

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

**Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – First Draft Submission Consultation**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	A Better Environment
<b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM:</b>	A Sustainable Environment
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor S J M Clee
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<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<p>Appendix 1 - Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – First Draft Submission Consultation (September 2010)</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Proposed representations to be submitted to Worcestershire County Council</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i></p>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the Cabinet’s approval of representations to be submitted on the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, First Draft Submission Consultation, September 2010.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:**

- 2.1 **The comments and representations, as set out in Appendix 2 of this report, be agreed as the District Council’s formal response to the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, First Draft Submission Consultation (September 2010).**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 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 sets out how all the different kinds of waste produced in the County will be managed between now and 2027.

- 3.2 The current stage of the Waste Core Strategy is the 'First Draft Submission Consultation'. This document builds on earlier consultation work, including the 'Refreshed Issues and Options Report' and the 'Emerging Preferred Options' which the District Council commented on in December 2008 and January 2010 respectively.
- 3.3 This consultation stage provides the approach that the County Council wish to take for dealing with waste and providing new management facilities throughout the County. This stage differs from previous consultation stages as this document identifies a hierarchy of areas to manage waste as well as identifying potential sites that could be used for new waste management facilities. The document also provides 7 policies that will help to guide the location and type of waste management facilities and manage any impacts from the development.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Officers have assessed the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire First Draft Submission Consultation paper 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.

##### **Vision and Objectives (p. 29-33)**

- 4.2 The Vision and Objectives that are outlined in the consultation document appear to be consistent with national and regional policy. Officers are supportive of both the Vision and of the Objectives as a means of providing a sustainable approach to waste management within the County.

##### **Broad Geographic Hierarchy (p.15)**

- 4.3 The consultation document provides a hierarchy of areas which are considered to be suitable to provide new waste management facilities. The hierarchy is based on current and predicted future waste arisings and is identified as follows:

Worcester and its expansion areas, Kidderminster area and Redditch  
Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Malvern  
Evesham and Pershore  
Tenbury Wells and Upton-upon-Severn  
Rural Areas

- 4.4 Officers generally agree with the hierarchy proposed within the document. The document identifies the Kidderminster area as including Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley. All three of these towns have been grouped together as this reflects the relationships between the towns in terms of the waste arisings and the management facilities. Although the hierarchy includes all three towns, the 'areas of search' (discussed below) for new facilities are focused primarily on Kidderminster, reflecting the strategic function of the District's largest town.
- 4.5 This is considered to be an acceptable approach to waste management within the District. This approach is considered to be more acceptable than previous versions of the document, which categorised Bewdley and Stourport separately from Kidderminster and did not reflect the interaction between the areas.

- 4.6 The document also proposes a target level for development of waste management facilities by each area in the hierarchy. The proposal is as follows:

Level of Hierarchy	Aspirational Distribution – areas of search	Percentage of actual distribution
<b>Level 1</b>		
Worcester and its expansion areas	20%	17%
Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley	20%	27%
Redditch	20%	14%
<b>Level 2</b>		
Bromsgrove	10%	6%
Droitwich	10%	16%
Malvern	10%	8%
<b>Level 3</b>		
Evesham	4%	6%
Pershore	4%	5%
<b>Level 4</b>		
Upton Upon Severn	1%	0.5%
Tenbury Wells	1%	1%
<b>Level 5</b>		
Rural Areas	Proposals to be assessed as they are brought forward	

- 4.7 Although the hierarchy is generally supported, the ‘actual distribution’ of waste is not considered to be necessary and it is felt that this element should be removed from the document. There is a concern that including ‘actual distribution’ makes the plan too prescriptive and it would appear that the figures of ‘actual’ distribution are based on sites currently available and do not take into account new sites that could come forward through the Local Development Framework process. The other concern is that setting actual distribution figures, for the Level 1 areas especially, could end up stifling development. For example, if any of these areas reached their ‘actual distribution’ target then they could conceivably look to restrict new permissions. By keeping the figures aspirational, or indicative, it allows the plan to remain flexible and to meet demand as it arises.

