

# **Towards a vision statement: consultation draft**

**Last updated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The Council is preparing a *Waste Core Strategy*: a plan for how to manage all the waste produced in Worcestershire up to 2027. To help provide a robust evidence base for the Waste Core Strategy the Council has prepared a series of background documents. These outline current thinking and have informed the approach taken in the development of the Waste Core Strategy.

We welcome any comments you would like to make on any of the background documents during the *Publication Document (Regulation 27) Consultation*. The consultation will run from **22<sup>nd</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011**.

To make comments, request paper copies of the documents or for further information please contact:

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# Introduction

This background document outlines how the Waste Core Strategy Vision and Objectives developed during the formulation of the Strategy to submission stage.

## Early stages in the development of the vision

### Moving Towards the Identification of Preferred Options

The Council produced a report, "Moving Towards the Identification of Preferred Options", in September 2005, which included four "Proposed Vision Statements",

- Waste should be recognised as a resource with value;
- Communities within Worcestershire should be responsible for their waste;
- Waste Development should be integrated with other spatial planning concerns, ensuring it is placed in appropriate locations; and
- Waste management should be conscious of the environment and human health.

The responses to the consultation and the workshops held to discuss it were published in the report, *Summary of Responses received following Public Consultation during September and October 2005 on the report 'Moving towards the Identification of Preferred Options'* (April 2006).

### Context for the vision

In nature nothing is wasted. Natural ecosystems include inbuilt processes which enable everything to be re-used. Modern economic systems are different and discard useful materials and continuously generate waste. The scale and extent of these operations are vast; even at a County level we consume huge quantities of material and energy with influences reaching out far and wide to virtually every part of the globe.

The processes involved are very much one way. We need to become more sustainable by producing less waste and managing it better. We need to develop a new consumer culture to stop discarding and start re-using materials. We need a new business culture, where waste materials are automatically considered a resource. Doing what we did yesterday and leaving things as they are now is not an option. We need to manage waste more efficiently. The Waste Core Strategy

needs a Vision to establish what the County should be like in terms of waste management issues. It should be a brief, high level statement informed by analysis of the characteristics of the area, key issues and challenges and relating to the Sustainable Community Strategy - something which will set the context for the rest of the Waste Core Strategy.

In order to be meaningful, that Vision needs to be more than a glib phrase. It needs to set out what waste management will mean in Worcestershire in 2027 and must generate the policy framework for the businesses and people of the County to respond to, up to and beyond that date.

The vision aims to translate the issues, needs and constraints set out in the Spatial Portrait into a meaningful vision for the Waste Core Strategy.

We need a picture of what waste management will mean in Worcestershire in 2027, to understand what we need to do to achieve it and give us objectives to aim for; policies to achieve it; and ways of assessing our progress in meeting it.

Whilst the vision can be ambitious and inspiring, it needs to be realistic. It has been informed by national and local priorities and has been developed to take into account the unique characteristics of Worcestershire and the consultations we have undertaken. As such it attempts to capture the thoughts of everyone involved so that it is acceptable and useful to the people who live in, work in and visit Worcestershire<sup>1</sup>.

## Background Issues

Since the "Moving Towards the Identification of Preferred Options" consultation, public opinion and government policy have made the need to address climate change and to reduce carbon emissions, significantly higher priorities than when it was written. Related concerns about energy supply, water supply and quality, the need to conserve scarce resources and to enhance the natural environment are all also now recognised as major drivers of change for the economy. The need to minimise our use of the planet's resources and prepare for a low carbon future are now embedded in national and regional policy and expressly included in the Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire.

The Vision for the Waste Core Strategy must reflect these pressures. In reality, in order to comply with the prescriptions of government policy and the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and Sustainability, Climate Change and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies, the alternatives possible are very limited. The order in which the ideas are expressed and the specific objectives, priorities and policies which will follow it are however all negotiable and will be subject to considerable public participation and consultation. These influences mean that the Vision for the Waste Core Strategy must, at the very least, take account of the following additional elements:

- the prescriptions in Waste Strategy 2007;

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<sup>1</sup> You can find out more about our thinking behind the Vision Statement in the background document, "Towards a Vision Statement".

- the policies in the RSS, especially the Regional Economic and Waste Strategies, the proposed Phase 2 revision of the RSS and the weight to be given to both in the light of the current government's Localism agenda;
- the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire and, in particular, to the three cross cutting themes of addressing climate change, tackling local environmental challenges and promoting community engagement;
- the Council's other policies which implement the Community Strategy, especially the Worcestershire Economic Strategy;
- the strategies of District and Borough Councils within and the County and Unitary Councils adjoining Worcestershire, and
- the predominance of climate change and sustainability issues.<sup>2 3 4</sup>

The last point is particularly important. If it is to be of any value the Vision needs to address what a Waste Core Strategy based on the principles of sustainable development might be.

## **Towards a Vision for a Sustainable Waste Management Policy**

The government's five principles for sustainable development are:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Supporting a healthy, just society;
- Delivering a sustainable economy;
- Using sound science;
- Using good governance.

All of these are the natural drivers of any aspect of public, environmental policy. All do, however, need amplification in connection with the development of waste management policy. To consider them in turn:

### *Living within Environmental Limits*

There are two separate (but related) aspects to evaluating the environmental aspects of waste. Firstly, the disposal of waste breaches the condition of living within environmental limits if the materials – that eventually end up as waste – are extracted beyond the ability of environmental processes to renew these resources. Sustainable development would require that wherever possible, resources should be used in an efficient way, such that they do not become waste. This, indeed, is the aspiration of a Zero Waste society.

Secondly, where however, waste is being produced, then the interpretation of living within environmental limits requires that waste management be conducted in a manner that is ecologically sustainable. Landfilling materials that may have

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<sup>2</sup> "Drivers of Change Affecting the West Midlands Economy" (Forum for the Future) (Advantage West Midlands) (November 2006)

<sup>3</sup> "Future Prospects for the West Midlands Economy and Employment" (West Midlands Regional Observatory) (July 2006)

<sup>4</sup> "The Mass Balance Movement" (Biffaward) (2006)

alternative productive uses does not accord with this condition. It is therefore important to look at alternatives to landfill and reducing the amount and kind of materials which are landfilled. Together these must be an inescapable part of the Vision for the Strategy.

### *Supporting a Healthy, Just Society*

Waste management policy and practice has a role to support a healthy and just society by minimising any health impacts of particular areas of waste policy. That the Strategy should not create adverse health impacts is obvious. How waste management facilities should be developed to contribute to a just society is, however, more difficult. At the least, the principle must be to ensure that the siting of such facilities does not adversely impact on any particular social group or locality.

### *Delivering a Sustainable Economy*

Both in the context of supporting a just society and in contributing to the formation of a sustainable society, the Vision for the Strategy could and should support the value of waste management in providing employment opportunities, but it can go beyond this to consider macro economic issues.

Developing the waste management capacity needed to meet all of the County's needs will require investment from both the public and private sectors. As part of this, the "polluter pays" principle necessitates that the environmental costs of waste management are counted alongside the economic ones, not discounted or paid for by a different group.

