Staffordshire County Council

Annual Monitoring Report 2023/24

Background Report

Staffordshire County Council

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Behind the Headlines

Welcome to the Background Report – the second part of our Annual Monitoring Report. This document provides the story behind the headlines in our Headline Report. It explains how we set out to assess how effective our Minerals and Waste Local Plans are at achieving their aims, and how well we are doing as we work to implement the plans. It also presents the data and other evidence behind the headline statements.

Since April 2018, we have been required to review our Local Plans at least every 5 years to assess whether they are still up to date and relevant. Government guidance sets out a series of tests that should be carried out. The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Joint Waste Local Plan (2010-2030), referred to hereafter as the Waste Local Plan, adopted in 2013 and reviewed in December 2018. The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015-2030), referred to hereafter as the Minerals Local Plan, was adopted in February 2017, and the subject of an interim review in December 2018.

As much of the information required for such reviews is collected for the Annual Monitoring Report anyway, we now regularly incorporate reviews of both the Minerals Local Plan and the Waste Local Plan in our Annual Monitoring Reports, rather than producing separate reviews at 5-year intervals.

The guidance also says that, where the periodic review of Local Plans shows that complete or partial revisions are needed, we must publish a programme for the work in a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS). We have found that no revisions are required yet, so we do not intend to publish a new MWDS at this stage.

For future Annual Monitoring Reports, we will need to consider the government's review of the National Planning Policy Framework; the government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) which contains new powers related to the plan-making system. In addition, the Introduction of Bio-diversity Net Gain (BNG) in February 2024 will require that we monitor and record all BNG connected with planning applications for which we are the planning authority.

M1. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for Sand and Gravel?
YES

Underlying Questions

Are sales of sand and gravel on target to meet the planned level of provision – Is the 10-year sales average less than planned level of provision i.e., 5 million tonnes per annum?

YES. The 10-year sales mean average (covering the period 2014-2023) was 4.886 million tonnes per annum. This figure is less than the level of provision for sand and gravel made in the Minerals Local Plan (i.e., 5 million tonnes per annum), so permitted and allocated resources should be adequate to continue to supply at this level for at least the remainder of the plan period.

Are we maintaining at least a 7-year landbank of sand and gravel reserves based on meeting the level of provision?

YES. The landbank of permitted reserves as of 1 January 2024 was 12.9 years based on the 10-year sales average for 2014-23. Alternatively, the landbank would be 12.6 years based on the level of provision of 5 million tonnes per annum used in the preparation of the Minerals Local Plan.

Data Source: Staffordshire Local Aggregate Assessment

Staffordshire County Council

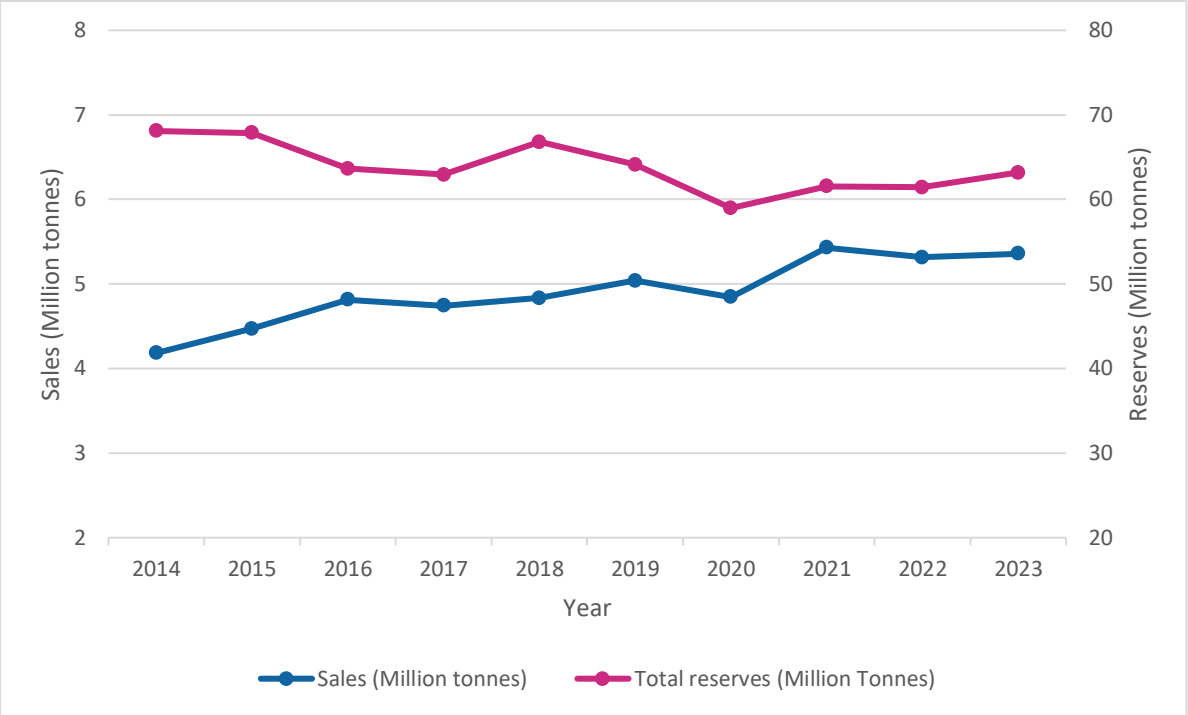
Data Table: Staffordshire Sand and Gravel Sales and Reserves 2014-23

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	10 Year Mean
Sales (Million Tonnes)	4.184	4.47	4.6	4.743	4.836	5.039	4.848	5.429	5.316	5.177	4.886
Total reserves (Million tonnes)	68.09	67.86	63.63	62.94	66.785	64.114	58.978	61.454	61.447	63.164	
Number of Operational sites	18	18	17	16	16	16	14	15	15	16	

Source: WMAWP Surveys

Staffordshire County Council

Graph: Sales and Reserves of Sand and Gravel in Staffordshire 2014-23



Discussion:

The 10-year mean average sales of sand and gravel from Staffordshire quarries is 4.886 million tonnes. This is less than the level of provision made under Policy 1 of the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) i.e., 5 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum, used to assess the requirement for sand and gravel to meet needs up to the end of 2030. Using the MLP level of provision of 5 million tonnes per annum would mean the landbank of permitted reserves as of 1 January 2024 would last for 12.6 years. This exceeds the target of maintaining a 7-year landbank.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Minerals Local Plan does make steady and adequate provision for sand and gravel.

