

# Annual Monitoring Report 2024/25

Staffordshire County Council



## Performance Indicators

### Minerals

- M1:** Does the plan make steady and adequate provision of Sand and Gravel.
- M2:** Does the plan make steady and adequate provision for cement minerals?
- M3:** Does the plan make steady and adequate provision for brick clay?
- M4:** Are the location policies for Sand and Gravel sites working?
- M5:** Are we doing all we can to reduce the impacts of mineral development on the environment?
- M6:** Are we doing all we can to safeguard minerals, sites and infrastructure?
- M7:** Are we coordinating our work with other mineral planning authorities across the region?
- M8:** Are all aggregate mineral sites subject to restoration strategy/plan that has been considered in the last 10 years?
- M9:** Does the Mineral Local Plan to be revised?

### Waste

- W1:** Is the rate of growth of waste production within the range that we have planned for?
  - W2:** Is waste treatment capacity keeping pace with production?
  - W3:** Are we maintaining net self-sufficiency for waste management?
  - W4:** Are the location policies for waste sites working?
  - W5:** Are we doing all we can to safeguard existing waste treatment?
  - W6:** Are we doing all we can to reduce the impacts of waste treatment facilities on the environment?
  - W7:** Are we coordinating our work with other waste planning authorities across the region?
  - W8:** Does the waste local plan need to be revised?
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## Introduction

This report 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.

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 \(2010-2026\)](#), referred to hereafter as the Waste Local Plan, was adopted in 2013. [The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire \(2015-2030\)](#), referred to hereafter as the Minerals Local Plan, was adopted in February 2017.

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).

For future Annual Monitoring Reports, we will need to consider the government's review of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#); and reforms to plan making introduced by the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 \(LURA\)](#). In addition, the [Introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\)](#) in March 2024 requires that we monitor and record all BNG connected with planning applications for which we are the planning authority.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) requires local planning authorities to publish a [biodiversity report](#) (the end date of the first reporting period is no later than 1 January 2026 and after this, the end date of each reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period). During 2024/25, only one permission was issued which included the mandatory "biodiversity gain condition" (ref. [SCC/24/0083/FULL-MAJ](#) dated 14 February 2025) and no Biodiversity Gain Plans were approved (BGP) during the same reporting period.

<b>M1. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for Sand and Gravel?</b>
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<b>YES</b>
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### 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 2015-2024) was 4.923 million tonnes per annum. This figure is less than the provision made 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 2025 was 12.1- years based on the 10-year sales average for 2015-24. Alternatively, the landbank would be 11.9 years based on the level of provision of 5 million tonnes per annum used in the preparation of the Minerals Local Plan.

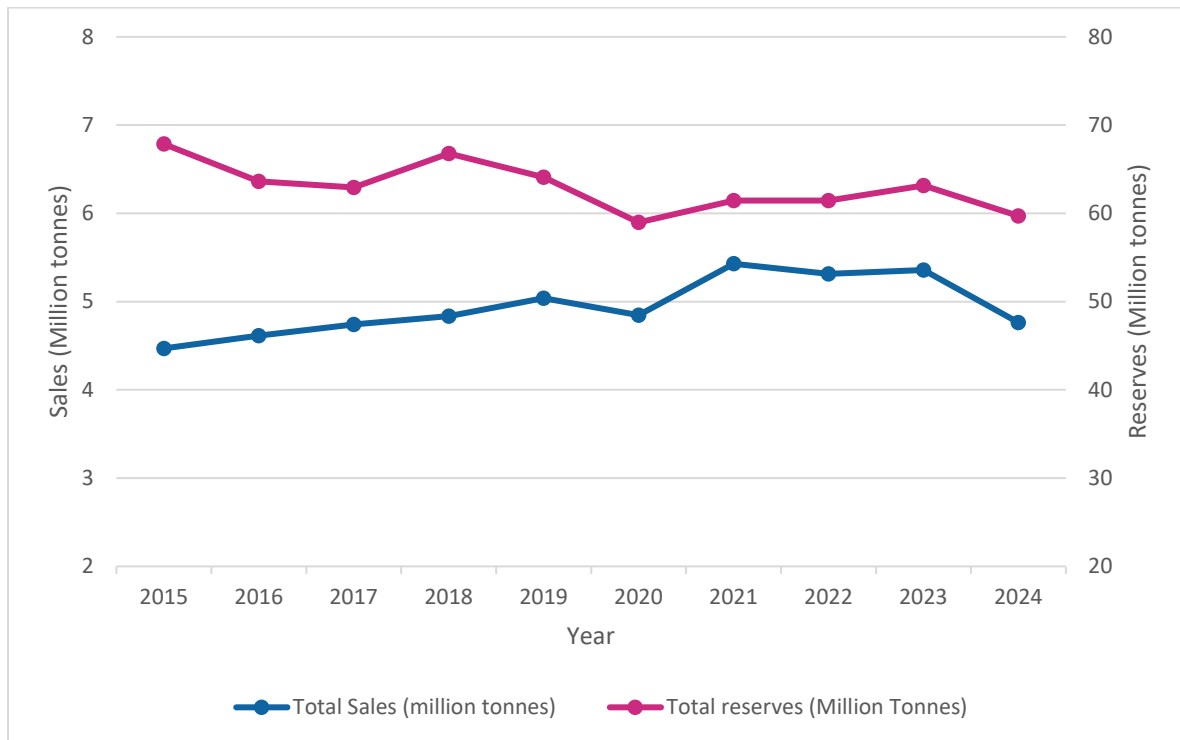
Data Source: Staffordshire Local Aggregate Assessment