There are questions, however, about how different aspects of waste policy and funding can be mutually supportive. Business could have a role, for example, in helping local authorities make cost savings in future facilities by sharing in the cost and operation of contracts. Equally, local authorities need to look at how to minimise costs or maximise revenues by moving beyond collecting and disposing of waste to collecting, managing and obtaining value from it. Although some waste infrastructure, traditionally landfill, has been shared, commercial issues will increasingly influence future decisions on what facilities are created and where. Businesses, and in particular SMEs, need to have waste infrastructure readily available and in rural areas there may be insufficient waste volumes to justify the private sector putting in infrastructure solely for use by business. In these instances, local government may struggle to avoid taking wider responsibility for waste management. Local authorities already have duties to assist local economic development. It could embrace these opportunities, to foster waste management facilities that will serve both the public and private sectors. The Vision for the Strategy could promote this by breaking down the barriers between these sectors to make the emphasis the treatment of waste per se, whatever its origin and regardless of who collects it.

### *Sound Science and Good Governance*

To ensure confidence in the Strategy and its delivery in general and in any new facilities in particular, it will be important that there is open provision of data on

operation of any plants and confidence in decisions made about waste infrastructure.

The open provision of such data and use of Good Neighbour Agreements and local liaison committees will be important in helping to build confidence if public distrust of waste management is ever to be overcome.

### *The Use of Sustainability Appraisal*

The council has undertaken the following sustainability appraisals of the emerging strategy:

Initial Sustainability Appraisal of Issues and Options for Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire (April 2009)

The appraisal<sup>5</sup> (undertaken by ERM on behalf of the council) made the following specific comments on the Vision statement in that document;

*"The Vision confirms that waste will be used as a resource although the waste hierarchy is not explicitly promoted. In order to encourage movement of waste further up the hierarchy, the vision should include a statement that reuse and recycling levels in the county will be high. Greater resource efficiency in Worcestershire as a whole will be promoted through more recovery of resources from waste. However, the Vision should also aim for greater resource efficiency from waste management activities themselves, particularly water and energy efficiency.*

*The Vision aims to ensure no pollution from waste management activities and the protection of natural and cultural assets, therefore natural and cultural resources should be protected, greenfield land avoided and previously developed land prioritised.*

*Climate change is taken into account in the Vision, implicitly through the recovery of resources and explicitly through the recognition of the need to avoid flood risk. Good design should help to promote adaptation.*

*Locating facilities in and around Worcester, Kidderminster and Redditch will help to reduce the need for waste transport, and alternatives to road will be promoted. However, facilities are unlikely to be located in Malvern, a significant settlement, which could otherwise contribute to reducing waste transport."*

These were considered and a revised Vision developed as part of the **Emerging Preferred Options** for the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire. A Sustainability appraisal was undertaken of this document by ERM on behalf of the council in November 2009. It commented with regard to the Vision in that document:

*"The vision explicitly promotes the waste hierarchy and community responsibility, although reuse of waste is not mentioned and should be included in item 4. By promoting the waste hierarchy and greater resource efficiency, the vision will support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reduced use of energy and water.*

*The vision also supports the economic contribution of waste management and the development of new technologies.*

*In seeking to avoid damage to natural and cultural assets and amenity, the vision will help to ensure protection of air, water, soil, landscape, biodiversity and the built and historic environment. However, the vision does not address land use issues or the spatial distribution*

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<sup>5</sup> Para 2.22

*of facilities, and therefore effects on waste transport and the use of open or undeveloped space and green belt land are unclear."*

The Vision was revised accordingly.

An interim Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken by the County Council itself to inform the preparation of its "First Draft Submission" consultation in September 2010.

It commented with regard to the Vision proposed during the preparation of the document:

*" The Vision retains promotion of the waste hierarchy and community responsibility, and reuse of waste is now included. By promoting the waste hierarchy and resource efficiency, the Vision will support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reduced use of energy and water. The Vision supports the economic contribution of waste management and the development of new technologies, and links economic opportunities to a move towards a low carbon economy. The Vision helps to ensure protection of air, water, soil, landscape, biodiversity and the built and historic environment, including through the design of new facilities to complement their surroundings. The need for waste transport to be minimised is addressed, with the potential of water and rail (rather than road transport) being included. Land use issues and the spatial distribution of facilities are broadly covered, but the Vision remains silent on the issue of waste development in the Green Belt."*

A formal Sustainability Appraisal of the final consultation document was undertaken by ERM in January 2011 which found:

*"The vision explicitly promotes the waste hierarchy and greater resource efficiency, which will support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reduced use of energy and water. Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions will also be reduced through the desire to locate facilities so that they serve communities, minimising road transport and supporting rail and water freight. Improved access to services will be promoted through the adequate provision of household recycling centres.*

*The vision also supports the economic contribution of waste management and the development of new technologies.*

*In seeking to avoid damage to natural and cultural assets and health and amenity, the vision will help to ensure protection of air, water, soil, landscape, biodiversity and the built and historic environment. However, the vision does not address land use issues and therefore effects on the use of greenfield and green belt land are unclear".*

The final Vision produced for the Submission document has been significantly revised as a result.

## *The Use of Engagement to Assist Good Governance*

The council has undertaken significant public consultation in order to developing the strategy, this is summarised in the "Regulation 30" background paper<sup>6</sup>. The strategy itself needs however to address the issue itself.

If public concern about waste management facilities is to be overcome, communities and stakeholder groups need to be actively involved in the discussion and planning of waste management infrastructure. Experience of engagement demonstrates that if communities have been involved in relevant

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<sup>6</sup> [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs)



policy decisions, they are more likely to understand both the need for infrastructure (e.g. recycling, composting and energy from waste infrastructure) and also their role in supporting sustainable waste management policy (e.g. through recycling, composting or reducing their waste). The Vision has been expressly revised to address this.

The public has genuine and relevant concerns about issues such as noise, vehicle movements, emissions and smells from waste plants and these must be addressed. The EU Waste Incineration Directive sets strict pollution control and emissions criteria that all businesses, including waste plant, have to comply with. This is backed by Guidelines and monitoring by the Environment Agency. To overcome concerns about any resulting facilities, it will be important that plant operators work with the Environment Agency to ensure that data on emissions and operation is easily available to the general public.

Wherever a plant is located, however, it will be still be the case that a local community will still have concerns. Operators ought to establish Good Neighbour Agreements or Charters with local residents and business so that any such concerns can be readily addressed. This is something the council can encourage but has no power to enforce.

The Vision for the Waste Core Strategy needs to include all of these elements. One further matter needs to be addressed:

The need to acknowledge that circumstances will change during the preparation and life of the Waste Core Strategy and that it must be subject to monitoring and revision.

This is particularly significant because it draws attention to one of the fundamental questions the Strategy needs to address: How much waste management capacity should be provided?

In the short term, the answer is simple; enough to meet the prescriptions in national, regional and local policy (unless there are special reasons which justify not doing so). It is inevitable that these will change and the natural response is to revise it accordingly. Just hitting the targets, however, risks just maintaining the present, inadequate approach, when what is needed is to transform it. The Vision should do this by creating a unifying concept for a range of measures aimed at eliminating waste and allowing us to challenge old ways of thinking by:

- Reconfiguring the current waste management culture to a value recovery culture.
- Encouraging new ways of thinking and the use of new tools so that normal everyday activities contribute to the answer rather than the problem.
- Shifting from a linear resource use-disposal culture to a 'closed loop' system mimicking nature.
- Supporting communities in achieving a local economy that operates efficiently, sustains good jobs and provides a measure of self-sufficiency.

