

Carpet Recycling UK Conference 2017

Keynote speech: Bulky waste challenges facing local authorities

Andrew Bird, LARAC and Newcastle under
Lyme Borough Council





Local Authority Recycling
Advisory Committee

Andrew Bird – Chair LARAC

The challenges bulky waste provides to
local authorities



Local Authority Recycling
Advisory Committee

What is LARAC?

- Formed in 1985 to represent the emerging voice of local government recycling officers
- Full membership open to any local authority in the UK
- Represents local authority views in waste and recycling issues
- Run by an Executive of 20 waste management officers employed by local authorities



Current Pressures

- Budget Cuts
 - 5 years, 40% reduction, similar to come
- End markets
 - Global trading, oil prices, Asian market
- Public Perception
 - Engaged but not active, unhelpful press
- National policy
 - Lack of direction, unhelpful messages

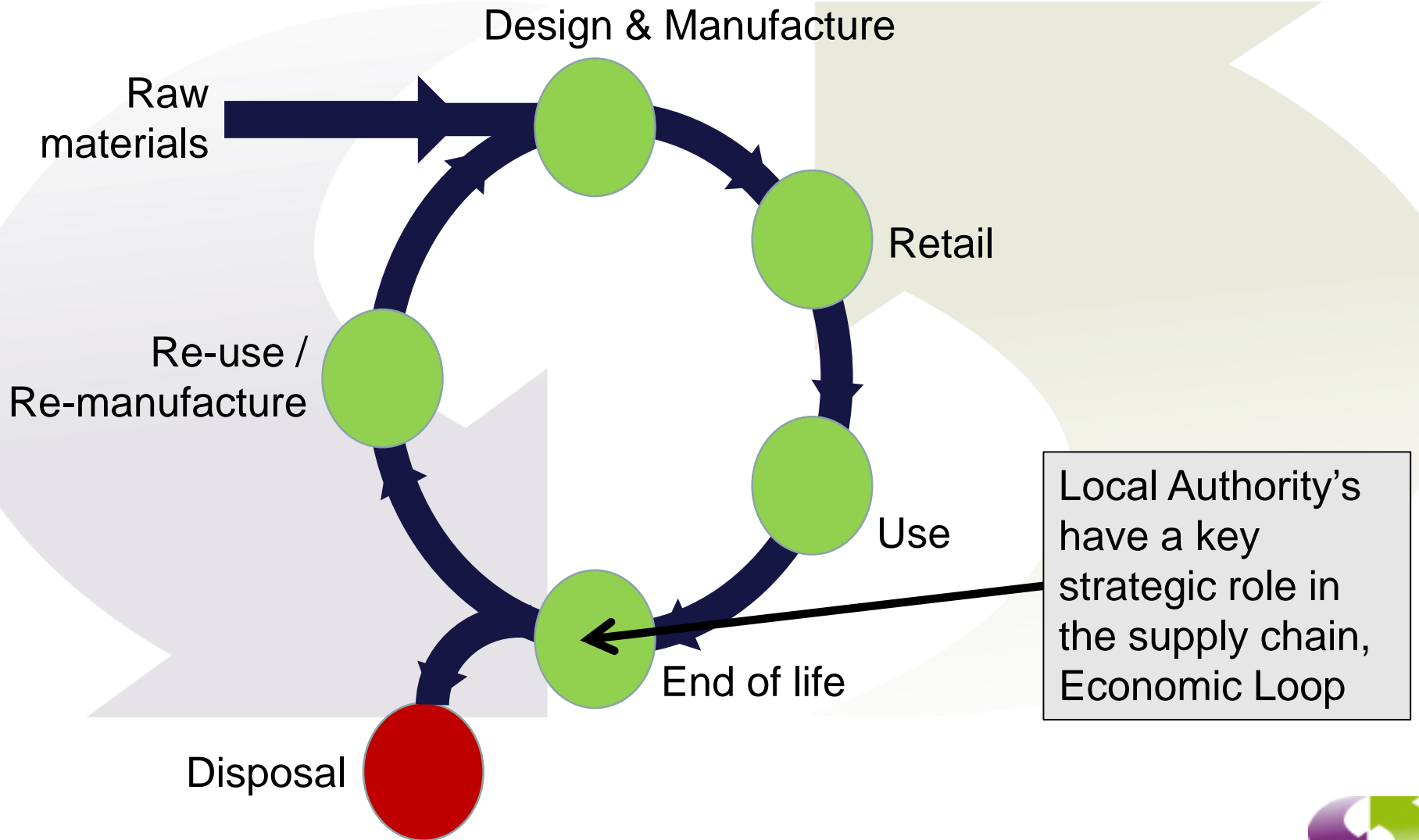
Future Pressures

- 50% Target – Does it now matter?
 - Consistency including food?
- 65% Target – now 70%
 - UK not in favour? Will it become law?
- Producer Responsibility
 - Burden or opportunity
- Material design
 - Technology moving faster than treatment

