

Questionnaire

Waste Core Strategy: Refreshed Issues and Options Report

Worcestershire County Council are seeking your comments on the Waste Core Strategy (WCS): Refreshed Issues and Options Report. **We suggest that you read the WCS: Refreshed Issues and Options Report before answering the questions and refer back to the report where necessary.** Due to the length of the report we are encouraging people to access them via our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper copy by telephoning Nick Dean on 01905 766374 or e-mail wcs@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Please answer as many questions as you can and return it in the pre-paid envelope. It is much easier for us to take account of your concerns now rather than later in the process. Alternatively, you can fax your completed form to 01905 767899. If you would like another copy of this form please go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wcs or contact Nick Dean on the above contact details. It would be helpful if comments whether by paper, fax or e-mail, could be received by 5 p.m. 19th December 2008.

In returning this questionnaire you agree that the contact details and any related responses can be held by the Planning Service of the County Council and you understand they will only be used in relation to the planning process as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This information will be kept on the database until the adoption of the Waste Core Strategy currently planned for 2012.

Please check your contact details below, if any of the details are incorrect please write in your correct details.

Please refer to Part 2 of the Refreshed Issues and Options Report for background information on Questions 1, 2 and 3.

Question 1

Are there any other waste streams apart from those covered in the Refreshed Issues and Options Report you think we should address? The main types are highlighted in question 7.

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 1A

If yes, please could you describe what these are, and if possible, as much other information as possible, e.g. who they are generated by, where, in what volumes and how they are addressed at present.

Question 2

Do you agree that the Waste Core Strategy should not include specific policies to manage organic agricultural waste? This means that we will leave landowners and farmers to manage these materials as they have traditionally done, as fertilizers or soil improvers on the land holding where it arises.

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 2A

If no, please could you give examples of what such policies should cover and as much information as possible on why you think that is necessary.

Question 3

Do you agree that the Waste Core Strategy should not include specific policies to manage waste from mineral working? This means that we will leave quarry and gravel pit operators to manage these materials in accordance with their planning permissions, as part of the restoration of the site.

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 3A

If no, please could you give examples of what any such policies should cover and as much information as possible on why you think that this is necessary.

Please refer to Part 3 of the Refreshed Issues and Options Report for background information on questions 4 and 5.

Question 4

Does the Draft Spatial Portrait include all the main local issues that should inform the Waste Core Strategy?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 4A

If no, what else should we refer to?

It would be helpful if you could also refer us to other sources of information or to people we could contact to explore these issues further.

We want your views on the Draft Vision Statement given below.

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The vision driving the Waste Core Strategy is that,

“Our goal is that by 2027 very little waste will be produced in Worcestershire and what is produced will be regarded as a source of useful material and treated so far as possible in Worcestershire itself.”

To be useful, however, that Vision cannot be restricted to a single statement. It must be a philosophy that guides us; that waste minimisation will be our priority, that the sustainable management of waste as a way of saving scarce resources is always something to be encouraged. It needs a change of attitude, a recognition that waste management is essential to the economy, but also something to be treated as just another business activity and not as something automatically needing special consideration or as inherently a ‘bad’ neighbour’ development.

For Worcestershire it means a change in where most new facilities will be built. In general, it will mean that most new waste management facilities will be located close to where most wastes are produced. By 2027, most waste management activity will be in the broad area centred in and around Worcester, Kidderminster and Redditch, where most of Worcestershire’s development and future growth are concentrated. Some facilities will need to serve a very wide catchment and for reasons of access, land availability and or economies of scale may not be located in or adjacent to, an urban area. Most operations will be based on industrial estates however rather than in the open countryside, unless most of the wastes to be treated arise there. Wherever possible such waste related development will be located on previously developed land and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilage, rather than on greenfield sites. It will mean that most facilities will be in, or adjoining the growth areas proposed in the Regional Spatial Strategy, principally in or around Worcester and Redditch and in connection with the major development areas in those towns. There will be some new waste management facilities in or around Bromsgrove and Droitwich and possibly some where they would assist the regeneration of Kidderminster and the growth of the high technology corridor between Longbridge and Malvern. There will be fewer new facilities however in Stourport, Bewdley and Evesham and fewer still in or near Malvern, Pershore, Upton and Tenbury unless special local conditions justify it. Many of these new facilities will be close to the principal highways in the County. Some will use rail or water to move materials. As a corollary, new waste related development would not be located in or near areas that are vulnerable to flooding or fire risk, unless special reasons justify otherwise. Whilst some will be outdoors, most waste management operations will take place in well-designed buildings.

