Staffordshire County Council

Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22

Background Report

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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 attempts to explain 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 Waste Local Plan (2010-2030), referred to hereafter as the Waste Local Plan, was adopted in 2013, and published a 5-year review, in December 2018. The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015-30), known as the Minerals Local Plan, was adopted in February 2017, and we published an interim review of this Plan 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 producing separate reviews at 5-year intervals.

The guidance also says that, where the periodic review of Local Plans show 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.

Minerals

M 1. 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 10-year sales average less than planned level of provision i.e., 5 million tonnes per annum?

YES. The 10-year sales average in 2021 (covering the period 2012-2021) was 4.531 million tonnes per annum. This figure is less than the provision for sand and gravel 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 2022 was 13.6 years based on the 10-year sales average for 2012-21. Alternatively, the landbank would be 12.3 based on the level of provision of 5 million tonnes per annum used in the preparation of the Mineral Local Plan.

Data source: SCC Local Aggregate Assessments

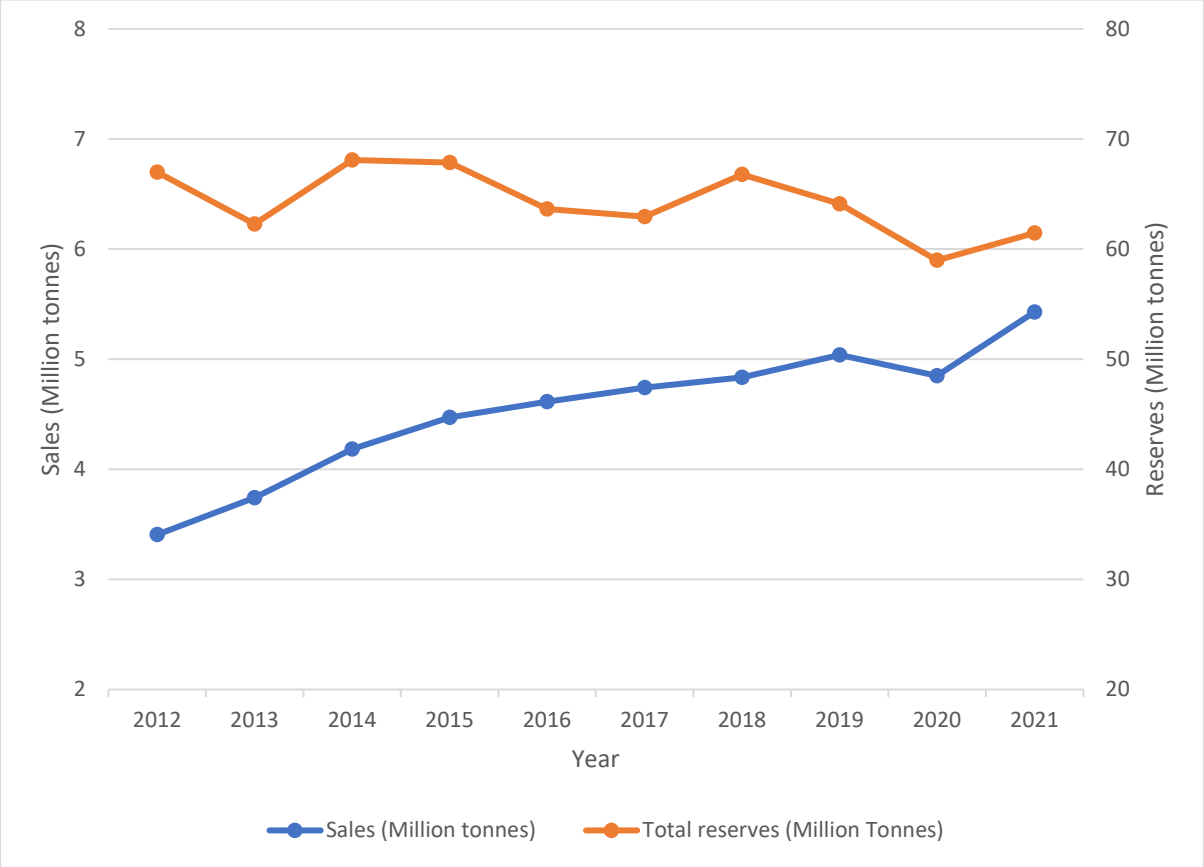
Data Table: Staffordshire Sand and Gravel Sales and Reserves 2012-21

