

West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Examination

Additional Statement - Landfill & Landraising

Prepared by RPS Planning & Development on behalf of Strategic Land Partnerships

<i>Which particular part of the Core Strategy is considered unsound?</i>

Policy 8 – Landfill, Landraise, engineering or other operations - Principles

- 1.1.1 This additional statement made on behalf of Strategic Land Partnership (SLP), predominately focuses on the effectiveness of Policy 8 of the Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS), which provides a policy framework for landfill/landraising in the West of England sub-region. SLP is particularly concerned about the lack of a positive policy framework provided in the plan for the delivery of much needed landfill/raising operations to manage residual non-hazardous waste in the sub-region. The statement also highlights potential interlinking and related matters, in particular the effectiveness of Policy 11 of the JWCS and consideration of landfill operations for management of hazardous waste.
- 1.1.2 Section 6.10 of the Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS) Submission Document acknowledges that despite the overall key aim of the plan which seeks to divert waste from landfill; landfill will continue to have a role and new capacity is expected to be required within the sub-region at the early stages of the plan period.
- 1.1.3 JWCS Evidence base document 10 - *West of England Waste Management Capacity Needs Assessment - An assessment of the current and future waste management capacity needs* (ERM June 2009) section 6.1.3 indicates that there is a clear shortage of landfill capacity for municipal and commercial & industrial (C&I) waste, and that even with a 85% recycling and recovery rate, there will still be a requirement for landfill. Taking into account existing landfill capacity the document indicates that 5.5 million tonnes of landfill capacity is required by 2028/29 in the West of England (WoE) sub-region.
- 1.1.4 Evidence base document 10.1 *Landfill Review Paper* (ERM May 2010) takes account of representations made on the JWCS Pre-Submission draft document, leading to a review of the evidence base in relation to landfill capacity and requirements over the plan period. Each of the WoE Authorities reviewed the information they had provided for

previous evidence base reports to update the information and to identify any new opportunities for landfill/raise. Potential sites considered by the Authorities for future landfill/raise included existing landfill sites, quarries and brownfield sites. The evidence document revised the landfill void space requirement to 5.9 – 6.5 million m³ for municipal and C&I waste and concludes at section 1.1.2 that there are limited opportunities for void space to be gained through previous mineral extraction or at previously developed land, therefore the use of greenfield land is likely to be necessary.

1.1.5 JWCS Evidence Base 10: *An Assessment of the Current and Future Waste Management Capacity Needs* (June 2009 ERM) section 3.4 states there are two consented/operational non-hazardous waste landfill facilities in the sub-region: Shortwood Clay Pit and Kingsweston Landfill. The combined waste capacity of these landfills is estimated to be 3 million tonnes. JWCS Evidence Base 10: section 4.4 concludes that current non-hazardous landfill capacity would only be sufficient for the identified waste disposal needs of the sub-region until 2013/14.

1.1.6 Strategic Land Partnership is particularly concerned about this position, noting the long lead-in time required for new non-hazardous landfill/land raising operations. An optimistic programme is provided below:

- Land assembly and initial feasibility - 12 months;
- Scoping and Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment – up to 12 months to allow for seasonally sensitive surveys and monitoring/data collection;
- Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement – 3 months
- Determination of Planning Application - 16 weeks Statutory Period to be extended to 12 months to take account of complexity of proposal/legal agreements;
- Post Planning Determination: 3 to 6 months to allow period for Judicial Review and discharge of pre commencement conditions;
- Securing Environmental Permit: 12 months in parallel with Planning; and
- Construction/Engineering – 24 months.

The above illustrates that based on an optimistic consenting programme a new landfill operation is likely to require a 5 year lead-in period.

