

Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy

SUMMARY OF EMERGING PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION



WE NEED YOUR VIEWS about our proposals for waste management planning in Worcestershire up to the year 2027. You can help us by telling us what you think about our 'Emerging Preferred Options' document.

We all produce waste. It's a fact of life. People in Worcestershire produced:

- **Nearly 300,000 tonnes** of household waste in 2008. That adds up to the weight of about 142 London Eyes
- **More than 790,000 tonnes** of commercial and industrial waste in 2007. That's the equivalent of about 78 Eiffel Towers and
- **An estimated 818,000 tonnes** of construction and demolition waste in 2006-07. That's the same weight as about 179 Boeing 747s.

At the moment much of our waste is landfilled. In 2007, 623,179 tonnes¹ of resources were, effectively thrown away and ignored, at a total cost to the Worcestershire economy of about

£50 million. If we provide enough facilities, we can recycle this and turn it into a resource. We can reduce landfilling to the absolute minimum. This would not only reduce the harmful effects of what we currently do, but also save resources for the future. The Waste Core Strategy will be one of the catalysts for this change.

The Waste Core Strategy will put in place the policy framework to enable a change to happen. It will make sure that there are **sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place and at the right time** to deal with the waste produced in Worcestershire. It will not set out how you must deal with your waste or where you must take it, but it will make sure that there are sufficient opportunities for the waste management industry to be able to develop all of the facilities necessary to address all the current and predicted future waste arisings in the county up to 2027.

¹ Environment Agency

The consultation is intended to stimulate comment and discussion about the type and number of waste management facilities we need and how and where they should be developed. It sets out the direction we wish to travel in and the scale of the issues we need to address. It does not represent our final views, only our current thinking. Please feel free to suggest alternative ideas or evidence that you think we should consider. Equally, feel free to question aspects of it, even if you do not feel able to suggest anything positive. All contributions of any kind will be welcome.

The consultation document includes:

- **Vision and objectives:** The vision will give us a sense of direction and the objectives will be direct what policies we need to realise the vision
- **Estimates** of waste arisings, growth estimates and additional capacity requirements
- **Broad areas** for new waste management facilities.

It also sets out broad ideas for the policies that we think would make it possible to achieve the strategy. These are set out as Draft Policy Directions, which explain what we think policy proposals should include:

- **WCS1: Ensuring sustainable development:** This could include proposals for how waste management related development will be assessed, using criteria that could include climate change and reducing, re-using and recycling waste, requirements to show energy management and renewable energy supply, environmental performance, carbon reduction, minimising waste miles and using landscaping or restoration proposals to combat the adverse effects of climate change.
- **WCS2: Spatial hierarchy:** To define what kinds of facilities could be suitable where.
- **WCS3: Future waste site allocations:** This could include setting out a key diagram to show in broad terms, where new waste management facilities could be permitted. We are also considering requiring special protection for the Cotswolds and Malvern AONBs, transport distances to be minimised and the use of sustainable modes of transport.

- **WCS4: Unallocated sites:** This policy could enable proposals for waste management facilities on sites not identified in the Waste Core Strategy to be permitted where they met certain criteria.
- **WCS5: How much waste treatment capacity do we need?** This would set out what capacity we expect to need to create sufficient waste management capacity in the county by 2027.
- **WCS6: Safeguarding:** This would ensure that operational sites, sites with planning permission that have not yet been implemented and areas proposed for waste facilities are not compromised by inappropriate new development being allowed nearby.
WCS7: Assessing the waste implications of new development: We propose that applications for certain types of development should be accompanied by a waste audit if they are to be allowed
- **WCS8: What kind of facilities do we need?** Such a policy could set out that sufficient types of facility and technology will be permitted to reflect and support the waste management needs of the economy in Worcestershire, and includes specific details.
- **WCS9: Landfill:** Such a policy could specify that no further planning permissions for non inert landfill sites could be granted unless certain provisions are met, but that planning permission could be granted for new inert landfill sites where justified.
- **WCS10: Energy from waste:** Proposes that planning permission could be granted for energy from waste proposals, provided that they are sustainable and the statutory health protection and pollution control bodies are satisfied that the proposals are acceptable.
- **WCS11: Managing the impact of waste management related development:** Suggests that proposals for waste management related development in Worcestershire will be permitted where they do not have unacceptable impacts on the natural resources and environmental and social, cultural or economic assets of Worcestershire.

The consultation runs from **16th November 2009 to 4th February 2010** and we welcome your comments.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION, a short summary and the full document are available at County Hall, in libraries, District Council offices, on our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs or can be requested from **Nicholas Dean** on **01905 766374**. wcs@worcestershire.gov.uk