

Statement on the proposed inclusion of an additional policy in the Waste Core Strategy to address the "Presumption in favour of sustainable development"

23rd April 2012

On 20th April the Inspector examining the Waste Core Strategy, Andrew S Freeman, advised the Council to consider including a policy in the Waste Core Strategy regarding the application of the "Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development" as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

In response to this we have proposed a new policy and minor changes to other sections of the Waste Core Strategy for clarity and consistency. These are set out in the **Schedule of Proposed Changes – 23rd April 2012** (Proposed Change reference numbers PC 158 to PC 180), but for ease of use are also set out below.

Section 1

Change to Paragraph 1.2:

1.2. The Waste Core Strategy is part of the Development Plan. It is a statutory Development Plan Document that applies to the whole of the county (see **Figure 1. Area of coverage**). The Development Plan is also made up of the Regional Spatial Strategy, Development Plan Documents and Local Development Documents prepared by the City, Borough and District Councils in Worcestershire. **The National Planning Policy Framework is a material consideration in planning decisions and must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, including the Waste Core Strategy.**

Addition of a new paragraph following Paragraph 1.16:

1.17 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework within which local people and councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities. The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy has been prepared in order to achieve this.

Section 2

Change to Table 4:

Table 4: Relationship between objectives and policy framework		Objectives							
		WO1	WO2	WO3	WO4	WO5	WO6	WO7	WO8
Policies	WCS ADDITIONAL: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	WCS NEW: Enabling equivalent self-sufficiency	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
	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	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
	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	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-

Addition of a New Section following Section 2

(Heading and paragraph numbers are preceded with an X for ease of reference however the numbering will be updated to be sequential in the Waste Core Strategy if it is found sound)

X3. Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

X3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development but does not contain specific waste policies, since national waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan for England. Local authorities preparing waste plans and

taking decisions on waste applications should have regard to policies in the National Planning Policy Framework so far as it is relevant. The Waste Core Strategy accords with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework and **Policy WCS ADDITIONAL** sets out how the presumption in favour of sustainable development will be applied locally.

Policy WCS ADDITIONAL: Presumption in favour of sustainable development

- a) When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the county.
- b) Planning applications that accord with the policies in the Development Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- c) Where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:
- i. any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework and national waste planning policy NEW FOOTNOTE: Currently Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management taken as a whole; or
 - ii. specific policies in the National Planning Policy Framework or national waste planning policy indicate that development should be restricted.

Explanatory text

X3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system. The policies in the Waste Core Strategy guide how the presumption in favour of sustainable development will be applied locally.

X3.3 The Council will work proactively with developers throughout the process to enable the delivery of proposals which secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the county. The Council offers a pre-application advice service to assist with this at an early stage and developers are encouraged to use this service.

X3.4 Pre-application advice can:

- help issues to be resolved at an early stage through the provision of advice in a timely manner,

- avoid unnecessary delays and costs by making sure that the right information is provided, particularly where there is a need for formal assessments such as an Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment or Flood Risk Assessment, and
- provide the Council with the opportunity to highlight other consents which may be required and statutory consultees which developers should liaise with at an early stage.

Section 8

Addition of a new paragraph following paragraph 8.3:

8.3a The Waste Core Strategy must be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances. It will be monitored on an annual basis and reviewed and revised as appropriate (see **Paragraphs 8.51 – 8.55, Figure 17 and Figure 18**). However in order not to stifle development whilst the policies are being reviewed, **Policy WCS ADDITIONAL** sets out provisions for circumstances where there are no policies in the Development Plan that are relevant to the application or where relevant policies are out of date.

Change to Paragraph 8.5:

8.5 The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be contributed to by policies **WCS Additional, WCS NEW, WCS 1, WCS 2 and WCS 3** all of which seek to implement the waste hierarchy. Waste Management Facilities at higher levels of the hierarchy on the whole have lower greenhouse emissions.

Change to Paragraph 8.26:

8.26 **Policy WCS ADDITIONAL sets out the presumption in favour of sustainable development, however** Applications will only be brought forward if there is adequate land available and this is an important consideration when looking at whether the Waste Core Strategy is deliverable.

Change to Monitoring Schedule:

- Inclusion of **WCS ADDITIONAL: Presumption in favour of sustainable development** in Policy Framework row for Objectives WO1 to WO7
- Inclusion of **Pre-application advice** in Delivery Mechanism row for Objectives WO1 to WO7

Addition of the following monitoring indicators under Objective WO5:

Indicator	Target	Review trigger
22a. Applications for Waste Management development determined within 13 weeks.	100%	One application not determined within 13 weeks
22b. Number of proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage.	Increase	Decrease

Addition of the following monitoring indicators under Objective WO6:

Indicator	Target	Review trigger
23a. Decisions where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision.	None	One decision