**Data Table: Staffordshire Sand and Gravel Sales and Reserves 2015-24**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>10 Year Mean</b>
<b>Sales (Million Tonnes)</b>	4.47	4.6	4.743	4.836	5.039	4.848	5.429	5.316	5.177	4.762	4.923
<b>Total reserves (Million tonnes)</b>	67.86	63.63	62.94	66.785	64.114	58.978	61.454	61.447	63.164	59.701	
<b>Number of Operational sites</b>	18	17	16	16	16	14	15	15	16	17	

Source: WMAWP Surveys

**Graph: Sales and Reserves of Sand and Gravel in Staffordshire 2015-24**



**Discussion:**

The 10-year mean average sales of sand and gravel from Staffordshire quarries is 4.923 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 2024 would last for 11.9 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.

<b>M2. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for Cement Minerals.</b>
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<b>YES</b>
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**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 2025 with data for 2024.

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 an additional 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 amounted to a 10-year stock of reserves ([ES.19/02/504 M](#)). Those 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.

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.

<b>M3. Does the Plan make steady and adequate provision for brick clay?</b>
<b>No</b>

**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\***

<b>Works</b>	<b>25-year stock of permitted reserves?</b>
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 for 25 years of supply. 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 2025, 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 in April 2019 (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 the works.

Note that clay extracted in Staffordshire is also used to support brick and tile manufacturing at works outside the county. Whilst maintaining such 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 there is a steady and adequate provision of brick clay for one of the five clay product works in the county but not for all works.

<b>M4. Are the location policies for sand and gravel sites working?</b>
<b>YES</b>

**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 2024 and 31 March 2025 - Compliance with Policy 1**

Application Number	Location	Description	Date Granted	Compliant with Policy 1
<a href="#">SCC/21/0070/FULL-ES</a>	Saredon Hill Quarry	The winning and working of sand and gravel within a southern extension to the quarry, with restoration to agriculture,	1 May 2024	Yes



		and nature conservation by backfilling with inert waste or other inert material, and the use of the existing access, site offices, processing plant, and silt lagoons.		
<a href="#">SCC/22/0107/FULL-ES</a>	Willington Quarry	The winning and working of sand and gravel within a southern extension to the quarry, with restoration to agriculture, and nature conservation by backfilling with inert waste or other inert material, and the use of existing access, site offices, processing plant and silt lagoons.	06 March 2025	Yes

### Discussion

An application which related to an allocation in the MLP, was granted at Saredon Hill Quarry for permission to allow for the additional winning and working of sand and gravel within a southern extension to the quarry. An application was also granted at Willington Quarry to allow for the phased extraction of 600,000 tonnes of sand and gravel as a southern extension. This permission does not relate to land allocated in the MLP, but the proposal was justified in terms of the requirements of Policy 1.6 of the MLP-. Finally, both an application at Uttoxeter Quarry and Captains Barn Quarry have been given permission for the winning and working of sand and gravel pending the completion of a S106 legal agreements. These two applications relate to land allocated in the MLP.



**Conclusion**

Two quarry proposals were granted permission for extensions and further extraction of sand and gravel, one of which was determined in accordance with the location criteria under policy 1.