1.1.7 Furthermore, the JWCS Preferred Options Document recognised the sub-regions' reliance on exporting waste to non-hazardous landfill operations outside the region. (JWCS Evidence Base - *Non-Hazardous Landfill Briefing Paper No2 – Review of Mineral*

Plans, Final Report, December 2008). A feasibility study exploring the potential option to export non-hazardous waste out of the region, effectively continuing the historic trend, was carried out by ERM in June 2009 as further evidence base for the JWCS. The report concluded that there was no surplus capacity in the search area adopted for the purposes of this study. However, the study confirms the waste industry's preference for a criteria based policy for new landfill operations in the sub-region and that there was confidence that the industry will provide the required disposal infrastructure.

- 1.1.8 The JWCS evidence base outlined above is not in dispute. It clearly indicates the historic and current situation in respect to the lack of provision of non-hazardous landfill to manage waste in the sub-region and the necessity to consider greenfield sites and provide a **flexible and positive policy framework** to address this shortfall.
- 1.1.9 Despite the significant landfill capacity requirement and longstanding exportation of non-hazardous waste to landfill/raise outside the sub-region the JWCS Submission Document fails to provide an effective policy framework to address this shortfall in waste management capacity (see Repts nos. 204 015 and 204 022). Policy 8 unduly stifles the delivery of landfill/raise infrastructure and fails to commit to the delivery of the required capacity of landfill/raise infrastructure during the plan period thus rendering the policy unsound.

Inter-related Policy 11 – Planning Designations

- 1.1.10 The effectiveness of Policy 8 in facilitating the delivery of sufficient landfill/raise to meet the voidspace requirements over the plan period is interlinked to the other policies in the JWCS including Policy 11.
- 1.1.11 This policy is considered overly restrictive, ambiguous and inconsistent with national policy and in part duplicates existing legislation and regulations. Policy 12 of the JWCS adequately and appropriately seeks to prevent harm occurring to the sub-region's historical, ecology and landscape assets. There is particular concern that Policy 11 as drafted does not reflect the key planning objectives as set out in Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005) which highlights that where as green belt should be protected the specific locational needs of waste management needs to be considered.
- 1.1.12 Policy 11 also makes reference to preventing development which will have "*significant impact onopenness*" but applying this condition to a range of planning designations, where "openness" is an irrelevant or inappropriate consideration.

1.1.13 In summary, the evidence clearly indicates an over-riding need for non-hazardous waste landfill/raising to be provided as soon as possible in the sub-region. A positive and effective policy framework is essential to deliver this infrastructure which is not currently provided in the JWCS.

***Which soundness test(s), set out in Paragraphs 4.51 to 4.52 of PPS 12, does it fail?
Why does it fail?***

Test 1 – Justified

1.1.14 The criteria which forms the basis of policy 8 does not reflect evidence (document 10.1) that there are limited opportunities for landfill at sites of former mineral extraction or previously developed sites and thus greenfield land is likely to be needed. Despite this, preference is given to developing brownfield land over greenfield land.

Test 2 – Effective

1.1.15 The policy does not make a commitment to providing the landfill/landraise capacity requirements urgently needed for residual municipal and C&I waste during the first period covered by the Plan. As such the policy stifles the delivery of much needed landfill/raise infrastructure, which is of particular concern given the complexity and lead-in times associated with the delivery of such operations (see indicative planning and permitting programme above).

1.1.16 The landfill voidspace requirements are conservative and should be treated as a minimum (as stated in Rep no. 204 005). For example, there is no reconciliation in the Core Strategy regarding the disposal of process residues from Energy from Waste facilities which can not be recycled or which are not taken up by the recycling market. For example in the case of hazardous residues from residual treatment facilities para 6.10.10 of the JWCS states there is no identified need for new hazardous waste landfill capacity within the plan area, despite identifying 800,000 tpa for residual treatment facilities in Policy 5.

1.1.17 It is reasonable to assume that at least a proportion of this waste/process residue would need to be disposed of to hazardous landfill. The JWCS does not provide a policy framework for this potential requirement. It is recommended that Policy 8 is extended to guide this type of proposal or a new policy is included in the JWCS to address this omission.

1.1.18 Overall the criteria set out in Policy 8 are unclear, inflexible and in some cases considered unnecessary. The policy as drafted presents barriers to the provision of new landfill/raise. This is in part due to the aggregation of considerations which apply to inert landfill proposals (restoration and agricultural improvement, engineering operations) with landfill/raise proposals for municipal and C&I residual waste, for which a different set of considerations apply.