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	10-year mean
Sales (Million tonnes)	3.406	3.742	4.184	4.47	4.814	4.743	4.836	5.039	4.848	5.429	4.531
Total reserves (Million tonnes)	66.98	62.26	68.09	67.86	63.63	62.94	66.785	64.114	58.978	61.454	
Number of operational sites	17	17	18	18	17	16	16	16	14	15	

Source: WMAWP Surveys

Note that figures for 2019 are derived from the Aggregate Minerals Survey

Graph: Sales and Reserves of Sand and Gravel in Staffordshire 2012-2021



Discussion: The 10-year average sales of sand and gravel from Staffordshire sites is 4.531 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 allocation of additional sand and gravel resources 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 2022 would last for 12.3 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.

M 2. 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 Works

  No (but an extension is allocated in the MLP)

- Gypsum and anhydrite at Fauld Mine

  Yes

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

N/A. None of the planning applications determined between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 related to new sites for cement minerals, so it is not possible to assess whether they were located in line with Policy 2.

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

N/A. None of the planning applications determined between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 related to extensions to cement mineral sites, so it is not possible to assess whether they were conditioned to only be worked following cessation of working within existing site as required by Policy 2.4.

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

Discussion: This indicator relies on data collected approximately every 3 years. The most recent survey was carried out in 2019, so some projection of trends is required.

Permitted reserves of limestone at Cauldon, and of gypsum and anhydrite at Fauld can be reasonably expected to still exceed 15 years supply as required by Policy 2 of the MLP. Permitted reserves of shale at Cauldon do not, but an extension to the shale quarry at Cauldon has been

allocated in the MLP which would support maintaining an adequate level of supply, should the operator seek planning permission.

During the monitoring period, no new planning permissions have been granted for new cement mineral sites, or within the allocated extensions. It is, therefore, not relevant to assess whether they were in line with Policy 2 or conditioned to only be worked once working has ceased within the currently permitted sites.

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.

M 3. 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 Source: Periodic Confidential Survey of Industrial Minerals, carried out by Staffordshire County Council

Data Table: Status of clay stocks at Staffordshire quarries supplying works within the Plan area. Note: detailed data are considered to be commercially confidential, and are not available for publication

Works	25-year stock of permitted reserves?
Parkhouse, Newcastle	No
Chesterton, Newcastle	No
Keele Works, Newcastle	No
Wilnecote, Tamworth	No
Lodge Lane, Cannock	Yes

Discussion:

This indicator relies on data collected approximately every 3 years. The most recent survey was carried out in 2019, so some projection of trends is required.

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 the quarries have sufficient permitted reserves for 25 years of supply for each works in Staffordshire. For the purposes of the Minerals Local Plan, data are collected in a periodic, confidential survey, but the data cannot be made public as they are commercially sensitive.

The most recent survey found that the Lodge Lane Works in Cannock was the only works in the county to have at least 25 years' supply of clay. Wilnecote in Tamworth does not have 25 years' supply but a permission granted on 30 April 2019 (ref: T.16/02/905 MW) 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 such supplies to works outside the county is important, it is not a current requirement of the MLP for Staffordshire to monitor the landbanks for clay product works outside the county and is not considered in this assessment.

Conclusion: It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Plan makes steady and adequate provision for brick clay at some, but not all works.

M 4. Are the location policies for sand and gravel sites working?
YES

Underlying Questions:

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. A new sand and gravel quarry at Orgreave near Alrewas was granted permission between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. This quarry is located within the Area of Search west of the A38, along the Trent Valley (refer to inset map 14 of appendix 1 to the MLP). In addition, permission was granted for an extension to Alrewas Quarry on land allocated in the MLP (refer to inset map 6 of appendix 1 to the MLP).