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

**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 planning proposals for hydrocarbon extraction.

Data Source: Planning Application Records

**Data Table: Planning application between 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 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?
<a href="#">SCC/21/0070/FULL-ES</a>	Saredon Hill Quarry	1 May 2024	YES	YES	NO
<a href="#">SCC/22/0107/FULL-ES</a>	Willington Quarry	06 March 2025	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.

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

## Underlying Questions:

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

**YES.** We were consulted on 28 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 2024 to 31 March 2025 (From Application Register)

<b>Summary</b>
<b>Total MSA Applications: 28</b>
<b>No Objection: 26</b>
<b>Objections: 0</b>
<b>Holding Objection: 2</b>

## Discussion

During 2024/25, we were consulted by District/ Borough Planning Authorities on 28 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, but one, 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 two holding objections in relation to the consultations received, the first from South Staffordshire Council was in relation to a consultation for an application for up to 90 homes. We requested that a Mineral Resource Assessment be submitted by the applicant to South Staffordshire Council. The

second holding objection was in relation to a consultation from Lichfield District Council for an application for up to 100 extra care units with ancillary communal space, landscaping and associated infrastructure. No evidence was provided in accordance with Policy 3 of the Minerals Local Plan

**Conclusion**

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

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

**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?
06 May 2025	Yes
17 November 2025	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 construction aggregates, to support local planning on the provision of construction aggregates, 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.



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



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<b>Quarry</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Cessation Date for Mineral Working</b>	<b>Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?</b>	<b>Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?</b>	<b>Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?</b>	<b>AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/plan?</b>
<b>Operational sand and gravel/sand quarries.</b>							
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	2045	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Cranebrook	MAC Quarries	SK 070 064	2033	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Croxden	Tarmac Limited	SK 033 417	2034	Yes	No	No	Yes
Freehay/ Moberley	Hanson	SK 015 411	2025	No	Yes	No	Yes

**Staffordshire County Council**

<b>Quarry</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Cessation Date for Mineral Working</b>	<b>Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?</b>	<b>Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?</b>	<b>Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?</b>	<b>AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/ plan?</b>
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
Pyford Brook	Cemex	SK 149 151	2027	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Rugeley	Cemex	SK 010 181	2031	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Saredon	NRS	SJ 944 80	2031	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shire Oak	JPE Holdings	SK 063 042	2027	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Uttoxeter	Aggregate Industries	SK 097 351	2023 - restoration to	Yes	No	No	Yes

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			be completed by 2026.				
Weavers Hill	GRS Roadstone	SJ 794 203	2025 - restoration to be completed by 2026.	Yes	No	No	Yes

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

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<b>Quarry</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Cessation Date for Mineral Working</b>	<b>Is there an approved restoration 'concept'?</b>	<b>Is there an approved detailed restoration/ aftercare scheme?</b>	<b>Is there a restoration/ aftercare review requirement?</b>	<b>AMR Assessment: Is the site subject to a restoration strategy/ plan?</b>
<b>Operational Crushed Rock Quarry</b>							
Cauldon Low	Aggregate Industries	SK 084 474	2042	No	No	No	No
<b>Non-Operational Crushed Rock Quarry</b>							
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.

<b>M9. Does the Minerals Local Plan need to be revised?</b>
<b>Yes</b>

**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, but the [Government has consulted on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) (December 2025). It is expected that a revised NPPF will be published in the summer of 2026 which includes policies to support changes to plan making including the introduction of spatial development strategies and to preparing a mineral local plan. The MLP covers the period up to the end of 2030 and current policies will need to be reviewed in accordance with the new NPPF Policy and the new legal requirements for plan making.

**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. However, as mentioned above, the Mineral Local Plan will need to be updated in accordance with new legal requirements and the revised NPPF.

**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. The review of the MLP is likely to be affected by proposals for reorganisation of local government although at the time of writing, proposals for change remain to be confirmed.

Data source: Interim review of the Minerals Local Plan

### **Discussion**

Changes to planning legislation and national planning policy will require a new MLP. At the time of writing, however, Government proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Staffordshire are being considered and this will affect the way in which strategic and local plan making will be undertaken.

In the meantime, MLP policies are working as intended. Plan targets are being met, and there have been no significant changes to strategic priorities, or local circumstances. We are aware, however, that allocations made in the Plan are being implemented and that there will be a need to review the provision for sand and gravel and industrial minerals as well as allocate additional mineral resources to meet the need for minerals beyond 2030.