1.1.19 Criterion 1: *“the waste to be disposed of cannot practicably and reasonably be reused, recycled or processed (to recover materials; to produce compost, soil conditioner or inert residues; or to recover energy)”* is considered unnecessary as it duplicates the pre-treatment requirement of the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) which came into force on 30th October 2007. The requirements of the Landfill Directive are applied under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 as administered by the Environment Agency. Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 23 - Planning and Pollution Control (2004) indicates Planning Authorities should work on the assumption that the relevant pollution control regime will be properly applied and enforced. They should act to complement but not seek to duplicate these functions.

1.1.20 It is uncertain how criterion 3 will be implemented; potentially placing an unreasonable/unnecessary onus on the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed development will not impact on the ability to restore mineral working sites. The evidence base for the JWCS has identified an urgent requirement for new landfill operations. Policy 8 requires redrafting to provide an effective policy for the provision on non-hazardous landfill/raise operations during the period of the JWCS.

Test 3 – Consistent with National Policy

1.1.21 Policy 8 fails to provide sufficient opportunities for the provision of new landfill/raise (“waste disposal”) as required by Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management, 2005 paragraph 16:

“The core strategy of a waste planning authority should set out policies and proposals for waste management in line with the RSS and ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations including for waste disposal”

1.1.22 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management: Companion Guide to Planning Policy Statement 10, (PPS10 Companion Guide 2006) paragraph 6.50 elaborates:

“At the plan-making stage it will be necessary for the WPA to provide for a mixture of site types, including

• *landfilling of residues from waste treatment*".

1.1.23 As such Policy 8 prejudices the delivery of sub-regional net self-sufficiency. Planning for Sustainable Waste Management: PPS10 Companion Guide states:

"sub-regional net self-sufficiency in waste disposal capability should be sought where this is consistent with the Key Planning Objectives in PPS10".

1.1.24 The Companion Guide further acknowledges that Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) should not always give preference to developing brownfield sites before greenfield sites as not all brownfield sites will be suitable. However policy 8 does precisely that, stating *"priority will be given to Brownfield land over Greenfield land"*, thus demonstrating how the policy is not founded on either national guidance or evidence.

1.1.25 Paragraph 7.33 of the Guide states:

"The WPA should bear in mind in their search for sites that in allocating land they are expected to give preference to suitable sites that are previously-developed land, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages. This does not mean that greenfield allocations are ruled out or all 'brownfield' sites have to be developed before greenfield development would be acceptable. Not all brownfield sites will be suitable for the range of waste management facilities required to support the core strategy. The concern is to ensure good use of suitable 'brownfield' land and avoid turning unnecessarily to greenfield locations".

1.1.26 The Companion Guide provides specific guidance regarding the location of landfill sites which is not fully reflected in Policy 8 and supporting text. The inclusion of the following criteria would enhance the policy and improve consistency with National Policy:

1.1.27 Paragraph 8.12 *"Schedule 2, paragraph 1(1) states:*

*The location of a landfill must take into consideration requirements relating to—*a) *the distances from the boundary of the site to residential and recreational areas, waterways, water bodies and other agricultural or urban sites;*

b) the existence of groundwater, coastal water or nature protection zones in the area;

c) the geological or hydro geological conditions in the area;

d) the risk of flooding, subsidence, landslides or avalanches on the site; and

e) the protection of the natural or cultural heritage in the area".

1.1.28 Furthermore in order to ensure a positive policy framework and taking account that policies of the JWCS should be considered as a whole, Policy 11 needs to fully reflect the Key Planning Objectives set out in PPS10 and requirements of PPS10 Companion Guide 2006 regarding waste management developments in green belts, paragraph 8.17:

“Criteria-based policies in LDDs need not, however, impose a total, blanket ban on the establishment of such sites in Green Belts. It may still be appropriate to grant planning permission if the applicant is able to demonstrate that very special circumstances exist that clearly outweigh the harm caused by the proposed site being developed in the Green Belt, and any other harm.”

