

Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Consultation on the Addendum to the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Submission Document

Information Sheet

The *Addendum to the Waste Core Strategy* sets out the changes that we think are necessary to address the issues relating to soundness and legal compliance that were raised during the consultation on the *Publication Document*. To summarise, the main points addressed are:

Section A: Focused changes following HRA addendum

- Following consultation, it became clear that it would be in the Council's best interest in seeking to ensure the plan is eventually found to be sound to carry out a further Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and to revise part b of *Policy WCS 2: Other recovery*. This was a view supported by Natural England.
- Issues relating to the protection of internationally designated sites are now dealt with in policy *WCS7: Environmental assets* and tests to safeguard internationally designated sites are moved from *Policy WCS 2* into *Policy WCS 7*. The change makes the tests easier to follow and means that they apply to all types of waste management development, rather than just 'other recovery' as set out previously.
- *Appendix 3* is updated to include additional areas around Bredon Hill SAC and Dixon Woods SAC where it could not be concluded that waste management development would have no Likely Significant Effects on the internationally designated sites. It also re-defines the area around Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC.
- The distinction between Worcester zone 1a and 1b is removed from the geographic hierarchy and Key Diagram. However the HRA modelling results are retained in *Appendix 3*, with *Policy WCS 7* explaining how they should be interpreted.

New evidence base: "Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum September 2011".

Section B: Focused change – Capacity gap and objective WO3

- An error made in calculating the capacity gap for MWS re-use and recycling and recovery targets in the *Publication Document* is corrected. The capacity gap calculations were mistakenly based on 55% recycling for MSW rather than the 50% target set out in *Objective WO3*. The change to correct this error is consistent with the approach taken in the rest of the strategy and results in less than a 3% change to the overall capacity gap (2025/26).
- Targets in *Objective WO3* are re-formatted to make them clearer.
- The concept of zero-waste as a long-term aim has been re-introduced into *Objective WO3* and the implications are discussed in *Section 8: Implementation and monitoring framework*.

New evidence base: "Addendum to the Waste Core Strategy Background Document Arisings and capacity" (28th July 2011)

Section C: Changes for clarity or to correct errors and omissions – Land availability

- The *Publication Document* gave two different figures for hectares of suitable employment land currently available (42 and 34 hectares). 34 hectares is correct and changes are proposed to amend the error throughout.
- Additional information is also added in relation to employment land provision in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Section D: Changes for clarity or to correct errors and omissions – Design and operation of development

- Following consultation, the concept that waste management facilities benefit wider energy demands was raised. The addendum acknowledges this, but maintains the stance that all proposals should also consider energy efficiency in individual facilities.
- The *Addendum* amends the caveat to *Policy WCS 11: Amenity*. Where the tests in the policy are not satisfied, the caveat previously required "exceptional circumstances" to be demonstrated to allow the development to be permitted; this was too stringent a test and not in line with national policy. The proposed change requires instead that the benefits of the development at the proposed site clearly outweigh any unacceptable adverse impacts.

Section E: Changes for clarity or to correct errors and omissions – Local characteristics and Greenbelt

- *Policy WCS 10: Local characteristics* has been split to consider green belt issues and local characteristics separately
- A caveat has been added to *Policy WCS 10: Local characteristics* to complement the caveats contained in other policies. The proposed change requires that to allow the development to be permitted where the tests in the policy are not satisfied, the benefits of the development at the proposed site clearly outweigh any unacceptable adverse impacts on local characteristics or an AONB.
- The policy is amended so that the green belt criteria are in accordance with national policy.

Section F: Changes for clarity or to correct errors and omissions – Flood risk and water quality

- The supporting text in *Policy WCS 8: Flood risk and water resources* is expanded to include reference to facilities remaining safe and operational during flood events.
- Changes incorporate requirements contained in *The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011*, regarding the consideration of impacts from planned or unplanned fires, and the distance of waste management development from surrounding uses.

Further minor changes are proposed in **Section G: Changes for clarity or to correct errors and omissions – other issues**, **Section H: Changes to referencing** and **Section I: Corrections to spelling, grammar and other typographical errors**.

Copies of all of the documents, the response form and accompanying guidance notes are available to download on the Council's website, www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs, and for inspection during normal opening hours from 3rd October at the following places:

- County Hall Reception, Worcestershire County Council, Spetchley Road, Worcester
- Public Libraries in Worcestershire
- Worcestershire Hub Customer Contact Centres at Bewdley, Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Evesham, Kidderminster, Pershore, Redditch, Stourport, Upton-upon-Severn and Worcester.

Please contact Nick Dean at Worcestershire County Council, 01905 766374 or by email: wcs@worcestershire.gov.uk if you would like a free paper copy of any of the documents or further information. Copies of the documents can also be provided in formats suitable for the blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing or in a language other than English.