Data Table: Planning applications for the winning and working of sand and gravel, permitted between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 – Compliance with Policy 1

App. No.	Location	Description	Date Granted	Compliant with Policy 1
L.20/03/867 M	Land South A513, Orgreave, Alrewas, Staffordshire (to be known as Pyford Brook Quarry)	Proposed Sand and Gravel Extraction of plant and infrastructure and creation of new access, in order to supply HS2 with ready mix concrete, with export of surplus and Sand and Gravel	16-Mar-22	**Yes**
L.19/09/817 MW	Alrewas Quarry, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Burton on Trent	Planning application for the winning and working of Sand and Gravel including a Southern Extension and the re-phasing of permitted working and restoration schemes; the restoration of the quarry by the importation of inert waste material; the provision of a new crossing point and conveyor bridges at Stockford Lane, Sittles Lane and Roddidge Lane, the A513 and Croxall Road; and the continued use of the mineral processing plant and other ancillary facilities already permitted including a weighbridge, site offices, field conveyor, concrete batching plant and bagging plant.	21-Jun-21	**Yes**
SS.20/09/611 M	Campions Wood Quarry, Wolverhampton Road, Cheslyn Hay	Importation of inert materials to construct a stability buttress, at the eastern end of the site,to ensure long term stability of the quarry face	08-Nov-21	**Yes**

Example discussion below:

Discussion: The permission granted at Pyford Brook Quarry is consistent with the locational criteria set out in Policy 1 of the MLP as is the location of the southern extension at Alrewas Quarry. In addition, Pyford Brook Quarry, will serve as a local supply of concrete to the major infrastructure project, HS2 .
Conclusion: It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the location policies for mineral sites are working.

M 5. 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 presented to Planning Committee, as each application was determined. 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 proposals for hydrocarbon extraction.

Data Source: Planning Application Records

Data Tables

Example table below if needed

App. No.	Location	Date granted	In line with environmental criteria	Restoration plan?	Hydrocarbon extraction?
L.19/09/817 MW	Alrewas Quarry, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Burton on Trent	21-Jun-21	YES	YES	NO
L.19/04/805-808 MW	Hints Quarry, Watling Street, Hints	10-Feb-22	YES	YES	NO
ES.20/06/501 MW	Newbold Quarry, Lichfield Road, Barton Under Needwood	17-Feb-22	YES	YES	NO
L.20/03/867 M	Land South A513, Orgreave, Alrewas, Staffordshire (to be known as Pyford Brook Quarry)	16-March-22	YES	YES	NO
SS.20/09/611 M	Campions Wood, Wolverhampton Road, Cheslyn Hay	08-Nov-21	YES	YES	NO

Discussion: Overall, we are taking available steps to reduce the impact of mineral workings 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.

M 6. 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 22 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. On the 22 applications referred to us by the LPAs, none were considered to directly affect, or threaten the continued operation of, any mineral infrastructure sites.

Data Source: Planning Application Data

Data Table: MSA Applications determined 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (From Application Register)

Example table below

Summary
Total MSA Applications: 22
No Objection: 22
Objections: None
No consultations were considered to merit any form of objection.

During 2021/22, we were consulted by District/ Borough Councils on 22 planning applications for non-mineral development which fell within Mineral Safeguarding Areas and were not exempt from consideration or subject to 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 the MLP.

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

M 7. 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

Example table

Date	SCC Represented?
16 April 2021	Yes
8 October 2021	Yes

Discussion: The West Midlands Aggregates Working Party exists to provide a forum to bring Minerals Planning Authorities together to produce "fit-for-purpose" and comprehensive data on aggregates, to support local planning on the provision of aggregates, and to ensure compliance with the Duty to Cooperate. We continue to be represented at all the 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.

M 8. 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

Below is an example table

Data Table: Details relating to the restoration of aggregate mineral sites (as of 1 April 2022)

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	No	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**
Hints/ Hopwas	Tarmac Limited/ Cemex	SK 163 462	2025	Yes	No	Yes	**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?
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 Waste Care	SJ 944 80	2030	Yes	No	Yes	**YES**
Shire Oak	JPE Holdings	SK 063 042	2025	Yes	No	Yes	**YES**
Trentham	Hanson	SJ 750 380	2040	No	Yes	No	**YES**
Uttoxeter	Aggregate Industries	SK 097 351	2023	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?
Weeford	H.D.Ricketts	SK 133 026	2042	Yes	No	No	**YES**
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**
Weavers Hill	GRS Roadstone	SJ 794 203	2022	No	No	No	**NO**
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	Bamford Excavators	SK 086 465	2028	Yes	No	Yes	**YES**
Wardlow /Wredon	Bamford Excavators	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 within the Plan area, five 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: It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that almost all operational aggregate mineral sites are subject to a restoration strategy/scheme.

