

Waste Planning and Management Trends in the West Midlands to 2013/14

This document has been prepared by the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body (RTAB). Its purpose is to support the strategic planning of waste management facilities in the West Midlands by providing Waste Planning Authorities and others with key information on waste management trends in the area. As such it forms an important part of RTAB's core role to support the collaborative work required under the Duty to Co-operate.

The Statement draws on information published by the Environment Agency and Defra and by the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body, to provide a regional and sub-regional context for work at the local level.

This document (with its supporting appendices) is the latest in a series of statements and sets out information for financial year 2013/14 and the calendar year 2013 and earlier;¹ the previous Statement was produced in 2013 and included data up to 2011/12.²

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Chair of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body**

Peter Field, Technical Secretary

November 2015

¹ The data are for either financial years (eg Defra data) or (in the case of Environment Agency data) calendar years.

² The appendices and previous statements can be downloaded from the web site <http://www.westmidlandsiep.gov.uk/rtab>

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Context and Purpose

The Role of the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body

1. The West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body (RTAB) is an advisory group comprising waste planning and waste management officers of the Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) in the West Midlands, the Environment Agency, representatives of industry including the waste management industry, and representatives of environmental organisations with a specific interest in waste management.³

2. Originally established to advise the Regional Planning Body on technical waste planning issues (with formal recognition under Planning Policy Statement 10), the West Midlands RTAB has continued to work in an informal capacity since the regional planning framework was removed. Its terms of reference include the collation and provision of consistent waste data and evidence for local authority plan making including neighbourhood planning, through the preparation and publication of regular monitoring data for the West Midlands and its 'sub-regions.' Crucially, the group provides a structured framework within which WPAs may share expertise and liaise and consult with each other and with other partners throughout the preparation of their plans. As such, it plays a key role in the West Midlands in supporting the collaborative work required under the Duty to Co-operate, and a 'protocol' has been adopted to provide structure to this work.

3. This Statement is the latest in a series of reports designed to meet the need for up to date and relevant contextual information to assist plan-making in the West Midlands. Initially prepared in support of the statutory monitoring of the Regional Spatial Strategy, these Statements and the accompanying appendices now provide a data series for the West Midlands reaching back to the year 2000. RTAB has agreed to continue to produce these reports on a biennial basis, for as long as resources permit.

The West Midlands

4. The geographical focus of this report is the former West Midlands region, which has a population of about 5½ million living in about 2¼ million households. It comprises the areas of the metropolitan unitary authorities of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton; the unitary authorities of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Stoke on Trent and Telford & Wrekin; and the shire county authorities of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and their constituent district authorities. The 'sub-regions' referred to are: the metropolitan area (the metropolitan unitary authorities listed above); Herefordshire;

³ For Terms of Reference and the 'protocol' which guide RTAB's work, visit <http://www.westmidlandsiep.gov.uk/rtab>

Shropshire (Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin); Staffordshire (Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent); Warwickshire; and Worcestershire.

European and National Waste Management and Planning Policy

5. The revised EU Waste Directive, adopted in 2008, provides the legal framework for the treatment of waste within the EU.⁴ Its focus is on the whole waste cycle from generation to disposal, placing the emphasis on recovery and recycling.

6. The National Waste Management Plan sets out the Government's policies for waste management in England and, together with associated documents, fulfils the requirement of the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) to have in place one or more waste management plan.⁵ One of the associated documents is the National Planning Policy for Waste.⁶ This Policy, which sits alongside the National Planning Policy Framework, sets out the Government's view of the role of the planning system in delivering a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. All local authorities are required to have regard to the Policy when discharging their responsibilities, to the extent that they are appropriate to waste management.

7. The National Waste Management Plan reasserts the Government's commitment to work towards a longer term aim of a zero-waste economy which was set out in the Waste Review 2011. Both the National Waste Management Plan and the National Planning Policy for Waste emphasise the legal requirement to drive waste management up the 'waste hierarchy'.⁷ This hierarchy provides a guide to sustainable waste management, giving top priority to waste prevention, followed by preparing for re-use, then recycling, other types of recovery (including energy recovery), and as a last resort disposal (e.g. landfill).

8. The National Waste Management Plan restates the principle of proximity that was established in the revised Waste Framework Directive. This requires member states to provide a network of facilities that is adequate to enable waste to be disposed of, or be recovered, in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies. The National Plan confirms that this principle must be applied when decisions are taken on the location of appropriate waste facilities.

⁴ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste, 12/12/2008

⁵ Waste Management Plan for England, Defra, December 2013

⁶ National Planning Policy for Waste, DCLG, October 2014

⁷ Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

9. The National Waste Plan embodies the revised WFD requirements that:
- at least 50% by weight of waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled; and
 - at least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste is subjected to material recovery.
10. In July 2014, the European Union adopted a proposal to further amend the Waste Framework Directive.⁸ Amongst other things, this proposed amendment adopts revised targets for more sustainable waste management as part of the drive to help turn Europe into a circular economy, boost recycling, secure access to raw materials, and create jobs and economic growth in the Union. These targets include:
- Recycling and preparing for re-use of municipal waste to be increased to 70% by 2030;
 - Recycling and preparing for re-use of packaging waste to be increased to 80% by 2030, with material-specific targets set to gradually increase between 2020 and 2030
 - Phasing out landfilling by 2025 for recyclable waste in non-hazardous waste landfills – corresponding to a maximum landfilling rate of 25%;
 - Measures aimed at reducing food waste generation by 30% by 2025.

Amount of waste produced in the West Midlands

Appendix 1

11. The amount of municipal/ local authority waste collected in the West Midlands area increased slightly between 2012/13 and 2013/14 to 2.71m tonnes. Indications are that commercial and industrial waste production fell from about 7.5m tonnes in the late 1990s to an estimated 5.3m tonnes in 2009, but there is no more recent information for the West Midlands. The amount of construction and demolition waste produced is estimated to have reduced from 8.6 million tonnes in 2001 to 8.1m tonnes in 2003, but increased to 9.8m tonnes in 2005; again, there are no more recent data for our area. There was a small reduction in the amount of hazardous waste produced in the West Midlands, to 471k tonnes in 2013/14.

Waste management in the West Midlands and sub-regions

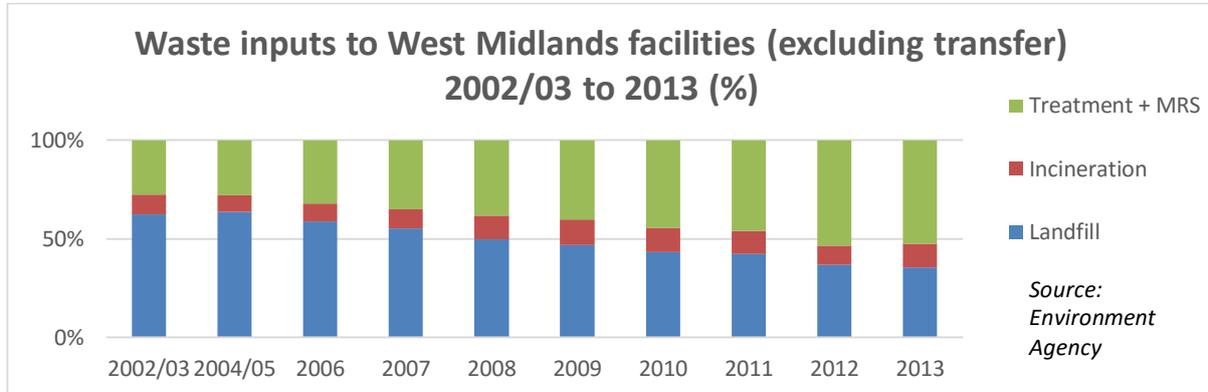
Appendices 2A – 2D

12. The Environment Agency publishes annual summaries of the waste deposited at and removed from facilities permitted under Environmental Permitting Regulations in England

⁸ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2008/98/EC on waste, 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment

and its former planning regions. The trend over the last 10 years shows a clear movement of waste management up the hierarchy, with a significant reduction in landfill and increase in treatment of waste, as demonstrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1



- Having fallen steadily from a high of about 16m tonnes in 2004/05 to about 13m tonnes in 2010, the amounts of waste deposited, transferred, treated or incinerated in the West Midlands increased to 14.3m tonnes in 2011 and stayed at about that level in 2012 and 2013 – see Figure 2.
- The total amount of waste received by facilities in the West Midlands in 2013 was about 15.7m tonnes.⁹ Amendments to the Waste Management Licensing Regulations designed to tighten the control over land reclamation/ spreading exemptions have provided more information about waste recovered in this way. In 2013, 1.2m tonnes of waste was deposited on/ in the land in the West Midlands, over 70% of which was in Staffordshire. Most (80%) of this waste came from within the West Midlands, and almost all the rest was from the East Midlands.
- Just under two thirds of the 15.7m tonnes of waste received by West Midland facilities in 2013 was household, industrial and commercial waste, about a third was inert/ construction and demolition waste, and about 4% was hazardous waste.¹⁰
- The amount of waste sent to landfill halved between 2000 and 2010, from over 8m tonnes in 2000/01 to about 4m tonnes in 2010. After an increase in 2011 to almost 4.5m tonnes, the amount has fallen significantly in subsequent years, to 3.6m tonnes in 2013 – a 19% reduction over 2 years since the escalation of Landfill Tax rates introduced in the 2010 Budget. About 1.9m tonnes of this waste was household/

⁹ This includes wastes received at landfill, transfer, treatment and MRS sites, wastes deposited in/ on land, and 'use of waste' sites, and wastes received at incinerators. See Appendix 2A and 2D.