- Maximising recycling, minimising waste, reducing consumption and ensuring that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into nature or the marketplace.
- The only concept which really does this is that of Zero Waste. We may never achieve it but, as a Vision, Zero Waste is a uniquely powerful means of directing action.
- Zero Waste shifts attention from waste management end of pipe solutions towards re-use and reduction. To date, most action in the county has been driven by landfill avoidance and maximising recycling. Action on how far to travel and what direction to follow has been less successful.
- Zero Waste requires coordination between municipal and commercial waste management and recognition that both need equal attention; and
- To be effective, Zero Waste requires a cohesive shift in policy and delivery. There are moves to develop a zero waste region in the West Midlands. It is very possible that the concept will become increasingly important over the life of the Waste Core Strategy.

We need to consider all of these issues to drive the kind of change necessary. Government policy in Waste Strategy 2007 and recent Ministerial statements<sup>7</sup> emphasise

*"We have been slowly moving in the right direction with recycling rates. The direction of travel is right – it's the pace that's the problem. We need to go faster and we need to go further."*

At present the economy is not capable of making Zero waste, however that is interpreted, reality. It is however moving towards higher levels, more innovative and more profitable methods of recycling. We want to encourage these. In this spirit our Vision is to aim to achieve higher rates of recycling and lower levels of landfill than government policy currently recommends.

The Council has used the consultations and workshops undertaken as part of the "Planning Issues and Options", "Moving towards the Development of Preferred Options" and "Refreshed Issues and Options" consultations to develop a new Vision for the Waste Core Strategy. Alternative versions of the Vision have therefore been produced throughout the development of the Strategy and revised iteratively in response to the comments received. Comments have therefore been invited on this document as a whole and on the various alternative draft Vision statements since 2006.. The distinct alternatives are set out in Appendix 1.

Once it is adopted the Vision will drive the development and achievement of the Waste Core Strategy. Circumstances change however and new issues emerge which sometimes cannot be ignored. Five years ago, for example, who could have predicted the extent to which Climate change would be absorbed into government policy? The Vision finally developed will itself therefore be open for

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<sup>7</sup> E.g. From Caroline Spelman Published on Tuesday 15 June 2010 at 1:44pm DEFRA website

comment during the Examination process and monitored afterwards. If the need for a new direction is identified the debate about what the Vision for the Waste Core Strategy should and will be re opened.

# APPENDIX 1

## Revised draft vision statement: Emerging Preferred Options Consultation

The Vision was reviewed and developed taking into account consultation comments and changes in context. The vision guiding the Emerging Preferred Options consultation is set out below:

**"By 2027 waste production in Worcestershire will be minimised and what is produced will be regarded as a source of useful material, to be treated so far as possible in Worcestershire itself, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development."**

To be useful, however, that Vision cannot be restricted to a single statement. It must be a philosophy that guides us, it must encompass all of the following, that: Waste minimisation will be our priority. The issue is no longer one of waste disposal but of resource management, that the management of waste as a way of saving scarce resources is always something to be encouraged.

1. We need a change of attitude, not only a recognition that waste management is essential to the economy, but also as something which is just another business activity and not something automatically to be regarded as a bad neighbour.
2. There will be significantly more waste management capacity and facilities of different kinds and sizes than there are now.
3. There will be very little material that cannot be recycled. What cannot be recycled will mostly be used to generate useful benefits, such as for energy recovery or as fuel. Only as a last resort will it be landfilled.
4. Waste management must be resource efficient, and not create pollution, damage natural or cultural assets or unacceptably affect the health or amenities of local people.
5. Waste management is a dynamic, constantly changing activity, part of a network of symbiotic activities both within Worcestershire and the West Midlands. The network of waste facilities in the county and the individual components within it, must be capable of constant adjustment to address changes in the nature of business activity and technology within the wider economy up to 2027 and beyond. Our key word must be flexibility.
6. For business, waste will mean opportunity and for Councils it will mean encouraging new waste management facilities.
7. Momentum is gathering to make the West Midlands a Zero waste region. We should be prepared for this to be our long term goal.

All these mean that we must all take responsibility for what waste we produce and what we do with it and that ultimately we must look to doing away with "wasting" it altogether. They also mean that we should look to making a high provision for waste management; if we do anything less, we will make it

difficult for the industry to get the planning permission it needs and we will not achieve our Vision.

The objectives were also revised and consulted on:

The Council intends therefore to base the Strategy on the following objectives: These are numbered for convenience of referencing, not in order of significance, they are all equally important,

- WO1 To base our decisions on the principles of sustainable development and the need to reduce and mitigate the causes of climate change to guide decisions,
- WO2 To do everything possible to minimise waste production,
- WO3 To address the "Capacity Gap" between how much waste management capacity we have and what we need.
- WO4 To make implementing the waste hierarchy the basis for Waste Management in Worcestershire,
- WO5 To make communities in Worcestershire take responsibility for their own waste,
- WO6 To reduce the transportation of waste by road where possible,
- WO7 To ensure that the waste implications of all new development in Worcestershire are taken into account,
- WO8 To safeguard existing waste management facilities from incompatible development,
- WO9 To involve all those affected as openly and effectively as possible,
- WO10 To monitor the effects of the Waste Core Strategy and revise it accordingly as circumstances change.

It is the Council's intention to keep the Objectives under long-term review. Their value will be assessed as part of the **Monitoring Programme** for the Waste Core Strategy. One of the triggers for the review of the Strategy will be if the Objectives need updating or if the Vision behind them itself needs to be revised.

Within the context of all of these we proposed to develop the Strategy in accordance with the following **Local Objectives**. These would inform how we develop the waste Core Strategy and will be used by us as tests to see if the developing Strategy and proposed policies properly cover the issues we need to address.

These are all equally important,

- WLO1 To develop a network of waste management facilities with sufficient capacity to treat the equivalent of all the waste produced in Worcestershire, Sub Objectives, a) to provide at least the minimum waste management capacity prescribed in the RSS and b) as part of that to contribute to the achievement of the Worcestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. (In practice this means developing sufficient additional capacity to treat some of Herefordshire's MSW in accordance with the Council's Integrated Waste Management Contract),
- WLO2 To make Communities in Worcestershire take responsibility for their own waste,

Sub Objectives, a) to do so in accordance with the government's principles of sustainability, the waste hierarchy and at the nearest appropriate installation and b) to make waste services readily accessible throughout the County,

- WLO3 To make the scale, nature and timing of new waste management facilities reflect proposed economic activity in the County and the key development dates in the County Economic Strategy,  
Sub Objective, a) to minimise waste transportation, support existing businesses and help modernise and diversify the economy of Worcestershire,
- WLO4 To do everything possible to enable the use of waste materials as a resource in the construction and operation of new development,  
Sub Objective, a) to minimise landfill, encourage higher end uses and enable the development of more sustainable waste management methods,
- WLO5 To safeguard and enhance the character of the County's towns, villages, built, historic and natural environment,  
Sub Objective, a) to ensure that proposals complement and support the County Climate Change Strategy, Landscape Character Assessment, Bio and Geo diversity Action Plans, Catchment Abstraction and Flood Management, Local Transport and Air Quality, Design Guides and other plans and strategies adopted by Local Planning Authorities in Worcestershire and the Malvern Hills and Cotswolds AONB Management Boards and other stakeholders, which aim to make and keep the County attractive and distinctive,
- WLO6 To ensure that the waste implications of all new development are taken into account,  
Sub Objective a) to foster both waste minimisation and b) the re use of materials during the construction, operation and cessation of development,
- WLO7 To support high quality design in waste management facilities,  
Sub Objectives, a) to enhance the amenities, including where appropriate, infrastructure, of the immediate area of individual proposals and b) the image of waste management generally,
- WLO8 To safeguard existing waste management facilities from incompatible development, unless there are overriding reasons to do so,  
Sub Objective, a) to maintain and foster existing waste management capacity in the County,
- WLO9 To consult all stakeholder and interested parties in an open way,  
Sub Objective, a) to involve all those affected as effectively as possible by requiring all applicants for waste management proposals to comply with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and Development Control Validation Document.