1.1.29 As drafted, policy 11 is not consistent with the guidance. The guidance makes it clear that development of waste management facilities may be acceptable in the green belt if special circumstances are demonstrated.

<i>How can the respective Core Strategy be made sound?</i>

1.1.30 Policy 8 should be amended as follows:

1. The statement that priority will be given to brownfield land over greenfield land should be deleted (see Reps nos. 204 007, 204 008, 204 014 and 201 016).
2. The policy should make a commitment to making provision for a minimum of 5.9 – 6.5 million tonnes m3 of landfill capacity for residual municipal and C&I waste during the first phase of the plan period.
3. This provision/capacity requirement as stated in the evidence base document 10.1 should be expressed as a tonnage. This will provide greater transparency and flexibility and takes account of different compaction densities and potential errors associated with expressing need in volume as opposed to tonnage.
4. Delete Criterion 1: *“the waste to be disposed of cannot practicably and reasonably be reused, recycled or processed (to recover materials; to produce compost, soil conditioner or inert residues; or to recover energy)”*. (See also rep no. 201 017).
5. The policy should provide a separate policy approach for considering proposals for inert landfill (restoration and agricultural improvement, engineering operations) and proposals for municipal and C&I non hazardous waste disposal. (See also rep no. 201 018).

6. The inclusion of the locational criteria/considerations for landfill sites criteria set out within Paragraph 8.12 of Planning for Sustainable Waste Management: Companion Guide to Planning Policy Statement 10, 2006.

1.1.31 Policy 11 should be amended as follows:

7. Deletion of “or openness” from the first sentence of Policy 11.

<i>What is the precise change/wording that is being sought?</i>
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1.1.32 Suggested Revision to Policy 8 (suggested new text shown in bold):

Revised Policy 8 Non-Hazardous Landfill & Landraising Operations

Provision of capacity for non-hazardous residual waste landfill/landraise should be made to meet the following waste disposal capacity during the plan period:

At least 5.9 – 6.5 million tonnes (*assumes 1 tonne =1 m3 – Prefer expression by tonnage to allow for different compaction densities and thus provide more flexibility, see comment above*) of residual municipal, commercial and industrial waste of landfill.

Proposal for non-hazardous landfill/landraise will be determined taking into account:

- a) **Acceptable proximity from site to sensitive receptors e.g. residential development to protect human health and other sensitive land-uses;**
- b) **the existence of vulnerable groundwater, coastal water or nature protection zones in the area. In general, proposals should not be sited *within major aquifers, source protection zones, European sites of nature designation or the appropriate buffer, except where no objection is received from the Environment Agency or Natural England as appropriate.***
- c) **suitability of geological or hydro geological conditions in the area;**
- d) **the risk of flooding, subsidence and landslides on the site; and**
- e) **the protection of ecology and biodiversity, landscape value and/or cultural heritage in the area.**

1.1.33 ***Proposed New Policy Inert Waste Disposal***

Provision for inert waste disposal should be made at mineral extraction and landfill/landraise sites requiring restoration, unless it can be demonstrated that an alternative location would not prejudice the restoration of these sites and the proposed development involves the minimum quantity of waste necessary for:

- a. a demonstrable improvement in the quality of the land; or*
- b. facilitating the establishment of an appropriate after-use; or*
- c. improving land damaged or disturbed as a result of previous or existing uses; or*
- d. the engineering or other operations.*

In granting planning permission for landfilling or landraising developments, or engineering or other operations, conditions may be imposed limiting both the types and quantities of waste to be deposited in order to conserve capacity for waste that cannot be reused, recycled or processed.

1.1.34 Suggested Revision to Policy 11:

1.1.35 Deletion of “or openness” from the first sentence of policy 11.

Appendix A – Joint Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation March 09

Joint Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation – Response Form

Your comments on every aspect of this document are welcomed. You can write your comments in the spaces provided below; you can continue on additional sheets.