¹⁰ This includes almost all waste received at West Midlands incinerators as household/ industrial and commercial waste – see Appendix 2D.

industrial or commercial, and 1.6m tonnes was inert/ construction and demolition waste. Almost two-thirds of the landfill of waste in 2013 took place in Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

- The volume of waste received by transfer stations increased steadily over the 3 years to 2014, to just under 4m tonnes – though this is still lower than the pre-recession (2006) high of 4.8m tonnes.
- There has been an 80% increase in the amount of waste inputs to treatment sites (including metal recycling), from about 2.9m tonnes in 2000/01 to over 5.5m tonnes in 2012. The amount fell back, but only slightly, to 5.4m tonnes in 2013.
- Inputs to incinerators, at about 1.23m tonnes in 2013, have increased and can be expected to continue to do so, as new capacity comes on stream.
- 53% of the transfer, treatment, incineration and metal recycling of waste took place in the metropolitan area, whilst 63% of the landfill activity occurred in Staffordshire and Warwickshire, in 2013 – see Figure 3.
- Overall, 55% of the 7.4m tonnes removed from West Midlands transfer, metal recycling and treatment facilities in 2013 was recovered, 16% was transferred and 15% was sent to landfill – see Figure 4.

Figure 2

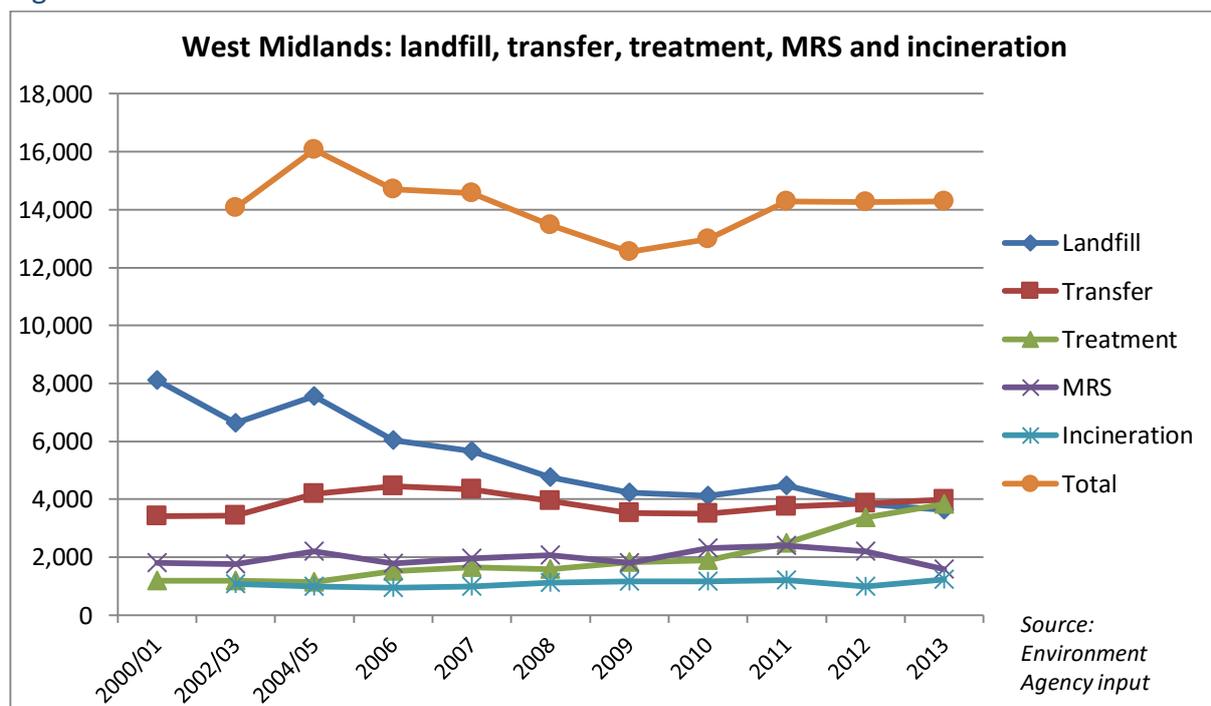


Figure 3

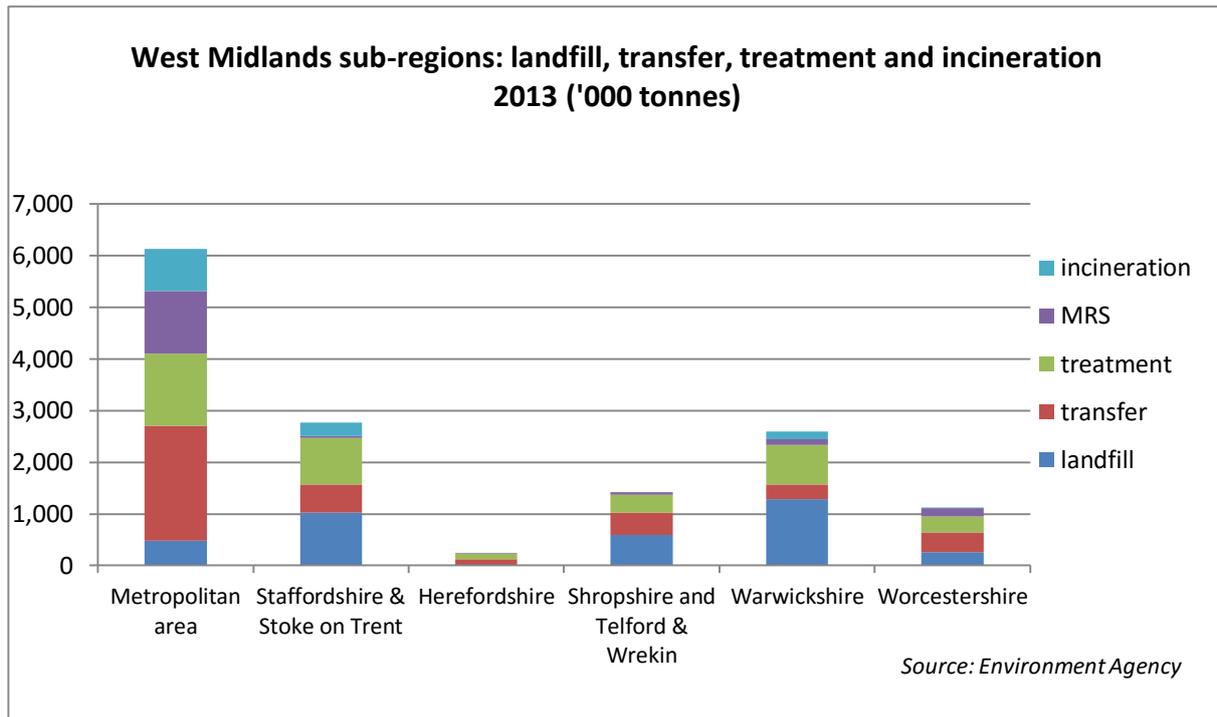
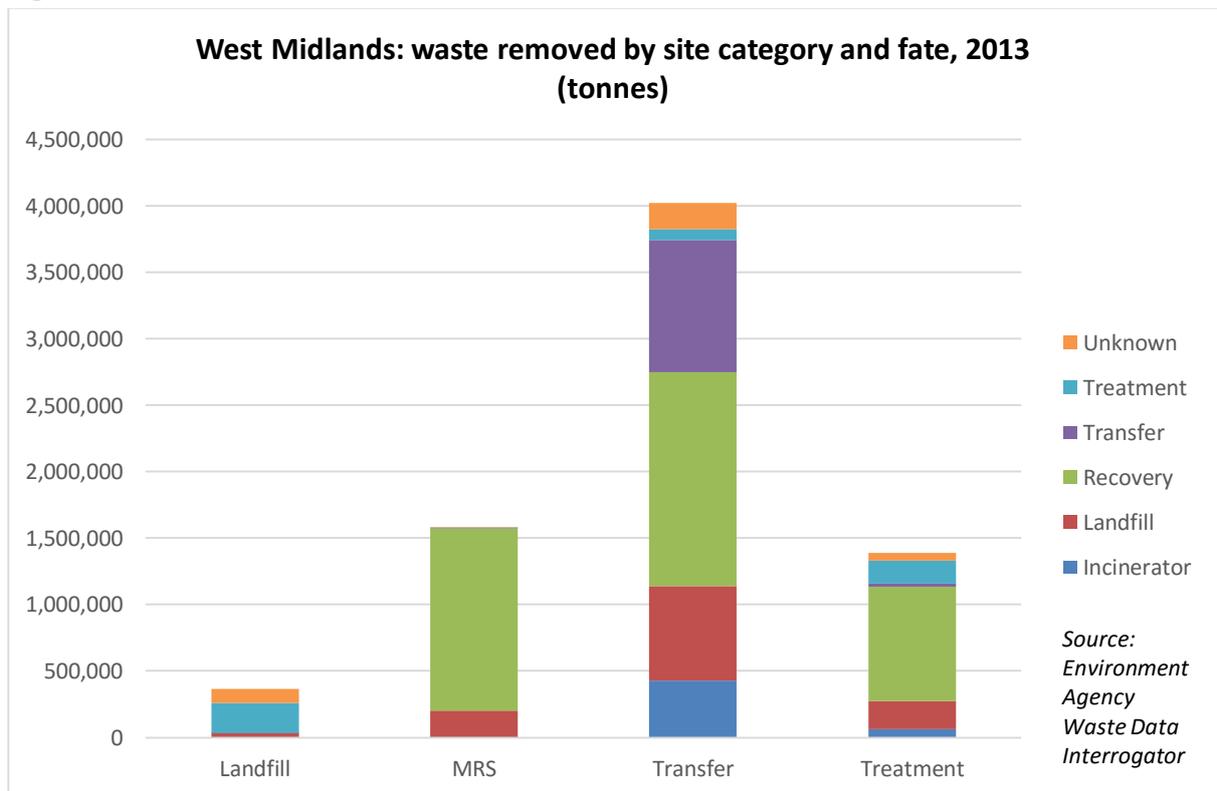