# Further revisions to the draft vision statement: First Draft Submission Consultation

The vision and objectives received overall support during the Emerging Preferred Options consultation but were revised during the preparation of the First Draft Submission consultation document to more fully reflect the main drivers of the Waste Core Strategy. This was informed by a more detailed consideration of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Economic Strategy and in response to general consultation comments made during the consultation.

Several responses were received in relation to the conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment and it was commented that *"The vision is acceptable at a high level but it should not be simply an abstract concept. It needs to be a spatial vision setting out what Worcestershire will be like in terms of its treatment of waste. Some of the objectives could be woven into the spatial vision"*. These were taken into account in developing a more detailed vision for the Waste Core Strategy.

To fully reflect the communities' priorities in Worcestershire, the Sustainable Community Strategies of the County have been a fundamental consideration in informing the vision. The Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy identifies three cross cutting themes: climate change, community engagement and community cohesion, and six strategic sustainability issues for the County:

- Communities that are safe and feel safe;
- A better environment for today and tomorrow;
- Economic success that is shared by all;
- Meeting the needs of children and young people;
- Improving Health; and
- Stronger Communities.

Within these issues several priority outcomes are identified. The following are particularly relevant to the Waste Core Strategy.

## **Tackling the challenges of Climate Change**

- To reduce harmful climate change causing gas emissions across the County;
- To assist adaptation to the impacts of climate change on the County.

## **A better environment for today and tomorrow**

- To enhance Worcestershire's countryside and urban green space and appropriate access to them while protecting the natural and historic environment;
- To maximise the diversion of waste away from landfill through prevention, re-use, recycling/composting and recovery
- To address issues of water quality, supply and consumption and land drainage in Worcestershire (this includes flood risk);

- To increase energy efficiency and increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.

#### **Economic success that is shared by all**

- To promote technology-led growth benefiting all sectors and parts of the County.

#### **Community engagement**

- To empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in the planning, design and delivery of public service.

Many of the core themes are also echoed in the Sustainable Community Strategies of the district, borough and city councils in Worcestershire, with all strategies addressing issues of climate change, energy consumption, sustainable transport, and the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy. Other issues such as flooding and quality of the natural environment are also considered by most<sup>8</sup>.

From the consideration of priorities at national and local levels, we have developed a vision to drive the Waste Core Strategy:

#### **The Vision**

By 2027 waste production in Worcestershire will be minimised and what is produced will be regarded as a source of useful material to be reused. So far as possible this resource will be managed in Worcestershire itself, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and the waste hierarchy.

There will be sufficient waste management capacity in Worcestershire to enable waste to be treated as a resource and support the local economy without compromising the County's distinctive environmental, social and cultural assets. These facilities will be located where they minimise the need to move waste by road and where they are best suited to serve the needs of local communities and the local economy. They will be designed to adapt to and mitigate climate change and will reflect the characteristics of the local area.

To be useful the vision cannot be restricted to a single statement. It must be a philosophy that guides us, and encompasses all of the following:

- i. Waste minimisation will be our priority. The issue is no longer one of waste disposal but of resource management, and the management of waste as a way of saving scarce resources will be encouraged in all new developments. Momentum is gathering to make the West Midlands a Zero waste region. We should be prepared for this to be our long term goal. This will however take time to achieve and in the medium term we will aim for the following targets for recycling, composting and recovery:
  - C&I - 75%

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<sup>8</sup> See Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Background Document "Links with Districts` & neighbouring Local Authorities` plans and strategies" for more details.



- C&D - 75%
- MSW - 78% in line with BPEO<sup>9</sup> targets
- a minimum of 33% of waste to be recycled and/or composted,
- a maximum of 22% landfilled
- the remaining 23% for energy recovery

and aiming for the national target of 50% recycling and composting by 2020.

- ii. There will be significantly more waste management capacity and facilities of different kinds and sizes than there are now, enabling more flexibility in the way waste is managed and facilitating the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy. This will minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill, mitigate the effects of waste management on climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the county.
- iii. There will be very little material that cannot be reused or recycled. What cannot be recycled will mostly be used to generate useful benefits, such as energy recovery. Only as a last resort will it be landfilled. There will be adequate household recycling centres in every town in the county to enable the collection of segregated wastes and most of our MSW will be subject to recycling or recovery. There will also be more recycling facilities for both C&I and C&D waste than at present.
- iv. Waste management facilities will be located where they are best suited to serve the communities and economic needs of Worcestershire and will need to recognise the distinctive distribution of waste arisings, resource demand<sup>10</sup> and current waste management capacity in Worcestershire. To reflect the pattern outlined in the Geographic Hierarchy, over half of the new facilities we need will be in or near to Worcester, Redditch or Kidderminster, about a third, in or near to Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Malvern, about tenth, in or near to Evesham and Pershore, and a small amount in Tenbury and Upton. Where there is a particular need facilities may also be located in rural areas.
- v. There will be sufficient capacity to achieve 'equivalent self-sufficiency' for waste management in the county and facilities will exist to fill the capacity gap identified in **Error! Reference source not found.** To safeguard existing and future waste management facilities where they are environmentally acceptable, all new development close to waste sites will take account of any impacts they may have on the operation of such sites.
- vi. The transportation of waste by road will be kept to a minimum with facilities located close to arisings or onward treatment facilities and with water or rail infrastructure being developed and utilised for freight movement wherever possible.
- vii. Waste management facilities will be located and designed to protect and enhance the local characteristics of the county and its natural beauty.

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<sup>9</sup> BPEO – Best Practicable Environmental Option, see background document "*Arisings and capacity*"

<sup>10</sup> resource demand relating to recyclables, organics and energy. Information provided by AWM in relation to AWM's "Landfill Diversion Strategy " Locational Analysis Tool

Facilities will be resource efficient, and not create pollution, damage natural or cultural assets or unacceptably affect the health or amenities of local people. They will be designed to mitigate their impacts on climate change and will be able to adapt to those changes that occur in the future. New facilities will be well designed to complement their surroundings, and most will be enclosed. New development at existing facilities will be both more efficient and their operations and appearance enhanced; some outdoor activities will be enclosed or screened

- viii. We need a change of attitude to recognise that waste management is essential to support the functions of the economy. Encouraging a new sector of the economy constructed around the management of waste as a resource will create new employment opportunities and enhance local economic resilience and contribute towards a low carbon economy. Most types of waste management facilities are akin to other business or industrial activities and should be seen as an opportunity. New waste management facilities will therefore be on industrial or previously developed land unless there are very good reasons to the contrary.
- ix. Waste management will be a dynamic, constantly changing activity, part of a network of symbiotic activities within both Worcestershire and the West Midlands. The network of waste facilities in the county and the individual components within it will be capable of constant adjustment to address changes in the nature of business activity and technology within the wider economy up to 2027 and beyond. Our key word must be flexibility.

We must all take responsibility for the waste that we produce and for what we do with it. The Waste Core Strategy will encourage a high provision for waste management in order to achieve the vision, but this will not be at the expense of the County's environmental, social or cultural assets.