It will be a change in how we manage waste. It means that waste management in future won’t create pollution, damage natural or cultural assets or adversely affect the health or amenities of local people. Very little material will be considered unusable. What is will mostly be disposed of to generate useful benefits, such as soil improver or fuel. Only as a last resort will it be landfilled. If it is, the waste will be used positively, for land reclamation, to enhance landscape character or biodiversity, or create community facilities.

There will be significantly more waste treatment facilities and of different kinds and sizes than there are now. All the waste management capacity prescribed in the National, Regional and Joint Municipal Waste Management, Strategies will be operational and waste management itself will be a natural part of everyday life.

It means recognising that waste management is a dynamic, constantly changing activity. The facilities created will function as part of a network of symbiotic activities both within Worcestershire and the West Midlands. The network itself and the 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 2026 and beyond. For business, waste will mean opportunity, those determining planning applications it will mean flexibility and encouraging new waste management facilities.

It means we will all take responsibility for what waste we produce and what we do with it, that we look to do away with “wasting” it altogether.

Question 5

Is this a good vision for the Waste Core Strategy to aim for?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 5A

If yes, is there anything you would like to add or remove? Please give as much detail as possible.

Question 5B

If not, what should the vision be?

Please refer to Part 4 of the Refreshed Issues and Options Report for background information on question 6.

Question 6

Do you agree with the Draft Local Objectives?

Please feel free to comment or add any others you would like to suggest. Do not worry about precise wording, it will be as helpful to us if you can identify concepts or ideas rather than the perfect phrase.

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Please refer to Part 5 of the Refreshed Issues and Options Report for background information on questions 7 to 19.

Question 7

We think that the Waste Core Strategy should deal with all of the following:

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
- Commercial and Industrial (C & I) (including Directive Agricultural Waste but not 'organic waste' as defined in para x above)
- Hazardous Waste, and
- Construction and Demolition Waste (C & D)

But not Radioactive Waste

Do you agree?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 7A

If not, please could you explain why not?

Question 8

Do you agree that the Waste Core Strategy should be designed to provide sufficient facilities to meet the targets set out in national and regional policy?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 8A

If not, please could you explain what other targets would be appropriate and why? If we were to set other targets we would need evidence to justify them. Are you aware of any such evidence?

Question 9

Are there any subjects that you think we should measure to monitor the success or otherwise of the Plan?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 9A

If yes, please could you list these and if possible suggest sources for this information?

Question 10

Do you agree that we should allocate the distribution of the new Commercial and Industrial and Construction and Demolition waste management capacity we need by District and Borough Council area?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 10A

If not, please could you explain why and suggest alternatives.

This would mean the following distribution:

% of new waste management capacity needed between 2006 and 2026 would need to be developed in	
7.3	Bromsgrove
11.5	Malvern Hills
17.7	Redditch
28.1	Worcester City
23.9	Wychavon
11.5	Wyre Forest
100% total	

Question 11

Do you agree that this is a reasonable distribution of the new waste management facilities we need to manage Commercial and Industrial waste?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 11A

If not, please could you explain why and suggest an alternative.

Question 12

Do you think there are particular matters we should monitor? If so please could you suggest these and possible sources of information.

Question 13

We intend to use “Actual Capacity”, the Environment Agency’s own site monitoring records to calculate Worcestershire’s waste management capacity. Do you agree that this is the best information available?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 13A

If no, please could you explain why and suggest an alternative.

Question 14

We think however, that when it comes to estimating the “treatment gap” between how much waste management capacity we have and how much we need, that we should rely on comparing our “Actual Capacity” (as defined above) and the targets for diversion from landfill set out in the RSS.

Do you agree?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 14A

If no, please could you explain why and suggest alternatives.