M2. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for Cement Minerals.
YES

Underlying Questions

Are we maintaining at least 15 years stock of permitted reserves for cement minerals?

- Limestone at Cauldon Low

  Yes

- Shale at Cauldon Low

  No (Permitted reserves are anticipated to last for 7 years.)

- Gypsum and Anhydrite at Fauld Mine

  Yes

Are all sites located in line with location criteria set out in Policy 2?

Yes

Are all extension areas conditioned to only be worked following cessation of working within existing site?

No

Data Source: Periodic Confidential Survey of Industrial Minerals, carried out by Staffordshire County Council

Discussion

The indicator relies on data collected every 3 years. The last survey was carried out in 2023.

Permitted reserves of limestone at Cauldon, and Gypsum and Anhydrite at Fauld can be reasonably expected to still exceed 15 years supply as required by Policy 2 of the Minerals Local Plan. However, permitted reserves of shale at Cauldon do not, but an extension to the shale quarry at Cauldon is allocated in the MLP and an application has been received in relation to the allocation. If permitted, this would increase shale reserves which based on current consumption at the cement works would provide a stock of shale reserves amounting to 31 years. The same application includes proposals for developing Cauldon Limestone Quarry serving the cement works together with the adjacent Cauldon Low Quarry, and if

permitted, the proposals would secure a stock of limestone reserves of 67 years for the Cauldon Cement Works (SCC/22/0136/FULL-ES).

In relation to permitted reserves at Fauld Mine, a permission was issued in January 2023 for the extension and consolidation of a permission at Fauld Mine. The proposed extension involves 3 million tonnes of gypsum and anhydrite which at current rates of output amount to a 10-year stock of reserves (ES.19/02/504 M). These reserves combined with permitted reserves within other parts of the mine, result in a stock of reserves exceeding the minimum requirement of Policy 2 of MLP.

Proposals for the extension to Fauld Mine were considered to satisfactorily address the development considerations for the allocated extension to the mine. The reserves in the southern extension area of Fauld Mine are to be extracted in conjunction with permitted reserves in another part of the mine to achieve a blend of cement rock which meets the required cement rock specification and thereby, reduces the need to import gypsum from other mines for blending purposes.

Note that clay extracted from Keele and Kingsley Quarries in Staffordshire continues to be used to supply Tunstead Cement works in Derbyshire.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Minerals Local Plan does make steady and adequate provision for industrial minerals used for cement manufacture.

M3. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for brick clay?
Mixed Response

Underlying Questions

Are we maintaining at least 25 years stock of permitted reserves for clay product works listed in appendix 5?

Data Table: Status of clay stocks at Staffordshire quarries supplying works within the Plan area*

Works	25-year stock of permitted reserves?
Parkhouse, Newcastle	No (reserves sufficient for 5 to 15 years)
Chesterton, Newcastle	No (reserves sufficient for 5 to 15 years)
Keele Works, Newcastle	No (reserves sufficient for 5 to 15 years)
Wilnecote, Tamworth	No (reserves sufficient for 5 to 15 years)
Lodge Lane, Cannock	Yes

Data Source: Periodic Confidential Survey of Industrial minerals, carried out by Staffordshire County Council

* Note: Detailed data is commercially confidential and is not available for publication.

Discussion

National planning policy requires that there is a steady and adequate supply of brick clay to support the continued operation of brick and tile works and this means ensuring that each clay product works is supported with a stock of permitted reserves equivalent to 25 years of clay use at the works . For the purposes of the Minerals Local Plan, data is collected in a periodic, confidential survey, but the data cannot be made public as they are commercially sensitive.

The most recent survey carried out in 2023, found that the Lodge Lane Works in Cannock was the only works in the county to have at least 25 years' supply of clay. The works at Wilnecote in Tamworth does not have a 25 years stock but a permission was granted on 30 April 2019 (refer to permission ref: T.16/02/905 MW) that allowed for the extraction of an additional 10 years' supply of clay. The works also receives clays not locally derived (refer to permission: T.18/01/905 MW granted March 2019). Supply of clay to the three works in the north of the county (i.e., Parkhouse, Chesterton and Keele) is based on supply from Knutton Quarry in Newcastle under Lyme. The stock of reserves is less than 25 years to maintain supply to all three works.

Note that clay extracted in Staffordshire is also used to support brick and tile manufacturing at works outside the county, some of which do not have associated clay quarries to provide their main supply. Whilst maintaining supplies to works outside the county is supported by national policy, it is not a current requirement of the MLP for Staffordshire to monitor the landbanks for clay product works outside the county.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the plan makes steady and adequate provision for brick clay atone, but not all works.

M4. Are the location policies for sand and gravel sites working?
YES

Are all sites to be located in line with location criteria set out in Policy 1 unless meeting the criteria of Policy 1.6?

YES.

Data Table: Planning applications for the winning and working of sand and gravel, permitted between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 – Compliance with Policy 1

Application Number	Location	Description	Date Granted	Compliant with Policy 1
SCC/21/0057/VOC	Alrewas Quarry	Retrospective application to vary (not comply with) conditions 1 (Definition of consent) and 8 (Limits to extraction) of planning permission L.19/03/817 MW for a minor material amendment to extraction limit	22 June 2023	
SCC/21/0076/FULL-ES	Croxden Quarry	Proposed lateral (northern) extension to extract a	31 August 2023	

		further 4.65 million tonnes of sand and gravel and a consolidating application covering all mineral extraction operations.		