## Realising the Vision: Setting our objectives

In response to the Emerging Preferred Options consultation, the objectives were developed to include new objectives WO2 and WO9. The existing objectives were also refined and group together thematically. The objectives are numbered for convenience and are not given in order of importance. The new objectives reflect the importance on the county's existing assets, and the positive contribution that the waste management industry can have on the counties economy.

First Draft Submission objective	Previous objective number
WO1: To base our decisions on the principles of sustainable development and the need to reduce <u>greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate the causes of climate change to guide decisions.</u>	WO1
<u>WO2: To protect and enhance the County's natural resources, environmental, social, cultural and economic assets, the character and amenity of the local area and the health and wellbeing of the local people.</u>	New
WO3: To do everything possible to minimise waste production and	WO2 &

make driving waste up the waste hierarchy the basis for waste management in Worcestershire	WO4
WO4: To ensure that the waste implications of all new development in Worcestershire are taken into account.	WO7
WO5: To address the "Capacity Gap" between how much waste management capacity we have and what we need <u>over the plan period to 2027.</u>	WO3
WO6: To safeguard existing waste management facilities from incompatible development.	WO8
WO7: To reduce waste miles by road <u>where possible.</u>	WO6
WO8: To <u>encourage</u> communities in Worcestershire take responsibility for their own waste <u>and involve all those affected as openly and effectively as possible.</u>	WO5 & WO9
<u>WO9: To develop a waste management industry that contributes positively to the local economy.</u>	New

The previous objective *WO11: To monitor the effects of the Waste Core Strategy and revise it accordingly as circumstances change*, has been deleted as part of the requirements for the WCS.

We will need to monitor whether we are achieving our vision and objectives and have developed a framework of indicators to assess them. They will be reported in our Annual Monitoring Report and to give a more spatial view we will also need to consider other local reporting mechanisms, such as the Worcestershire State of the Environment Report undertaken by the Worcestershire Partnership. Monitoring will help us to know if there are any other significant matters which need attention. If this is the case we will need a new vision and will need to revise the Waste Core Strategy accordingly.

# Further revisions to the draft vision statement: Publication Document (Regulation 27)

During the *First Draft Submission Consultation* there was overall support for the vision. In general it was acknowledged that it covered the main points in a short statement, however some respondents felt that it needed to be made more locally distinctive and that it should reinforce the role of the waste hierarchy.

The objectives also received general support, and those who disagreed often made specific reference to incineration in explaining their answer. The Waste Core Strategy is not technology specific. However, these comments may have been in response to a planning application for an Energy for Waste facility that is currently being considered by the Council (application reference 10/000025/CM). The Development Control team were made aware of all comments received that make specific reference to this application.

It was also clear that 'Geographic Hierarchy' needed to be further developed into a clear 'spatial strategy' to direct development.

The main changes made were:

- to incorporate the locally distinctive elements set out in the 'guiding philosophy' into the vision statement itself
- to split the vision into sections to address the following questions:
  - **What will waste management in Worcestershire be like in 2027?**  
This encompasses many of the ideas previously forming part of the vision statement
  - **Where will new waste management infrastructure be developed?**  
Sets out the Spatial Strategy, which is based on the geographic hierarchy set out in the First Draft Submission consultation. This concept was supported during the consultation (see background document "Spatial Strategy" for further details).
  - **When will the strategy be delivered?**  
This section gives consideration to the capacity gap over the life of the Strategy
  - **How will the strategy be delivered?**  
Which sets out objectives and indicates how the policy framework will deliver them. There were minor alterations to most of the objectives as set out below and an addition objective relating to the spatial strategy:

Changes to objectives
WO1: To base our decisions on the principles of sustainable development and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate the causes of and to be resilient to climate

change <del>to guide decisions.</del>
WO2: To base decisions on the principles of sustainable development by protect and enhance the County's natural resources, environmental, <del>social,</del> cultural and economic assets, the character and amenity of the local area and the health and wellbeing of the local people.
WO3: To <del>do everything possible to minimise waste production</del> and make driving waste up the waste hierarchy the basis for waste management in Worcestershire: The following minimum targets for recycling (including composting) and 'other recovery' have been set in relation to this objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ C&amp;I incl Hazardous and Argicultural waste – 75%</li> <li>▪ C&amp;D – 75%</li> <li>▪ MSW – 78% with a target of 50% recycling and composting by 2020, a maximum of 22% landfill and the remainder as energy recovery.</li> </ul>
WO4: To ensure that the waste implications of all new development in Worcestershire are taken into account.
WO5: To enable equivalent self-sufficiency in waste management in the County by addressing the "Capacity Gap" <del>between how much waste management capacity we have and what we need</del> over the plan period to 2027 and safeguarding existing waste management facilities from incompatible development.
<del>WO6: To safeguard existing waste management facilities from incompatible development. (Now included in WO5)</del>
<del>WO7: To reduce waste miles by road (considered as part of WO1)</del>
WO86: To <del>encourage communities in Worcestershire take responsibility for their own waste and</del> involve all those affected as openly and effectively as possible.
WO97: To develop a waste management industry that contributes positively to the local economy.
WO8: To direct development to the most appropriate locations in accordance with the Spatial Strategy.

## The Vision and objectives as set out in the Publication Document

# The vision and objectives

The vision sets the direction for the strategy. Whilst the vision can be ambitious and inspiring, it needs to be realistic.

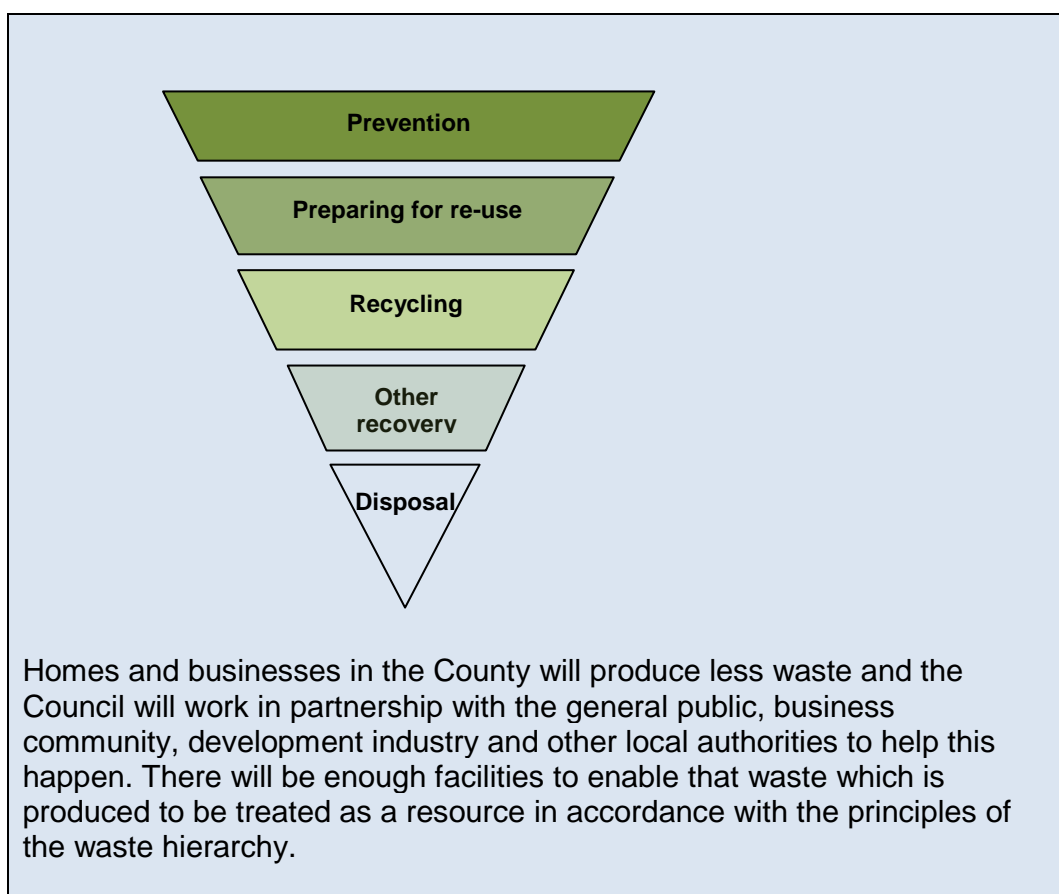
The vision has been informed by national and local priorities and has been developed to take into account the unique characteristics of Worcestershire. This has been informed by the issues needs and constraints set out in the spatial portrait, the community's priorities reflected in Worcestershire's Sustainable Community Strategies and by consultations undertaken in developing the Waste Core Strategy.

