



Plastics

The National Picture

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Warwickshire Waste
Partnership

 **recycle** for Warwickshire

A STORY OF LIFESTYLES & PRODUCTS



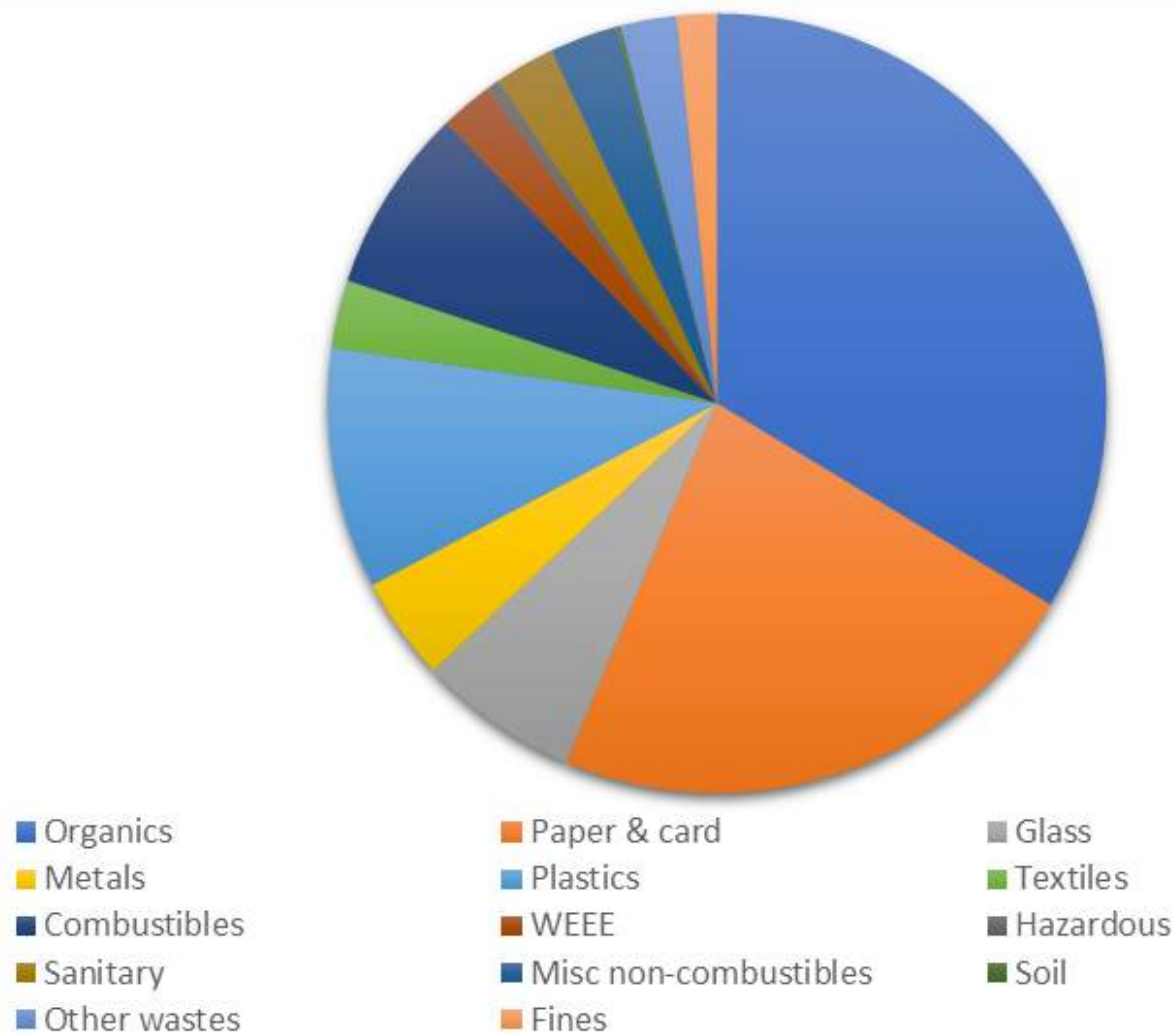
WASTE & RESOURCES



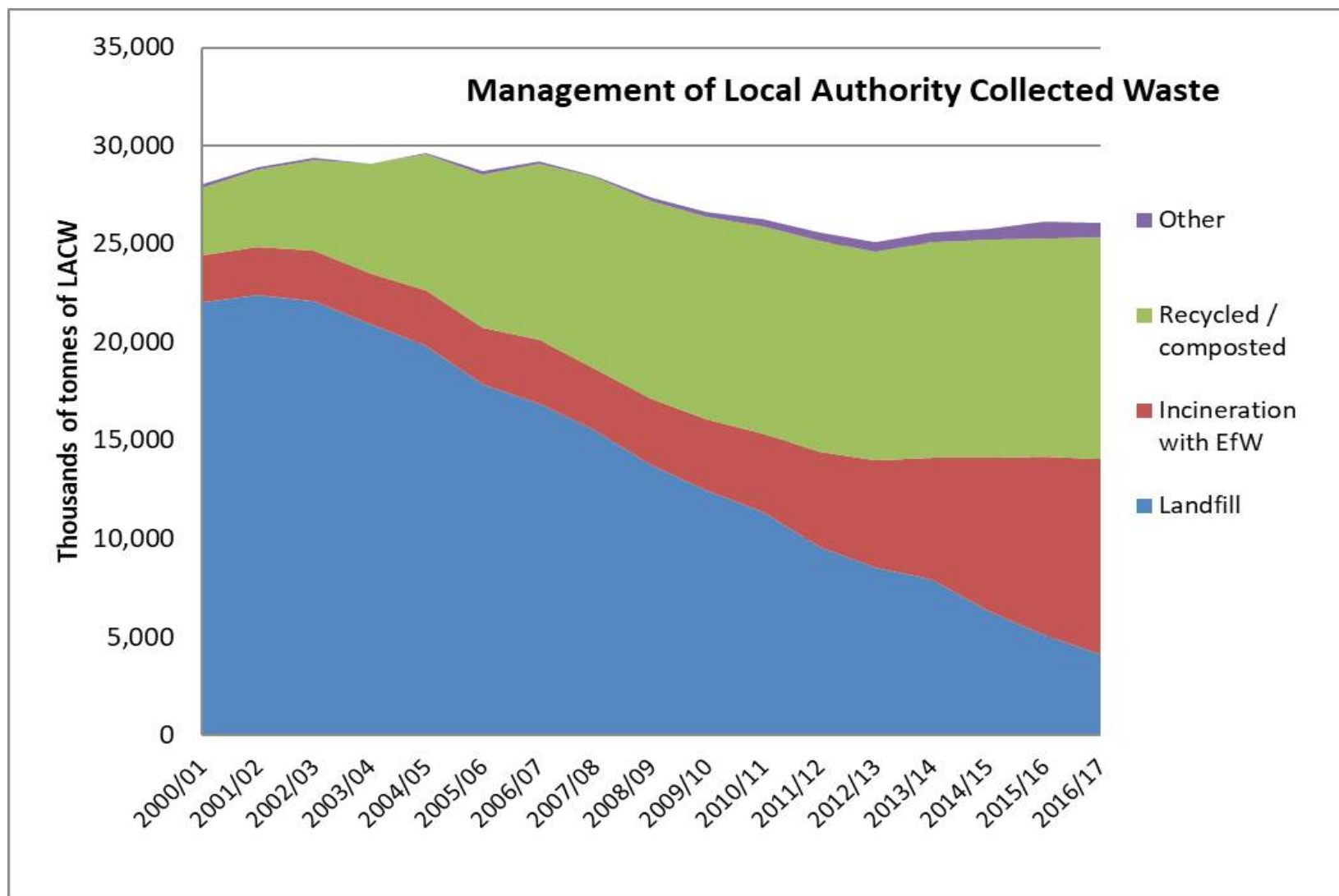
Frightening Statistics



Composition of Municipal Waste



Management of Municipal Waste



Drivers for Recycling Plastic

- Statutory Recycling Targets
- Government Funds for recycling infrastructure (all recycling) in early 2000's
- Public Demand
- Peer pressure
- Landfill Tax
- Producer Responsibility (Packaging) Regulations