### **Conclusion**

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that a programme for the review of the policies in the Minerals Local Plan will need to be considered within the next year subject to clarification on changes to strategic and local plan making and the effects of local government reorganisation on making those plans including the resources available for preparing plans.



## Waste

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

### 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 2024 Waste Data Interrogator](#) (last updated 23 September 2025) show that a total 2,216,321 million tonnes of waste originated from the Plan Area (1,978,975 million tonnes (89%) from Staffordshire, and 237,346 (11%) 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 2024-25 a total of 383,367 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was treated in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent). Of this, 81,243 tonnes was recycled; 85,756 tonnes was composted; 216,184 tonnes was burned with heat, power or other energy recovery; and the remaining 184 tonnes was landfilled.

In 2024-25, a total of 99,889 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was treated in Stoke on Trent. Of this, 23,153 tonnes was recycled; 10,929 tonnes was composted; 65,735 tonnes was burned with heat, power or other energy recovery; and the remaining 72.01 tonnes was landfilled.

This means that the combined MSW treated for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent was 483,257 tonnes. 483,000 tonnes (99.9%) of MSW in total was diverted from landfill meaning that only 257 tonnes was sent to landfill (0.1%).

The total combined figure (483,000 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 (99.9% 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 0.1% of Municipal Waste is going to landfill and therefore is below target, this equates only to 257 tonnes. Even 100% diversion would not have been sufficient to meet the forecast tonnage as actual waste arising has been much lower than forecast. This is however an improvement from the previous year where 99.6% of waste was diverted from Landfill sites equating to 1772 tonnes during 2023/2024 compared to 257 tonnes compared to 2024/2025.

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



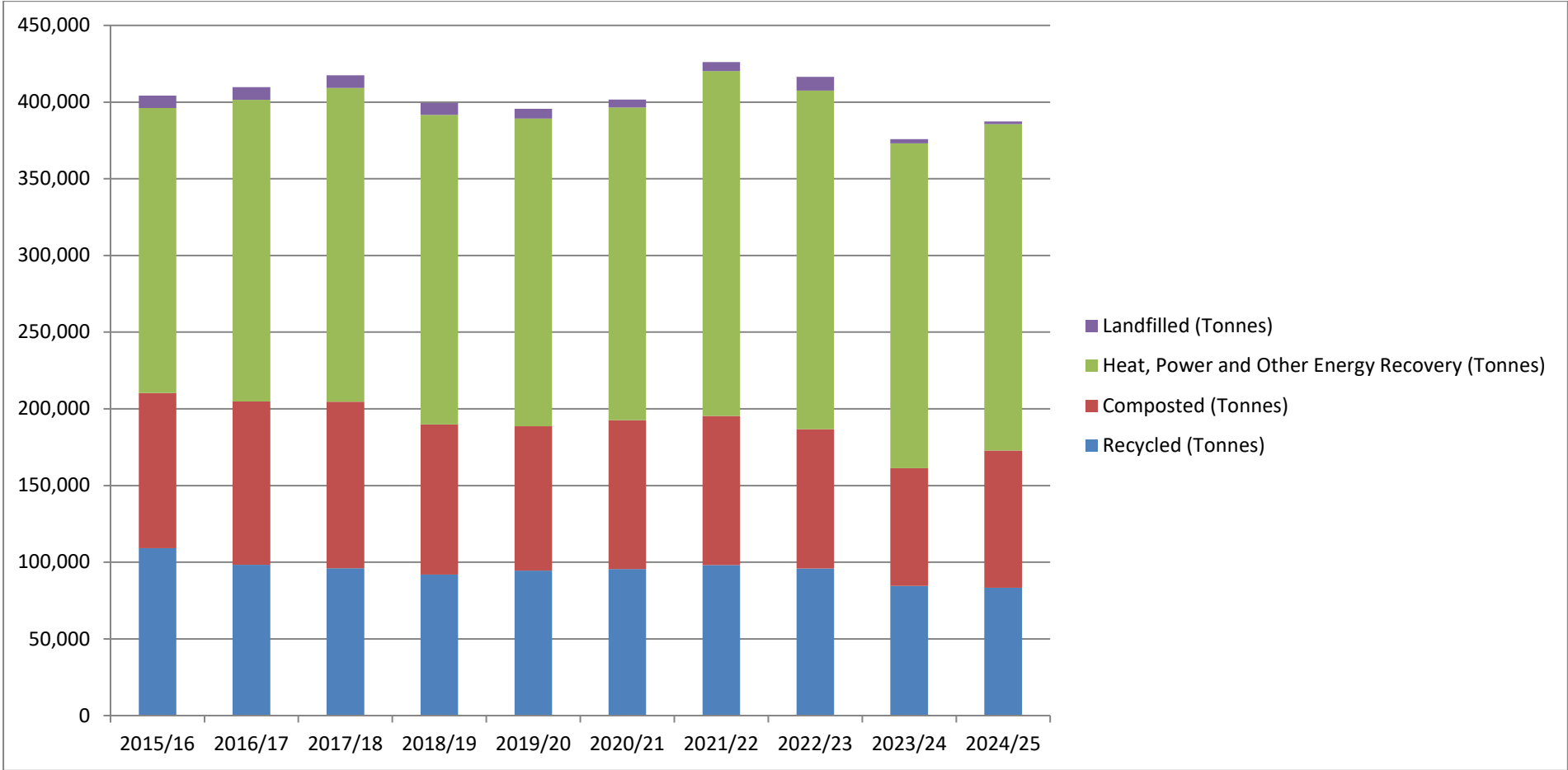
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**Data Table: Municipal Waste Management Routes in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke on Trent) 2015-2024**