## What will waste management in Worcestershire be like in 2027?

By 2027 Worcestershire will have achieved equivalent self-sufficiency in waste management capacity (see **Error! Reference source not found.** and **appendix 4**).

Waste in Worcestershire will be managed as a resource. This means that it will be managed at the highest appropriate level of the waste hierarchy, see Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Waste hierarchy**



Waste management facilities will support the local economy without compromising the County's local characteristics and distinctive environmental and cultural assets. The waste management industry will be dynamic and respond to opportunities generated by other sectors, creating new employment opportunities, enhancing local economic resilience and contributing towards a green and low carbon economy.

New waste management facilities will be resilient to, and mitigate against, climate change. They will be well designed to complement their surroundings and minimise any adverse impacts.

## Where will new waste management infrastructure be developed?

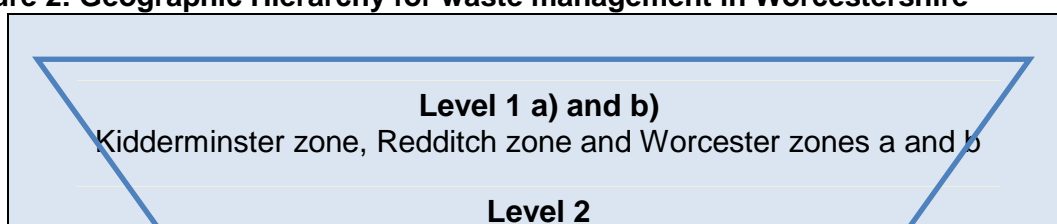
### Spatial Strategy

Facilities will be directed to land that has had a previous economic use. They will be located where they are best suited to serve the needs of local communities and the local economy and minimise the distance waste is moved by road.

The distribution will be based on the geographic hierarchy (see **Figure 2** and **Figure 3****Error! Reference source not found.****Error! Reference source not found.**).

This hierarchy takes account of patterns of current and predicted future waste arisings and resource demand<sup>11</sup>, onward treatment facilities, connections to the strategic transport network, and potential for the future development of waste management facilities<sup>12</sup>. The Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment have also been taken into account.<sup>13</sup>

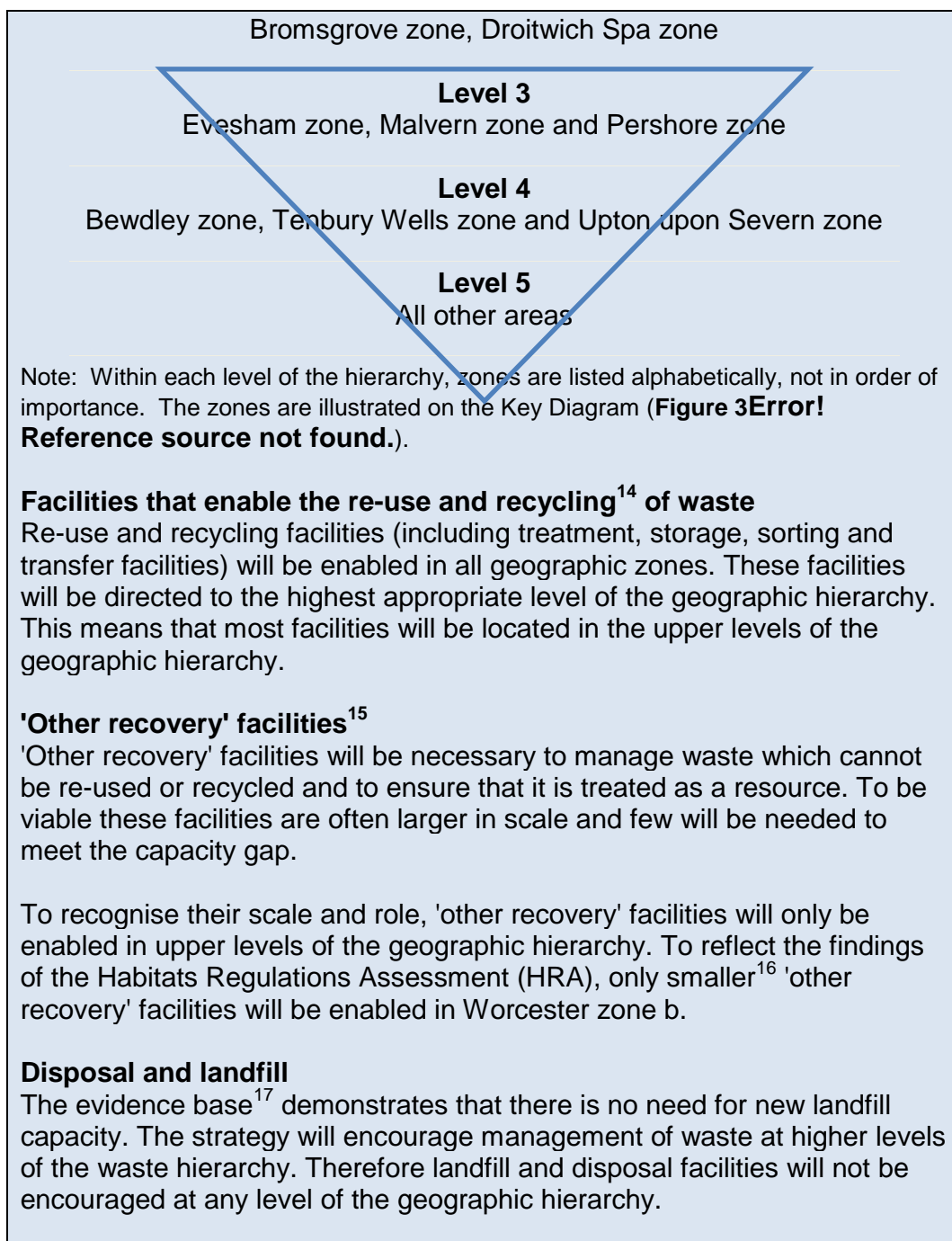
**Figure 2: Geographic Hierarchy for waste management in Worcestershire**



<sup>11</sup> Refers to the demand for resources from organic waste recovery (e.g. composting), recycling and energy recovery, developed as part of the West Midlands Landfill Diversion Strategy (AWM 2009).

<sup>12</sup> The broad geographic hierarchy and the proposed distribution of new development would be in accordance with the adopted WMRSS and the evidence base for the proposed Phase 2 revision. With the exception of Wyre Forest which now has an adopted Core Strategy, District Councils in, and County, District and Unitary councils adjoining the county are still developing their Core Strategies but the general pattern of development is expected to maintain and reinforce the current distribution of population and employment up to at least 2026.

