



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
COUNCIL

South Gloucestershire
Council

West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS) Development Plan Document (DPD) Annex to the Adoption statement (Regulation 36): Sustainability Adoption statement; Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Regulation 16.

1. Introduction

1.1 The West of England Authorities adopted the Joint Waste Core Strategy on 25th March 2011. In accordance with Regulation 36 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 authorities have prepared this statement that sets out:

- How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the JWCS.
- How the sustainability appraisal (environmental report) and the options expressed in consultation on the appraisal and the JWCS have been taken into account.
- The reasons for choosing the JWCS as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives.
- Measures that are to be taken to monitor the sustainability effects of monitoring the JWCS.

2. How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the JWCS.

2.1 An integral part of preparing the JWCS has involved the iterative process of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The overall purpose of the SA is to evaluate the likely implications for sustainable development of the proposed JWCS and reasonable alternatives to it. The aim is to inform the plan making process and ensure the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the objectives and strategic policies of the JWCS. The SA is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and also satisfies the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) arising from the authorities obligations under the European Directive on SEA and implementing regulations in England and Wales.

2.2 The SA commenced during the preparation and evidence gathering stage in 2007. At each stage in the preparation of the JWCS; Issues and Options; Preferred Options and Submission; the SA has tested the JWCS against a series of objectives that reflect relevant sustainable development policy objectives. The JWCS and a number of options were tested to determine their potential to give rise to significant effects, ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. As part of the iterative process of developing the JWCS recommendations and amendments have been made by the SA at various stages and incorporated into the JWCS as it has developed.

3. How the sustainability appraisal (environmental report) and the opinions expressed in consultation on the appraisal and the JWCS have been taken into account.

3.1 The following changes have been made to the JWCS at various stages of the process as a result of the recommendations for mitigation made by the SA:

- Option C was selected as the preferred option for the spatial strategy as a direct result of the recommendations made by the SA.
- The policy approach to non-inert landfill was amended.
- An objective has been added to highlight the importance of locating development in accordance with land use priorities giving preference to brownfield land.
- In order to take account of climate change and mitigation issues developers are required to take account of a number of issues including energy efficiency and recovery, use of CHP, water consumption, good design.
- Development management policy has been amended to ensure consistency and to ensure that Developers are required to avoid adverse impacts of development and include appropriate mitigation or compensation;
- Waste minimisation measures include a requirement for provision of on site recycling facilities.
- Policy has been amended to include a requirement for sustainable construction of waste facilities.
- Locations are regarded as unacceptable in the green belt and on flood plains except in very special circumstances.
- Policy in relation to groundwater has been clarified.

3.2 Following the Examination in Public and subsequent binding Inspectors report, a number of changes have been made to the JWCS. These changes are minor changes of clarification and do not warrant the need to undertake any further SA. In particular they would not result in the addition or removal of any significant effects from the existing SA.

3.3 These minor changes are 'proposed changes' which were raised either through representations received or by the Inspector for discussion during the examination. The resulting changes to the JWCS can be summarised as follows:

- Making the vision locally distinctive and stating the intended sphere of influence of the plan;
- Setting out an indicative quantitative requirement for waste management facilities of different types and at different dates;
- In respect of the former Fuller's Earth site, Bath, having full regard to the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the City of Bath World Heritage Site and its setting;
- Identifying types of waste development that would be inappropriate in the Strategic Areas;
- Clarifying provision in respect of hazardous waste;
- Clarifying and making more positive the framework for considering proposals for landfill and landraising;
- Securing accordance with Government guidance on planning obligations; and
- Providing for effective monitoring of the delivery of waste management facilities, the timing of provision and waste prevention.

4. The reasons for choosing the JWCS as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives.

4.1 The JWCS has been developed in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The JWCS promotes waste prevention, re-use/recycle and the recovery of value from waste, with disposal as the option of last resort. Through consultation criteria based policy was developed and considered appropriate for:

- Directing the development of facilities for recycling, composting and transfer of wastes and waste disposal;
- Ensuring consistency of development management policy for waste within the Partnership Area.

4.2 In developing the JWCS a number of alternative options have been considered at various stages of the process and the JWCS has also built on the outcome of public consultation exercises. In particular the JWCS has taken a strategic approach to the selection of sites for residual waste treatment. Consideration was given to several spatial options in terms of the number and distribution of facilities to deliver the required capacity for residual waste treatment. Over time some changes have been made to the list of identified sites with new sites added or sites withdrawn. In light of these changes and as part of the iterative process the SA has considered and re-appraised the Spatial Options.

4.3 The overall conclusion of the SA is that Option C provides the most sustainable benefits. Option C is a combined option offering a relatively dispersed configuration of sites across the plan area to minimise waste transport whilst capturing other benefits arising from economies of scale. This option also shows the greatest potential for combined heat and power.

5. Measures that are to be taken to monitor the sustainability effects of monitoring the JWCS.

5.1 The SA makes recommendations for monitoring, with suggested indicators to enable the Partnership Authorities to monitor the likely significant impacts of the JWCS. This also includes a number of indicators to allow the partnership authorities to identify unforeseen adverse effects in order to be able to take appropriate remedial action. Section 7 of the JWCS sets out the monitoring framework.