

# Chapter 1

## Introduction and how to use the Plan

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### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 It is widely recognised that the way in which we manage the waste we produce needs to change if we are to ensure that our environment is better protected both now and for future generations. Ever growing quantities of potentially reusable materials are currently being landfilled. For example, in Wiltshire and Swindon alone we dispose of approximately one million tonnes of waste to landfill every year. This is equivalent to 50,000 waste lorries queuing bumper to bumper between Devizes and Brussels (315 miles or 500 kilometres). As a society we cannot afford to continue wasting these resources, many of which are available in limited quantities in the environment, or are difficult or environmentally damaging to produce in the first instance.
- 1.1.2 As a first priority waste should be minimised. For example, in Wiltshire and Swindon the trend of year on year increases in household waste needs to be halted and reversed. The waste produced needs to be managed responsibly, with increasing amounts re-used and recovered and put to good use whilst minimising risks to human health and the environment. Persuading both individuals and businesses to change their attitude and approach to waste is probably the biggest challenge we face.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Waste Local Plan

- 1.2.1 This Waste Local Plan has two important roles to play in achieving this more responsible and sustainable approach to waste management. Firstly, it sets out the policy basis against which planning permission will be granted or refused for waste related planning applications. Secondly, it ensures that such policies enable the provision of an adequate network of waste management facilities.
- 1.2.2 In this way the Plan can help to achieve the balance between ensuring adequate provision of the necessary waste management facilities, whilst also safeguarding the environment of Wiltshire and Swindon and the quality of life of its community.
- 1.2.3 Through the Plan's policy framework a greater degree of certainty is provided to the waste management industry (the providers of waste facilities) and the public, concerning the location and nature of future waste development in Wiltshire and Swindon.

- 1.2.4 It is not the purpose of the Plan to dictate the approach to be taken by the Waste Disposal and Waste Collection Authorities in preparing the Municipal Waste Management Strategies for the Plan area. However, the Waste Local Plan is likely to influence those strategies through its land-use planning policies. Further, the Plan cannot guarantee that facilities will come forward; what it does is to establish a framework of policies and identify a network of Preferred Areas to encourage the provision of facilities in a sustainable manner. Further explanation of the roles of the Waste Disposal and Collection Authorities is given in Chapter 2.

### **1.3 Statutory Framework**

- 1.3.1 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991) requires all Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) to prepare a Waste Local Plan. Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council (as WPAs) have jointly prepared this Waste Local Plan.
- 1.3.2 The procedures for the preparation of the Plan are set out in the Act, and the Town and Country Planning (Development Plans) (England) Regulations 1999.

### **1.4 Plan Area**

- 1.4.1 As the Plan has been jointly prepared by Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council, the Plan area covers both Authorities' administrative areas, which in the case of Wiltshire includes the District Councils of North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire, Kennet and Salisbury.
- 1.4.2 Unless otherwise stated, references in this Plan to "Wiltshire" refer to the administrative boundary of Wiltshire County Council (not the geographic county area), and references to "Swindon" similarly refer to the administrative boundary of Swindon Borough Council. References made to the 'Plan area' refer to the geographic county area including Swindon Borough.

### **1.5 Plan Period**

- 1.5.1 The Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Local Plan will cover the period from 1998 to 2011 (inclusive). Following its adoption the Plan will be closely monitored and formally reviewed. Under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Waste Planning Authorities will replace the Local Plan with new Local Development Documents as soon as possible.

## 1.6 The Waste Local Plan To Date

- 1.6.1 A brief for the Waste Local Plan was published in March 1994. The first stage in the preparation of the Waste Local Plan was the publication of the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Local Plan 2011: Consultation on Issues and Options document (subsequently referred to as the Issues and Options document) in November 1999. The purpose of the Issues and Options document was to identify the key issues that need to be addressed in the formulation of the Waste Local Plan, and to suggest possible waste management options to address them.
- 1.6.2 The responses received to the Issues and Options document were carefully considered and taken into account in the formulation of policies in the First Deposit Draft of the Waste Local Plan.
- 1.6.3 The First Deposit Draft also took account of the consensus views expressed by the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Local Plan Forum which, over a course of eight meetings between June 2000 and March 2001, debated in depth and formed a consensus view on the key waste planning issues faced by Wiltshire and Swindon. The County and Borough Councils set up the independently facilitated Forum following the Issues and Options public consultation exercise, which identified the community's desire for more information on waste planning matters and a wish for greater involvement/influence in the Plan preparation process.
- 1.6.4 The nature of this consultation and its outcomes was summarised in the separately published document, 'Statement of Publicity and Consultation/Participation'. This was produced in accordance with Regulation 21 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) (England) Regulations 1999.
- 1.6.5 In addition four independent technical studies were commissioned, all of which were undertaken by consultants Entec UK Ltd.
- 1.6.6 The first study, the Review of the **Requirements for Waste Management Facilities**, assessed the likely future requirements for waste management facilities in the Plan area, and is published in a comprehensive Technical Supporting Document to this Plan. The key findings of this report have been used to inform the provisions of **Chapter 3** of this Plan.
- 1.6.7 The second study comprised a **Comparative Appraisal of all Sites** identified for consideration for waste management uses. This was published as a second Technical Supporting Document to the proposals of the Plan. A new Appraisal of Sites put forward by objectors and sites included in the First Deposit Draft was carried out in early 2002 and has also been published. An executive summary to this report can be found in **Appendix 5** of the Plan.