Types of Plastics

Plastic packaging is made from seven different types

Commonly



PET



Commonly



HDPE



Almost never



PVC



Sometimes



LDPE



Commonly



PP



Almost never



PS



Almost never

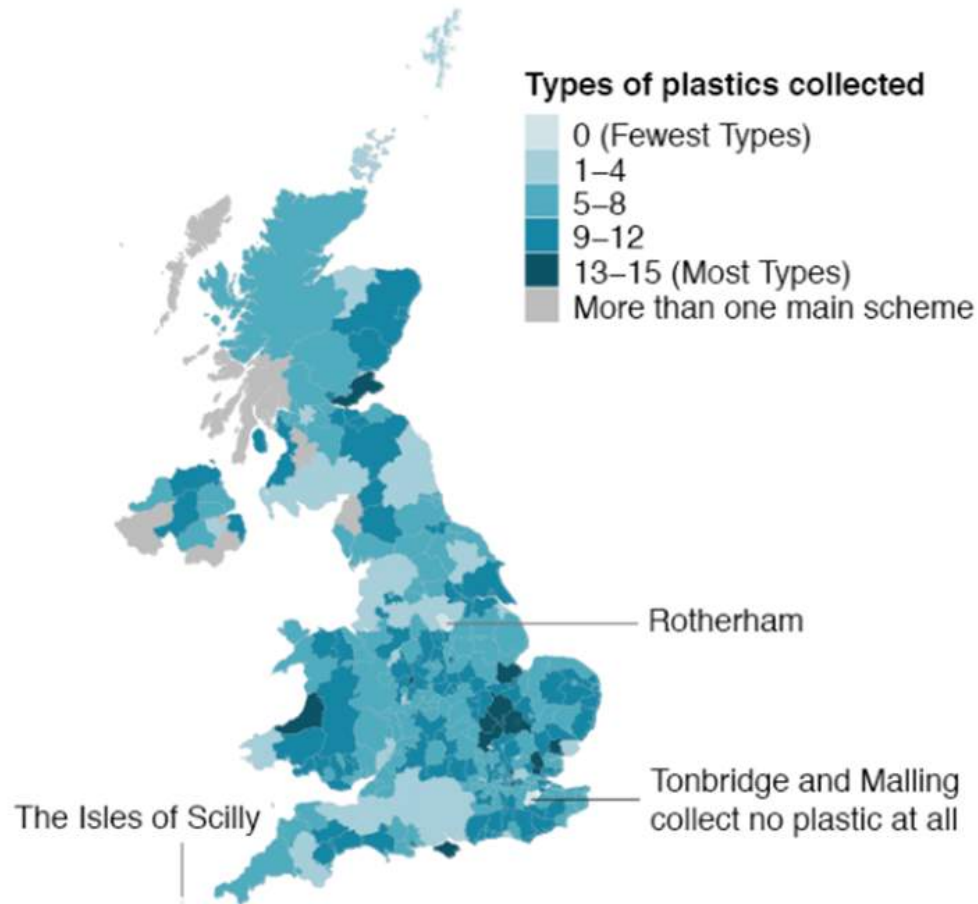


OTHER



Plastics Recycling

Some councils collect lots of different types of plastic packaging, three collect none at all



Source: BBC analysis of WRAP data



Where else does Plastic Waste arise?

- Commercial & Industrial waste, c.40Mt (municipal waste c. 27Mt) but lower proportion of plastic (c. 4% dense plastics, 3% plastic film)
- Also cleaner streams / more 'single stream' sources
- Agricultural waste, forestry, mining and fishing (c. 25Mt tonnes), example plastic being agricultural films
- Construction & Demolition waste (c. 131Mt tonnes), very low proportion of plastics, difficult to recycle, examples uPVC windows