Discussion

An application was granted permission to allow for the additional release for the winning and working of an additional 4.65 million tonnes of sand and gravel at Croxden Quarry. The permission granted at Croxden Quarry relates to land allocated the Minerals Local Plan (refer to policy 1 and inset map 2).A minor extension to the working area at Alrewas Quarry was also permitted within the limits of the existing permission boundary which released 30,000 tonnes of sand and gravel..

Conclusion

The proposal for additional sand and gravel reserves at Croxden Quarry were determined in accordance with the location criteria under Policy 1 and the additional reserves at Alrewas Quarry resulted from a minor amendment to a permission which had been justified in accordance with an allocation made in the previous Minerals Local Plan.

M5. Are we doing all we can to reduce the impacts of mineral developments on the environment?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Are all applications in line with environmental criteria except where the material planning benefits of the proposals outweigh the material planning objections?

YES. Potential environmental impacts were identified and discussed in the reports relating to each application. In each case, the conclusion was that adverse impacts could be avoided and mitigated.

Do all new approvals have appropriate restoration plans?

YES.

Have there been any new proposals or hydrocarbon extraction? If so, are they in line with plan policies including Policy 4

N/A. There have been no new planning proposals for hydrocarbon extraction.

Data Source: Planning Application Records

Data Table: Planning application between 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 in compliance with Policy 4 and 6 of Minerals Local Plan

Application Number	Location	Date Granted	In line with environmental criteria?	Restoration Plan?	Hydrocarbon Extraction?
SCC/21/0057/VOC	Alrewas Quarry	22 June 2023	YES	YES	NO
SM.15/02/101 MW	Hurst Quarry	7 December 2023	YES	YES	NO
SCC/23/0170/VOC	Weavers Hill Sand Pit,	6 March 2024	YES	YES	NO
SCC/21/0076/FULL-ES	Croxden Quarry	31 August 2023	YES	YES	NO

Discussion

Overall, we are taking available steps to reduce the impact of mineral working on the environment in accordance with Policies 4 and 6 of the MLP.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that we are doing all we can to reduce the impacts of mineral developments on the environment.

M6. Are we doing all we can to safeguard minerals, sites and infrastructure?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Have we avoided the sterilisation of mineral resource contrary to the requirements of policy?

YES. We were consulted on **33 applications** where mineral sterilisation could have been an issue. All were carefully assessed, but none were considered to warrant any form of objection.

Have we avoided any loss of Minerals Infrastructure sites contrary to policy?

YES. We are not aware of any loss of mineral infrastructure sites during the reporting period..

Data Source: Planning Application Data

Data Table: MSA Applications determined 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (From Application Register)

Summary
Total MSA Applications: 33
No Objection: 33
Objections: 0

Discussion

During 2023/24, we were consulted by District/Borough Councils on 33 applications for non-mineral development which fell within Mineral Safeguarding Areas and were not exempt from consideration or subject to our Standing Advice.

In all cases, we were able to conclude that the proposals would be unlikely to lead to the sterilisation of significant mineral resources and therefore, did not conflict with the requirements of Policy 3 of MLP.

We did record one holding objection in relation to a consultation from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in connection with Checkley Neighbourhood Development Plan. Part of plan refers to an allocation at Tearne House, which requires assessment to whether it accords with Policy of the Minerals Local Plan. It was recommended that an assessment is carried out in accordance with Policy 3.2.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that we are doing all we can to safeguard minerals sites and infrastructure.

M7. Are we co-ordinating our work with other minerals planning authorities across the region?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Have we attended all AWP meetings?

YES. Staffordshire County Council has been represented at all the meetings.

Data Source: Minutes of AWP Meetings

Data Table: SCC representation at West Midlands Aggregates Working Party AWP meetings

Date	SCC Represented?
27 April 2023	Yes
13 November 2023	Yes

Discussion

The West Midlands Aggregates Working Party exists to provide a forum to bring Minerals Planning Authorities together to produce data on construction aggregate minerals, to support local planning on the provision of construction aggregate minerals, and to ensure compliance with the Duty to Cooperate. We continue to be represented at all meetings.

Note also the findings for headline statement 7 under the waste section below regarding attendance of the RTAB.

Conclusion:

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that we are co-ordinating our work with other minerals planning authorities across the region.

M8. Are all aggregate mineral sites subject to a restoration strategy/plan that has been considered in the last 10 years?
Almost

Underlying Questions:

Were restoration plans provided when planning application were submitted for each aggregate mineral site?

Have restorations strategies/plans been submitted subsequently, or updated as required?

Data Source: SCC Data obtained from planning permissions relating to 26 quarry sites.

Quarry	Operator	Grid Ref	Cessation Date for Mineral Working	Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?	Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?	Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?	AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/plan?
Operational sand and gravel/sand quarries.							
Alrewas	Tarmac Limited	SK 175 125	2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barton	Hanson	SK 195 155	2030	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Captains Barn Farm	C.E & J.M Dale	SK 950 455	2030	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Cranebrook	MAC Quarries	SK 070 064	2033	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Croxden	Tarmac Limited	SK 033 417	2023	Yes	No	No	Yes
Freehay/ Mobberley	Hanson	SK 015 411	2025	No	Yes	No	Yes