Figure 4



Origin of Waste and Waste Movements

Appendices 2F and 9

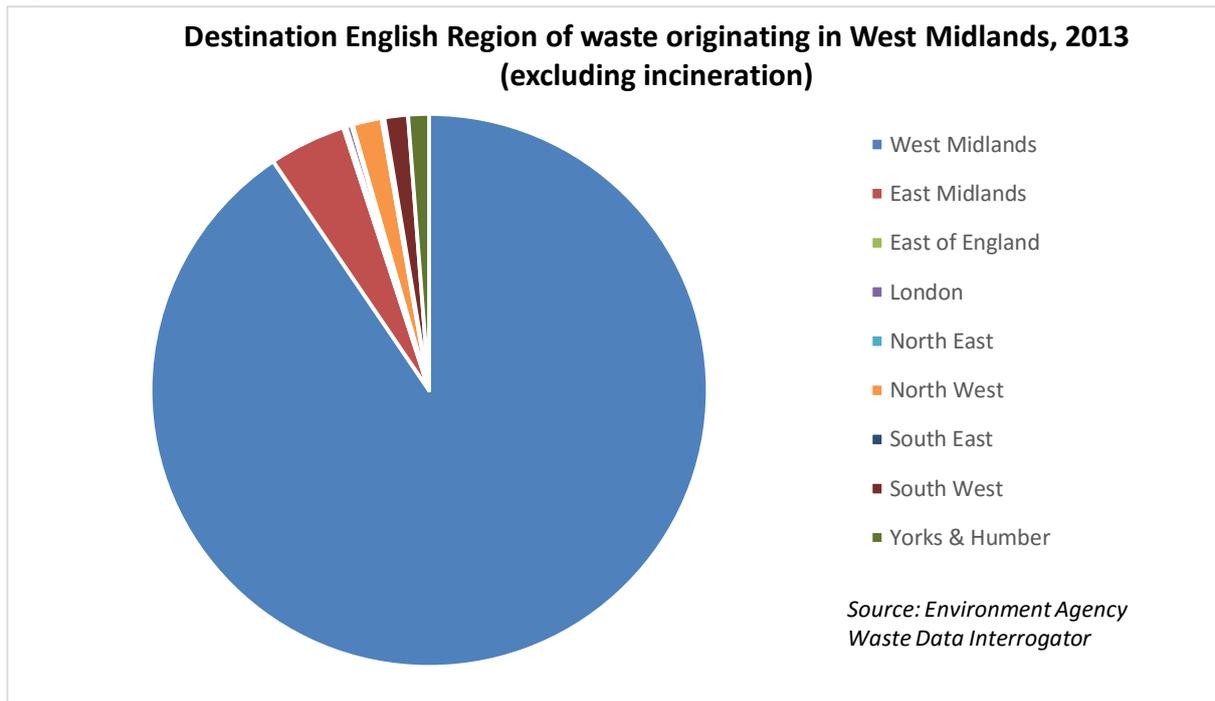
13. Information from the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI)¹¹ provides an insight into the movement of wastes, but has some limitations. Some origins (for about 5% of the waste inputs to West Midland facilities) are not codeable; and some origins are estimated based on site location. The information on the destination of wastes originating in the West Midlands is only partial, because the destination facilities for which information is available are confined to those located in England. In particular, and unlike in previous years, information on waste from the West Midlands which is managed in Wales is not available from the WDI – though Natural Resources Wales has kindly provided some information which is summarised in Appendix 2F. For these reasons, the scope to establish the balance between waste imports and exports to/ from a given area is restricted.

Destination English Region of Wastes Originating in the West Midlands

14. Of the 13.2m tonnes of waste deposited in an English region that originated in the West Midlands, about 12m tonnes (91%) was managed/ deposited within the West Midlands, 4% in the East Midlands, and about 1% in each of the North West, South West and Yorkshire and Humberside (222k tonnes, 181k tonnes and 160k tonnes respectively); other regions each received less than 41k tonnes. (See Figure 5.) Data from Natural Resources Wales indicates that an additional 147k tonnes of West Midlands waste (or about 175k tonnes including combustion/ incineration) was managed in facilities in Wales in 2013.

¹¹ Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) is a database and reporting tool. The data contains details of all waste deposited at and removed from permitted waste facilities in England, but excludes waste that was received at incinerators. The 2014 WDI contains data for 2013.

Figure 5



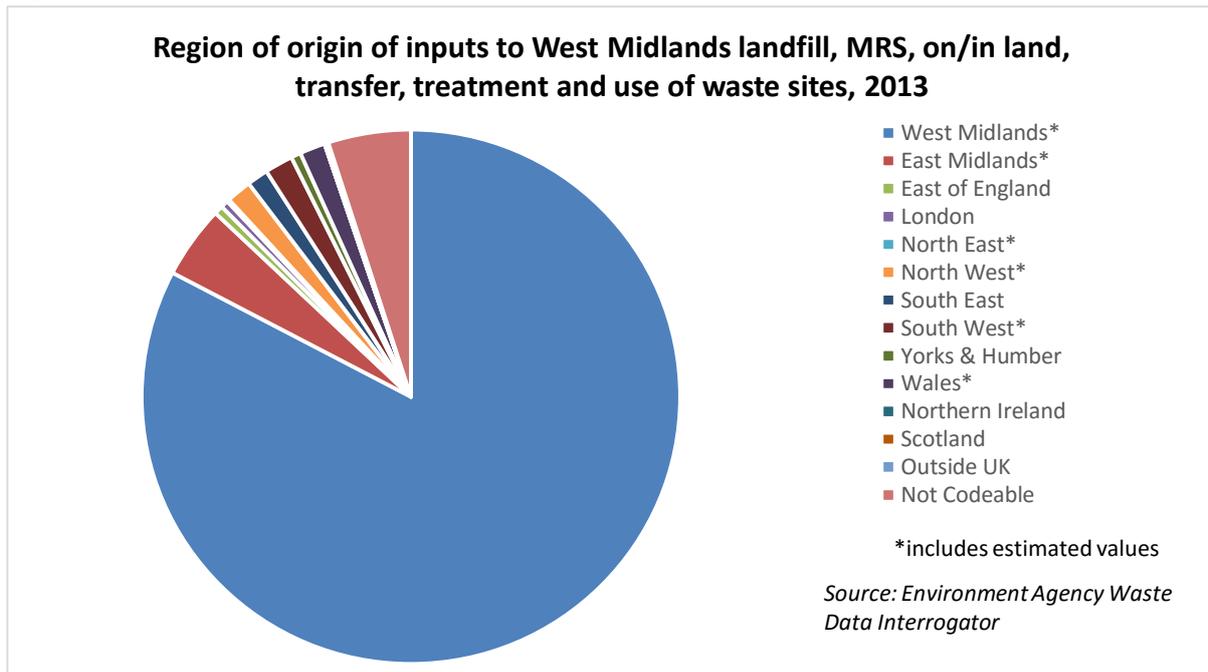
Region of Origin of Waste Managed in the West Midlands and its sub regions

15. In 2013, of the 14.5m tonnes inputs to landfill, treatment, MRS and transfer sites, and deposits on/ in land, 12m tonnes (83%) came from within the West Midlands, 4% was from the East Midlands, and the remainder came from a wide spread of regions (about 2% from each of the North West, South West and Wales being the largest movements); 5% was not codeable.¹² (See Figure 6.)

16. Patterns of movement for different types of waste management – landfill, treatment and transfer - are broadly similar to the overall picture.

¹² These figures exclude waste that was incinerated.

Figure 6



17. The pattern of movement of hazardous waste is different. Some 54% of the hazardous waste arising in the West Midlands was managed in the region in 2013; the rest was exported particularly to the East Midlands and North West. Only 40% of all the hazardous waste managed in the West Midlands in 2013 came from within the area, the pattern of imports reflecting a broader spread than that for exports. The proportionately more significant (albeit numerically relatively small) movements and longer distances travelled by hazardous wastes into and out of the West Midlands reflect the specialist recovery and treatment facilities available, for example in the Metropolitan area and Staffordshire, but also the relative lack of other facilities for example specialist landfill, and the availability of such facilities in other regions.

