there was a desire to explicitly mention education in relation to this objective.

Where legislative incentives are perverse the districts and GCC should lobby and educate Government.

4.12 Other

There was a suggestion for an objective relating to fly tipping and illegal waste activities.

One representative from the Forest of Dean suggested that the councils should not introduce pay by weight as that would lead to problems of fly tipping.

Appendix 1 – Gloucestershire Waste Management: Where Are We Now?

'It is vital, when encountering a serious problem, not merely to try to solve the problem in itself but to confront and transform the processes that gave rise to the problem in the first place.'

David Harvey, Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference



Gloucestershire Waste Strategy Consultation

Where We Are Now

Presented by:
Claire Stonier



Background

Overview of Background Information

- County profile
- Waste data analysis
- Current waste management provision



County Profile

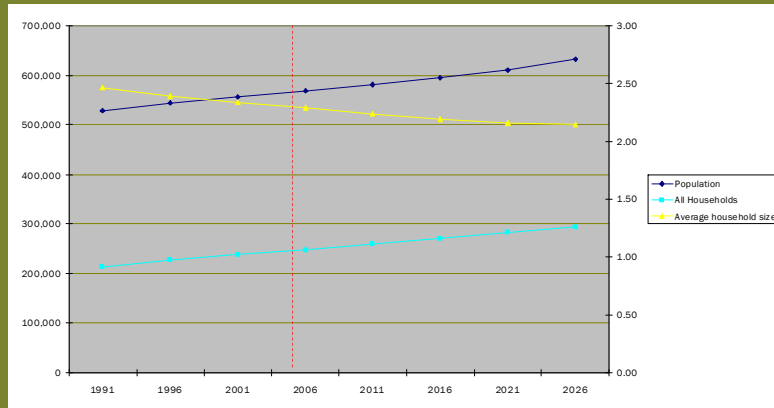
Population & Households

- Growing population (565,000, 2001 census)
- 40% of population is concentrated in Gloucester & Cheltenham
- Cheltenham population is predicted to decline
- Gloucester, Forest of Dean & Tewksbury grow most
- Household numbers are growing faster than population



County Profile

Population & Households



County Profile

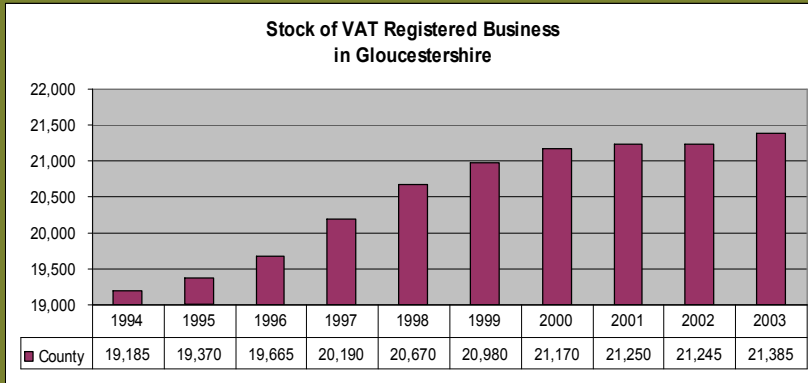
Population & Households

Housing Types (2001)	Cheitenham	Cotswold	Forest of Dean	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury	County	England & Wales
Detached	18.2%	37.7%	45.7%	20.2%	37.7%	34.8%	31.1%	22.8%
Semi detached	33.6%	30.0%	34.5%	41.4%	33.2%	35.2%	34.8%	31.6%
Terraced houses	22.3%	21.2%	13.0%	23.3%	18.7%	17.8%	19.8%	26.0%
Flats, maisonettes or apartments	25.0%	10.2%	5.9%	14.6%	9.8%	9.9%	13.3%	19.0%
Caravans or other temporary structures	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.5%	0.6%	2.3%	1.0%	0.4%



County Profile

Economy



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County Profile

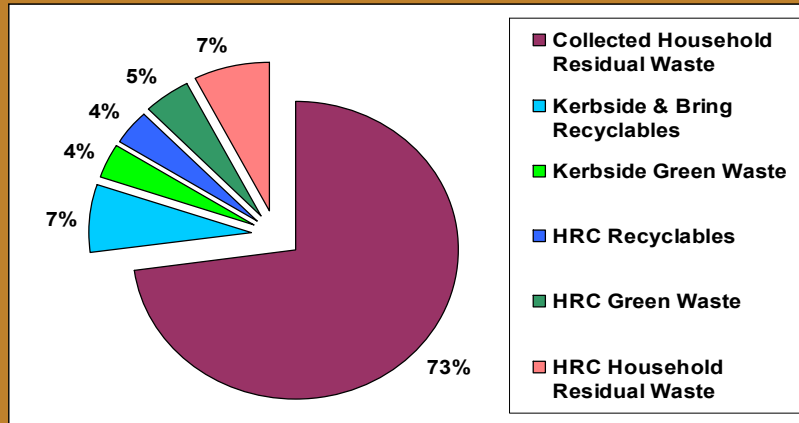
Implications

- Growing population in smaller sized households
- Rural profile affects collection efficiency
- Ageing population
- Housing stock suited to home composting
- Large proportion of households with gardens
- Business waste likely to grow