M 9. Does the Minerals Local Plan need to be revised?
NO

Underlying Questions:

Are the policies working as we intended?

Yes, analysis of applicants 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 the NPPF and the MLP remains consistent. At the time of writing, changes to the planning system are being discussed by government, but we await details of 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 be aware of potential impacts of the development of HS2 on the demand for construction aggregates and anticipate that this may lead to further proposals for aggregate extraction.

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 they might affect the MLP. 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 additional demands resulting from the construction of the HS2 railway.

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

Waste

W 1. 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 2021 Waste Data Interrogator (last updated November 2022) show that a total 3,739,533 million tonnes of waste originated from the Plan area (3,218,217 million tonnes (86.6%) from Staffordshire, and 521,316 (13.94%) 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 2021 – 22, a total of 416,366 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was treated in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent). Of this, 95,937 tonnes was recycled; 90,793 tonnes was composted; 220,737 tonnes

was burned with heat, power or other energy recovery; and the remaining 8,889 tonnes was landfilled.

In 2021-22, a total of 102,313 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was treated in Stoke-on-Trent. Of this, 23,120 tonnes was recycled; 13,595 tonnes was composted; 60,893 tonnes was burned with heat, power or other energy recovery; and the remaining 4,705 was landfilled.

This means that the combined MSW treated for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent was 518,679 tonnes. 505,075 (97.4%) tonnes of MSW in total was diverted from landfill meaning that only 13,594 was sent to landfill (2.6%).

The total combined figure (518,679 tonnes) is well below the original Regional Waste Forecast for both 2015/16 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, 97.4% 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 2.6% of Municipal Waste is going to landfill and therefore is below target this equates only to 13,594 tonnes.

It is unlikely that the minimum diversion from landfill will be met at any point in the foreseeable future, as it is set as a tonnage, rather than a percentage, and the total tonnage of waste arising has been much lower than forecast. 97.4% of waste has been kept away from landfill, but even 100% diversion would not have been sufficient to meet the tonnage target.

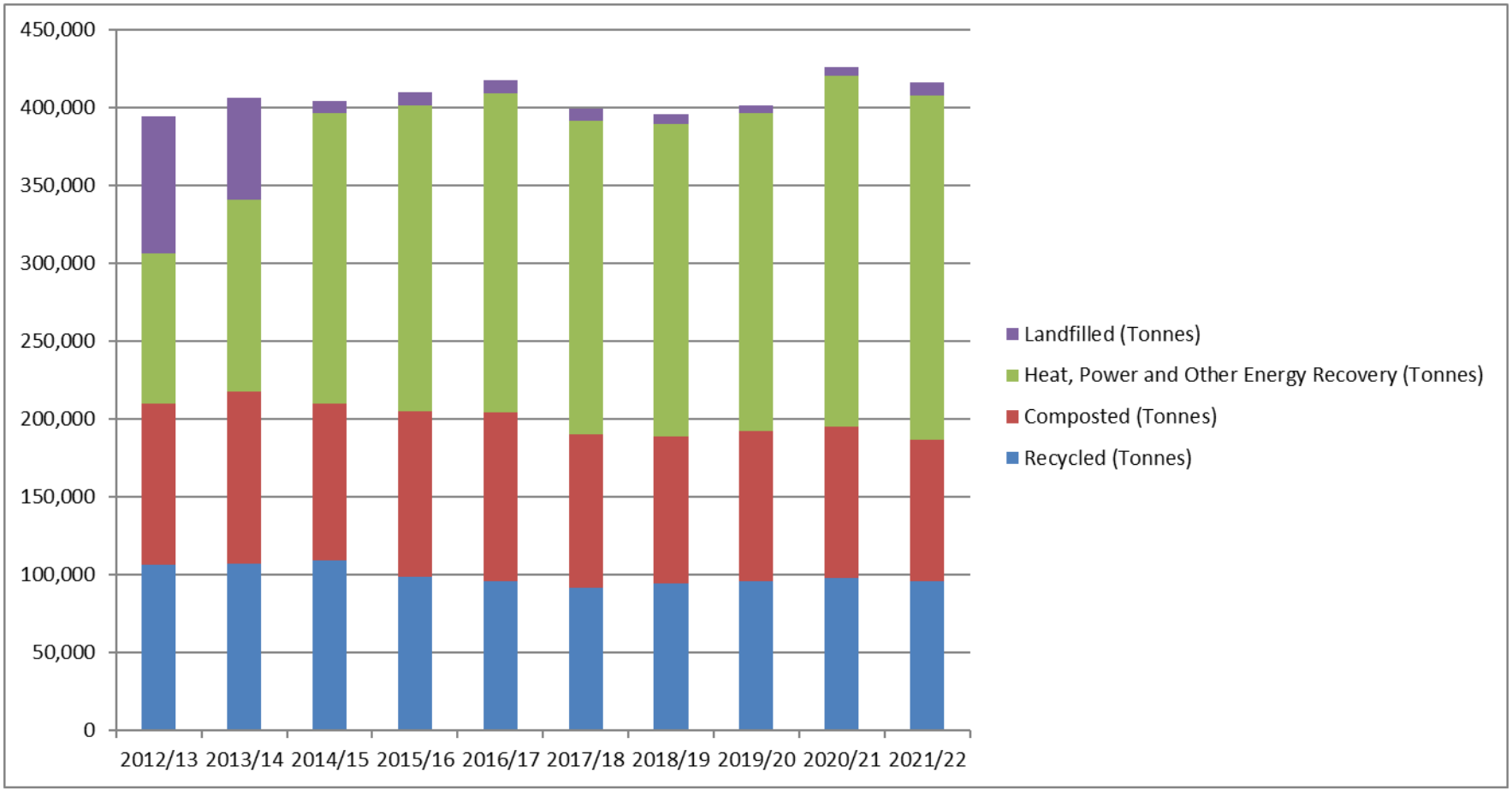
Data Sources:

