

Foreword

The Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Local Plan 2011 was adopted by Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council on 17th March 2005. The Local Plan covers the administrative area of both authorities. In Wiltshire's case, this includes Kennet, North Wiltshire, Salisbury and West Wiltshire Districts.

The timetable for preparation of the Local Plan is shown in Chapter 1 (Table 1.1). The main stages of preparation have been an Issues and Options Document (1999), First and Revised Deposit Drafts (2001 and 2002), Public Local Inquiry (2003) and the Inspector's Report and Proposed Modifications (2004).

The Local Plan has been prepared to reflect current European and Government waste management policy. It uses the most up-to-date information available to the Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) at the time of publication. The policies and proposals seek to meet the land use planning needs of waste management in Wiltshire and Swindon over the Plan period to 2011.

The overall aim of these policies and proposals is:

To provide a sustainable land-use planning policy framework for waste management in Wiltshire and Swindon, having regard to the Best Practicable Environmental Option, regional self-sufficiency, the proximity principle, the waste hierarchy and the precautionary principle.

Having identified likely waste management requirements, the Plan seeks to achieve this aim by the allocation of suitable sites – "Preferred Areas" – to manage these waste arisings in the most sustainable manner. The Preferred Areas include sites suitable for a range of recycling, composting and other waste recovery processes.

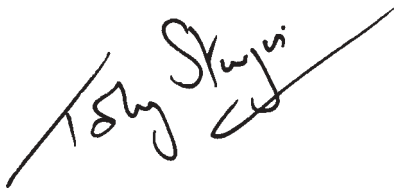
The Local Plan also contains criteria – based policies to assess proposals that are made for sites outside the Preferred Areas. Other policies focus on such important matters as environmental protection and enhancement, auditing waste created by development and making provision for recycling in new areas of housing or commercial activity.

Landfill will continue to play an important role in an integrated network of waste management facilities for Wiltshire and Swindon. However, the Local Plan reflects European and national policy by seeking to achieve greater recovery of waste. Priority is given to a Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Hierarchy (Figure 4.1), which promotes waste elimination, reduction, re-use and recovery in preference to disposal by landfill. So a firm stance has been taken towards the provision of additional landfill capacity. No Preferred Areas are proposed for this use. However, the Local Plan includes criteria-

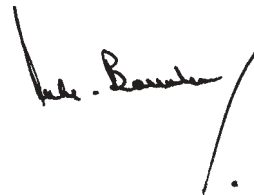
based policies for landfill, to avoid undermining the Waste Planning Authorities' ability to make adequate provision for disposal of waste.

Inevitably, new information will be collected and published on waste arisings. New government targets may be set and new treatment and recovery methods may become available. The Local Plan's policies and proposals are therefore flexible and are likely to remain relevant to changing circumstances in waste management.

The Waste Local Plan has been prepared with the benefit of considerable public consultation and response. The Waste Planning Authorities believe that this has strengthened the Plan and made it more responsive to the concerns of the community and the waste industry. In particular, we would like to thank members of the Wiltshire Waste Forum for their efforts in developing the Plan. The Forum met 10 times during the Plan's preparation and contributed greatly to its final form.



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