



## Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

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Open

## Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire: Emerging Preferred Options Consultation Document (November 2009)

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper seeks Members' views on the proposed representations to be submitted on the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Emerging Preferred Options Consultation Document (November 2009).

### 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 The current stage of the Waste Core Strategy is the 'Emerging Preferred Options Consultation'. This document builds on earlier consultation work, most notably the "Refreshed Issues and Options Report" which the District Council commented on in December 2008.

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- 2.3 This document raises further discussion about how many waste facilities and what kind, we might need and how and broadly where they should be developed to manage all our wastes. The document also defines the Vision and Objectives and how the Strategy will proceed. It sets out the alternatives that have been considered to define how much waste will need to be managed and what targets to broadly aim for. The document also includes a number of draft policies which might need to be included in the final document and identifies what these might mean in practice.
- 2.4 This report is the next stage in preparing the Waste Core Strategy and it is intended to stimulate comment and discussion. It sets out the direction the County wish to travel in and the scale of the issues that need to be addressed. It does not represent the final view, only the current thinking. The responses received to this consultation will be used to work up the final proposals, which will then be subject to further consultation at the “Pre-Submission Consultation stage” in January 2011.

### **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.

#### **Spatial Portrait**

- 3.2 The Spatial Portrait as identified is generally supported. However, it is interesting to note that the current waste facilities that exist within the County are focussed in the north of Worcestershire. It is considered therefore, that as part of the Strategy, and in pursuing a sustainable approach to new facilities, this imbalance should be rectified.

#### **Vision and Objectives**

- 3.3 The vision and objectives that are outlined within the document appear consistent with national and regional policies. A number of comments have been made regarding the wording of the objectives and also to highlight the need to identify more explicitly the precautionary approach and the proximity principle.

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### **How much waste and additional capacity do we need to manage over the life of the Strategy?**

- 3.4 This section provides an overview of how much waste, and additional capacity for managing this waste, will need to be planned for up until 2027. These assumptions are based on a number of sources, such as the Regional Spatial Strategy Future Capacity Requirements Report, Environment Agency, DEFRA and monitoring of the current waste sites within the County. It is considered therefore, that the figures included within this section provide the most accurate picture available for identifying how much waste needs to be managed into the future. In the absence of any other information it would appear reasonable to support the continuation of the Strategy based on the figures outlined by the County Council.

### **Towards a Strategy**

- 3.5 This section of the document begins to turn the vision and objectives into proposals which apply spatially across Worcestershire. This section identifies that a total of 30ha of land is required to meet demand for waste treatment works across the whole of Worcestershire. Of this identified total, permission has already been granted, but schemes not yet implemented, for approximately 14ha of land. Therefore, it is possible that the Strategy may only have to identify roughly 1ha of land per year to meet the requirements. A potential hierarchy of broad areas for allocating new waste sites is also identified. This is generally supported, apart from the role of Bewdley which is considered to be too high up in the hierarchy.
- 3.6 The County Council intend to develop the strategy by identifying a long list of possible locations for new facilities and providing a series of maps with options for distribution of waste facilities during 2010. In the comments to be submitted to the County Council, identified in Appendix 2, the District Council has asked to be involved in the process during 2010.

### **Proposed Policies**

- 3.7 This section sets out what kind of policies the County considers they need to implement the strategy. There are a total of 11 Draft Policy directions, which do not set out draft policies but identify what type of policies might be required. Some of the key issues arising from this section are considered to be:
- The need for the County to prepare a Key Diagram so that a clearer comment can be made by the District Council.
  - The need for the Waste Core Strategy policies to be consistent with, and take account of, local policies

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- General support for the proposed location hierarchy, apart from the designation of Bewdley, which is considered to be wrongly placed within the hierarchy
- Support for the safeguarding of existing sites which have Planning Permission for waste management facilities but have not yet been implemented.
- Support for restricting further permissions for landfill sites, basing new proposals on strict criteria
- The need for any policy relating to Energy from Waste to be robust and take into account the most recent research available

3.8 The proposed detailed representations to be submitted to the County Council can be seen at Appendix 2.

### Timetable

3.9 The timetable for the continued preparation of the Waste Core Strategy is as follows:

- **Preferred Options (Summer 2010)** – Will be based on focussed consultations and involving groups, organisations and individuals over particular areas as necessary. This will not be a formal stage of consultation however.
- **Pre-submission Consultation (January 2011)** – This will be the last opportunity to comment or object to the strategy. It will be for a specified period of 6 weeks.
- **Formal Submission (May 2011)**
- **Examination Hearing (September 2011)**
- **Adoption**

3.10 The County Council have proposed that in developing the Preferred Options they will consult with various stakeholders, organisations and individuals. In the comments to be submitted, the District Council have asked to be involved in the preparation of these Preferred Options.

## 4. Options

4.1 The Committee may wish:

- To endorse and recommend to Cabinet that the representations, attached at Appendix 2 of this report, form the District Council's response to the County's Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Emerging Preferred Options consultation document.
- Put forward alternative or additional representations for consideration by the Cabinet.

**5. Implications**

- 5.1 Partnership working: Increased Partnership working with the County Council through continuous engagement in the development of this document.

**6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Emerging Preferred Options Consultation Document (November 2009) (This Appendix has been circulated electronically. A paper version of the document is available to view on request)
- 6.2 Appendix 2: Proposed detailed representations to be submitted to the County Council

**7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Refreshed Issues and Options Consultation (September 2008)
- 7.2 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2004 - 2034

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