18. Waste movements between the WPAs within the West Midlands are relatively complex, with significant volumes of waste moving in both directions, most notably (but not exclusively) between Staffordshire and Wolverhampton; Warwickshire and Birmingham and Coventry; Sandwell and Birmingham; and Solihull and Birmingham. The high degree of interconnectivity between the West Midlands WPAs is clearly demonstrated in Appendix 2F. These movements largely reflect the location of specialist waste treatment facilities in the metropolitan area, and also the location of landfill capacity in the shire areas. This complex pattern of movement is particularly significant for the preparation of waste plans, not least in respect of the Duty to Co-operate, and waste planning authorities will no doubt wish to examine them in greater detail than has been possible in this monitoring statement.

19. With these factors in mind, the West Midlands RTAB has adopted guidelines to assist Waste Planning Authorities in the West Midlands to decide which WPAs to consult on their

plans, and how to respond when consulted by other WPAs regarding their plans. The advice is that waste movements between individual WPAs of 5,000 tonnes pa or more, and 1,000 tonnes pa for hazardous waste, may be considered strategic and therefore might normally trigger appropriate consultation – though it is emphasised that these guidelines should be applied with flexibility to reflect the specific circumstances in the respective WPAs.

Local Authority Collected Waste

Appendices 3A and 3B

20. The West Midlands produced just over 2.7m tonnes of local authority collected waste in 2013/14, of which 2.4m tonnes was household waste. Despite the 2.8% increase between 2012/13 and 2013/14, the last 10 years has seen a 10.6% reduction in this category of waste (a reduction which is slightly below the national average). There is an indication that local authority collected waste production might be beginning to increase as the numbers of households increase, the economy recovers and incomes begin to rise again.

21. Both the amount and proportion of municipal/ local authority collected waste that is sent to landfill have reduced significantly in recent years. By 2013/14, landfill accounted for just 22% of the West Midlands' local authority collected waste disposal, significantly lower than the England average of 31%, though both the North East and South East now rely less than the West Midlands on this least sustainable form of waste management. The Landfill Tax is generally regarded as being the key driver of the downward trend in landfill. The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, introduced in 2004 to help the UK meet its obligations under the EU Landfill Directive, ended after 2012/13, the Government taking the view that its effectiveness had been overtaken by the rapidly increasing rate of Landfill Tax. The Landfill Tax is planned to increase in line with inflation from 2015.

22. Overall across the West Midlands, 36% of local authority collected waste was incinerated with energy recovery – the second highest proportion in England. The amount of waste managed in this way in the West Midlands will increase as new energy recovery facilities come on stream post 2013. Some 42% of the local authority collected waste was recycled, a figure which is just below the national average. (Figure 7.)

23. The pattern of local authority collected and household waste management varies considerably across the West Midlands, with greater reliance on landfill but higher recycling rates in the shire areas, and a higher level of energy recovery by incineration in the major urban areas. (Figure 8.)

Figure 7

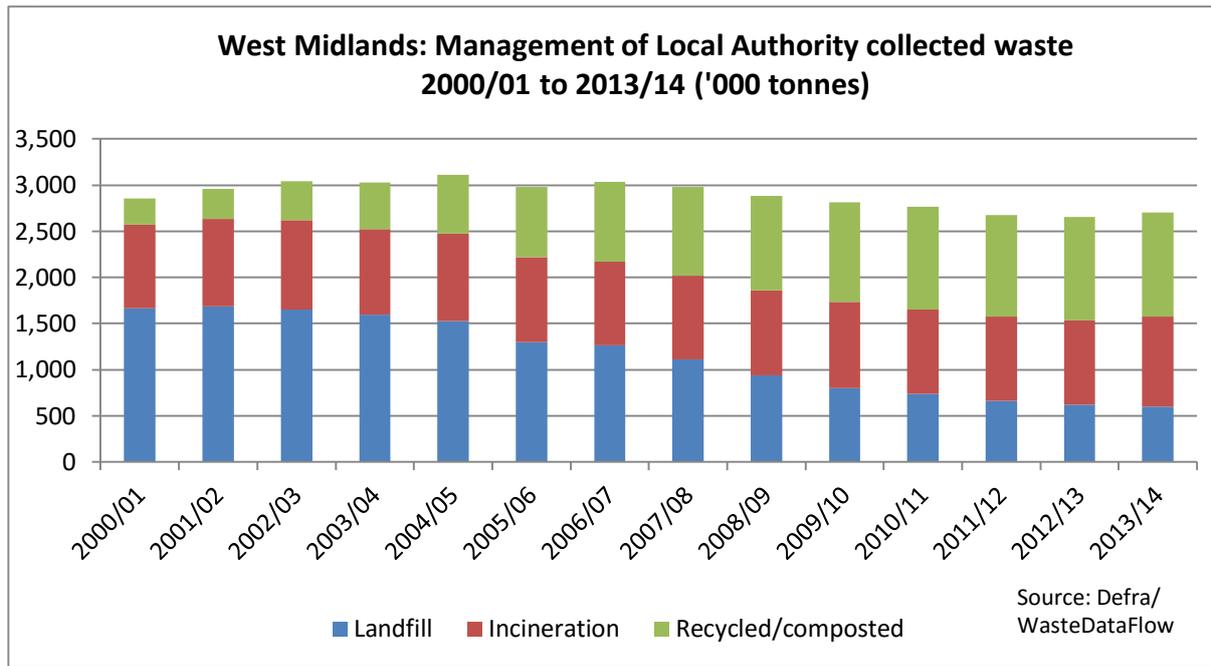
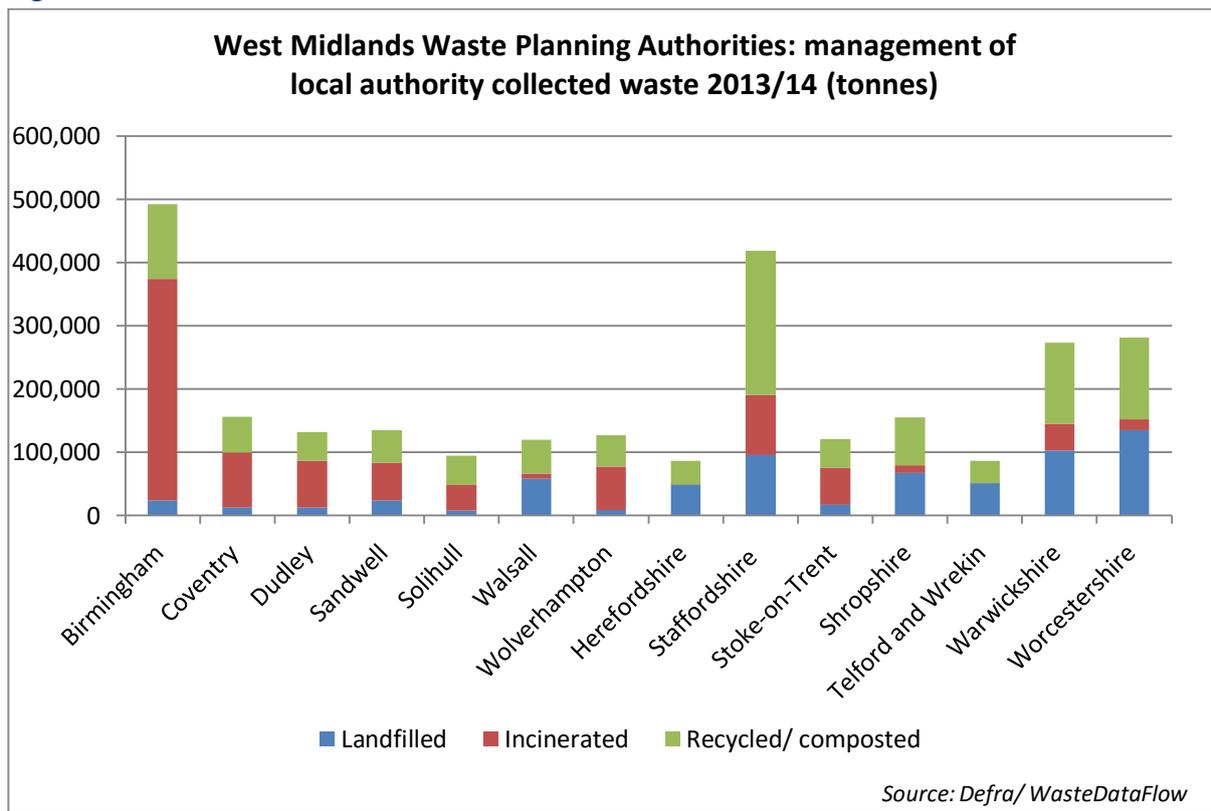