Quarry	Operator	Grid Ref	Cessation Date for Mineral Working	Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?	Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?	Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?	AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/ plan?
Hints/ Hopwas	Tarmac Limited/ Cemex	SK 163 462	2025	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Moneymore (Weeford)	Hanson	SK 133 026	2025/2042	Yes	No	No	Yes
Newbold	Aggregate Industries	SK 205 195	2029	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pottal Pool	Hanson	SJ 973 147	2034	Yes	No	No	Yes
Rugeley	Cemex	SK 010 181	2031	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Saredon	NRS	SJ 944 80	2030	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shire Oak	JPE Holdings	SK 063 042	2025	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Uttoxeter	Aggregate Industries	SK 097 351	2023	Yes	No	No	Yes
Weavers Hill	GRS Roadstone	SJ 794 203	2025	Yes	No	No	Yes

Quarry	Operator	Grid Ref	Cessation Date for Mineral Working	Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?	Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?	Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?	AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/ plan?
Non-Operational sand and gravel quarries							
Hilton Park	Hanson	SJ 952 45	2042	No	No	No	No
Poolhouse Road	N/A	SO 853 927	2042	No	No	No	No
Pyford Brook	Cemex	SK 149 151	2027	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Trentham	Hanson	SJ 750 380	2040	No	Yes	No	Yes
Whittington Hall Lane	N/A	SO 870	2042	No	No	No	No

Quarry	Operator	Grid Ref	Cessation Date for Mineral Working	Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?	Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?	Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?	AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/ plan?
Operational Crushed Rock Quarry							
Cauldon Low	Aggregate Industries	SK 084 474	2042	No	No	No	No
Non-Operational Crushed Rock Quarry							
Kevin	JCB	SK 086 465	2028	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Wardlow/ Wredon	JCB	SK 087 572	2046	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Discussion

Restoration plans are important to ensure that quarries are reinstated at the earliest opportunity and that works are carried out to high environmental standards.

Of the 24 permitted aggregate sites; (21 are Sand and gravel and 3 are Crushed Rock Sites) within the Plan area, four have no approved restoration strategy or detailed scheme. This is mainly because the quarries are non-operational and have not been subject to a recent review.

Conclusion

Almost all but one of the operational aggregate mineral sites are subject to a restoration strategy/ scheme.

M9. Does the Minerals Local Plan need to be revised?
No

Underlying Questions:

Are the policies working as we intended?

YES. Analysis of applications during the reporting period has not raised any concerns that policies are failing to work as intended.

How is the plan performing against targets?

Fine, as reported above, we are maintaining steady and adequate provision of minerals as planned, and none of the trigger points for the review of the MLP have been met.

Have there been any relevant changes to National Planning Policy?

NO. There have been no changes to national minerals policy in the NPPF and the MLP remains consistent. At the time of writing, changes to the planning system have been introduced through the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA), but we await regulations and guidance on how they may impact on planning for minerals.

Have there been any changes to our Strategic Priorities?

NO. There have been no changes to our Strategic Priorities since the Minerals Local Plan was adopted.

Have there been any changes to local circumstances?

NO. There have been no major changes, though we continue to monitor impacts of the construction of the HS2 railway on the demand for construction aggregates and the depletion of permitted reserves.

Data source: Interim review of the Minerals Local Plan

Discussion

An interim review of the Minerals Local Plan was published as an appendix to the Annual Monitoring Report in December 2018, concluding that there was no need for a revision.

Since then, there have been no significant changes to national policy as might affect the MLP. At the time of writing, changes to the planning system have been introduced through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA), but we await regulations and guidance on how they may impact on planning for minerals. The plan policies are working as intended. Plan targets are being met, and there have been no significant changes to strategic priorities, or local circumstances.

As before, we are aware of the continuing need to monitor the provision of aggregates in the light of anticipated demands resulting from the construction of the HS2 railway up to Handsacre near Lichfield .

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Minerals Local Plan does not need to be revised at present.

Waste

W1. Is the rate of growth of waste production within the range that we have planned for?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Are the latest survey data for waste arisings consistent with forecasts used when preparing the Waste Local Plan?

Probably. Assessing waste arising is not straightforward. Original estimates as the plan was being prepared suggested that Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent produced around 4.2 million tonnes of waste each year, but surveys of total waste production have not been repeated.

The 5-year review of the Waste Local Plan (adopted in 2013), published in December 2018, concluded that waste arisings might be expected to correlate with population, and this is rising at a lower rate than was assumed in the preparation of the Plan.

Figures from the latest Environment Agency 2023 Waste Date Interrogator (last updated 12 July 2024) show that a total 3,363,940 million tonnes of waste originated from the Plan Area (2,758,978 million tonnes (82%) from Staffordshire, and 604,962 (18%) from Stoke on Trent).

Overall, it is safe to conclude that total waste arisings have not increased significantly and remain within the forecasts used to prepare the plan.

Are the latest survey data from waste management types consistent with MWMS targets?

In 2023-34, a total of 387,359 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was treated in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent). Of this, 83,317 tonnes was recycled; 89,479 tonnes was composted; 212,930 tonnes was burned with heat, power or other energy recovery; and the remaining 1,631 tonnes was landfilled.

In 2023-24, a total of 100,641 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was treated in Stoke on Trent. Of this, 23,576 tonnes was recycled; 14,303 tonnes was composted; 62,620 tonnes was burned with heat, power or other energy recovery; and the remaining 140 tonnes was landfilled.

This means that the combined MSW treated for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent was 488,000 tonnes. 486,229 tonnes (99.6%) of MSW in total was diverted from landfill meaning that only 1,771 tonnes was sent to landfill (0.4%).

The total combined figure (488,000 tonnes) is well below the original Regional Waste Forecast for both 2015/16 of 744,000 tonnes and 2020/21 of 771,000 tonnes (see table 20 of the Appendices to the Waste Local Plan) whilst the landfill

diversion percentages are significantly higher than the regional forecast (99.6% compared to 80%). The revised local targets for landfill diversion for Municipal Waste are however based on a target of 100% diversion from landfill and 0% primary landfill (See Table 23 of the Appendices to the Waste Local Plan). Whilst 0.4% of Municipal Waste is going to landfill and therefore is below target, this equates only to 1,771 tonnes. Even 100% diversion would not have been sufficient to meet the forecast tonnage as actual waste arising has been much lower than forecast.