1.6.8 The third study comprised a separate **Sustainability Appraisal** of the Plan's proposed Policies and preferred areas, and is also published in a Technical Supporting Document to this Plan. A second Appraisal was carried out in May 2002, examining proposed changes to the policies. Where necessary the changes identified by the Appraisal have been incorporated into this Plan. An executive summary of the second appraisal is included in **Annex 2** of the Plan.

1.6.9 The final study, the **Waste to Energy Study**, provided comparative information on the main energy from waste technologies currently available for the treatment of municipal solid waste. This study, published in June 2000, is available from the Councils and was used to prepare a summarised public information booklet entitled Our Waste - Our Future.

## **1.7 The Plan**

1.7.1 The Waste Local Plan comprises Chapters 1-12, two Annexes, including two Proposals Maps in Annex 1, and all 13 Appendices. The reference glossary and waste management directory in Appendices 3 and 4 respectively provide background information on the technical terms and processes referred to.

1.7.2 Neither the Statement of Publicity and Consultation/Participation nor the Technical Supporting Documents form part of the Plan.

## **1.8 Principal Changes**

1.8.1 The principal changes to the Plan when compared to the Issues and Options document include:-

- an updated policy context to reflect recently issued Government guidance, including the National Waste Strategy 2000 and Planning Policy Guidance Note 10: Planning and Waste Management;
- better information on arisings/deposits of individual waste streams, including information provided by the Environment Agency's recent Strategic Waste Management Assessment for the South West;
- a more consistent and transparent process of Preferred Area selection, based on the comparative appraisals of all sites;
- defined policies and preferred areas to replace the suggested policy areas and area of search/preferred area options.
- defined indicators to enable the implementation of the Plan to be monitored.
- a full and independent Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan's policies and proposals.
- changes made in response to some of the objections received during consultations on the First Deposit and Revised Deposit Drafts of the Waste Local Plan and through the Public Local Inquiry itself.

## 1.9 Key Issues

1.9.1 The main issues which have been addressed in this Plan are:

1. Minimising the adverse effects of waste management on the environment and human health.
2. A re-appraisal of all waste arisings and how waste is currently handled in Wiltshire and Swindon.
3. How to eliminate / minimise waste arisings and maximise the current rates of waste re-use and recovery.
4. What alternative approaches should be adopted in order to achieve a move away from the disposal of waste by landfill to deal with future waste arisings.
5. The needs of the waste management industry and encouraging competitiveness.
6. The identification of an integrated network of potential waste management sites and facilities.
7. Identification of criteria to be applied to proposals for waste facilities.
8. Promoting a collaborative approach to achieving sustainable waste management.

## 1.10 Timetable to the Plan's Adoption

1.10.1 Both Councils have sought to adopt the Waste Local Plan as soon as possible, whilst at the same time providing sufficient opportunity for interested parties to make representations on its content. The following timetable reflects the duration of the Public Local Inquiry and the timing of the Inspector's Report:

**Table 1.1 Timetable to the Plan's Adoption**

<b>Timetable and Adoption Process for the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Local Plan</b>	
<b>Consultation</b> Pre-deposit consultation based on a key issues approach, identifying the main matters and choices that need to be resolved by the Plan.	<b>Winter 1999</b> Waste Issues and Options document – Nov. 1999
<b>Deposit of Proposals – First Deposit Draft</b> The Deposit Draft Plan was placed "on deposit" for a 6-week period during which representations on the Plan were made.	<b>Autumn/Winter 2001</b>
<b>Deposit of Revised Proposals</b> The Revised Deposit Draft Plan (which indicates	<b>September 2002</b>

the changes to the Deposit Draft) was placed “on deposit” for a six-week period, during which representations could be made on the changes only.	
<b>Pre-Inquiry Meeting</b>	<b>January 2003</b>
<b>Public Local Inquiry</b>	<b>April to July 2003</b>
<b>Inspector’s Report</b>	<b>April 2004</b>
<b>Modifications of Proposals</b>	<b>September 2004</b>
<b>Adoption</b>	<b>February 2005</b>

1.10.2 Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council approved the publication of Proposed Modifications to the Waste Local Plan in July 2004. The Proposed Modifications were placed on deposit for public inspection for a period of 6 weeks. The Local Planning Authorities received 5 objections to the proposed Modifications. In December 2004 the Joint Structure Plan Working Party of the two Authorities and each Cabinet proposed that the Local Plan be formally adopted by each Council at their February 2005 meetings.

1.10.3 Further information on the Local Plan preparation process is available in the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) (now the Office of the Deputy prime Minister – ODPM) Code of Practice, “Local Plans and Unitary Development Plans - A Guide to Procedures” (1999). This can be obtained either directly from the Government Publications Centre (01709 891398) or the WPAs.

## **1.11 How to Use the Waste Local Plan**

1.11.1 The Waste Local Plan consists of 24 Policies, supported by a Reasoned Justification which explains the policies, and a Proposals Map and Insets which illustrate the Preferred Areas for development. The Appendices to the Plan provide background information in support of the Reasoned Justification and Preferred Areas. **Applicants for planning permission and other users of the Plan will need to consider all these elements of the Plan together.** They will also need to consider other components of the Development Plan (see **Section 2.6** below). The County and Borough Councils will follow this process when determining planning applications.

1.11.2

**The Policies are distinguished from the remainder of the Plan by being shown in Bold Text, within a box.**