<sup>13</sup> See background document '*Spatial strategy*'.



<sup>14</sup> Article 3(17) of the revised Waste Framework Directive specifically mentions the reprocessing of organic material as being included in the definition of recycling, therefore for the Waste Core Strategy open windrow composting, in-vessel composting and anaerobic digestion are included as recycling alongside other physical and chemical treatment processes.

<sup>15</sup> Article 3(17) of the revised Waste Framework Directive defines "Recovery" as "any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy". In the Waste Core Strategy "other recovery" includes thermal treatment and any recover facilities that do not fall into the category of recycling.

<sup>16</sup> With likely significant effects the same as or less than a thermal treatment facility with a throughput of 150,000 tonnes per annum and stack height of 80 metres.

<sup>17</sup> See background documents '*Landfill*' and '*Arising and capacity*'.



## When will the strategy be delivered?

Existing waste management facilities will be safeguarded and new facilities will be developed to fill the capacity gap and deliver equivalent self-sufficiency in waste management in the county.

**Table 1** shows the capacity gap and approximate land requirements<sup>18</sup> necessary to deliver the strategy at 5 year intervals. Progress will be monitored in the AMR.

**Table 1: Capacity gap and land requirements**

	2010/11	2015/16	2020/21	2025/26
<b>Capacity gap (total)</b>	<b>652,000</b>	<b>675,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>805,000</b>
Re-use and recycling	411,500	421,500	482,000	521,500
'Other recovery'	240,500	253,500	268,000	283,500
Sorting and transfer	0	0	0	0
Landfill and disposal	0	0	0	0

<b>Land requirements (total)</b>	<b>25.5 ha</b>	<b>26 ha</b>	<b>29 ha</b>	<b>31 ha</b>
Re-use and recycling	18 ha	18 ha	20 ha	22 ha
'Other recovery'	8 ha	8 ha	9 ha	9 ha
Sorting and transfer	0	0	0	0
Landfill and disposal	0	0	0	0

Note: Further details and projections beyond the life of the strategy are given in Appendix 4.

## How will the strategy be delivered?

The objectives will direct the policy framework.

### The Objectives<sup>19</sup>

- WO1** To base decisions on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to be resilient to climate change.
- WO2** To base decisions on the principles of sustainable development by protecting and enhancing the County's natural resources, environmental, cultural and economic assets, the character and amenity of the local area and the health and wellbeing of the local people.
- WO3** To make driving waste up the waste hierarchy the basis for waste management in Worcestershire.  
The following minimum targets for recycling, (including composting) and 'other recovery' have been set in relation to this objective<sup>20</sup>:

<sup>18</sup> This is based on average throughputs per hectare for facilities in Worcestershire: Re-use and recycling 23,500 tpa, Recovery 32,000 tpa.

<sup>19</sup> The objectives are numbered for convenience of referencing, not in order of significance.

	<p>C&amp;I incl Hazardous and Agricultural waste - 75%</p> <p>C&amp;D - 75%</p> <p>MSW - 78%, with a target of 50% recycling and composting by 2020, a maximum of 22% landfill and the remainder as energy recovery.</p>
<b>WO4</b>	<b>To ensure that the waste implications of all new development in Worcestershire are taken into account.</b>
<b>WO5</b>	<p><b>To enable equivalent self-sufficiency in Waste Management in the County by addressing the "Capacity Gap" over the plan period to 2027 and safeguarding existing waste management facilities from incompatible development.</b></p> <p>Current projections of the capacity gap over the life of the strategy are identified in <b>Table 4. Capacity gap</b>. These will be reviewed in the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>
<b>WO6</b>	<b>To involve all those affected as openly and effectively as possible.</b>
<b>WO7</b>	<b>To develop a waste management industry that contributes positively to the local economy.</b>
<b>WO8</b>	<b>To direct development to the most appropriate locations in accordance with the Spatial Strategy.</b>

The policies contribute towards the objectives as indicated in **Table 2**.

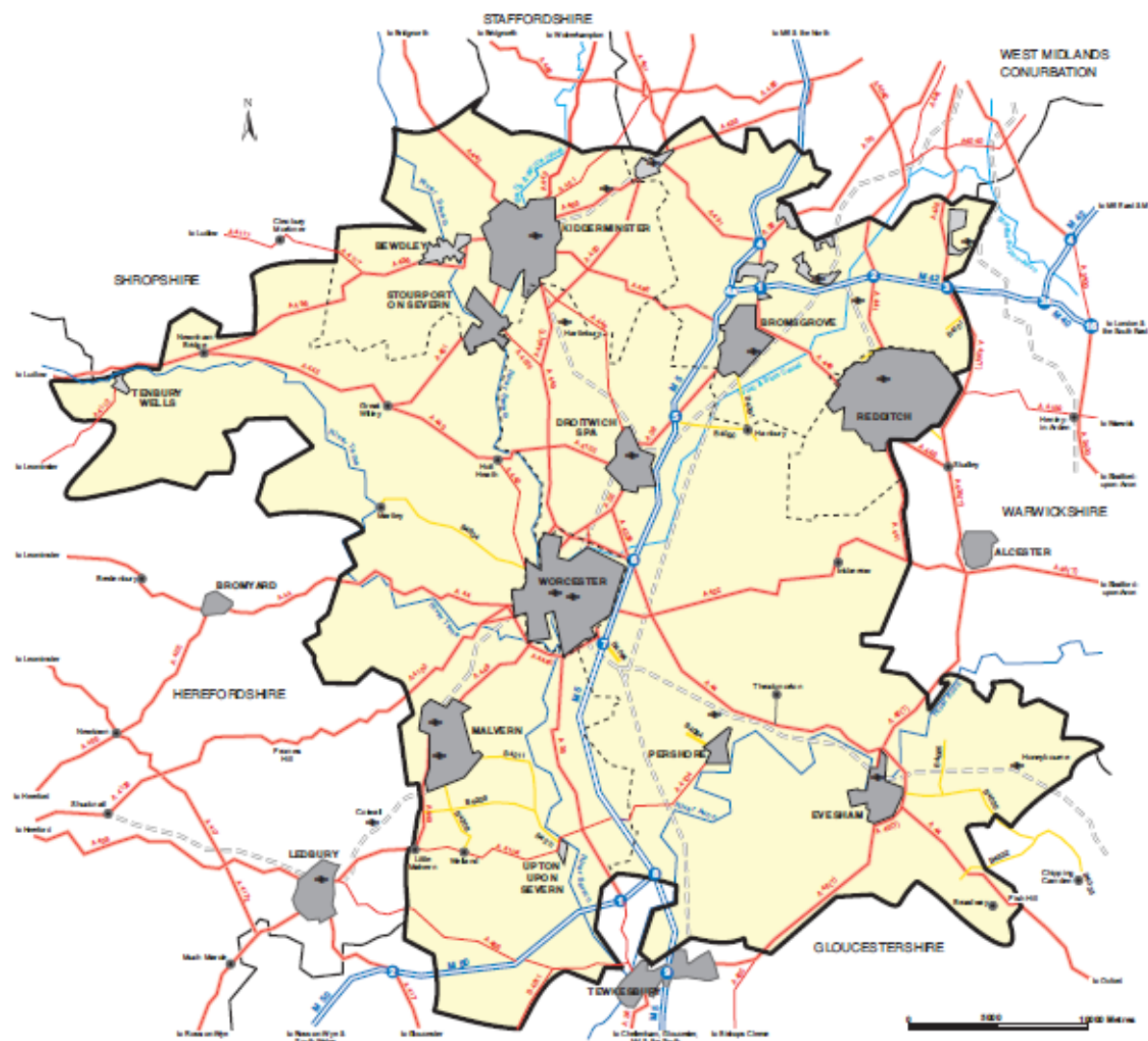
**Table 2: Relationship between objectives and policy framework**

		Objectives							
		WO1	WO2	WO3	WO4	WO5	WO6	WO7	WO8
<b>Policies</b>	WCS 1: Re-use and Recycling	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓
	WCS 2: Other recovery	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓
	WCS 3: Landfill and disposal	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-
	WCS 4: Compatible land use	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-
	WCS 5: Development associated with existing temporary facilities	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>20</sup> Based on JMWMS for MSW and "Waste Scenarios Study" WMRA July 2005 for other waste streams, see background document 'Arising and capacity'.