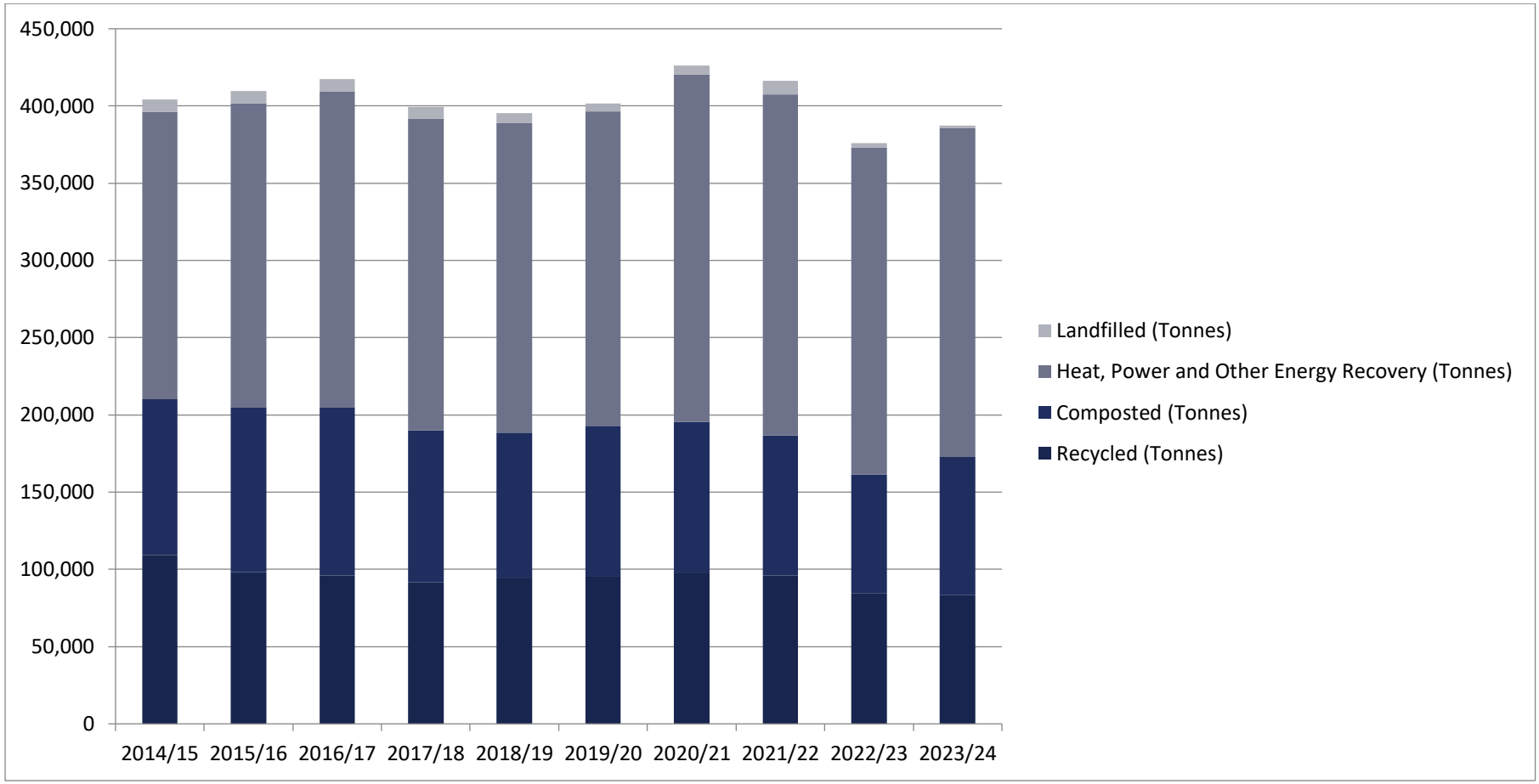
Data Sources:

- Review of the Waste Local Plan (published December 2018)
- Environment Agency's 2022 Waste Data Interrogator (Last Updated 12 July 2024)
- Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council Municipal Waste Management data
- Appendices to the Waste Local Plan

Data Table: Municipal Waste Management Routes in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke on Trent) 2014-2023

Waste Management Routes	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Recycled (tonnes)	109,164	98,318	96,026	91,863	94,523	95,608	98,053	95,937	84,544	83,317
Composted (tonnes)	101,078	106,510	108,552	98,045	94,123	97,011	97,274	90,793	76,694	89,479
Heat, Power and Other Energy Recovery (Tonnes)	185,983	196,635	204,579	201,805	200,558	203,872	224,839	220,737	211,917	212,930
Landfilled (Tonnes)	8,087	8,193	8,350	7,639	6,352	5,235	5,948	8,899	2,672	1,631
Total (Tonnes)	404,312	409,656	417,507	399,352	395,556	401,726	426,114	416,366	375,827	387,359

Household Waste Management Table; Waste Management Route Graph (below) shows the route household waste was disposed of in Staffordshire County Council 2014-2023 (excluding Stoke on Trent Data).



Data Table: Revised local targets for Landfill diversion (% and tonnes) for Municipal (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Waste streams for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent sub-region.