Please return the completed response form to:
**West of England Partnership, Freepost SEA 12430,
Thornton Heath CR7 7XT**
(no stamp required).

Alternatively you can participate online at www.westofengland.org/waste or email your response to wepo@dialoguebydesign.com

If you require this response form in a different format please contact **0117 922 2785**.

■ **The deadline for receiving responses is 12 March 2009**

Title: Mr	First name Gerry	Surname: Keay
Address:	Greendale Court, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon	Postcode: EX5 1AW
Telephone number:	01395 233433	
Email:	sue@greendalecourt.com	
Organisation:	Strategic Land Partnerships	
<i>(please fill in only if you are responding on behalf of this organisation)</i>		

■ West of England Partnership is working with Dialogue by Design, an independent consultation company, to conduct this consultation. Any personal information you provide will be processed by West of England Partnership and Dialogue by Design, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, to assist in the preparation of the core strategy and related waste-planning issues. Submissions to this consultation will be made available on a public website. For responses made by individuals, the respondent's name will not be displayed on the website. Responses made on behalf of an organisation will have the organisation name displayed on the website. Full responses including contact details will be available for inspection by the public on request. We are unable to treat submissions as confidential.

General comments

1. Do you have any general comments you would like to make?

See four attached sheets

Waste minimisation

There are two proposed policies for Waste Minimisation

- To promote the use of Waste Audits

2. Do you have any comments on this policy?

- To identify the types of developments for which waste audits would be applicable.

3. Do you have any comments on this policy?

Recycling and composting

Views expressed on the Issues and Options consultation were strongly in favour of recycling. This planning document has to plan where to locate facilities for recycling or composting material produced by commercial and industrial concerns. These would include recycled aggregate processing facilities, material recycling/waste transfer stations, and open windrow and in vessel composting facilities

The proposed policies for Recycling and Composting are:

- **Inert (construction and demolition) waste recycling facilities** – to provide facilities at existing mineral sites, brown-field or industrial sites in urban or rural locations and existing and former waste sites.

4. Do you have any comments on this policy?

- **Non-Inert material (commercial and industrial) recycling/waste transfer facilities** – to keep existing facilities on industrial/brown-field land with an acceptable access on to the primary route network.

5. Do you have any comments on this policy?

- **Household waste recycling centres** – to provide facilities to serve Bath, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset

6. Do you have any comments on this policy?

- **Open windrow composting** – to support proposals for small-scale ‘on-farm’ facilities

7. Do you have any comments on this policy?

- **In-vessel composting facilities** – to locate these facilities on brown-field or industrial sites in urban or rural locations along with existing and former waste sites

8. Do you have any comments on this policy?

Recovery

Recovery is the process of extracting a product of value from waste materials through recycling, composting and other forms of material recovery. In addition, modern technology enables us to generate valuable ‘renewable’ energy from waste and contribute towards the regional targets set out in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for renewable heat generation. There is an annual target for almost 800,000 tonnes of waste to be managed through recovery facilities by 2020, and there are no such facilities currently operational in the West of England. There are a number of different options for locating recovery facilities across the West of England. These are known as spatial options. Three spatial options have been identified:

- **Option A:** Two recovery facilities which would each handle 400,000 tonnes annually.

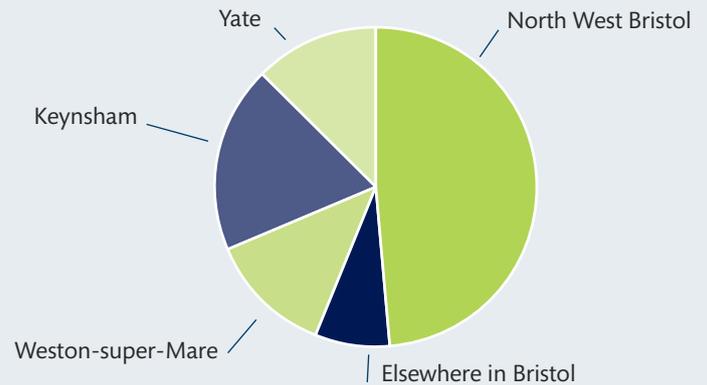
9. Do you have any comments on option A?