Figure 8



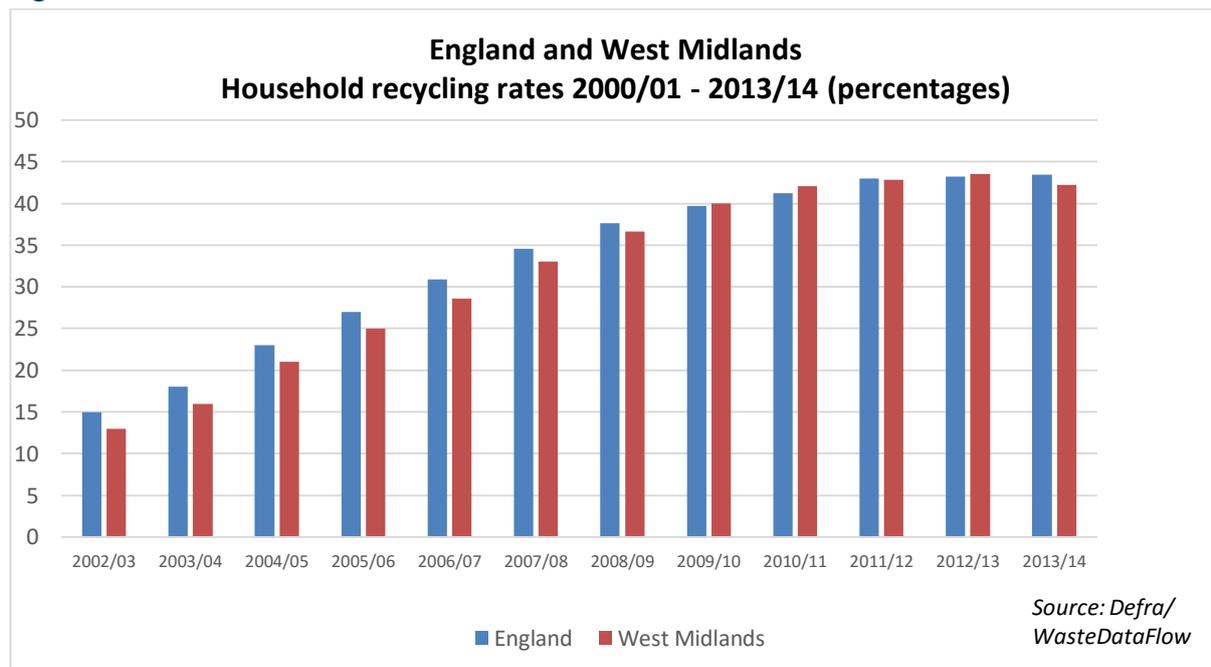
Household waste management

Appendices 4, 5 and 6

24. Some 2.4m tonnes of household waste was collected by local authorities in the West Midlands in 2013/14, a 1.7% increase on the previous year – the first increase since 2006/07.

25. The rapid increase in household waste composting and recycling that was a dominant feature of the last decade both in England generally and in the West Midlands appears to have come to an end. Whilst the rate in England has continued to increase (albeit more slowly) in the last 3 years, the West Midlands has seen a decline to 42.2% in 2013/14, which is just below the 2010/11 rate. The gap between the West Midlands and England household composting and recycling rates has widened. (Figure 9.) The amount of residual household waste per household¹³ in the West Midlands increased for the first time since 2001/02 and, at 582 kg per household, is 5% above the England average (555 kg per household).

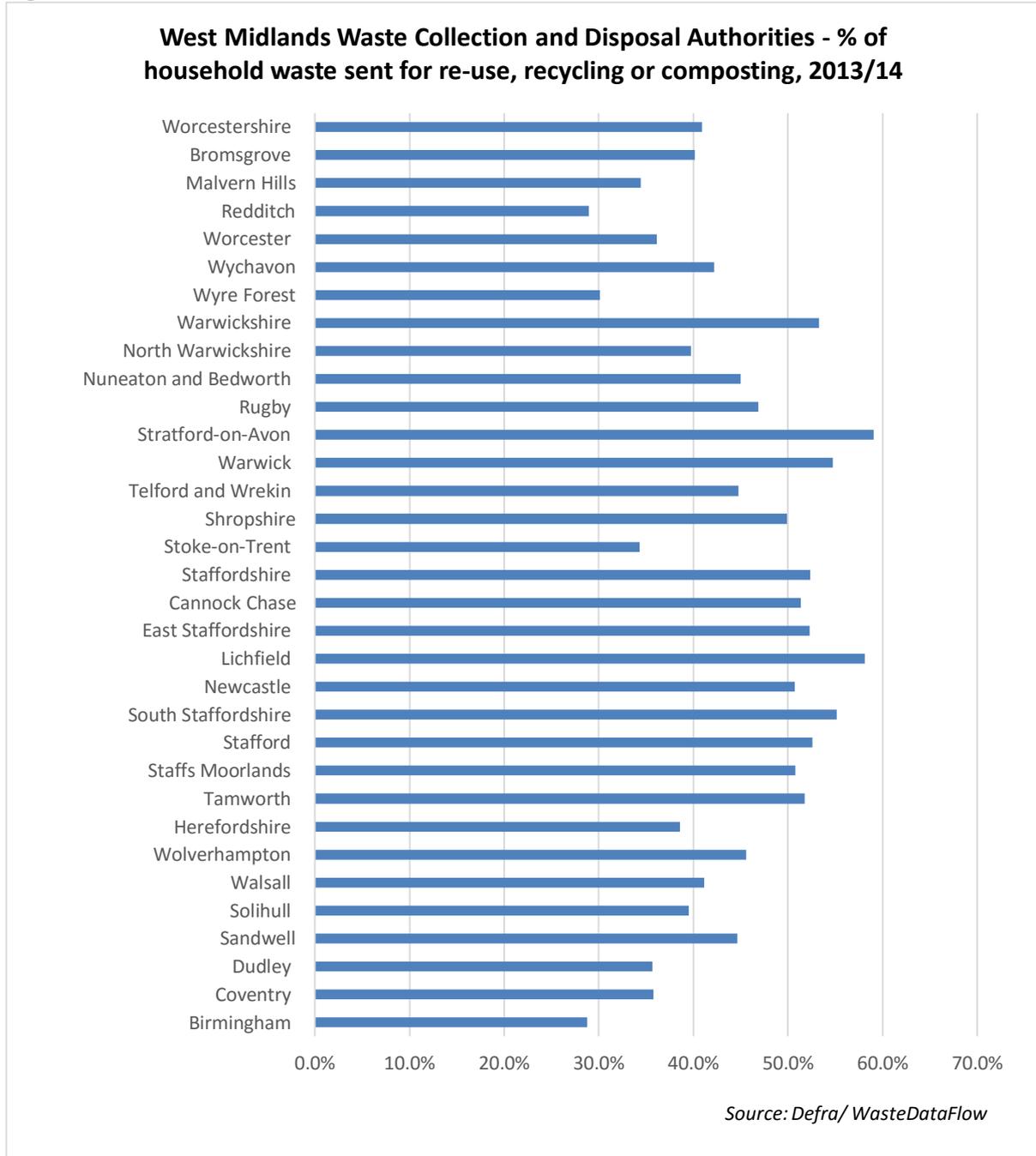
Figure 9



26. Household recycling rates continue to vary considerably across the West Midlands, the highest rate in 2013/14 (Stratford on Avon, 59%) being more than double the lowest. 12 of the 33 Waste Collection Areas and Waste Disposal Areas in the West Midlands equal or exceed the WFD's target for 2020 of 50%; 9 of the 12 are in Staffordshire. In general, highest rates are in the shire areas. (See Figure 10.) Similarly, residual household waste per household varies widely across the West Midlands.

¹³ Residual household waste is collected household waste that is not sent for re-use, composting or recycling