	2015/16 Forecast		2020/21 Forecast		2023/24 Actual (Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent)	
MSW Regional waste forecast (tonnes)	744,000 tonnes		771,000 tonnes		488,000 tonnes **Below predicted level**	
MSW Minimum diversion % rate / maximum landfill % rate	75% Min. diversion from landfill	25% Max. landfill	100% Division from Landfill	0% Primary Landfill	99.6% diversion from landfill **Above target**	0.4% landfilled **Below target**
MSW Minimum diversion tonnes / Maximum landfill tonnes	559,000 tonnes min. diversion from landfill	185,000 tonnes max. landfill	771,000 tonnes min. diversion from landfill	0 tonnes max. landfill	486,229 tonnes diverted from landfill **Below target[1]**	1,772 tonnes landfilled **Below target**

[1] Note that target for tonnage of MSW diverted from landfill was based on regional waste forecast of 771,000 tonnes for 2020/21. Actual arisings were however lower than forecast, 519,722 for 2020/21, and 471,592 for 2022/23 so 100% tonnage diversion target of 771,000 at 2020/21 could not be met.

Assessing the total waste arising is not straightforward, and the original estimate 4.2 million tonnes per annum at the beginning of the plan period has not been repeated. However, other methods, including the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator, suggest that waste production has not grown significantly over the plan period, so actual arising may be lower than predicted.

Discussion

Reliable estimates of total waste arisings have been difficult to produce, though the Environment Agency's recently modified Waste Data Interrogator has proved useful. A 5-year review of the Waste Local Plan (published in December 2018) relied on population as a proxy. This suggested that arisings were unlikely to exceed forecasts within the plan period. This appears to be consistent with Environment Agency data for the total amount of waste treated in the Plan area, though the origin of this waste is not recorded.

More reliable figures are available for Municipal Solid Waste, which makes up less than 10% of total arisings. The total figure is well below the original Regional Waste Forecast for both 2015/16 and 2020/21, while the landfill diversion percentages are significantly higher than the regional forecast.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the rate of growth of waste production is within the range that we have planned for.

W2. Is waste treatment capacity keeping pace with production?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Have interim targets been met as set out in Policy 2.2?

The number of waste related planning applications during 2023/24 was small. There were two applications that have led to an increase in treatment capacity, one of which has resulted in a new pre-operational site. An application for the operation of an inert waste recycling facility at Newbold Quarry (ref: SCC/23/0031/FULL-MAJ dated 2 December 2023) which allows for the recycling of up to 75,000 tonnes of waste per annum. In addition, a planning application to increase the permitted tonnage at the Four Ashes Facility from 70,000 to 100,000 tonnes, increasing capacity (ref: SCC/22/0093/VOC dated 25 April 2023).

An application submitted at the Poplars Landfill site to vary the planning conditions (ref. SCC/22/0021/VOC-ES dated 18 May 2023). This allowed a void 'swap' for landfill waste, whereby the approved void in the north of the landfill would be relocated away from nearby residential properties to the south. Previous

Annual Monitoring Reports show targets for residual treatment and organic treatment have been met. There is however a small shortfall in achieving the recycling capacity targets which has some potential to improve with the new facility at Newbold Quarry. The figures however do not take into account any new waste permissions and subsequent new capacity in Stoke-on-Trent.

The Waste Local Plan sets a series of targets for additional capacity for Recycling, Organic Treatment, and Residential Treatment required to support a movement of waste up the treatment hierarchy.

The latest waste management capacity figures have been produced by adding newly permitted treatment capacity (in Staffordshire only) to the previous totals. The original figures come from work carried out during the review of the Waste Local Plan, in which the Environment Agency returns were matched against planning permissions. They include all losses from May 2012 to March 2018.

From previous Annual Monitoring Reports, adding any new capacity from the applications reported in those reports to the existing total, we can see from the Table below that with the exception of recycling, the targets to 2020/21 and 2025/26 for Organic and Residual Treatment have been met.

The previous Government Announcement of reforms to household and business waste collections including weekly collections of food waste introduced for most households across England by 2026 and the implementation timelines for Simpler Recycling policy update may have implications. There may be a need for additional waste management facilities /capacity to transfer, sort and process waste (e.g., to turn waste food into energy at anaerobic digestion facilities). However, at this stage, in the absence of an updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy produced by the Staffordshire districts /boroughs (the waste collection authorities) and the County Council (the waste disposal authority), there is no immediate need to plan for new facilities/capacity. Besides, the Waste Local Plan is working well using criteria-based policies for such applications, to ensure that they are developed in the right place and there is no reason to suggest an immediate need to change this approach. Nonetheless, any future review of the Plan will need to examine the capacity and number and type of waste management facilities required over the plan period to achieve net self-sufficiency; and the need for updated criteria for new facilities/technology.

Have we avoided any net loss of waste management capacity, particularly towards the upper part of the hierarchy?

Data for losses in waste treatment capacity are less reliable as the planning authority may not be informed when a site reduces capacity or ceases to operate. The planning authority is not aware of the permanent cessation of an existing waste management facility.

Consideration should be given to future movements of waste for disposal and the availability of landfill capacity in Staffordshire and/or the use of waste management facilities located at landfill or mineral sites in Staffordshire whose permission is tied to an end date.

The Appendices to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan lists the operational landfill Sites in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (Table 13). Similarly, the appendices to the Minerals Local Plan (Appendix 4) lists quarries requiring backfill with waste.

The West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body (WMRTAB) has produced a report 'Landfill in the West Midlands report 2019'. Staffordshire is the largest recipient of waste for landfill in the West Midlands. Whilst the data suggests landfill capacity will deplete in the 2030s within the West Midlands region, it is likely additional capacity will emerge when mineral sites within Staffordshire have been fully extracted. In respect of remaining capacity, it should be noted that Environment Agency 2019 data was used and this EA data only accounts for capacity that has received an environmental permit from the Agency. It therefore does not account for our Planning obligated landfill sites i.e. void to be created as a result of mineral extraction / mineral permissions which haven't yet obtained an Environment Agency licence for the backfill of waste to restore the site.