- **Option B:** Eight recovery facilities each handling 100,000 tonnes annually.

10. Do you have any comments on option B?

- **Option C:** A combination of different scale facilities suiting the density of the surrounding area – this is the preferred option of the West of England Partnership. This means providing facilities at:

	<i>per year capacity</i>
North West Bristol	390,000 tonnes
Elsewhere in Bristol	60,000 tonnes
Weston-super-Mare	100,000 tonnes
Keynsham	150,000 tonnes
Yate	100,000 tonnes



11. To what extent do you agree with our preferred option C?

We would support this option – see comments on attached sheets.

Landfill

● Non-Inert Waste:

- Requirement for new non-inert landfill capacity to replace existing facilities as they close, up to a maximum capacity of 265,000 tonnes per annum;
- Identify Areas of Search and adopt a criteria-based policy approach.

● Hazardous Waste

- No policy required. Waste to be exported to specialist disposal facilities.

● Inert Waste (construction and demolition)

- No policy required. Each council to make provision for their own area.

12. Do you have any comments on the policy on landfill?

See comments on attached sheets

Please return the completed response form to:
 West of England Partnership, Freepost SEA 12430, Thornton Heath CR7 7XT
 (no stamp required)

STRATEGIC LAND PARTNERSHIPS COMMENTS ON WEST OF ENGLAND PLANNING FOR WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES LEAFLET AND PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT JANUARY 2009

AIMS

Not all waste streams can be treated and will require disposal to landfill. This needs to be taken into account when assessing future landfill capacity.

1. RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Larger recycling and composting facilities including recycled aggregate processing facilities should be located in conjunction with landfill facilities to minimise distances travelled and provide economies of scale. The concept of waste resource parks (para 3.8 Preferred Options) should be more strongly promoted.

2. RECOVERY

We would support Option C in terms of flexibility/choice which will assist deliverability and reduction in waste transportation.

3. LANDFILL

The policies for the requirement for provision of new non-inert landfill capacity are supported. The continued export of waste from the West of England is not sustainable. There should be an acknowledgement of the need for sufficient lead times to enable new facilities to be brought forward. Due to the established lack of “void” capacity in West of England it should be acknowledged that land raise is an appropriate option.

The Waste Strategy for West of England is predicated on the assumption that alternative waste treatment technologies to landfill will be delivered. There are a large number of factors that will influence this including securing sites, securing planning permissions/permits, commercial interest and financial viability. Some facilities may not be commercially viable unless underpinned by secure waste stream contracts. Landfill capacity has been assessed on the basis that all facilities will come forward. As such the identified capacity is the minimum needed under this scenario (refer to Policy W1 in the emerging RSS incorporating Secretary of State’s changes).

Provision should be made within policy and capacity assessment to allow for circumstances where alternative facilities do not come forward. In these circumstances additional landfill capacity may need to be allocated to provide a robust disposal strategy until facilities can be brought forward. As such a “sensitivity analysis” needs to be undertaken to establish what the effect in tonnage/landfill capacity terms would be and to assess the impact of a delay in new treatment/technology facilities coming forward.

STRATEGIC LAND PARTNERSHIPS

COMMENTS ON WEST OF ENGLAND

PLANNING FOR WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES LEAFLET AND

PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

JANUARY 2009

A criteria based policy approach is supported in order to provide flexibility in assessing suitable landfill locations rather than specific Areas of Search. In terms of the assessment work undertaken by ERM to identify Areas of Search this is very much on an overarching macro-scale. In reality impacts will be site location specific and their effect will be dependent on the type and reason for the constraint or designation. As such the “buffer” zones unnecessarily exclude large parts of the West of England. The assessment does not justify or explain the constraints used and appears to exclude other key criteria such as:

