

PART **3**

WASTE PLANNING STRATEGY

This part describes

- the Waste Planning Strategy that underpins the policies and approach to the Plan; and,
- the strategy principles that have been translated into policies in Parts 4 and 5.

Words appearing in ***bold italics*** are explained in the Glossary.

Reference to 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent' should be taken to mean Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's Waste Planning Strategy

3.1 As a forerunner to the Waste Local Plan, a ***Draft Waste Planning Strategy*** was published for public comments early in 1999. The Draft Strategy set out a series of general and specific principles that were developed in the context of the European, national, regional and local strategies and policy guidance described in Part 2 earlier. In the autumn of 1999, the two Councils, having considered the comments made, approved the Waste Planning Strategy as the basis for the preparation of the Waste Local Plan. The Strategy has therefore been incorporated here, subject to a number of minor textual changes to take account of recent guidance.

General Principles

3.2 In response to European directives, national, regional and local policy guidance and strategies, including the adopted Structure Plan....

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will support the following general principles:

- **proposals which will not endanger human health or harm the environment in accordance with the precautionary principle;**
- **waste minimisation initiatives;**
- **integrated waste management proposals; and,**
- **proposals that will reduce the overall amount of waste being landfilled.**

3.3 These principles will be achieved by, for example:

- establishing detailed policies to protect people, transportation systems and the environment from any unacceptable adverse impacts; [See Part 4 and Part 5]
- drawing attention to the implications of waste generation and the importance of minimisation; [See Part 4 – Policy 6]
- permitting the development of integrated waste management facilities; [See Part 4 – Policy 2 and Part 5 – Policy 12] and,
- permitting proposals that help to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled. [See Part 4 – Policy 2 and Part 5 – Policy 12]

3.4 Also in response to the national policy guidance....

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will also support the following general principles:

- **the ‘Best Practicable Environmental Option’ (BPEO);**
- **the proximity principle;**
- **the waste hierarchy; and,**
- **self-sufficiency / regional self-sufficiency.**

3.5 These principles will be achieved by, for example:

- considering whether proposals represent the best overall balance between the benefits and impacts, both in principle and for the specific site in question. [See Part 4 – Policy 2 and Part 5 – Policies 8 to 16]
- permitting development that will manage waste as close as practicable to the point where it is generated; [See Part 4 – Policy 2]
- permitting proposals that help to reduce the amount of waste being generated, or help to re-use or recover value from waste. In some cases, however, disposal may remain the BPEO. [See Part 5 – Policies 8 and 10]
- ensuring that there is adequate provision of waste management facilities to meet an appropriate share of the regional requirement, having regard to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent’s ability to absorb further waste development without unacceptable adverse impacts upon people, transportation systems or the environment. [See Part 4 – Policies 1 and 2]

Specific Principles

3.6 In the Plan area, there is sufficient **permitted landfill capacity** to dispose of the waste arising in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and a share of the waste from the West Midlands conurbation during the Plan period. Currently, there is also sufficient provision of **waste treatment facilities**. But, it is anticipated that the pattern of waste management will change in response to initiatives to move waste up the waste hierarchy and away from landfill as explained in Part 2. Hence the Waste Local Plan has been prepared on the basis of the following specific principles.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will:

- **plan for self-sufficiency in the management of waste generated in the Plan area and an appropriate share of the regional requirement;**
- **propose no new waste disposal sites in the Waste Local Plan;**
- **permit new waste treatment facilities where they accord with the principles and policies in the development plan;**

- 3.7 These principles will be achieved by ensuring that the Waste Local Plan will for example:
- continue to make provision for waste management facilities to deal with the waste generated within the Plan area (and an appropriate share of the regional requirement) in accordance with the proximity principle and the principle of regional self-sufficiency; [See Part 4 – Policies 1 and 2]
 - make no provision for additional **waste disposal sites / landfill sites**, as there is already adequate landfill capacity. Waste planning policy is directing waste management up the waste hierarchy and away from landfill, and the development of new waste treatment facilities will extend the life of the existing permitted landfill capacity. Therefore there is no need to identify new landfill sites in the WLP. [See Part 4 – Policy 2 and Part 5 – Policies 12 to 15]
 - favour the development of new or improved **waste treatment facilities** provided that they accord with the principles and policies in the Waste Local Plan or contribute toward the overall implementation of the development plan. [See Part 4 – Policy 2 and Part 5 – Policies 12 to 15]

- 3.8 To respond to the changing pattern of waste management...

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will also:

- **provide detailed policies to assist in the determination of individual planning applications for waste management facilities**
 - **provide guidance to encourage developers to comply with best practices which minimise adverse impacts and maximise environmental benefits**
 - **encourage developers and local planning authorities to consider the waste implications of all types of major new development proposals**
 - **monitor the provision of waste management facilities**
- 3.9 These principles will be achieved by ensuring that the Waste Local Plan includes for example:
- policies to protect people, transportation systems and the environment; [See Part 4 – Policy 3]
 - policies and an accompanying **Code of Practice** to encourage developers to adopt best practices; and, [See Part 4 – Policy 1]
 - policies to draw the attention of developers and local planning authorities to the importance of considering the waste implications of all types of major new development proposals. [See Part 4 – Policies 6 and 7]
- 3.10 To ensure that the Plan remains up to date, and to determine what progress is being made toward more sustainable waste management, the WPAs will monitor changes to waste planning policy. The WPAs will also monitor changes to the provision of waste management facilities in the Plan area and nearby and, changes in the amount of waste being treated or landfilled. The monitoring of facilities will be carried out on an annual or biannual basis in conjunction with the Environment Agency where appropriate.
- 3.11 Progress toward more sustainable waste management will very much depend on applicants proposing the right type of development in the right place. Technical Appendices 1 and 2 provide the basic information needed to begin the monitoring process, but effective monitoring will require the co-operation of waste operators.

3.12 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, where appropriate, intend to monitor the following:

Waste Management Facilities (Landfill Sites or Waste Treatment Facilities)

- The number of permitted waste management facilities in the Plan area or nearby and the number of new facilities that have been permitted in the year
- The type of waste that the sites are permitted and licensed to receive
- The operational status and capacity of the permitted sites (licensed and unlicensed capacity)

The Waste Hierarchy – the amount of waste, the type of waste and the method by which the waste has been managed in the year

- The amount of waste that has been re-used, by what method and where
- The amount of waste that has been recycled, by what method and where
- The amount of waste that has been composted, and where
- The amount of energy that has been recovered from waste, by what method and where
- The amount of waste that has been landfilled and where

- Collecting documentary evidence, if any, to show that operators have adopted or have changed their method of operations to follow best practice advice

- Evidence to show what consideration, if any, has been given to the waste implications of other types of development – for example consultations with the Districts

- The number of 'integrated waste management facilities' in the Plan area or nearby and the number of new facilities that have been permitted in the year (for example MRFs and composting facilities on a landfill site, or secondary aggregate recycling facilities at mineral sites or other places where primary aggregate is used such as highways depots or construction sites) and how many are operational

- The amount of waste that was imported from other parts of the Region and the amount of waste that was exported to other parts of the Region or elsewhere.