**Areas of Search (p.45)**

- 4.8 The consultation document identifies 58 sites throughout the County (detailed on Fig. 16, p.47) which are considered to be suitable as locations for new waste management facilities. These ‘areas of search’ are the sites identified by the County Council to meet the land requirements for the lifetime of the plan. The total land required throughout the County is predicted to be in the order of 42.5 – 55.5 hectares by 2027. The document does outline that not all of these sites are required in full but elements of the sites could usefully be used for new waste management facilities, depending on where demand arises. The sites identified within Wyre Forest are as follows:

- 17. Gemini Business Park
- 18. Oldington Trading Estate

19. Birchen Coppice Trading Estate
20. Foley Business Park
21. Hoo Farm Industrial Estate
22. Foley Industrial Estate
23. Former British Sugar Site
24. Vale Industrial Estate
25. Greenhill Industrial Estate
27. Blackstone Quarry

- 4.9 Generally, it is considered that the sites identified in Wyre Forest are the most likely to be compatible for new waste management facilities. However, any application will need to be treated on its merits and have regard to all elements of the Development Plan. It is proposed, however, to make comments regarding two of the sites. Firstly, it is likely that the former British Sugar Site will be developed as a mixed use site and therefore any waste proposals would need to be aware of this change in policy direction. Secondly, there are some concerns over the inclusion of Greenhill given its relative proximity to residential areas, which would need to be considered should any application for waste management facilities arise in this area.
- 4.10 It is also proposed that the numbering used for the areas of search is updated so that all of the sites falling within the District are numbered sequentially and that the District is included within the description of the site. It is considered that this would help to aid the clarity of the document for all potential users.
- 4.11 The document identifies 5 sites where 'large' waste facilities would be acceptable. None of the sites identified as being suitable are located within the Wyre Forest District. However, it is considered that there needs to be an explanation as to what constitutes a 'large, medium or small facility' in order for more informed judgements to be made.

#### **Proposed Policies**

- 4.12 This consultation document includes seven policies which will help to deliver and manage the development of new waste facilities within the County. Generally, it is considered that the policies provide an appropriate basis in which to guide and manage new waste management facilities throughout the County. However, it is proposed that the Council should make comments on all seven policies with a brief summary of the proposed comments indicated below:
- **WCS1: Location of waste management development (p.47):** There is support for this policy, although it remains imperative that any future applications are assessed against the entire Development Plan, including the Council's LDF.
  - **WCS2: Ensuring sustainable waste management development (p.48):** There is support for this policy which seeks to ensure that waste is dealt with in a sustainable way. This policy is in line with the District Council's Core Strategy Policy CP01: Delivering Sustainable Development Standards.
  - **WCS3: Managing waste from new development (p.55):** There is support for this policy which also appears to be in line with the District Council's Core Strategy Policy CP01: Delivering Sustainable Development Standards.

- **WCS4: Managing the impact of new waste management development (p.58):** There is support for this policy which seeks to ensure that applications for waste management facilities consider and mitigate against potential impacts on important environmental, economic and social criteria.
- **WCS5: Energy from Waste (p.67):** This policy is welcomed in terms of providing further information on this particular management facility. It is considered that this policy has close links with WCS4 and that this could be referenced in the policy.
- **WCS6: Landfill (p.69):** There is support for this policy which seeks to restrict new landfill developments.
- **WCS7: Managing the impact of surrounding uses (p.72):** There are slight concerns about this policy, which seeks to protect existing or permitted waste management facilities by ensuring that any new development within a 250m radius does not affect the waste management facility. The policy proposes that any development that does not reduce adverse impacts on the waste facility will not be allowed. It is considered that this approach places an onerous burden on applicants and could usefully be re-branded as a consultation zone, which would enable the relevant bodies (Environmental Health Officers and the Environment Agency) to consider the issues.

#### **Timetable**

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

- **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**

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications to the Council arising out of this report.

#### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 On adoption the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the whole of the County.

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

7.1 Worcestershire County Council have undertaken an Equality Impact Screening Assessment and found there to be no adverse impacts.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, First Draft Submission Consultation identifies the County Council's preferred approach to considering the development of new waste management facilities in the future. A number of representations should be made relating to the potential impact of these proposals on Wyre Forest District.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Development Control Section.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Regeneration and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee, December 2008: Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Refreshed Issues and Options Consultation.
- 11.2 Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report, January 2010: Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire – Emerging Preferred Options Consultation.
- 11.3 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2004 – 2034.