Figure 10



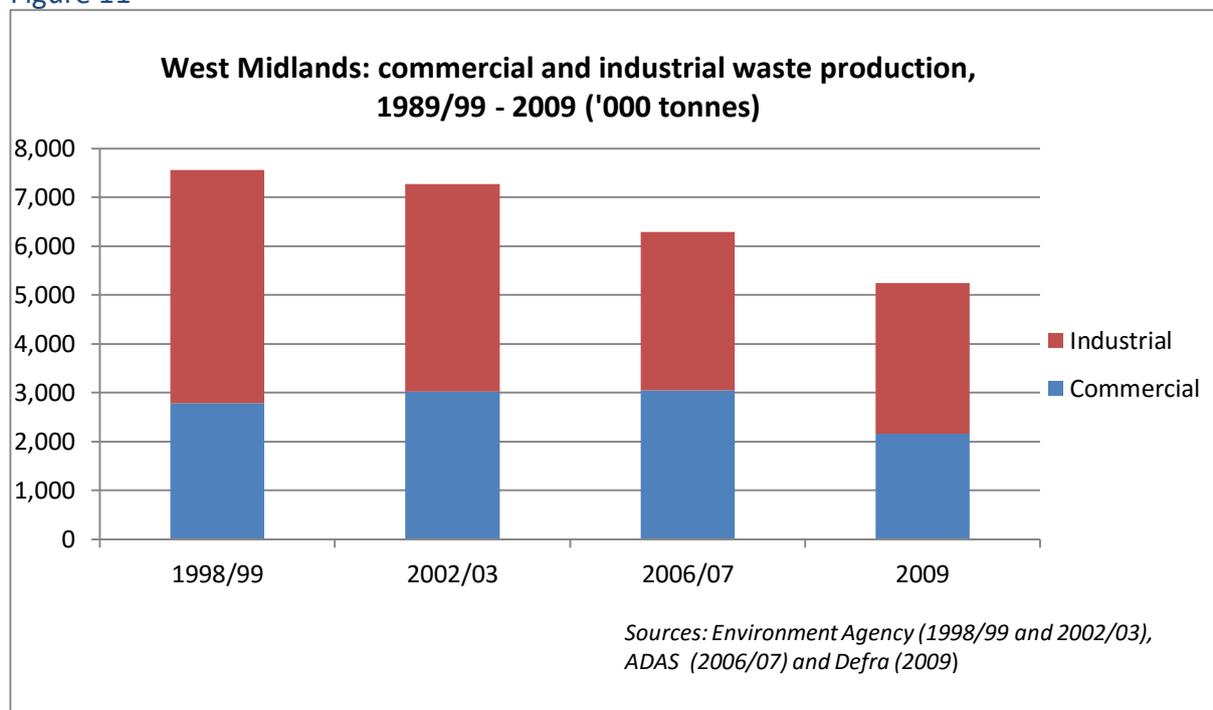
Commercial and Industrial Waste

Appendix 7

27. The West Midlands produced an estimated 5.3m tonnes of commercial and industrial waste in 2009. About 60% of this waste was from industry and 40% from the commercial sector. Comparing survey results from 2002/03 and 2009, there was a 27% reduction in commercial and industrial waste produced in the West Midlands, compared with the 30% decline in England as a whole. In England the reduction was more pronounced in the commercial sector (36%), whereas the reduction in the West Midlands was similar across both sectors. (Figure 11.)

28. This presents a different picture in the West Midlands from that shown by the changes between the 1998/99 and 2002/03 surveys. Over this period there was a 4% reduction in the amount of commercial and industrial waste produced. Whereas waste produced by industry fell by 11%, there was an 8% increase in commercial waste, particularly in the retail and wholesale, textiles, wood and paper sectors, reflecting changes in the Region's economic structure. The ADAS estimates of commercial and industrial waste arisings in the West Midlands (based upon its business structure) for 2006/07¹⁴ also suggested that, although industrial wastes had continued to decline, the amount of commercial waste had remained much the same.

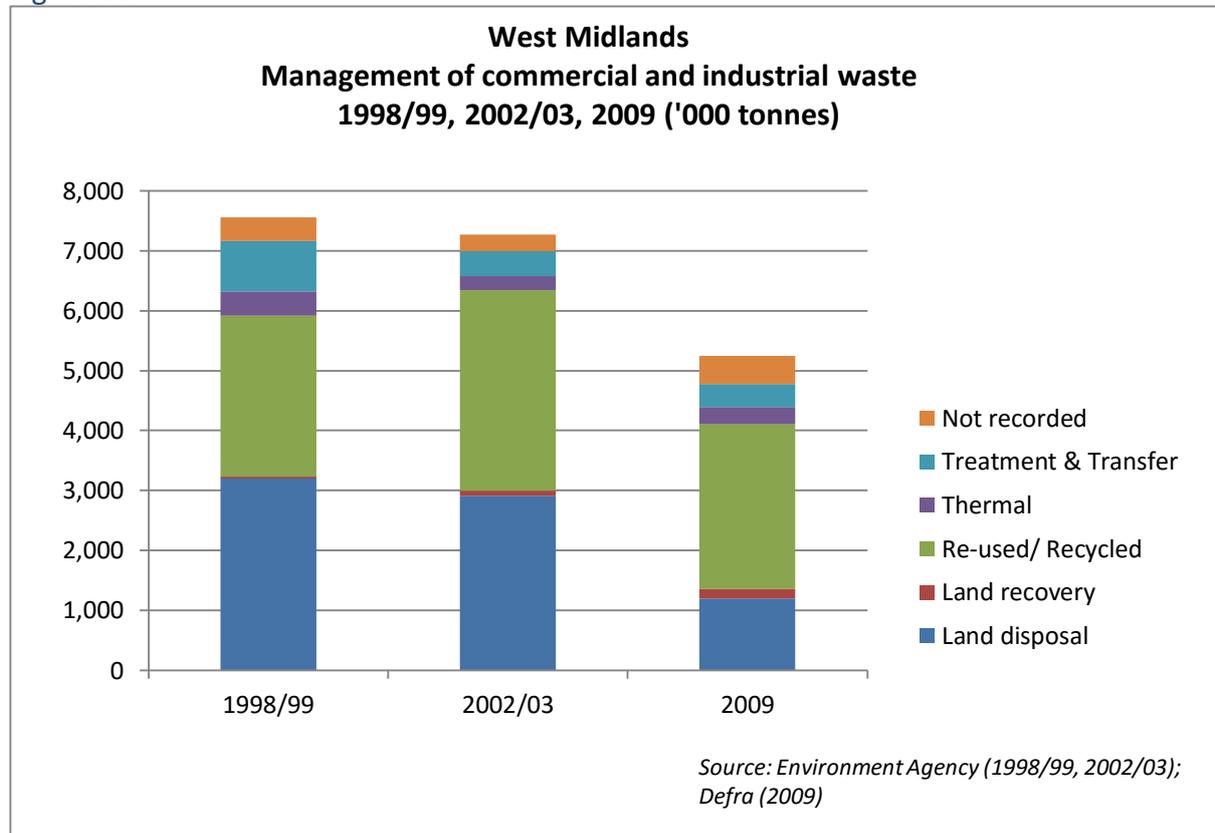
Figure 11



¹⁴ Study into Commercial and Industrial Waste Arisings, ADAS, April 2009

29. In 2009, 49% (2.6m tonnes) of the commercial and industrial waste in the West Midlands was re-used or recycled and 1.2m tonnes (23%) was landfilled. This indicates a substantial increase in reuse/ recycling and a reduction in the reliance on landfill (from 40%) since 2002/03. There is no WPA or sub-regional information available for 2009 or later.

Figure 12



Construction and Demolition Waste

Appendix 8

30. The amount of construction and demolition waste produced in the Region was estimated to have reduced from 8.6 million tonnes in 2001 to 8.1 million tonnes in 2003, but increased to 9.8 million tonnes in 2005. There are no more recent data on construction and demolition waste production at regional level.

31. The proportion of construction and demolition waste that was estimated to have been recycled as aggregate or soil increased from 50% in 2001 to 61% in 2003 (the highest performance for any region in England), but dropped back to 50% in 2005. In 2005, the production of recycled aggregate appeared not to have changed from 2003 levels, but there would seem to have been an overall increase in the amount of construction and demolition waste disposed of at landfills and used at registered exempt sites. Regional and sub-regional level data from the survey are subject to wide confidence levels, however, and these results should be treated with caution.

32. More recent information on construction and demolition waste production is only available at national level. Estimates for 2008 to 2010 for England suggest that the amount of construction and demolition waste produced reduced from a high of about 95m tonnes to approximately 77m tonnes in 2010, but the proportion of this waste that was recycled increased to 61% with a reduction in the proportion sent to landfill/ exempt sites.

33. There was a 15% increase in the amount of construction and demolition waste¹⁵ received at West Midlands permitted facilities between 2012 and 2013. Of the 5m tonnes received in 2013, 1.6m tonnes (32%) was sent to landfill and a further 0.8m tonnes (17%) was used on/ in the land. Some 1.2m tonnes of construction and demolition wastes was removed from permitted sites in the West Midlands in 2013, of which 0.7m tonnes (58%) was either recovered or treated.

Hazardous Waste

Appendix 9

34. The West Midlands produced about 470k tonnes of hazardous waste in 2013 – a substantial reduction from the exceptionally high level of 2011 (which was almost entirely the result of a one-off event in Warwickshire). In 2013, 627k tonnes of hazardous waste was deposited in the West Midlands, 365k tonnes (58%) of which was managed in the metropolitan area. The West Midlands exported about 200k tonnes of hazardous waste (about half to the East Midlands and a quarter to the North West), and imported some 374k tonnes from other English regions. This report has already noted the scale of movements and distances travelled by hazardous wastes.

35. Of the hazardous waste deposited in the West Midlands in 2013, 39% was recovered and 28% treated; only 4% was sent to landfill. Similarly, two thirds of the hazardous waste exported from the West Midlands to locations elsewhere in England was recovered or treated, but 10% was sent to landfill.