Question 15

We think that it would be useful to adopt the following ratios as a working basis to identify land for waste management purposes:

Open window composting	10,000t/2.5ha
Transfer stations	50,000t/0.5-1ha
All other waste management types	50,000t/1ha
Landfill	No set relationship because each proposal and site will differ. Approximately 10,000t/1ha @ 1m depth of tipping.

We will need to monitor this closely to see if the planning applications which come forward in Worcestershire, or other evidence, reflects this. If not we will need to revise the Strategy promptly.

Do you agree?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 15A

If no, please could you explain why and suggest alternatives.

Question 16

Government policy is that the Strategy should be for at least 15 years from adoption. We expect this to be 2012 and that the Strategy should extend therefore to 2027. This will ensure both that it is compatible with the current RSS and able to pick up on the thinking for the next regional plan. During the course of the Waste Core Strategy we will also aim to monitor it annually and review it about every 5 years to keep it in line with future reviews of the RSS.

Do you agree with our proposal to prepare the Plan up to 2027?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 16A

Do you agree with our proposal to monitor it annually and review it every 5 years?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

If no, to either of these, please explain why and suggest alternatives.

Question 17

We think that a useful way forward would be:

- To project the current RSS calculations forward for 10 years to 2036 in the light of new evidence and our own monitoring of the plan,
- To identify the scale of new waste management facilities needed to address these projections and the land area needed on the same basis throughout the period 2007 – 2036,
- To identify broad areas where these facilities would be needed but which would only be brought forward if all other appropriate allocations had been taken up first or could be shown to be unsuitable or unavailable
- To reassess all of these at 5 yearly intervals in the light of new evidence and our own monitoring of the Strategy

Do you agree?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 17A

If no, please could you explain why and suggest alternatives.

Question 18

Are there any other matters which you think we should take into account in order to protect the environment, health, employment and amenity of the people who live in the county when assessing the suitability of sites and areas for waste management facilities in the Waste Core Strategy?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 18A

If so, please could you list these below?

It is inevitable that new issues will emerge as we develop the Strategy and that existing ones will change. It is possible to identify some matters now even if we do not know what they are. To date we have identified the following as important, the

- RSS Phase 3 Revision
- River Severn Basin Management Plan
- South Worcestershire Joint Care Strategy
- Bromsgrove Core Strategy
- Redditch Core Strategy
- Longbridge Area Action Plan

We think that all of these will identify the scale of change likely to take place in each area, the broad location of and some indicative timing for the changes likely and will guide what the Core Strategy needs to address.

Question 19

We anticipate amending this list throughout the development of the Strategy, but do you agree that these will be important?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 19A

What else should we include?

Please refer to Part 6 of the Refreshed Issues and Options Report for background information on questions 20 to 23.

We have reconsidered both our original choice of options and the final Preferred Options and we still believe that these are an appropriate range of options and the best choice to develop the Strategy.

Question 20

Do you agree that we should develop the Waste Core Strategy on the basis of the following options:

- A3 That new waste development is appropriate any where in the Green Belt when in accordance with the objectives of Planning Policy Guidance 2;
- B1 To focus on development in urban locations throughout Worcestershire with justified minimal development in rural areas;
- C1 To establish primarily larger waste management facilities;
- D1 To focus on centralising facilities, but with dispersed facilities if justified; and
- E1 To incorporate the adopted BPEO Strategy into the Waste Core Strategy.

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 20A

If no, please could you explain why and suggest alternatives.

Question 21

Do you agree that the Waste Core Strategy should not specify which waste management technologies should be developed?

Yes.....

No.....

Don't know.....

Question 21A

If you think that it should specify technologies, please could you describe why, and suggest what technologies would be needed.

Question 22

We think the following concepts could be used to distinguish the locations in which waste management facilities should be developed.

Facilities where the primary waste management activity would be

- a) Outdoors.
- b) windrow composting, or
- c) landfill, or
- d) Indoors, or
- e) Indoors but where emissions would be dispersed significantly beyond the site.

We will use these to develop a range of criteria to identify what kind of sites would be appropriate for each concept.

Do you agree this would be a useful way to proceed?

Yes.....

No.....