- Review of the Waste Local Plan (published December 2018);
- Environment Agency's 2020 Waste Data Interrogator (Last updated May 2022);

- 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) 2012-2022

Waste Management Routes	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Recycled (Tonnes)	106,184	107,227	109,164	98,318	96,026	91,863	94,523	95,608	98,053	95,937
Composted (Tonnes)	103,568	110,203	101,078	106,510	108,552	98,045	94,123	97,011	97,274	90,793
Heat, Power and Other Energy Recovery (Tonnes)	96,557	123,415	185,983	196,635	204,579	201,805	200,558	203,872	224,839	220,737
Landfilled (Tonnes)	88,380	65,302	8,087	8,193	8,350	7,639	6,352	5,235	5,948	8,899
Total (Tonnes)	**394,689**	**406,147**	**404,32**	**409,656**	**417,507**	**399,352**	**395,556**	**401,726**	**426,114**	**416,366**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2012/13 2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22
Landfilled (Tonnes)
Heat, Power and Other Energy Recovery (Tonnes)
Composted (Tonnes)
Recycled (Tonnes)

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

	2015/16 Forecast		2020/21 Forecast		2021/22 Actual (Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent)	
MSW Regional waste forecast (tonnes)	744,000 tonnes		771,000 tonnes		518,679 tonnes **Below predicted level**	
MSW Minimum diversion %rate / Maximum landfill % rate	75% Min. diversion from landfill	25% Max. landfill	100% Diversion from Landfill	0% Primary Landfill	97.4 % diversion from landfill **Below target**	2.6 % 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	505,193 tonnes diverted from landfill **Below target**[1]	13,486 tonnes landfilled **Below target**

[1] Note that target for minimum tonnage of MSW diverted from landfill was based on total arisings of 744,000 tonnes for 2015/16, and 771,000 tonnes for 2020/21. Actual arisings were 519,722 for 2020/21, so tonnage diversion target of 613,000 could not be met. Percentage targets were met with a significant margin.

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 arisings 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, and a new methodology is being prepared by the Regional Technical Advisory Body on Waste (RTAB). 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 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.

W 2. Is waste treatment capacity keeping pace with production?

YES

Underlying Questions

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

Yes. During 2021 – 22, application records show that 26,500 tpa of organic treatment capacity was permitted within the Plan area (all within Staffordshire). The figure for additional capacity will be a little smaller, as each application replaced or modified existing capacity. The table below shows how the changes are broken down by category and by site.