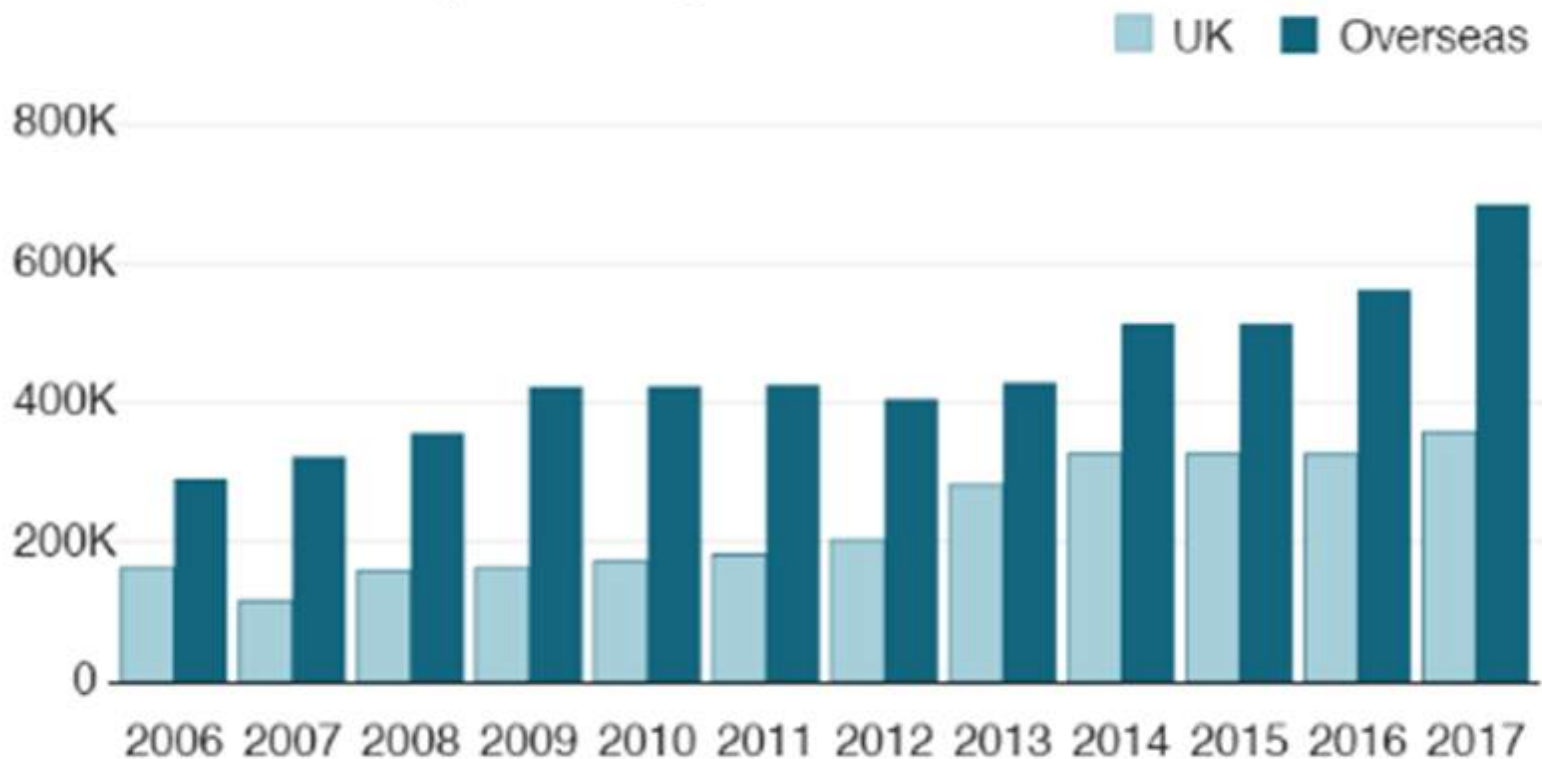
Key points

- All plastic is theoretically recyclable
- The cost of separating the plastic and processing it can be prohibitive compared to disposal
- All steps from design, through separation / collection, processing and market drivers need consideration
- Only increasing collection / recycling targets does not help solve the problem
- Local Authorities are bearing the brunt of additional collection costs, but austerity has meant they have less, not more money to develop separate collections
- Recycling is (for plastics) a global market (to date)