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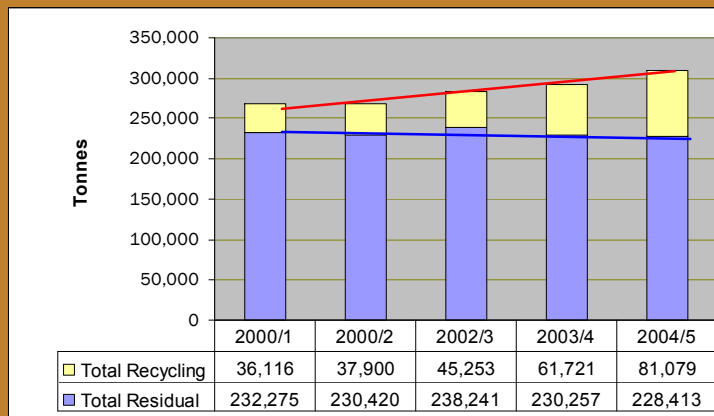
Waste Data Analysis

Waste Profile



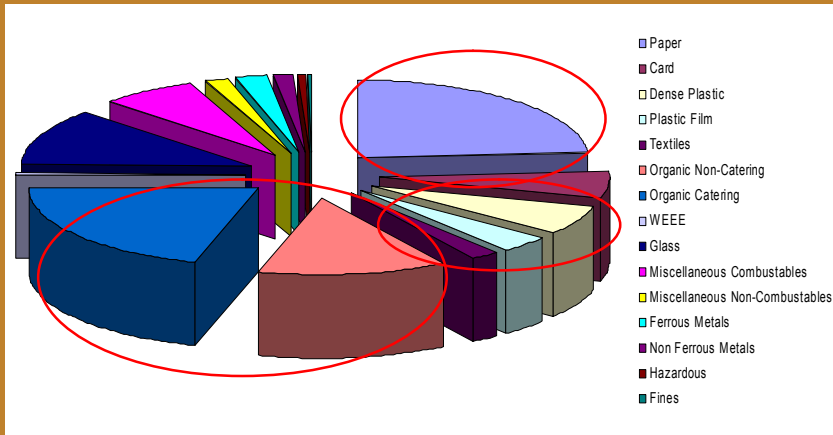
Waste Data Analysis

Trends – Recycling vs Residual



Waste Data Analysis

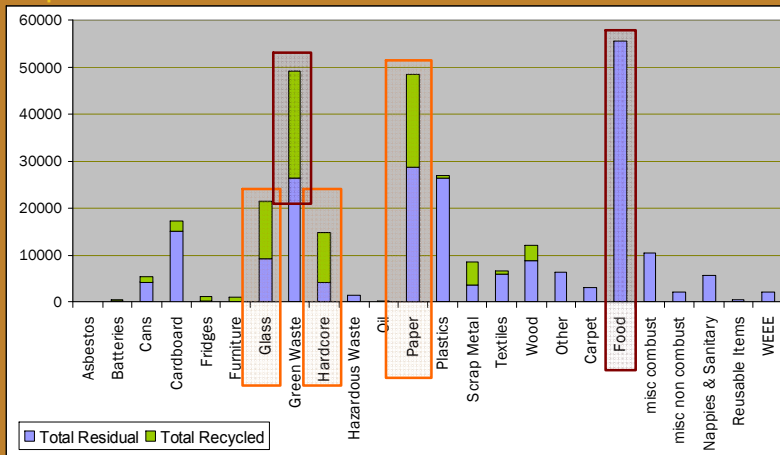
Household Waste Composition



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Waste Data Analysis

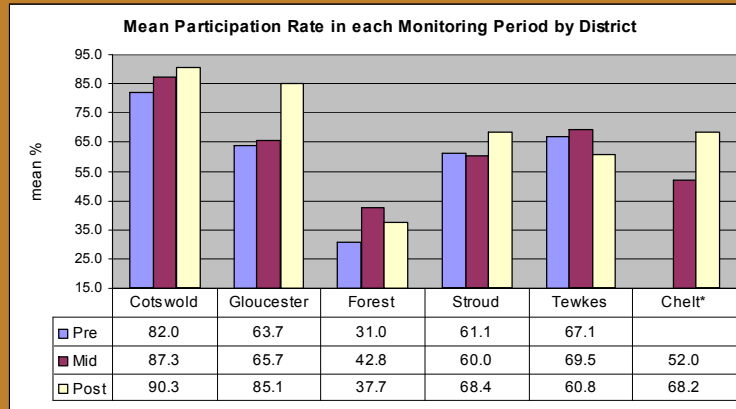
Capture - Household Collected & HRC



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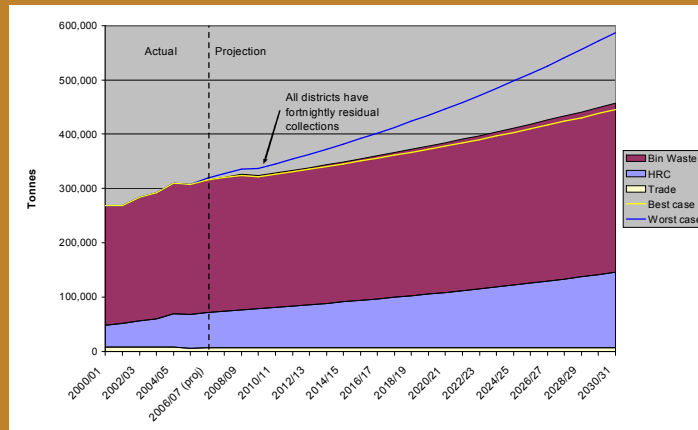
Waste Data Analysis