The Waste Local Plan set 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. Adding the new capacity to the existing total, we can see that all of the targets to 2020/21 have been met, together with 2025/26 targets for Organic and Residual Treatment.

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 latest figures have been produced by adding newly permitted treatment capacity to the previous totals.

The original figures come from work carried out during the review of the Waste Local Plan, in which Environment Agency returns were matched against planning permissions. They include all losses from May 2012 to March 2018. While there appears to have been no increase in tpa since the plan was adopted, but this has not been shared equally across treatment categories. The losses have been greatest for waste transfer stations, while recycling, and particularly aggregate recycling sites have seen an expansion of capacity, though in the case of recycling, this has been accompanied by a large drop in the number of operational sites.

The changes for the reporting period are dominated by the opening of a single, large refuse derived fuel plant. This has been categorised as Residual Treatment for the purposes of the statistics as is difficult to assess how much this will contribute to a gradual movement towards treatment higher up the waste hierarchy. Much will depend on the fate of the fuel produced.

Data source: Applications Register;

Data Table: New waste treatment capacity (tpa) added during 2021-22

Application Ref	Recyling	Organic Treatment	Residual Treatment	Transfer Station	Aggregate Recycling	Landfill
SS.21/03/629 W		26,500				
Totals	0	26,500				

Total overall: 0

Data Table: Progress against targets for additional waste treatment capacity (2021-22 figures)

	Recycling (tonnes per annum)	Organic Treatment	Residual Treatment	Transfer Station	Aggregate Recycling
Staffordshire	1,204,709	540,000	609,000	909,000	882,000
Stoke-on-Trent	399,561	40,000	335,566	336,367	536,599
Total	1,604,270	580,000	944,566	1,245,750	1,418,599
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 2022	46	14	4	50	27	**141**
	1,204,709	540,000	609,000	909,383	882,000	**4,118,592**
Change (No.)	-16	1	-7	-24	5	**-41**
Capacity (T)	315,739	-9,095	64,157	-423,347	173,599	**121,053**

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 2022	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 2022	63	15	7	72	36	**193**
	1,604,270	580,000	944,566	1,245,750	1,418,599	**5,766,685**
Change (No.)	-23	1	-9	-30	9	**-52**
Capacity (T)	192,107	-8,879	63,771	-516,741	398,159	**128,417**

Discussion: The number of waste related planning applications during the reporting period was small, and not all planning applications relating to waste treatment facilities lead to an increase in treatment capacity, or an increase in the number of operational sites. However, data from planning applications does show that there was an overall increase in treatment capacity for organic treatment at an existing site.

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

W 3. 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?

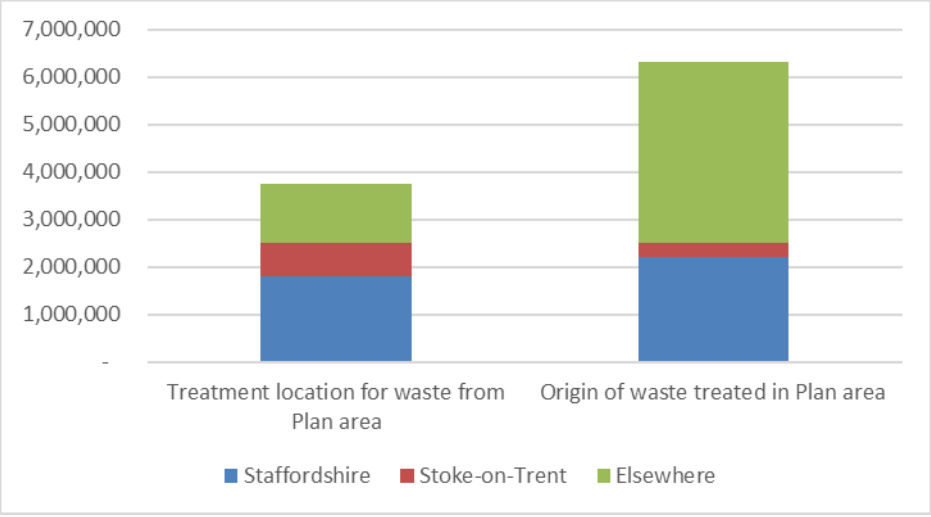
Of the 3,739,533 tonnes of waste which originated within the Plan area (as described in W1), 2,514,064 tonnes (67%) was also treated here (1,787,453 (48%) in Staffordshire, and 726,603 (19%) in Stoke on Trent), with 1,225,469 tonnes (33%) of waste transported beyond the Plan area for treatment or disposal.