		Objectives							
		WO1	WO2	WO3	WO4	WO5	WO6	WO7	WO8
	WCS 6: Site Infrastructure and access	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WCS 7: Environmental Assets	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WCS 8: Flood risk and water resources	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WCS 9: Sustainable design and operation of facilities	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
	WCS 10: Local characteristics	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WCS 11: Amenity	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WCS 12: Social and economic benefits	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
	WCS 13: new development proposed on or near to waste management facilities	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	WCS 14: Making provision for waste in new development	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

**Figure 3. Key diagram**



## Waste Core Strategy

Figure 1: Area of Coverage

- Worcestershire County Boundary
- - - District Boundary
- Principal Urban Areas / Urban Settlements
- Other Settlements

### Strategic Transport Network

- Motorways
- Motorway Junction
- Other Principal Roads
- Lorry Routes (see note)
- B Roads used as Lorry Routes
- - - Railways
- Rail Stations
- Major Rivers
- Canals

Note: Lorry Routes - This information was taken from Worcestershire's Advisory Lorry Route Map, dated 2008

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# Appendix 1

To help provide a robust evidence base for the Waste Core Strategy the Council has prepared a series of background documents. These outline current thinking and have informed the approach taken to date in the development of the waste core strategy. All of these background documents are *living document* and are in a state of development and comments are invited on all available documents during the consultation period.

## Key Themes

- *Towards a Vision Statement*: sets out the vision which is driving the Waste Core Strategy and details how it has evolved through consultation process.
- *Spatial Portrait*: provides additional detail to the spatial portrait set out in this consultation. It includes a description of the County and the local factors that need to be taken into account in developing the Waste Core Strategy.
- *Spatial Strategy*: Set out how the Spatial Strategy for the WCS has been developed
- *Arisings and capacity gap*: considers waste arisings in Worcestershire and makes projections about future arisings, treatment capacity and the need for facilities.
- *Monitoring Baseline*: Establishes the baseline for indicators set out in the WCS monitoring schedule and makes recommendations for those indicators that are not currently monitored
- *Identifying 'areas of search'*: sets out the approach to identifying locations suitable for waste management development, termed 'areas of search' and details all of the alternatives methods considered. It lists all potential locations assessed and details why they were, or were not, considered suitable for waste management development. This document has been informed by *ERM Industrial Estate Report*.
- *Climate Change*: is intended to form a basis for addressing climate change issues in the Waste Core Strategy. It considers mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy demands and the adaptation of waste management facilities to climate change.
- *Links with Districts & Neighbouring Local Authorities Plans and Strategies*: identifies the aspects of the guidance 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities' which are relevant to the production of the Waste Core Strategy. As a result of the guidance, this paper goes on to examine the links to waste in Worcestershire's Districts and neighbouring Local Authorities plans and strategies. It also evaluates what these links mean for the Waste Core Strategy.

- *Waste Sites in Worcestershire*: details existing waste management operations in Worcestershire and analysis of the relationship between size and throughput. In order to gain this information, the majority of known waste sites in the County were visited between September 2008 and July 2009. During these visits operators were asked about any issues currently faced, any future changes anticipated, these meetings are summarised in the report.
- *Inland Waterways*: The document was developed in response to consultation comments received on behalf of British Waterways regarding the Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy: Refreshed Issues & Options Consultation. It sets out the policy context relating to Inland Waterways in Worcestershire.
- *Waste Freight by Rail*: considers the potential for movements of waste by rail in Worcestershire.

## Waste Streams

- *Municipal Waste*: sets out the national and local policy context. It also includes details of the waste arisings and available capacity for treatment of municipal waste within the County.
- *Commercial and Industrial Waste*: sets out the national and local policy context. It also includes details of the waste arisings and available capacity for treatment of municipal waste within the County.
- *Construction and Demolition Waste*: sets out the national and local policy context. It also includes details of the waste arisings and available capacity for treatment of municipal waste within the County.
- *Agricultural Waste*: considers waste arising from agricultural activities in Worcestershire. It examines what agricultural waste is, how it is treated and explores the planning permitted development rights. and identifies the potential options for making provision through the Waste Core Strategy.
- *Hazardous Waste*: The document considers hazardous waste arising in Worcestershire. It includes information relating to hazardous waste in a national and regional policy context and includes details of the demand and available capacity for the treatment of hazardous waste within the County.
- *Waste Arisings from Healthcare and Related Activities - Clinical Waste and Low Level Radioactive Waste*: considers waste arising from health care and related activities, focusing on Clinical waste; and Non-nuclear low level radioactive waste. It includes information relating to clinical waste and non-nuclear low level radioactive waste in a policy context. It also includes details of the demand and available capacity for treatment of clinical and non-nuclear low level radioactive waste within the County.

Annex I considers low level radioactive waste from the nuclear industry in more detail, however it is not felt to be a significant issue in the County and is, therefore, not considered in the main body of the report.

# Management Facilities

- *Types of Facilities:* is intended to be a simple guide that gives an overview of the processes that tend to happen at a range of different facilities and lists the things that might need to be thought about when deciding where a facility would be best situated. It also sets out some of the possible impacts and benefits of each type of facility.
- *Landfill* includes background data and considers issues around types of landfill and the policy context. It also details of the demand and available capacity for landfill within the County, based on EA data and the Council's own research.
- *Metal Recycling Sites:* considers all sites in Worcestershire involved in the recycling of metal, this includes sites which sort, bulk and/or process metal and any other sites that form part of the chain of processes of recycling waste metal into a material which can be re-used. It sets out the context and background data relating to metal recycling, detailing the demand and available capacity for metal recycling within the County.
- *Waste Transfer Stations:* considers Waste transfer stations, looking at the current need and capacity in Worcestershire and wider policy context.
- *Resource Recovery from Biodegradable Waste - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion* The document considers composting and anaerobic digestion. These treatment options are considered in the same document as they both offer the opportunity to recover resources from biodegradable waste. It sets out the context and background data relating to composting and anaerobic digestion.
- *Recovering Energy from Waste - Biological and Thermal Treatment Technologies:* sets out the context and background data relating to biological and thermal technologies for recovering energy from waste including anaerobic digestion, incineration and refuse derived fuels. There is some overlap with the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Background Document: Resource Recovery from Biodegradable Waste: Composting and Anaerobic Digestion.
- *Waste Water Treatment Infrastructure:* examines the need for waste water treatment infrastructure in Worcestershire. It includes information relating to waste water treatment policy context. It also proposes a possible way forward for the potential issues regarding who is responsible for what aspects of managing waste water treatment and related development.