Waste Management Capacity

Appendix 10

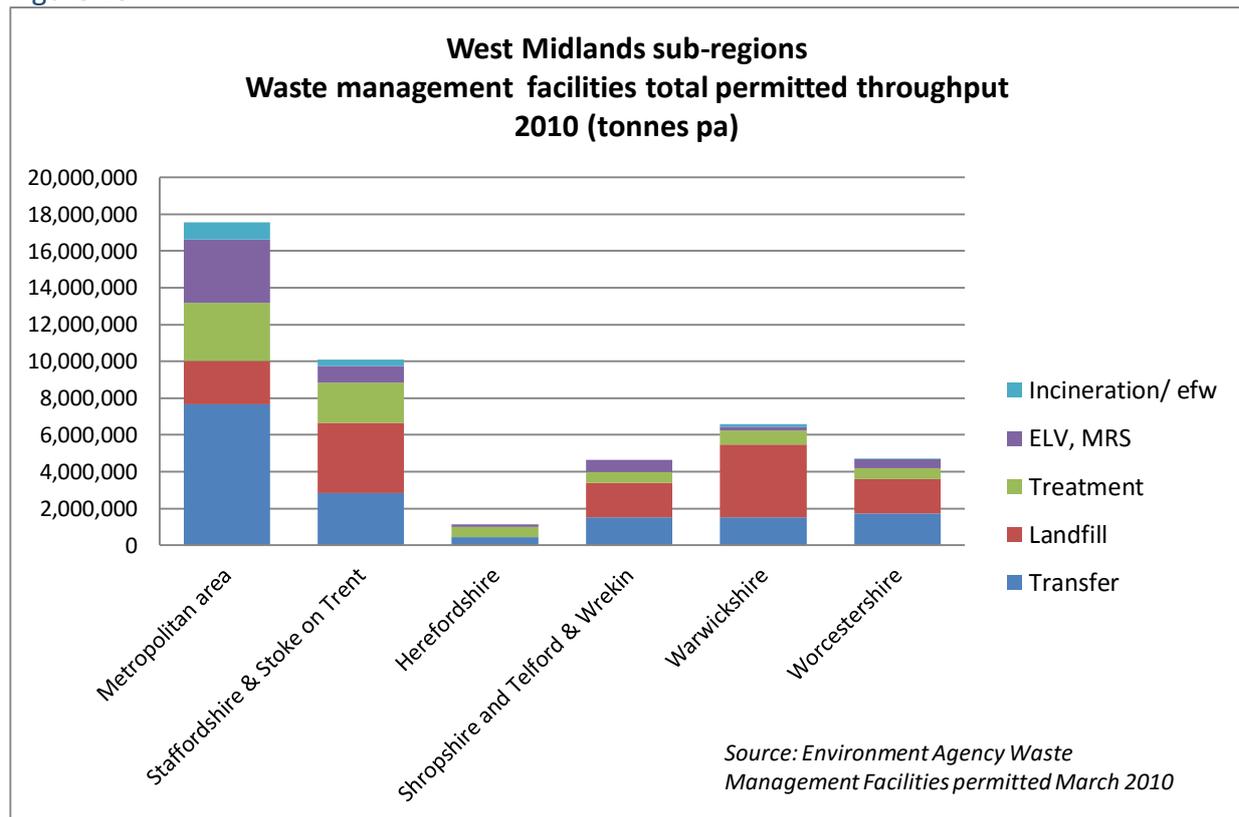
36. *Appendix 10* summarises the maximum permitted throughput of landfill, transfer, treatment, MRS and incinerator waste facilities across the sub-regions of the West Midlands in 2010, as identified in the Environment Agency's report on Waste Infrastructure produced in 2011. This information should be interpreted with caution because permitted throughput

¹⁵ Chapter 17 wastes, EWC – Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator, 2014

is not the same thing as operational capacity - capacity will normally be lower than permitted throughput. Appendix 10 also compares the maximum permitted throughput with the estimates of capacity identified in the Treatment Facilities and Capacity Survey¹⁶, and with actual inputs.

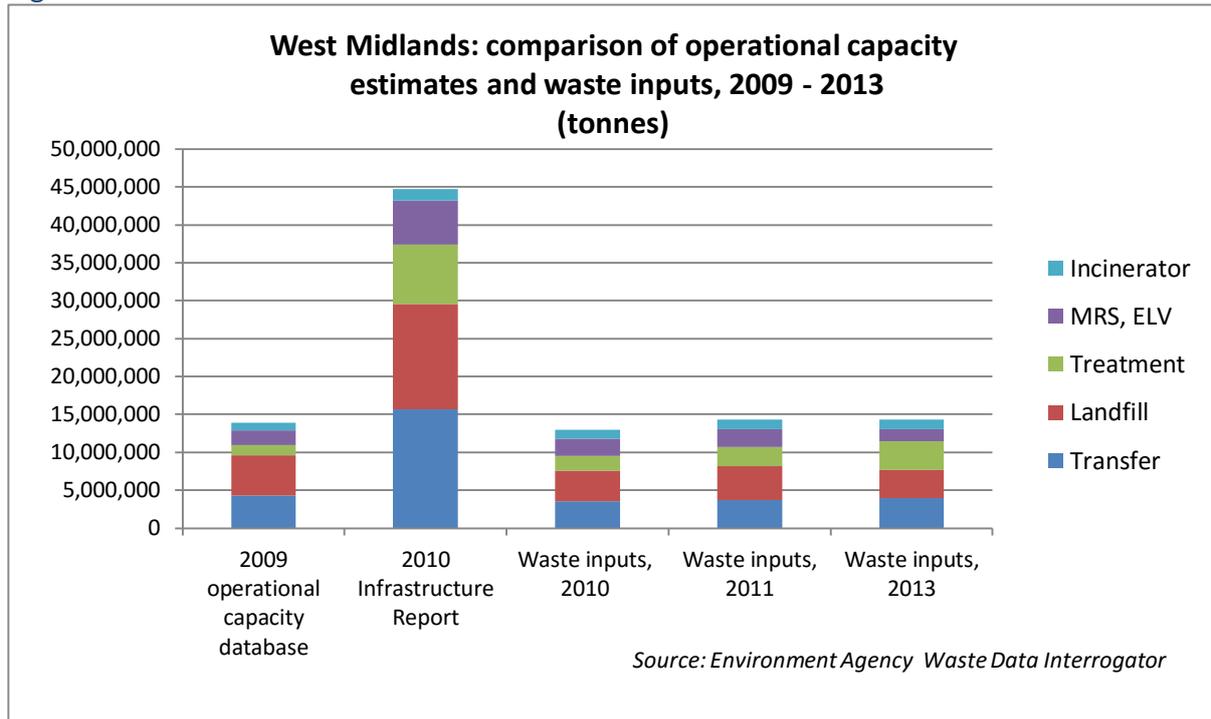
- Landfill: about 8.25m tonnes pa permitted throughput, concentrated in Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Actual inputs in 2013 totalled 3.6m tonnes.
- Treatment: 6.9m tonnes pa permitted throughput, mainly in the metropolitan area and Staffordshire/ Stoke on Trent. Actual inputs in 2013 were 3.8m tonnes.
- Incineration: 1.5m tonnes permitted throughput, compared with inputs in 2013 of 1.2m tonnes.
- Metal recycling: 5.8m tonnes pa permitted throughput, about 60% of which is in the metropolitan area. Actual inputs totalled 1.6m tonnes in 2013.
- Transfer: 15.7m tonnes pa permitted throughput, half of which is in the metropolitan area. Actual inputs in 2013 were 4m tonnes.

Figure 13



¹⁶A report prepared for West Midlands Regional Assembly by SLR Consulting Ltd in 2007, with update to 2009

Figure 14



Landfill Capacity

Appendix 11

37. The West Midlands had an estimated capacity of about 65m cubic metres of landfill in 2013, an increase of 5.4m cubic metres over the previous year accounted for entirely by an increase in the capacity for inert wastes in Warwickshire. Almost four fifths of the capacity was in Staffordshire, Warwickshire and the Metropolitan area, and there was none in Herefordshire.