Participation



Waste Data Analysis

MSW Projections



Current Waste Management Services

Collection Systems

District	Refuse	Recycling	Organic
Cheltenham	Wheeled bin weekly	Fortnightly 55 litre box	Fortnightly sack (1 st sack free then £2)
Cotswold	Sacks weekly	Fortnightly 44 litre box and lid	Fortnightly 240 L Wheeled bin
Forest of Dean	Sacks weekly	Fortnightly 55 litre box	Fortnightly £240 L Wheeled bin (£20/bin)
Gloucester City	Wheeled bin weekly	Weekly 55 litre box	Fortnightly 2x 120 L reusable sack (extra sacks £2)
Stroud	Sacks weekly	Fortnightly 55 litre box	
Tewkesbury	Wheeled bin weekly	Fortnightly 55 litre box and lid	Fortnightly £240 L Wheeled bin (£26/pa)



Current Waste Management Services

Other Services & Facilities in the County

- 244 Bring Banks
- Bulky Household Waste Collections
- Clinical Waste Collections
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Commercial Waste Collections
- 2 Landfills
- 2 Transfer Stations
- 5 Household Recycling Centres
- 3 Composting Sites



Appendix 2: Gloucestershire Draft MWMS

Gloucestershire Draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006

Wayne Lewis
Gloucestershire C.C



Purpose

- To contribute to a reduction in climate change
- To minimise impacts on the local environment
- To protect public health
- To control rising costs



Objectives

- To embed the waste hierarchy into our decision making
- To involve local communities and encourage personal responsibility for waste management
- To provide a clear and shared plan for managing municipal waste through to 2020
- To meet our statutory duties and targets

 recycle for Gloucestershire



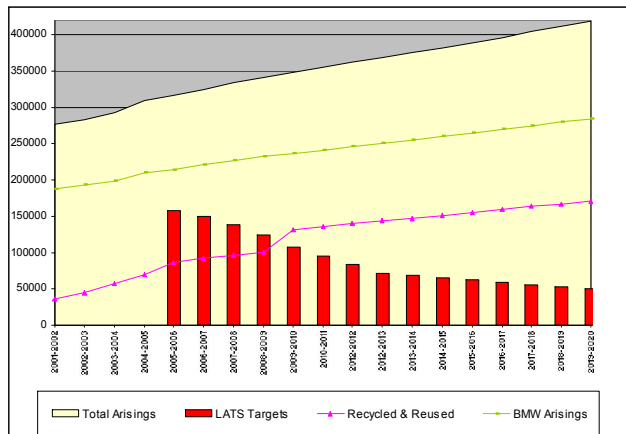
 recycle for Gloucestershire

Key Targets – Landfill Diversion

- LATS sets a limit on the amount of biodegradable waste that can be landfilled each year.
- In 2005/06 Glos landfilled 154,500 tonnes of biodegradable waste.
- Glos must reduce the amount of biodegradable waste landfilled to:
 - 107,428 tonnes by 2009/10
 - 71,555 tonnes by 2012/13
 - 50,069 tonnes by 2019/20.
- Fines of up to £150 for every tonne landfilled over this limit.



Predicted waste arisings, LATS allocations and level of recycling



Key Targets – Recycling & Composting

Proposed targets are:

- 40% in 2010
- 45% in 2015
- 50% in 2020

Recycling & composting rate 2005/06 - 30%



Key Targets – Waste Reduction

- Gloucestershire's waste predicted to grow by an average of 1.6% per annum.
- Strategy target to reduce this to 0% growth per annum by 2020.



Delivery

- A programme of **waste prevention** initiatives:
 - Supporting the community & voluntary sector
 - Home & Community composting
 - Reducing junk mail
 - Smart shopping
 - Education programme
 - Reusable nappies



Delivery (2)

- New waste collection systems to be introduced by 2009/10:
 - Expanded **kerbside recycling** collections (more materials collected)
 - Introduction of **kitchen waste** collections
 - Possible introduction of **fortnightly** refuse collections



Delivery (3)

- New waste treatment facilities:
 - **In-vessel composter** to be operational by 2009/10
 - **Residual waste treatment** facility to be operational by 2012/13



 recycle for Gloucestershire

Implementation

- Aim to adopt strategy by May/June 07.
- The GWP will “own” and oversee the strategy.
- Strategy action plans will inform the work planning and financial planning of each of the Gloucestershire councils.
- The strategy and its plans will be regularly monitored and reviewed.

 recycle for Gloucestershire