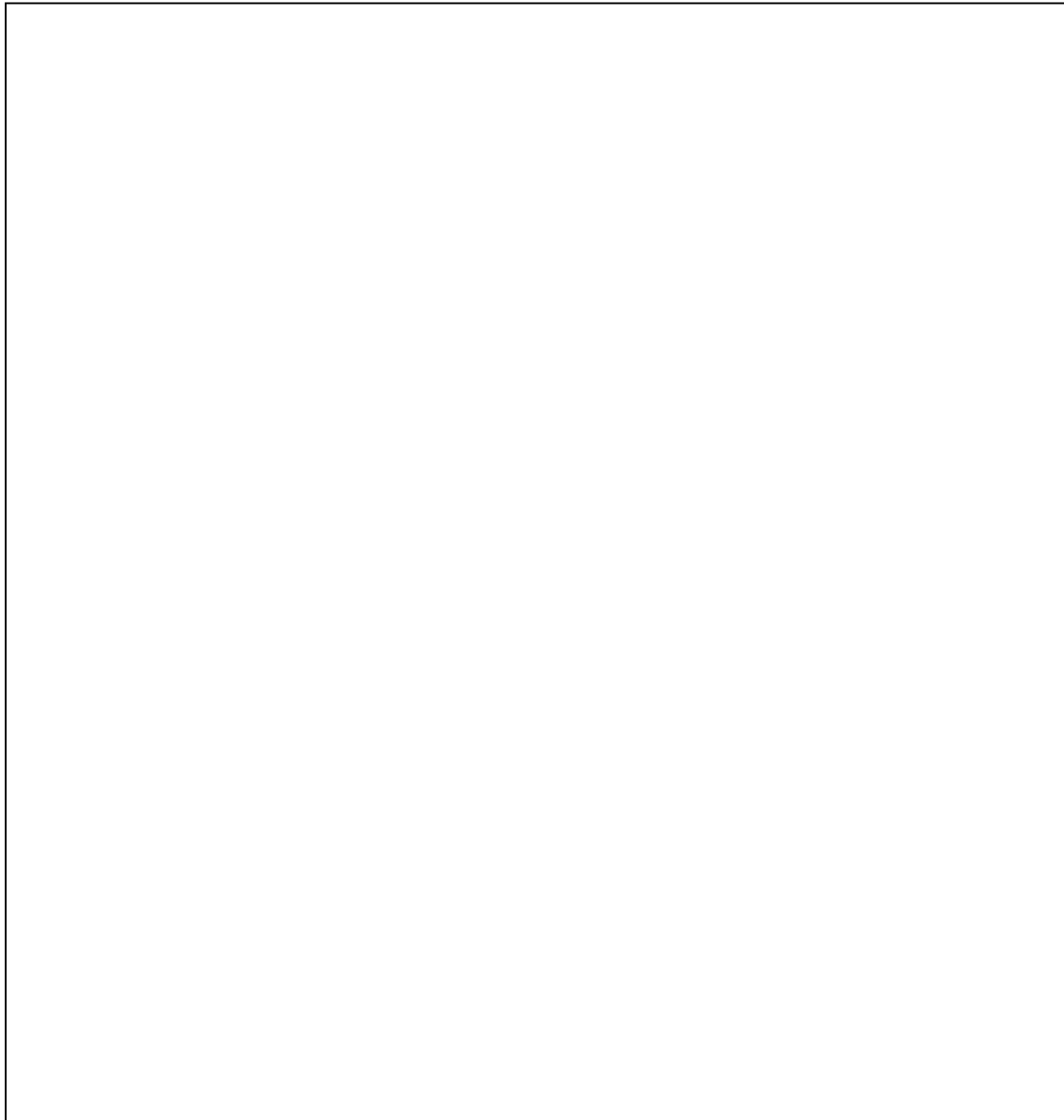
Don't know.....

Question 22A

If not, please could you explain why and suggest alternatives.

Question 23

Finally, are there any other matters you think we should address?
Please give as much detail as possible.



Many thanks for completing the questionnaire.

If you have any further comments or questions, please telephone Nick Dean

01905 766374 or e-mail wcs@worcestershire.gov.uk.