Over the same period, 3,803,392 of waste was brought into the Plan area from beyond its boundary, bringing the total treated within the Plan area to 6,317,456 tonnes (4,792,340 tonnes (76%) in Staffordshire and 1,525,108 tonnes (24%) in Stoke on Trent).

Data Source: Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator (2021)

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

	Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	Elsewhere
Treatment location for waste from Plan area (T)	1,787,453	726,603	1,225,469
Origin of waste treated in Plan area (T)	2,192,878	321,186	3,803,392



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

W 4. 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 the four cases related to sites with existing waste-related permissions. Of the four approvals during the reporting period only one had the potential to add new waste treatment capacity, this was an existing anaerobic digestion facility.

One related to replacing on site facilities with new buildings on an existing operational waste treatment facility. Another related to additional infrastructure on an established wastewater treatment works. The final case related to extended hours of operation and whilst no additional capacity was created the opportunity was taken to update planning conditions.

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.

Data Source: Application Register and Application details

Data Table: Waste applications determined between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022

Overall, 3 applications had the potential to add new treatment capacity (take as a broad interpretation of 'new waste sites')

App. No.	Location	Description	Date granted	In line with locational criteria?	Additional capacity added
N.21/02/2018 W	**Holditch House, Holditch Road, Chesterton, Newcastle Under Lyme**	Application to extend the hours of operation	29-March-22		0
SM.21/02/153 W	**Application for a ferric dosig kiosk in association with permitted development works**	Sewage Works, Marsh Green Road, Biddulph	25-Oct-21		0
SS.20/02/613 W	**The erection of proposed office, vehicle storage and maintenance building the extant renewable energy facility at Cocksparrow Lane, Huntington**	Land off Cocksparrow Lane, Huntington	10-Feb-21		0
SS.21/03/629 W	**Application to vary conditions 1,13,15,16,18, 19,20,26,29,38, 39 and 40 of permission SS.15/08/629 W to amend the site layout, increase the feedstock, and amend the hours for waste delivery and digestate export.**	Severn Trent Green Power, Roundhill Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Roundhill, Staffordshire	14-Apr-21		It would increase the freedstock from 48,000 to 75,000 tonnes per annum

Discussion: Four cases related to sites with existing waste related permissions. Only one had the potential to add new waste capacity.

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

W 5. 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 Councils on 0 applications which had the potential to impact on existing waste management facilities.

Data Source: Applications Register. WCA Applications determined 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Discussion:

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

We continue to receive many 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.

All LPAs have been provided with GIS layers providing the locations of all waste sites that might require safeguarding.

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

W 6. 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 open-air operations, though new buildings replaced on site facilities.

The permissions all require any waste handling operations to take place within a building, with measures to ensure that noise, dust and odour etc. are properly contained.

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

None. No such approvals were granted.

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 permission granted 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

App. No.	Location	Date granted	Includes environmental improvement?	Adverse impacts anticipated?	Phased improvements needed?	Enclosed?	Exempt from enclosure?	Temporary permission?
N.21/02/2018 W	Holditch House, Holditch Road, Chesterton, Newcastle Under Lyme	29-Mar-22	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
SM.21/02/153 W	Sewage Works Marsh Green Road, Biddulph	25-Oct-21	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
SS.20/02/613 W	Land off Cocksparrow Lane, Huntington	01-March-22	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
SS.21/03/629 W	Severn Trent Green Power, Roundhill Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Roundhill, Staffordshire	22-Apr-21	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

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

On one occasion, where an application involved extending operational hours at a well-established site, the opportunity has been to review environmental controls with a view to improvements across the whole site.

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.

W 7. 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 meting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body

Data Table: Attendance at WMRTAB Meetings.

Date of meeting	SCC Represented?
10 June 2021	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 meetings has declined in recent years, and they have moved online in response to Covid, Staffordshire County Council has been represented at all meetings and has been fully involved in discussions.

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

W 8. 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 these been any changes to our 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.

Staffordshire County Council

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