Impact on Services

- Do more with less – less with less
- More charging – bulky waste / green waste
- More value from end materials
- More partnership working
- TECKAL options
- Pay as you throw
- Extended producer responsibility

The Economic Loop



Future Services

- Future already here
- Short Medium Term focus appears to be to reduce residual waste
- Bulky Waste is an issue both from a WDA and WCA point of view

Future Services – Reducing Bulky Waste

- Household collections moving more toward third sector organisations – raising quality and value.
- Newcastle under Lyme – Contracted Bulky Waste Collections to Furniture Mine.
- Furniture Mine is a North Staffordshire based charity providing furniture to people in need and to the local community through furniture donations.

Future Services – Reducing Bulky Waste – Furniture Mine

- Unwanted furniture collected
- **379 tonnes of items from households**
- Bulky Item collections
- **821**
- Most donated items
- **Sofas and bedroom furniture**
- Referrals from councils
- **1,200**
- <https://youtu.be/FV9lywiW9W8>

Future Services – Reducing Bulky Waste

- Staffordshire Waste Partnership is working hard to reduce volume of bulky waste sent for disposal.
- Process in place to reduce waste and maximise value across all 10 Staffordshire Authorities.

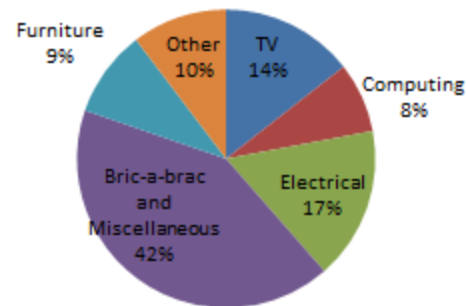
Staffordshire – Reducing Bulky Waste Disposal

- 9,022 t bulky waste handled through HWRC contract in 2016/17.
- Process allows WCA's to direct deliver bulky/fly-tipped waste to HWRC network allowing greater opportunities to re-use or recycle.
- First Re-use shop now in operation at Cannock HWRC

Staffordshire – Reducing Bulky Waste Disposal – Cannock HWRC Re-use shop.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Feb-17										
2		TV	864		TV	864					
3		Monitor	263		Computing	455					
4		Consumer Equipment	284		Electrical	991					
5		Electrical Tools	64		Bric-a-brac and Miscellaneous	2496					
6		Lighting	55		Furniture	565					
7		Bric a Brac	576		Other	618					
8		Childrens Items	83		Total	5989					
9		DIY	20								
10		Flooring	12								
11		Furniture	437								
12		Soft Furniture	80								
13		Home Office Furniture	48								
14		Garden	85								
15		Garden Electrical	25								
16		IT Telecommunications	192								
17		Large Household Appliances	5								
18		Small Household Appliances	583								
19		Leisure	361								
20		Misceallenous	1920								
21		Bedding Window	19								
22		Bathroom Items	13								
23		TOTAL	5989								
24											

Booked Categories



Staffordshire – Reducing Bulky Waste Disposal – What happens to it !

- All residual bulky waste goes through a shredder at one of our Energy from waste Plants. Similar process under development at our other plant.
- Aim to reduce need for landfill, now at 1.5 – 2% of total volume.
- Difficulty comes with mixed loads of bulky waste with hazardous items (usually in mixed fly-tipped loads)

Staffordshire – Reducing Bulky Waste Disposal – Difficult Bulky items !

- **Rigid Plastics and Mattresses:**
 - These items are segregated by our Contractor for recycling, but are proving immensely difficult to process due to sheer volume and declining number of reprocessors (positive about award of funding to three research projects on mattresses).
 - Plastics are not desirable at EfW's due to potential emissions spikes, mattresses create problems for shredders and cause blockages un-shredded.
- Carpets can also prove problematic as a bulky item in terms of volume, but it remains a grey area whether it should be considered as “improvement/renovation” waste and thus non-household waste? TBC

Staffordshire – Reducing Bulky Waste Disposal – Summary

Doing all we can to manage the last difficult fraction of bulky waste at HWRCs, but cannot legislate for awkward fly-tipping loads and necessary shutdown periods for EfW facilities. Segregation opportunities to maximise reuse/recycling, working with WCAs to minimise waste to Landfill

Final Thoughts -

- There is now a need to fundamentally change the way we finance collection and disposal of waste –
- Extended, Effective & Transparent Producer Responsibility – beyond traditional packaging to include other products such as rigid plastics, mattresses, and carpets.
- Create Demand in the Market for Recyclable Materials
- Standardise what we Collect & Ensure we have the right Infrastructure in the Right Place



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