EXPORT OF PLASTICS

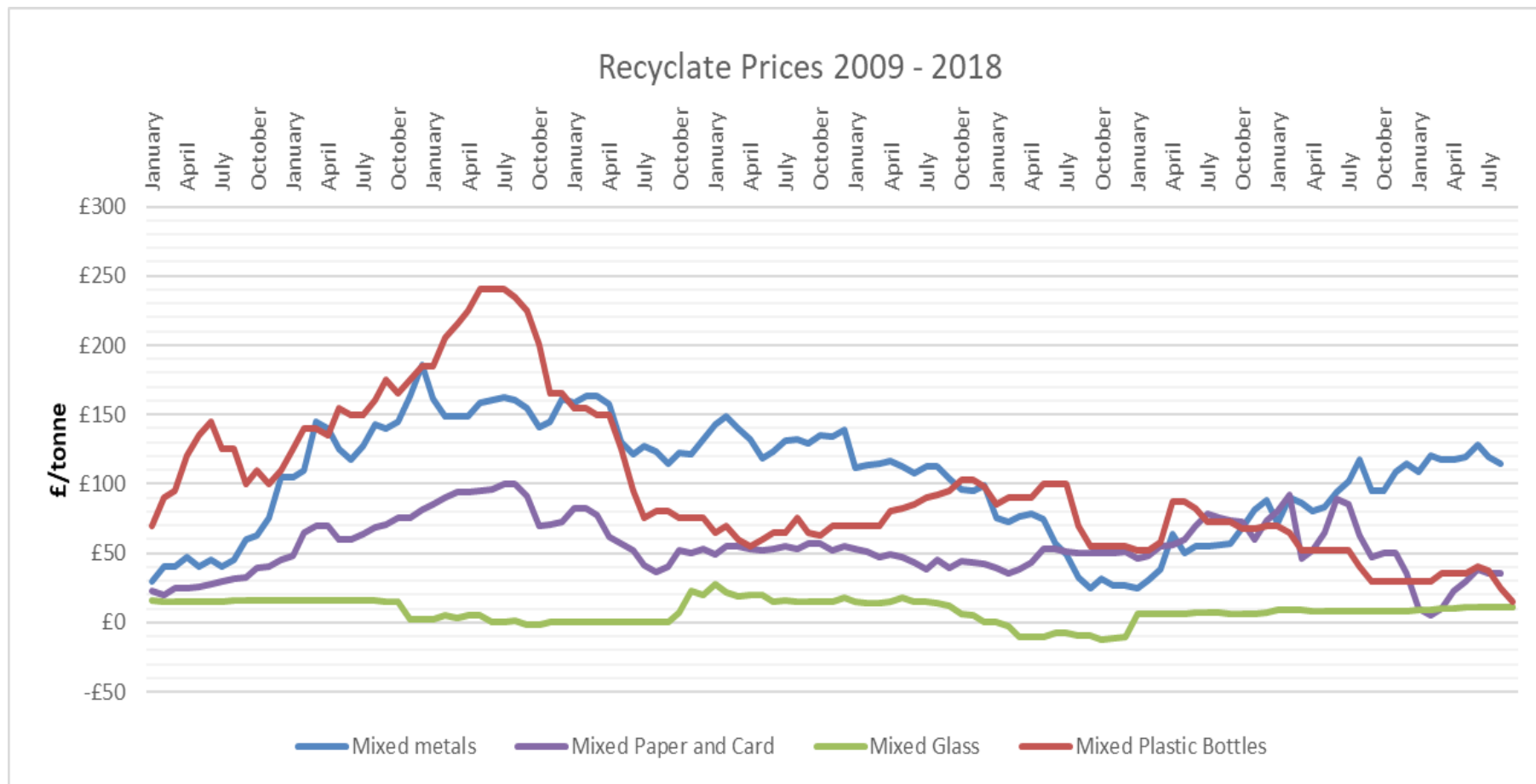
Exports of plastic have been growing

Tonnes sent for reprocessing

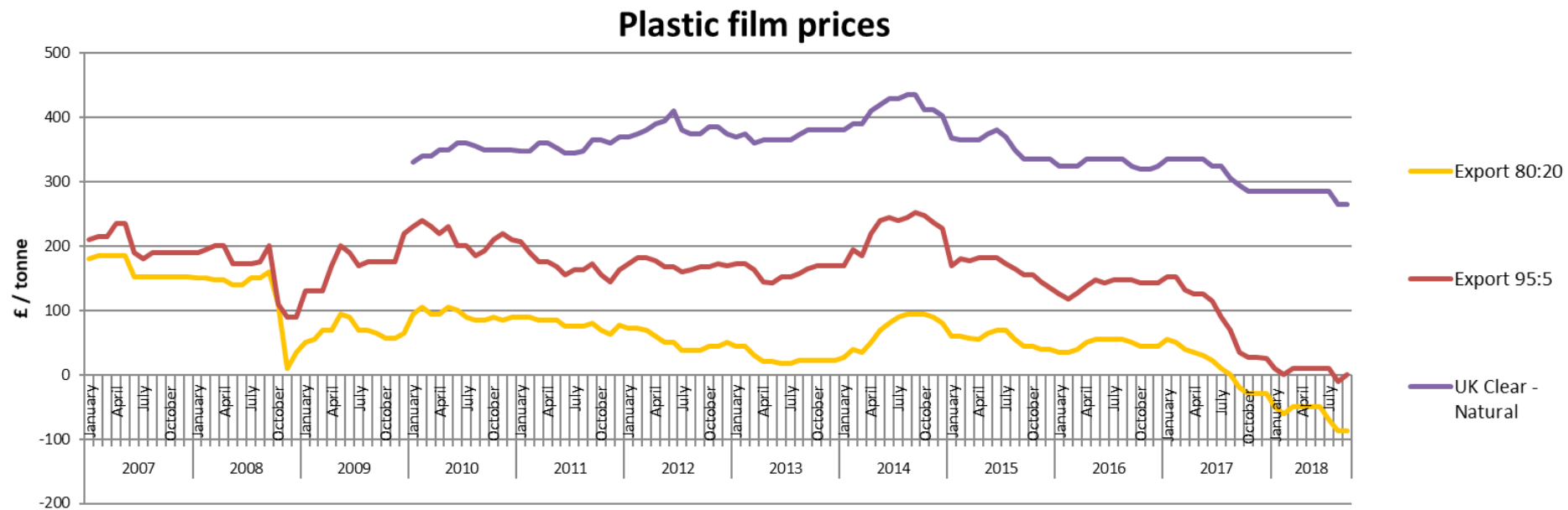


Source: National Packaging Waste Database

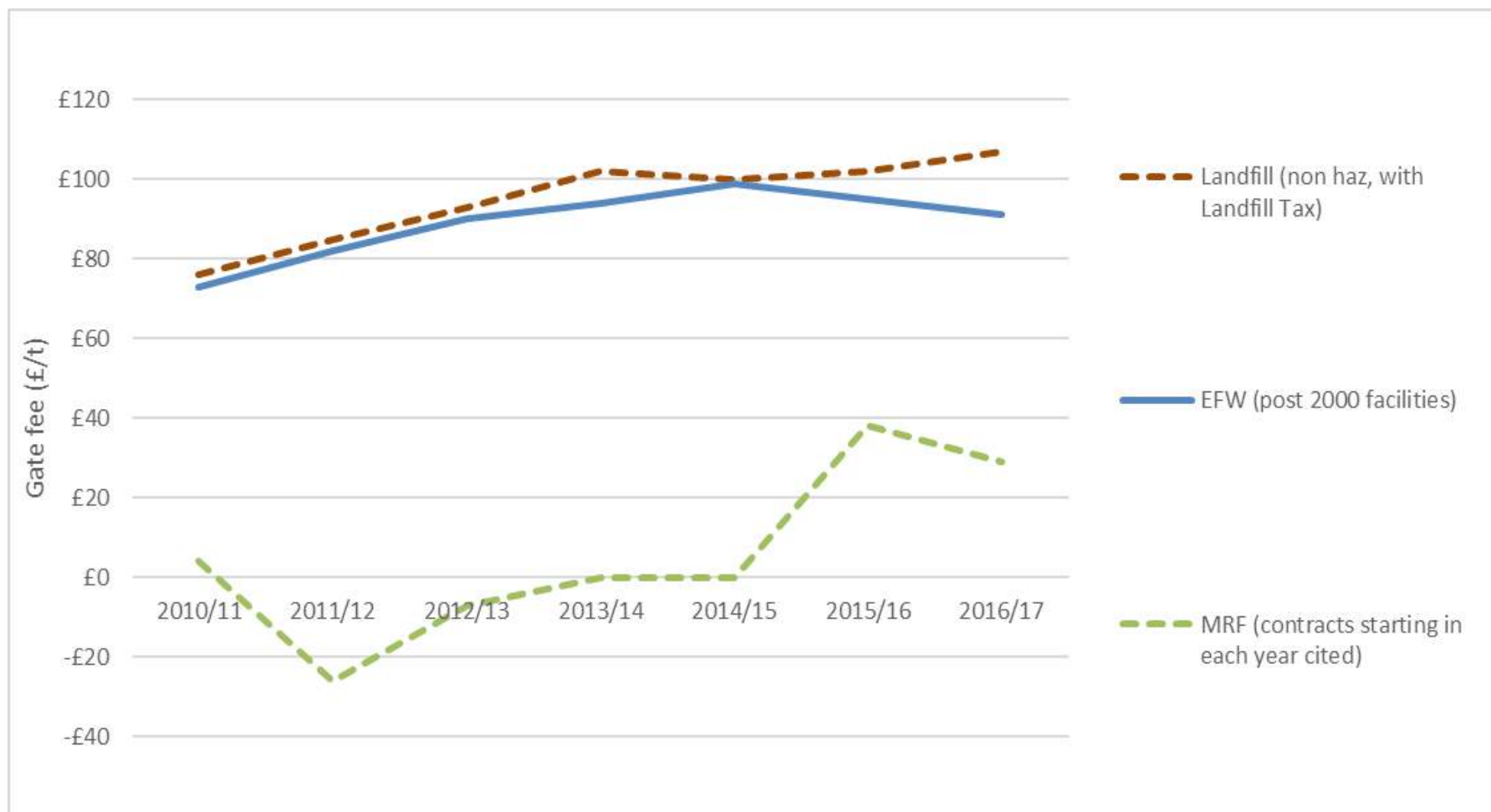
BBC



VALUE OF SECONDARY PLASTICS (2)



Recycling, Treatment & Disposal Gate Fees



What can be done? Individuals

- Behaviour change, lifestyle
- Buying responsibly, considering:-
 - Need
 - Responsible substitute materials
 - Reusability
 - Recyclability
 - Recycled content
 - Environmental harm during life cycle
- Supporting Council (and other) Recycling Schemes
- Ensure correct materials in the correct bin
- Maintaining a clean, litter free environment



What can be done? Government / Agencies (1)

- Education
- Product / Materials Bans
- Virgin Material Taxes
- Enforcing Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations
- Producers paying for full cost burden of managing waste products
- Incentivising collection systems / supporting local authorities
- Common / minimum recycling collection system standards
- Adding a pull factor [*MEPs vote for 35% mandatory recycled plastic content in plastics bottles by 2025*]
- The Budget 'Tax for production and import of plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic content by 2022' – a consultation



What can be done? Government / Agencies (2)

- Green public procurement
- Design for reuse
- Design for recyclability
- Enforcement / clear labelling
- Challenging green wash / incorrect messages
- Ensuring Duty of Care and appropriate transfrontier shipment / management of recyclables
- Direct overseas aid into waste management for developing countries
- Champion circular economy

What's next?

- National Resources & Waste Strategy imminent
- Deposit / Return in Scotland
- Consultation in England complete
- Consultation on banning single use plastic items underway
- Reform of Packaging Producer Responsibility underway
- The good news is there is starting to be a framework for real push and pull factors
- The momentum is continuing!