Data source: Application Register

Data Table: New Waste Treatment Capacity (tpa) added during 2022-23

Application Reference	Recycling	Organic Treatment	Residual Treatment	Transfer Station	Aggregate Recycling	Landfill
Totals	105,000	0	0	0	0	0

Total Overall: 105,000

Data Table: Progress against targets for additional waste treatment capacity (updated 2023-24 figures)

	Recycling (tonnes per annum)	Organic Treatment	Residual Treatment	Transfer Station	Aggregate Recycling
Staffordshire	1,234,709	540,000	609,000	909,000	957,000
Stoke-on-Trent	399,561	40,000	335,566	336,367	536,599
Total	1,634,270	580,000	944,566	1,245,750	1,493,599
Interim Target (Target year 2010/11)	952,620 **Achieved**	272,970 **Achieved**	451,410 **Achieved**		
Interim Target (Target year 2015/16)	1,370,913 **Achieved**	382,977 **Achieved**	620,160 **Achieved**		
Interim Target (Target year 2020/21)	1,792,659 Not Achieved	478,641 **Achieved**	744,700 **Achieved**		
Interim Target (Target year 2025/26)	1,800,919	484,381 **Achieved**	758,700 **Achieved**		

Data Table: Changes in overall waste management capacity since adoption of the Waste Local Plan

	Recycling	Organic Treatment	Residual Treatment	Transfer Stations	Aggregate Recycling	Total
Staffordshire						
May 2012	62	13	11	74	22	**182**
	888,970	522,595	544,843	1,332,730	708,401	**3,997,539**
March 2023	46	14	4	50	28	**142**
	1,234,709	540,000	609,000	909,383	957,000	**4,223,697**
Change (No.)	-16	1	-7	-24	6	**-40**
Capacity (T)	345,739	-9,095	64,157	-423,347	248,599	**226,053**

Stoke-on-Trent						
May 2012	24	1	4	28	5	**62**
	523,193	39,784	335,952	429,761	312,039	**1,640,729**
March 2023	17	1	3	22	9	**52**
	399,561	40,000	335,566	336,367	536,599	**1,648,093**
Change (No.)	-7	0	-1	-6	4	**-10**
Capacity (T)	-123,632	216	-386	-93,394	224,560	**7,364**

Combined						
May 2012	86	14	15	102	27	**244**
	1,412,163	562,379	880,795	1,762,491	1,020,440	**5,638,268**
March 2023	63	15	7	72	37	**194**
	1,634,270	580,000	944,566	1,245,750	1,493,599	**5,871,685**
Change (No.)	-23	1	-9	-30	10	**-51**
Capacity (T)	222,107	-8,879	63,771	-516,741	473,159	**233,417**

Discussion

The number of waste related planning applications during the reporting period was small and only one related to an increase in the number of operational sites. The planning authority is not aware of the permanent cessation of any existing waste management facility.

The Waste Local Plan set a series of targets for additional capacity for Recycling, Organic Treatment, and Residual Treatment to support a movement of waste up the treatment hierarchy. All of these have already been met on time or ahead of time, with the exception of the 2020/21, and 2025/26 targets for recycling capacity which are yet to be achieved.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that waste treatment capacity is keeping pace with production.

W3. Are we maintaining net self-sufficiency for waste management?
YES

Underlying Questions:

What proportion of our waste is treated within the Plan area, and what proportion is exported for treatment elsewhere?

Of the 3,363,940 tonnes of waste which originated within the Plan area (as described in W1), 2,320,965 tonnes (69%) was also treated here (1,610,428 (47%) in Staffordshire, and 710,536 (21%) in Stoke on Trent), with 1,042,975 tonnes (31%) of waste transported beyond the Plan area for treatment or disposal.

Over the same period, 3,582,747 tonnes of waste was brought into the Plan area from beyond its boundary, bringing the total treated within the Plan area to 5,903,712 tonnes of waste (4,654,182 tonnes (79%) in Staffordshire and 1,249,529 tonnes (21%) in Stoke on Trent).

Data Table: Destination and Origin of waste within the Plan Area

	Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	Elsewhere
Treatment location for waste from Plan area (T)	1,610,428	710,356	1,042,975
Origin of waste treated in Plan area (T)	1,911,218	409,746	2,009,412

Discussion

While not all of the waste arising within the Plan area is treated within the Plan area, the amount of waste exported for treatment elsewhere is much smaller than the amount of waste imported for treatment. We are, therefore, treating an amount of waste which is equivalent to 251% of the amount generated in the Plan area.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that we are maintaining net self-sufficiency for waste management within the Plan area.

W4. Are the location policies for waste sites working?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Are new approvals in line with locational criteria?

Largely. Planning applications data show that 19 cases related to sites with existing waste-related permissions and one related to a new site. Of the twenty-one applications during the reporting period which related to waste only two had the potential to add new waste treatment capacity. The first, was an application for a new inert waste recycling operation at Newbold Quarry which added an extra 75,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of capacity. As well as an application at the Veolia Four Ashes facility to vary condition which enabled to further increase capacity by 30,000 (tpa).

There were other different types of applications. Six of which related to established wastewater / sewage treatment works with two proposing additional infrastructure (kiosks), the third and fourth requesting screening opinions for infrastructure and an extension to site, a fifth was a notification of commencement on site. The final case relating to wastewater/ sewage treatment involved the extension and change of use of the land to operational land for sewage treatment purposes.

How many new approvals were granted under exceptions criteria?

During this reporting period, no applications were approved under the exemption criteria contained within Policy 3. Overall, no applications added any new treatment capacity.

Data Source: Application Register and Application Details.

