

I would be grateful if you could please clarify what the Inspector's intention is in relation to the various amendments to the Waste Core Strategy policy and supporting text proposed by the Partnership during the course of the Hearing Sessions last week.

I think the Partnership said that they would be publishing all the changes on Tuesday (tomorrow)?

Clearly we do not expect to be able to make any further comments or representation on such changes but it would be helpful to be able to check that the changes are as we anticipate following the amendments most of which were made "on the hoof" during the course of the sessions, and the detailed wording of which are very important to ensure the changes address our concerns and thereby render the Core Strategy effective.

In particular, I am interested to see how the additional information (circulated by the Partnership on the 16.11.10) about the indicative waste capacity requirements expressed for 5 year periods/ and annualised requirements over the Plan period will be integrated into the WCS document. It is my understanding following the Landfill policy hearing session, that table 6.4 Indicative Capacity Requirements - Landfill for non-inert waste once completed will be introduced into Policy 8. The Inspector will recall that I had asked to see this and had reserved my comments on this proposed change until I had seen how this was to be incorporated into the document.

Finally, on a related matter and in relation to the Hearing Session tomorrow regarding Monitoring and Implementation; we would recommend that proposed Table 6.4 needs to be clarified so that the Gross Requirement row shows cumulative figures (as in Table 13 of the Future Capacity Requirement Topic Paper) with perhaps a new row introduced to show the annualised requirement. We assume that this is a key issue which requires monitoring during the Plan period. The predictions for landfill capacity requirements from 2010 - 2025 assume the achievement of specific recycling/landfill diversion targets. Although we share the Partnership's optimism that these targets will be achieved eventually, it may be a few years until facilities and initiatives are in place, therefore landfill capacity requirements need to be monitored annually to ensure that there is an accurate and up-to-date understanding of waste disposal needs within the sub region.

We assume the revised non-inert landfill annualised capacity and cumulative requirements can be monitored and reported through the Waste Core Strategy Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

A further key justification for monitoring the cumulative position is that in the absence of new sites coming forward the existing landfill void space will be carefully conserved by the operators with the continued historic pattern of waste being perpetuated and transferred outside of the area for disposal. Without a positive policy framework and accurate understanding of capacity requirements, it is likely that the current position of a 2 or 3 years supply will continue to be the case for many years in the future (as it has been for many years in the past too!) . Highlighting the cumulative position with regards consented landfill void space will illustrate the importance of making provision for new landfill capacity as a priority.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

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STRATEGIC LAND PARTNERSHIPS