Figure 15

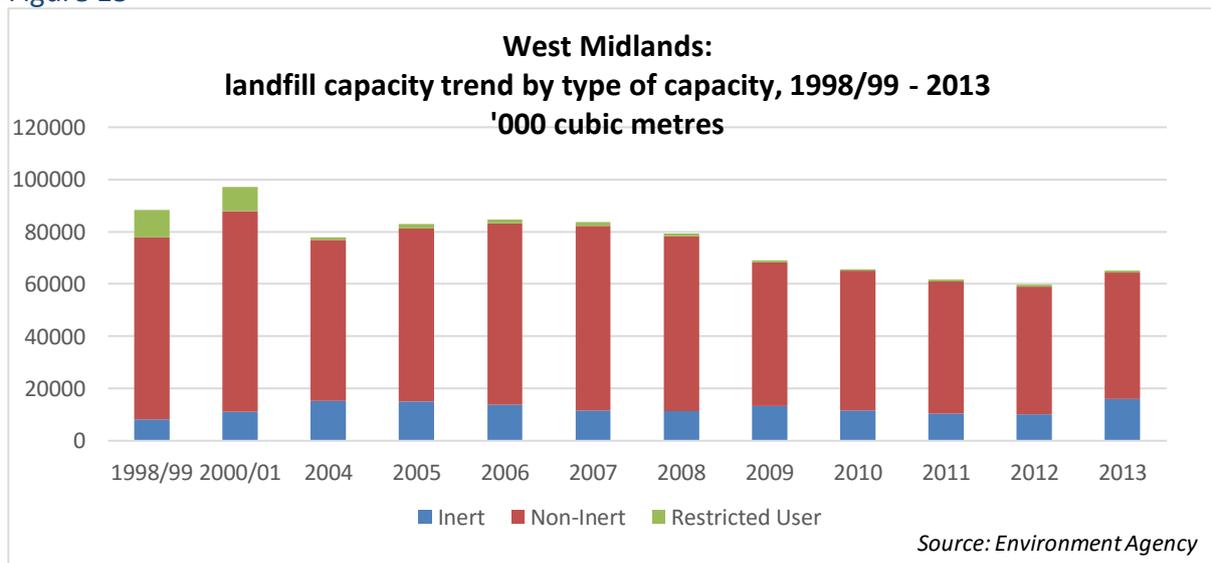
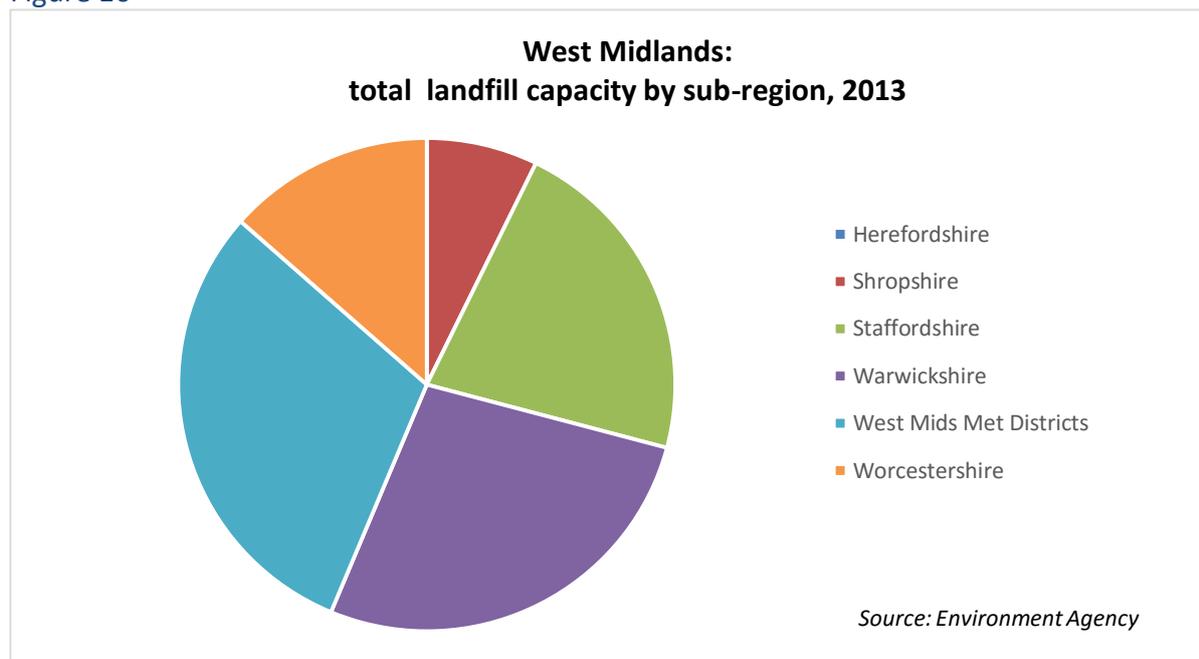


Figure 16



38. The Landfill Capacity Study Update 2009 showed that total landfill capacity for the West Midlands had reduced by around 13% since the first capacity study was completed in 2007. That study identified 48m cubic metres of operational capacity, 13.6m cubic metres of non-operational capacity that would only be released at the discretion of the operators, and a further 23m cubic metres of 'planning obligated' capacity likely to be available only in the long term.¹⁷ Although there was substantial capacity available for a wide range of municipal and industrial and commercial wastes, the capacity for hazardous waste was very limited (only one authorised and operational site in 2009). The Landfill Capacity Report estimated that total capacity might be consumed around 2019/2020, though alternative economic and diversion assumptions could extend this to as late as 2027/28. The more recent evidence summarised in this statement about waste management and landfill capacity, and anecdotal evidence from landfill operators about site closures and mothballing in the face of declining demand, suggest that this more optimistic assessment is closer to the mark.

Trends in the number of permitted facilities

Appendix 12

39. The number of permitted sites receiving waste in the West Midlands has increased over recent years. The number of landfill sites receiving waste has reduced by half since 2005, to 30 in 2013; but there has been a three-fold increase in the number of treatment facilities, from 55 in 2005 to 159 in 2013.

¹⁷A Study into Future Landfill Capacity in the West Midlands, Scott Wilson on behalf of WMRA, May 2007; and 2009 Update – June 2009.

Planning proposals and new developments

40. The period since the last Monitoring Statement has seen continuing progress in the development of new waste management infrastructure in the West Midlands. For example:

- The European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) opened in 2013. It provides the base for the West Midlands Bioenergy Support Centre. EBRI aims to provide high impact, high quality research and advice on bioenergy, working locally as well as with Europe and the rest of the world. To date, it has been successful in achieving over £30m investment in support of bioenergy and has created world-wide contacts in the field. The Pyroformer plant developed by EBRI combines heat and chemical treatment in a sealed environment, and uses multiple waste sources to generate cost-effective heat and power and biochar which can be used as a fertiliser to increase crop yields.
- Birmingham City Council's Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District has continued to attract investment in new infrastructure. For example, a £49m wood biomass power station is due to open in January 2016, and potential investments in a gasifier plant and anaerobic digestion are being pursued.
- Substantial additional waste to energy capacity has been completed or is under construction: the 300k tonne Four Ashes waste to energy plant became operational in 2014; planning permission has been granted for an additional 40k tonnes capacity. The 90k tonne Battlefield plant in Shropshire is under construction and will be commissioned in 2015. The Hartlebury, Worcestershire facility (200k tonne) is under construction and is due to open in 2017.
- Robert Hopkins Environmental, a family-owned company in the Black Country which specialises in treating difficult hazardous materials including the secure destruction and treatment of contaminated packaging, commissioned a new innovative plant in 2014. The plant overcomes weaknesses in traditional gasification and pyrolysis techniques (which create uneven burn in retorts due to hot-spots and cold-spots) by using the char to heat the retorts. It can take any organic waste.
- The 100k tonnes pa Lower House Farm Household Recycling Centre and Transfer Station in North Warwickshire opened in 2013. This facility provides household recycling facilities, and takes commercial waste and waste from households in Warwickshire and Staffordshire which is transferred to the Four Ashes waste to energy plant.
- Planning permission was granted in 2014 for an integrated waste management facility in Telford. The site will handle up to 95k tonnes pa of residual household and commercial waste, most of which will be transferred to recycling and treatment facilities elsewhere in the Midlands, and provides a community recycling facility.

- Construction started in 2014 on a 220k tonne MBT facility in Warwickshire that will produce fuel from household and commercial waste; the fuel will be used in a nearby cement works.

Progress on Plan Preparation

41. RTAB has always provided the opportunity for members to exchange views on emerging development plans. This has been recognised (for example at the hearing into the Worcestershire Core Strategy) as adding value to and helping WPAs to comply with the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate. Since agreeing more formalised arrangements for such discussions through the Protocol in 2013, RTAB has received presentations from several Waste Planning Authorities seeking its views on their emerging waste policies and proposals. Details of the discussions regarding Telford & Wrekin's 'Shaping Places' local plan and Walsall's Site Allocations document (in July 2013), the Birmingham Development Plan (in January 2014), and the waste implications of Worcestershire's Minerals local plan (in September 2014), can be seen in the relevant RTAB minutes.

42. The Black Country, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, Solihull, Worcestershire and Warwickshire have all adopted development plans that include policies to encourage sustainable waste management and criteria to guide the location and development of waste management facilities to 2021 or beyond. Birmingham, Coventry, Herefordshire and Telford and Wrekin expect to adopt their plans in 2015 or 2016. A number of WPAs either have prepared or are preparing development plan documents to provide either specific allocations of land for, or more detailed guidance on site selection and management of, new waste facilities. Details are set out in the following table.

Waste Planning Authority	Plan and plan period	Status in April 2015
Birmingham	Birmingham Development Plan – to 2031	Plan submitted July 2014, hearings held October/ November 2014; further work on housing matters in early 2015.
Coventry	Local Development Plan	Issues and Options published mid 2014; further consultation February 2015; consultation and submission of LDP proposed for mid-2015, hearings late-2015, adoption mid-2016.
Black Country	Black Country Joint Core Strategy – to 2026	<u>Adopted</u> February 2011.
Dudley	Development Strategy DPD	Preferred Options published mid-2014; proposed submission 2015.
Sandwell	Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan – to 2021	<u>Adopted</u> September 2012.
Walsall	Site Allocations DPD	Issues and Options published 2013; Preferred Options proposed publication mid-2015.
Wolverhampton	Stafford Road and Bilston Corridor Area Action Plans City Centre Area Action Plan	<u>Adopted</u> 2014 Proposed adoption 2015.
Solihull	Solihull Local Plan	<u>Adopted</u> December 2013 (subject to successful legal challenge which does not affect waste policies).
Herefordshire	Core Strategy Natural Resources DPD	Submitted September 2014; hearings held February 2015. Preparation 2015 and 2016.
Shropshire	Core Strategy DPD Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan	<u>Adopted</u> 2011. Submitted August 2014; hearings held November/ December 2014.
Telford and Wrekin	Shaping Places Local Plan	Issues and Options published 2013; proposed submission 2015, adoption 2016.
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent	Joint Core Waste Strategy	<u>Adopted</u> 2013.
Warwickshire	Waste Core Strategy Local Plan – to 2028	<u>Adopted</u> July 2013.
Worcestershire	Waste Core Strategy Local Plan – to 2027	<u>Adopted</u> November 2012.