Data Table: Waste Applications determined between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024

App No	Location	Description	Date Granted	In line with locational criteria?	Additional Capacity added
SCC/23/0031/ FULL-MAJ	Newbold Quarry	Inert Waste Recycling Facility	22 December 2023	YES	75,000
SCC/22/0093/ VOC	MRF at Four Ashes, Station Road, Four Ashes	To vary condition 7 of planning permission SS.17/07/620 W to increase the permitted tonnage of recyclates accepted from 70,000 to 100,000 tonnes per annum	25 April 2023	YES	30,000
SCC/23/0152/ FULL-MAJ	Checkley Sewage Treatment Works	Installation of a motor control centre kiosk	9 February 2024	YES	N/A
SCC/23/0111/ FULL-MAJ	Burntwood Sewage Treatment Works	Extension and Change of Use of the land to operational land for sewage treatment purposes to accommodate new sewage treatment infrastructure and the installation of kiosks and associated landscaping	3 January 2024	YES	N/A
SCC/23/0065/ FULL-MAJ	Pirehill Sewage Treatment Works	Installation of 1 No. Motor Control Centre (MCC) Kiosk	30 August 2023	YES	N/A

Discussion

Nineteen cases related to sites with existing waste-related permissions and one related to a new site operation. Of the twenty-one applications received during the reporting period only one was a new site which added additional waste treatment capacity (75,000 tpa of recycling capacity). The other additional waste treatment capacity came from varying condition to add additional capacity of 30,000 tpa.

Conclusion

Overall, it is reasonable to conclude that the location policies for waste sites are working.

W5. Are we doing all we can to safeguard existing waste treatment sites?
YES

Underlying Questions:

Have we avoided the sterilisation of waste treatment sites contrary to the requirements policy?

Yes. We were consulted by District/Borough on 0 applications which had the potential to impact on existing waste management facilities.

Data Source: Applications Register. WCA Applications determined 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Discussion

The county council was consulted on 0 District/Borough Council applications which might have impacted on waste management facilities.

We continue to receive fewer waste consultation area (WCA) consultations than Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) consultations. As discussed in previous reports, this may reflect the large geographical extent of the Mineral Safeguarding Areas in comparison to the relatively small areas where waste management facilities might be affected, and also the relative difficulty for local planning authorities to identify where WCA consultations would be appropriate.

Conclusions

Overall, it is reasonable to conclude that we are doing all we can to safeguard existing waste treatment sites.

W6. Are we doing all we can to reduce the impacts of waste treatment facilities on the environment?

YES

Underlying Questions:

What proportion of new permission require specific environmental improvements to be achieved?

100%. Once again, all new waste planning permissions include some form of environmental improvement.

Were any new permission approved where adverse impacts (as defined in Policy 4.2) were anticipated, but judged to be outweighed by material planning benefits?

No. No such approvals were granted.

How many approvals were granted requiring phased improvement of existing waste management facilities?

None. No such approvals were granted.

Were all newly permitted facilities enclosed?

No. No approvals involved new open-air operations, though an existing aggregate recycling facility within an existing quarry was relocated. The permission includes measures to mitigate noise, and dust. Also new office accommodation replaced existing on-site facilities.

What proportion of new facilities were exempted for requirement for enclosure?

None. No such approvals were granted. An existing aggregate recycling facility was relocated.

How many approvals granted involved temporary planning permissions?

None. No such approvals were granted.

Data Source: Planning applications Register and individual applications and permissions

Data Table: New waste planning permissions granted 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

App. No.	Location	Date Granted	Includes Environmental Improvement?	Adverse Impacts Anticipated?	Phased Improvements needed?	Enclosed?	Exempt from Enclosure?	Temporary Permission?
SCC/23/0031/FULL-MAJ	Newbold Quarry, Lichfield Road, Barton under Needwood, DE13 8EG	22 December 2023	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO

Discussion

The impacts of waste treatment facilities on the environment are being well managed. Potential impacts are being controlled through conditions.

Conclusion

Overall, it is reasonable to conclude that we are doing all we can to reduce the impacts of waste treatment facilities on the environment.

W7. Are we co-ordinating our work with other waste planning authorities across the region.
YES

Underlying Questions

Have we continued to co-operate on regional issues with regard to current and future waste management capacity, and on future evidence base preparation.

Yes. The West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body was set up as a forum for discussion between Waste Management Authorities across the region to discuss such issues. Staffordshire County Council has been represented at all meetings of this group

Data Source: Minutes of meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body

Data Table: Attendance at WMRTAB Meetings

Date of Meeting	SCC Represented
6 December 2023	Yes
12 June 2024	Yes

Discussion

Meetings of the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body provide a forum to discuss regional issues relating to waste management provision, and to ensure compliance with the Duty to Cooperate. Though the frequency of meeting has declined in recent years, and they have moved online in response to Covid-19, Staffordshire County Council has been represented at all meetings and has been fully involved in discussion.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that we are co-ordinating our work with other waste planning authorities across the region.

W8. Does the Waste Local Plan need to be revised?
NO

Underlying Questions:

Are the policies working as we intended?

Yes, analysis of applications during the reporting period has not raised any concerns that policies are failing to work as intended.

How is the plan performing against targets?

Fine, as reported in 2 (above) plan targets are being met as planned, or ahead of schedule.

Have there been any relevant changes to National Planning Policy?

No. The Environment Act 2021 is expected to have an impact on the design of packaging to facilitate recycling, and also on the approach to collection and recycling of household waste. If these changes require different collection services, then these would need to be addressed through the Municipal Waste Management Strategy which, in turn, would influence any review of the Waste Local Plan.

Have there been any changes to the Strategic Priorities?

No, there have been no changes to our strategic priorities since the Waste Local Plan was prepared.

Have there been any change to local circumstances?

There is nothing to suggest that local circumstances are significantly different to when the Waste Local Plan was prepared.

Data Source: First Review of the Waste Local Plan, December 2018.

Discussion

A 5-year review of the Waste Local Plan was completed in December 2018 concluding that there was no need for a revision

Since then, there have been no significant changes. The Plan policies are working as intended, plan targets are being met on time or ahead of schedule, and there have been no significant changes to National Planning Policy, strategic priorities, or local circumstances.

Conclusion

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Waste Local Plan does not need to be revised.