<b>Waste Management Routes</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Recycled (tonnes)</b>	98,318	96,026	91,863	94,523	95,608	98,053	95,937	84,544	83,317	81,243
<b>Composted (tonnes)</b>	106,510	108,552	98,045	94,123	97,011	97,274	90,793	76,694	89,479	85,756
<b>Heat, Power and Other Energy Recovery (Tonnes)</b>	196,635	204,579	201,805	200,558	203,872	224,839	220,737	211,917	212,930	216,184
<b>Landfilled (Tonnes)</b>	8,193	8,350	7,639	6,352	5,235	5,948	8,899	2,672	1,631	185
<b>Total (Tonnes)</b>	409,656	417,507	399,352	395,556	401,726	426,114	416,366	375,827	387,359	383,368

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Household Waste Management Table; Waste Management Route Graph (below) shows the route household waste was disposed of in Staffordshire County Council 2015-2024 (excluding Stoke on Trent Data).



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**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)	
<b>MSW Regional waste forecast (tonnes)</b>	744,000 tonnes		771,000 tonnes		483,000 tonnes <b>Below predicted level</b>	
<b>MSW Minimum diversion % rate / maximum landfill % rate</b>	75% Min. diversion from landfill	25% Max. landfill	100% Division from Landfill	0% Primary Landfill	99.9% diversion from landfill <b>Above target</b>	0.1% landfilled <b>Below target</b>
<b>MSW Minimum diversion tonnes / Maximum landfill tonnes</b>	559,000 tonnes min. diversion from landfill	185,000 tonnes max. landfill	771,000 tonnes min. diversion from landfill	0 tonnes max. landfill	483,000 tonnes diverted from landfill <b>Below target<sup>1</sup></b>	257 tonnes landfilled <b>Below target</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<b>W2. Is waste treatment capacity keeping pace with production?</b>
<b>YES</b>

**Underlying Questions:**

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

The number of waste related planning applications during 2024/25 was small. There was one application which relates to the treatment of leachate (and therefore ancillary to a waste disposal facility). The application for the construction and operation of a leachate treatment plant at the Meece Landfill site (ref. [SCC/24/0083/FULL-MAJ](#) dated 14 February 2025) allows for the treatment of up to 54,750,000 cubic metres of leachate per annum (54,750,000 litres).

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. There was no new waste treatment capacity.

