



Regeneration & Enterprise

Briefing Paper

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Open

Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Refreshed Issues and Options Consultation

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper seeks Members views on the proposed representations to be submitted on the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, Refreshed Issues & Options Consultation, September 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy is a statutory Development Plan Document that is produced by the County Council as a Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. The Waste Core Strategy will set out how all the different kinds of waste produced in the County will be managed between now and 2027.
- 2.2 This is the second time that an Issues and Options consultation document has been produced by the County Council. The County Council's initial Issues and Options consultations were undertaken between December 2004 and October 2005, with the final document "*Waste Core Strategy: Regulation 28 Submission Document and Proposals Map*" being submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2007. However, following advice from the Planning Inspectorate and in anticipation of emerging Government guidance it became clear that the submission document would not be found "sound". Therefore, on the 21st February 2008 the Secretary of State issued a letter directing the County Council to withdraw the submission document and some of the preparatory work supporting it. This refreshed issues and options paper therefore, represents the first stage in re-commencing work on the Core Strategy.
- 2.3 There are three main parts to this current stage of consultation:
1. **Draft Spatial Vision (Available at Appendix 1)** –This section provides the County's vision for managing waste in the District up until 2027.

2. **Draft Spatial Portrait (Available as a Background Paper)** – This section has been published separately by the County Council and provides a factual analysis of the County, looking at issues such as land use and socio-economic indicators.
 3. **Waste Core Strategy Refreshed Issues and Options Consultation (Available at Appendix 1)** – This is the main body of the report and includes a number of sections which outline the issues and options for dealing with future waste within Worcestershire. The document looks at all aspects of waste, such as what types of waste need to be dealt with; what issues need considering; how much waste will need to be dealt with; where waste management facilities should be located; and how much land may be required. The document also provides a number of options outlining possible ways forward. These issues are supplemented by questions for consideration. Responses to the questions on issues which are considered most important to Wyre Forest District are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 In addition to the Waste Core Strategy the County are also reviewing the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2004-2034. The JMWMS is a separate document which sets out how all of the six District Councils will collect municipal waste and how Worcestershire County (as a Waste Disposal Authority) will dispose of it. Although this document has not been considered within this report there are potential overlaps which may arise in the future and therefore this could be of more importance as the production of the Waste Core Strategy develops.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Officers have assessed the Waste Core Strategy Refreshed Issues and Options Paper and supporting documents and identified a number of areas for comment. The detailed comments are attached at Appendix 2. However, a number of the key issues which have arisen from the consultation document are summarised below:
- The role and function of Kidderminster – it is considered that the role and function of Kidderminster should be more clearly defined within the document. This will ensure that the future waste facilities will be targeted accordingly, in line with the RSS Phase 2 revision.
 - Commercial and Industrial Waste - The approach to distribute facilities for dealing with Commercial and Industrial Waste in line with the indicative long term requirement for employment land within each District, as set out by the RSS Phase 2 revisions, appears appropriate and should be supported.

- The Proximity Principle – It is felt that this should remain a key consideration for deciding future development of waste management facilities throughout the County
- Hazardous Waste – The approach outlined in the document for dealing with Hazardous Waste, which is to not actively propose that facilities should be established in Worcestershire during the life of the Strategy, should be supported
- Municipal Solid Waste – To raise concern that there are no spatial planning proposals identified within the document for dealing with Municipal Solid Waste

4. Options

4.1 The Committee may wish to:

- Endorse and recommend to Cabinet that the representations, attached at Appendix 2, form the Council's response to the County's Waste Core Strategy: Refreshed Issues and Options consultation document.
- Put forward alternative or additional proposals for consideration by the Cabinet.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The timetable for preparation of the Waste Core Strategy has been identified by the County Council as follows:

- Public Participation on Issues and Options Consultation – September to December 2008 - this is the stage we are at now
- Public Participation on Preferred Option – Autumn 2009
- Pre-submission publication – Spring 2011
- Submission to Secretary of State – Summer 2011
- Examination – Autumn 2011
- Adoption – Summer 2012

5.2 This 'Issues and Options' stage represents the first stage in the production of the Strategy. Following this stage of consultation, a Preferred Options report will be produced and made available for comment in the Autumn of 2009. At this stage more clarity on the approach to dealing with waste within the County will be available and the District Council will again have the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire: Refreshed Issues and Options Consultation, Consultation Draft, September 2009
- 6.2 Appendix 2: Proposed representations to be submitted

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, Draft Spatial Portrait, September 2008
- 7.2 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2004 – 2034

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