
Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Waste Core Strategy DPD

Examination

Position Statement MM4

WCC/SBC/PS/MM4

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The Councils Position Statements

12 The forecasts of household waste generation have been questioned (by Parish Council and by individuals), the suggestion being that they have been over-estimated. Can the Councils explain, for the benefit of this Examination, the statistical basis for the forecasts of necessary provision and apportionment to the County (which appear to have been accepted at RSS Examination as being adequately founded).

For Wiltshire, the forecasts for municipal waste arisings were developed by the County's Waste Management Team in 2006 and are based on recorded and projected trend data. In recent years, municipal waste arisings have shown negative growth. This is due in part to the introduction of new initiatives such as green bin and black box recycling. This situation will be monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report and will indicate if there are any significant changes to the projected waste growth per annum and if a review of the documents is required. The long term trend indicates that municipal waste arisings will continue to grow at a rate in the region of between 1% - 2%.

For Swindon, the forecasts are based on a ten-year annual average of what has been a consistent and uniform growth in household waste arisings.

It is worth noting that Table 1 in the draft Waste Core Strategy assumes a lower growth in waste arisings than the equivalent apportionment in the South West RSS. The RSS forecasts were calculated in 2004 for the Regional Waste Strategy and carried forward into the Draft RSS. The SWRA support the approach taken (see rep No. 04283/00002/002, Reg 31 Statement, p65). The WCC forecasts are regularly updated as new information comes to light. However, the Core Strategy assumes a base date of 2006 and therefore the figures in Tables 1 and 2 are sufficient for the purposes the plan.

13 To what extent is the proposed provision for the south of the county dependent upon the continuation of the Slough contract? What would be the implications, for the need for additional provision, of its eventual cessation?

Slough Contract

Expected start date: July 2009

Expected end date: 2033

To the extent that the Slough contract has been completed to manage a proportion of Wiltshire's LATs requirements to 2021 and will run throughout and beyond the life of the draft Waste Core Strategy, it would be fair to say it is an extremely important factor in the management of municipal waste from the south-Wiltshire area.

However, within the context of future provision, the terms of the contract have already been accounted for and hence the figures presented with the draft Core Strategy and the evidence base reflect the remaining capacity requirements.

It is accepted that the Waste Core Strategy, along with all other aspects of the Waste Development Framework for Wiltshire and Swindon will need to be kept under review through a programme of monitoring. Where additional capacity is identified as a requirement, the Councils will undertake a review of the provision requirements and the relevant sections of the Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPDs.

14 Is only 1 Strategic Site sufficient in the south, and when might that site become available? Is it intended to provide a full range of facilities on that Strategic Site? What provision is to be made in the south for commercial/industrial waste?

Brickworth quarry is the only operational Strategic Site in the south of the County. The site provides for inert landfill as part of the permitted programme of restoring the voids left by sand extraction.

Of the 88 sites currently managing Industrial & Commercial (I&C) waste in Wiltshire and Swindon, 15 operate in the south of the Plan area. All 15 sites are classed as local facilities but nonetheless contribute to the overall framework of waste management operations. The Table below illustrates forecast future requirements over the Plan period (Table 3 of the Core Strategy).

Forecast provision for I&C waste in Wiltshire and Swindon

Waste Management Technique	Total Capacity Required in Plan Period (Worst Case Scenario)	Existing Capacity of Operational sites	Shortfall Capacity to be Provided in Site Allocations DPD	Estimated Number of Additional Sites Required
Landfill (cubic metres)	6,318,700	5,402,830	915,870	2
Recovery (tpa)	290,000	40,000	250,000	5
Recycling (tpa)	330,000	180,000	150,000	8
Total				16

Draft Policy WCS3 identifies preferred broad locations for waste management facilities in Wiltshire (and Swindon) to meet the forecast provision set in the draft South West RSS, taking into account capacity for existing sites. Those waste management facilities identified in WCS3 that are currently known are identified on the key diagram. The Core Strategy does not include or propose a specific provision for the south of the county. The Site Allocations DPD will provide a flexible framework of sites in the south of the County.

We can only assume that the question refers to the existing site for inert landfill at Brickworth Quarry (hence the strategic status of the site). Policy WCS3 identifies preferred locations for waste development (local and strategic) which includes employment land, also shown on the key diagram. A number of these locations could be suitable for a strategic site, including (as identified in the Site Allocations I&O Report): Ratfyn, Amesbury; Solstice Business Park, Salisbury; Employment Allocation, Mere; CB Skip Hire, St Thomas's Farm, Laverstock; and Harnham Business Park, Salisbury. Of note is the fact that the draft Site Allocations I&O Report considers Brickworth quarry suitable for inert waste recycling **only** and ancillary to landfill use.

15 To what extent does the level of proposed provision in the north-east already reflect the proposals for growth in that area? Has the need for provision in the north-east been under-estimated?

Swindon Borough has seen consistent and uniform growth in waste arisings in tandem with the continued expansion of Swindon; existing strategic waste sites are currently meeting this need. The Councils recognise the need in the longer term for the provision of additional waste treatment facilities and to this end are working towards delivering a solution using DBERR's Forward Commitment Procurement process.

16 What is the response of the Councils to the industry representation that experience shows it is extremely difficult to obtain sites in industrial areas, and that failing to identify sites will lead to a shortfall?

The Councils acknowledge that it can be difficult to find and develop sites within industrial areas, this can often be down to market conditions whereby waste operators may be financially unable to obtain sites or often it can be that site owners/agents are reluctant to sell or lease sites to waste operators due to an outdated 'image' of all waste operations being 'bad neighbour' development. The submitted Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) provides the detailed criteria to control activity on new waste management sites, for example through hours of operation, and a requirement for pollution control measures.

From a current policy perspective, within Swindon and Wiltshire, the general principle is that waste operations are deemed generally acceptable with existing employment areas (e.g. Policy E4 in the Swindon Borough Local Plan). This approach is consistent with guidance in PPS10 (paragraph 20) and draft RSS policy W2 which notes that industrial sites can be considered as suitable locations for new waste management facilities.

The Councils can help to deliver new sites in industrial areas through the identification of specific sites within the Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which will be tested for their deliverability through a site assessment process. This process relies on positive involvement of landowners and potential developers as well as stringent policies governing the design and operation of any new facilities. The Councils have already made headway in identifying and securing a range of suitable sites, a process that will continue as the Waste Site Allocations DPD progresses towards the submission stage.

17 It is recognised that the Core Strategy does not promote any one form of waste management above another: but, allowing for that, and given that the Core Strategy is the policy document in which the 'difficult' decisions are to be taken, should the Core Strategy not grasp a little more firmly the 'nettle' of energy from waste facilities?

The Councils agree that there is scope for the provision of waste to energy facilities, however the Councils consider that to identify specific waste treatment processes within the draft Waste Core Strategy would be too prescriptive and hence reduce its overall stance in terms of flexibility. This approach is consistent with guidance outlined in the PPS10 Companion Guide (Para 7.9), which notes that core strategies should avoid prescribing particular waste management solutions for particular waste streams,

It should also be recognised that technological advances throughout the life of the Core Strategy may well see the availability of the types of current waste treatment facility change. The approach to treatment of municipal waste will be identified through reviews of the Councils respective municipal waste management strategies, and will also be considered as part of the Councils Forward Commitment Procurement process to secure the deliverability of new waste treatment facility or facilities to serve Swindon and north Wiltshire.