The latest waste management capacity figures have been produced by adding newly permitted treatment capacity (in Staffordshire only) to the previous totals. The figures however do not take into account any new waste permissions and



subsequent new capacity in Stoke-on-Trent. 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 2024-25**

Application Reference	Recycling	Organic Treatment	Residual Treatment	Transfer Station	Aggregate Recycling	Landfill
Totals						

Total Overall: 0



**Data Table: Progress against targets for additional waste treatment capacity (updated 2024/25 figures)**

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

**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
<b>Staffordshire</b>						
<b>May 2012</b>	62	13	11	74	22	<b>182</b>
	888,970	522,595	544,843	1,332,730	708,401	<b>3,997,539</b>
<b>March 2024</b>	46	14	4	50	28	<b>142</b>
	1,234,709	540,000	609,000	909,383	957,000	<b>4,223,697</b>
<b>Change (No.)</b>	-16	1	-7	-24	6	<b>-40</b>

<b>Capacity (T)</b>	345,739	-9,095	64,157	-423,347	248,599	<b>226,053</b>
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<b>Stoke-on-Trent</b>						
<b>May 2012</b>	24	1	4	28	5	<b>62</b>
	523,193	39,784	335,952	429,761	312,039	<b>1,640,729</b>
<b>March 2024</b>	17	1	3	22	9	<b>52</b>
	399,561	40,000	335,566	336,367	536,599	<b>1,648,093</b>
<b>Change (No.)</b>	-7	0	-1	-6	4	<b>-10</b>
<b>Capacity (T)</b>	-123,632	216	-386	-93,394	224,560	<b>7,364</b>

<b>Combined</b>						
<b>May 2012</b>	86	14	15	102	27	<b>244</b>
	1,412,163	562,379	880,795	1,762,491	1,020,440	<b>5,638,268</b>
<b>March 2024</b>	63	15	7	72	37	<b>194</b>
	1,634,270	580,000	944,566	1,245,750	1,493,599	<b>5,871,685</b>
<b>Change (No.)</b>	-23	1	-9	-30	10	<b>-51</b>
<b>Capacity (T)</b>	222,107	-8,879	63,771	-516,741	473,159	<b>233,417</b>

### 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:

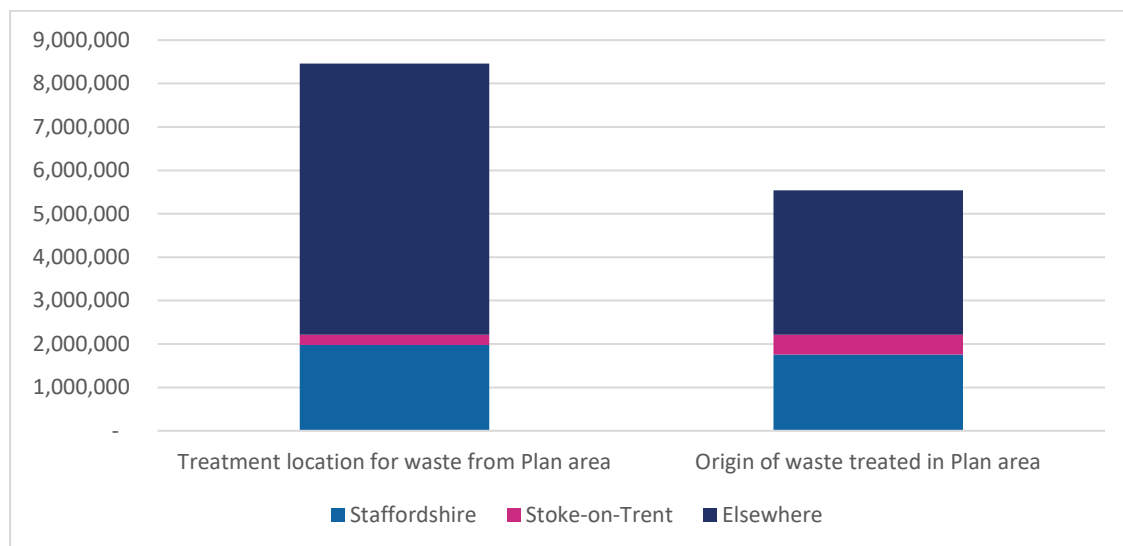
What proportion of our waste is treated within the Plan area, and what proportion is exported for treatment elsewhere?

Of the 2,216,321 tonnes of waste which originated within the Plan area (as described in W1), 2,216,321 tonnes (26%) was also treated here (1,978,975 (23%) in Staffordshire, and 237,346 (3%) in Stoke on Trent), with 6,246,442 tonnes (74%) of waste transported beyond the Plan area for treatment or disposal.

Over the same period, 3,323,924 tonnes of waste was brought into the Plan area from beyond its boundary, bringing the total treated within the Plan area to 5,440,245 tonnes of waste (1,759,654 tonnes (31%) in Staffordshire and 456,667 tonnes (8%) in Stoke on Trent).