- i) **Geology** – clay based strata provide greatest potential. The Major Aquifer and SPZ I, II, III criteria reflect this to some extent but a further assessment of geological suitability should be incorporated into a criteria based approach.
- ii) **Waste Transportation** – It is acknowledged that one of the aims is to reduce waste transport distances and this should be adopted as one of the key criteria for landfill assessment. Disposal should occur as close as possible to the point of arising. In addition waste will typically be transported in large vehicles or varying types as such suitability of the road network should be considered as a criteria. There is little point identifying a location which can only be accessed via B roads or minor C class roads which cannot support the level and types of waste transportation the landfill facility will deal with. The Preferred Options Consultation Document at para 6.8 does make passing reference to this (other locations where waste development may be inappropriate).
- iii) **Green Belt** – In terms of location of landfill facilities Green Belt should not be considered a constraint (para 6.8 Preferred Option Consultation Document). The purposes of Green Belt designation are not directed towards constraining this type of development and landfill sites can be very successfully restored back to woodland/agricultural/amenity uses compatible with that environment. Use of Green Belt as a constraint effectively conflicts with the objective of allocating facilities as close as possible to the point of waste arisings ie population centres and effectively means that waste transportation distances are potentially increased by having to ‘jump’ the Green Belt to reach a landfill disposal point.

Policy W2 (Waste Facilities and Waste Hierarchy) of the emerging RSS (incorporating the Secretary of State’s changes) supports the need to manage waste as close as practicable to where it arises with up to 16km distance to be regarded as an indication of “close proximity”.

**STRATEGIC LAND PARTNERSHIPS
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**PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
NON-INERT WASTE PARAS 6.59 – 6.78**

6.65 Reference is made to “the opportunities for the West of England to receive waste for processing/treatment from adjoining authorities in return for landfill space”. Adopting this approach would be contrary to the key objective of minimising transportation and encouraging development of facilities proximal to waste arisings. The emerging RSS (incorporating the Secretary of State’s changes) has discounted this approach

6.68 – 6.71 See earlier comments above re landfill locational criteria.

6.73 – 6.74 Both these paragraphs make sweeping statements regarding “very limited potential for non-hazardous landfill”. A criteria/risk assessment based policy approach would provide greater flexibility for determining site suitability rather than adopting the coarse macro-scale “blanket” approach which has identified the rather limited red Search Areas shown in Figure 5.

North Somerset in particular appears to be left with little/no potentially suitable areas. However there is no doubt that a more refined criteria/risk assessment based approach would identify other suitable locations for landfill facilities.

6.76 The proposal that new non-hazardous landfill sites will only be provided within the Landfill Search Areas identified is far too onerous and restrictive for the reasons given previously. ERM have undertaken a very coarse constraints assessment and to restrict landfill development to the red areas identified would be totally inflexible and highlights the need for a criteria based approach for assessing individual site suitability. The assessment is totally erroneous and it does not mean that sites within the red “Areas of Search” will be acceptable or that sites outside are not preferable. Large areas of potentially suitable land have been excluded thus leaving the plan open to challenge as being potentially unsound.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PARAS 6.79 – 6.80

6.80 The suggestion that the preferred option for hazardous waste arisings in West of England is to continue to export smacks of denial and suggests that dealing with this issue in West of England is considered to be in the “too difficult” category.

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JANUARY 2009**

The West of England has a population of over 1 million and covers an area of 133,244 hectares and is more than large enough to enable at least one hazardous waste landfill site location (possibly several) to be identified which could service the West of England as a whole. Simply relying on the 'export' option is not acceptable. The region should be self sufficient as is acknowledged within the Waste Planning Strategy for the West of England and supported by Policy W3 Hazardous Waste in the emerging RSS (incorporating the Secretary of State's changes). The continuation of exporting hazardous waste is in direct conflict with policy objectives which include the need to minimise transportation of waste and to provide facilities proximal to waste sources.

Incorporating a further level of refinement of the suggested criteria/risk assessment based policy approach (ie including additional specific criteria to assess site suitability for a hazardous landfill location) could be adopted to address this issue and identify sites that are environmentally acceptable.