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

	Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	Elsewhere
<b>Treatment location for waste from Plan area (T)</b>	1,759,654	456,667	3,323,924
<b>Origin of waste treated in Plan area (T)</b>	1,978,975	237,346	2,216,321



Source: Environment Agency 2024 Waste Data Interrogator

**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 250% 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.

<b>W4. Are the location policies for waste sites working?</b>
<b>YES</b>

**Underlying Questions:**

**Are new approvals in line with locational criteria?**

Largely. Planning applications data show that 14 cases related to sites with existing waste-related permissions in Staffordshire and none related to a new site. Of the fourteen applications during the reporting period which related to waste, only one related to new waste treatment. The first, was an application for the construction and operation of a leachate treatment plant ((leachate ancillary to a waste disposal facility) including associated plant and equipment, fencing and access at Meece Landfill which added an extra 54,750,000 litres per annum of capacity.

There were other different types of applications. Three of which related to established wastewater / sewage treatment works with one proposing additional infrastructure (kiosks), the second , and third were submission of details The final case relating to wastewater/ sewage treatment involved an application for a Certificate of Lawful Development to confirm operational land status at the existing site at Lichfield Sewage Treatment Works (STW).

**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 2024 and 31 March 2025**

App No	Location	Description	Date Granted	In line with location	Additional Capacity added

				al criteria?	
SCC/24/0083/FUL L-MAJ	Meece Landfill, Cold Meece	Construction and operation of a leachate plant	14 February 2026	YES	54,750,000 litres per year
SCC/24/0051/VO C	Poplars Landfill Site, Lichfield Road, Cannock	Application not to comply with (to vary) Conditions 1 (approved plans), 3 (commencement of development and notifications), 10 (site layout update) of SCC/23/0114/VO C.	10 December 2024	YES	

**Discussion**

Fourteen cases related to sites with existing waste-related permissions and none relating to a new site operation. Of the fourteen, one relates to the treatment of leachate (54,750,000 litres per year) which is ancillary to waste disposal facility.

**Conclusion**

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

<b>W5. Are we doing all we can to safeguard existing waste treatment sites?</b>
<b>YES</b>

**Underlying Questions:**

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

Yes, but we did not receive any consultations where non waste development had the potential to impact on existing waste management facilities.

Data Source: Applications Register. WCA Applications determined 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

**Discussion**

The County Council was not consulted on any District/ Borough Planning applications which might have impacted on waste management facilities.

**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.

**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.



## Staffordshire County Council

Data Source: Planning applications Register and individual applications and permissions

### Data Table: New waste planning permissions granted 1 April 2024 to 31 March 205

App. No.	Location	Date Granted	Includes Environmental Improvement?	Adverse Impacts Anticipated?	Phased Improvements needed?	Enclosed?	Exempt from Enclosure?	Temporary Permission?
<a href="#">SCC/24/0083/FULL-MAJ</a>	Meece Landfill, Swynnerton Road, Cold Meece	14 February 2026	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.

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

**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**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>SCC Represented</b>
17 November 2025	Yes
06 March 2025	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, 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.



<b>W8. Does the Waste Local Plan need to be revised?</b>
<b>Yes</b>

**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 W2 (above) plan targets are being met as planned, or ahead of schedule.

**Have there been any relevant changes to National Planning Policy?**

**No.** However, there are ongoing changes to National Planning Policies that might affect the Minerals Local Plan including, the updated NPPF, Government Reorganisation and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) but we are awaiting further guidance for these.

**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 adopted but, the Waste Local Plan will need to be updated in accordance with new legal requirements and the revised NPPF.

**Have there been any change to local circumstances?**

**NO.** There have been no major changes, The review of the WLP is likely to be affected by proposals for reorganisation of local government although at the time of writing, proposals for change remain to be confirmed.

**Discussion**

Changes to planning legislation and national planning policy will require a new WLP. At the time of writing, however, Government proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Staffordshire are being considered and this will affect the way in which strategic and local plan making will be undertaken.

In the meantime, WLP policies are working as intended. Plan targets are being met, and there have been no significant changes to strategic priorities, or local circumstances. We are aware, however, that there will be a need to review the provision for waste management facilities beyond 2026.

**Conclusion**

It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that a programme for the review of the policies in the Waste Local Plan will need to be considered within the next year subject to clarification on changes to strategic and local plan making and the

effects of local government reorganisation on making those plans including the resources available for preparing plans.



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