Staffordshire County Council

city of stoke on trent

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan 2010 - 2026











Adopted March 2013

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Foreword

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, we recognise the importance of dealing with the waste that we all generate in our everyday lives, at home and at work, and the value that waste has as a resource.

This strategy will guide the way we manage the sustainable development of waste management facilities up to 2026.

We see this strategy as an opportunity to support investment in the waste industry that will help our economies to grow, whilst protecting local communities and our natural, built and historic environments.

We have identified the broad locations where we want new waste management facilities to be developed, and set the standards we expect to be met.

Our success in achieving the vision and strategic objectives in this strategy will depend on individuals, organisations and industries reducing the amount of waste produced and providing good environmental solutions to deal with the waste we all generate. We now encourage you to play your part.



Councillor Mark Winnington

Staffordshire County Council Lead Cabinet Member for Environment and Assets



Councillor Ruth Rosenau

Stoke-on-Trent City Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transportation



Councillor Andy Platt

Stoke-on-Trent City Council Cabinet Member for Green Enterprise and City Services

1 Introduction

What is the role of the Joint Waste Local Plan?

1.1 Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council (hereafter referred to as "we"), act as Waste Planning Authorities throughout their administrative areas, with the exception of that part of the County that falls inside the Peak District National Park (which has its own separate waste planning authority). We are responsible for determining planning applications for waste management facilities in accordance with policies in the Development Plan as well as taking into account national planning policy. We have a Waste Local Plan that covers Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (1998 - 2011) which was adopted in 2003. However there is a need to review and update the strategy and policies of the Local Plan, to take account of changes in the provision of waste management facilities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, alterations to waste planning policy, and broader changes to our economy, our environment and our communities.

1.2 The Government has introduced changes to the land-use planning system which affect the look of, and the way we prepare, the plans that guide the location and type of new waste development. We have prepared this new Joint Waste Local Plan, referred to in earlier stages of plan preparation as the Joint Waste Core Strategy, for our respective administrative areas in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Localism Act 2011. The new Joint Waste Local Plan will replace the existing Waste Local Plan and is a plan for how to manage all the waste produced in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent up to 2026. The original Waste Local Plan policies however remain 'in force' by a direction from the Secretary of State until such time that they are replaced by the Joint Waste Local Plan. Appendix 3: Replacement of Waste Local Plan policies provides further information.

1.3 The Joint Waste Local Plan is not about who collects waste or on what day waste is collected but, it does relate to how waste will be managed after it has been collected from homes, offices, factories, farms or construction sites. The Strategy addresses issues for all types of waste and not just waste collected by local authorities from households and offices. The aims of the Plan are to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities to manage the waste produced in the area, and also to manage the change in the type of facilities that are required to re-use, recycle and recover more from the waste produced. The Plan is for the next 15 years and it is inevitable that there will be further changes in the waste that is produced and the ways in which that waste can be managed. Therefore the Plan is flexible to accommodate these changes but it also gives clear guidance to developers about whether their proposals to develop new waste management facilities are likely to be acceptable.

1.4 The Joint Waste Local Plan provides a new vision highlighting what is to be achieved in terms of developing facilities to improve the way in which waste is managed. Furthermore, the Plan includes a set of updated policies that identify the ways in which the vision for the Plan can be delivered.

1.5 The Joint Waste Local Plan is part of the Staffordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework, and the Stoke-on-Trent City Council Local Development Framework. More detail on the range of new planning documents that are being prepared can be found in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) produced by both planning authorities to programme plan making work. Appendix 1: Virtual Library is where documents and evidence can be found underpinning production of the Joint Waste Local Plan.

Structure of the Joint Waste Local Plan

1.6 There are six sections to this document:

- Section 1 : Introduction;
- Section 2: Context and Conformity sets out European, national, regional and local considerations;
- Section 3: The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today', describes the current waste planning issues and the challenges ahead over the next 15 years for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent;
- Section 4: The Vision and Strategic Objectives: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2026',describes what needs to be achieved by 2026 to address the current issues and challenges ahead associated with developing waste facilities.
- Section 5: The Planning Policies, contains the four broad policy areas to be used when determining planning applications for waste development, and non-waste related development when applicable, that will deliver the strategic objectives and vision over the plan period; and
- Section 6: Implementation and Monitoring, describes how we will check the progress we are making towards our vision over the plan period.

What has been done so far in preparing the Joint Waste Local Plan?

1.7 In relation to preparing the Joint Waste Local Plan, in accordance with The Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, since 2007 the following consultations have been undertaken:

Issues and Options 1 (Regulation 18 Public Participation, March 2007)

Issues and Options Part 2 (Regulation 18 Public Participation, September 2008)

Emerging Joint Waste Core Strategy (Regulation 18 Public Participation, August 2010)

Revised draft policies for Joint Waste Core Strategy (April 2011)[1]

Publication (Regulation 19, September 2011)

Submission (Regulation 22, January 2012)

1.8 All comments received during these consultations have helped shape this document. The 'Consultation Statement' and 'Statement of Representations Received', submitted with the Joint Waste Local Plan (refer to Appendix 1: Virtual Library, Regulation 30 (1)(d) and Regulation 30 (1)(e) statements), contain further details of the previous consultations.

Does the Joint Waste Local Plan identify specific sites for development?

1.9 It is not proposed to identify specific sites for development in the Joint Waste Local Plan but rather to base the Strategy on the identification of broad locations, shown on the Key Diagram and Policy Map, and provide locational criteria for new and enhanced waste management facilities that are sufficiently precise to enable developers to assess where they would be likely to receive permission, if other relevant considerations were satisfied. Given the scale and type of capacity gap, in terms of having sufficient waste management facilities and capacity by 2026 to manage, as a minimum, an amount of waste at least equivalent to the amount generated in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, the evidence base supporting the Joint Waste Local Plan (available in Appendix 1: Virtual Library) demonstrates that the treatment capacity shortfall is not sufficient to warrant the identification of strategic sites in the Local Plan. Also there is evidence from the Planning Inspectorate that concludes there is no requirement to identify sites for non-strategic waste facilities in the Local Plan. [2]

1 The April 2011 consultation was not a statutory Regulation 18 Public Participation consultation. It was a targeted consultation over a 2 week period to receive comments from stakeholders on the four broad draft policy areas that would form this Joint Waste Local Plan document. Stakeholders were also made aware at that time that they would have a second opportunity to comment on the four broad policy areas formally during the Regulation 19 consultation on the Publication Document.

2 Planning Inspectorate (PINS) document 'Examining the Soundness of Minerals and Waste Policies in Core Strategies' acknowledges that Core Strategies rarely deal with specific sites for waste management facilities unless they are of strategic importance. Also case law relating to the European Union Waste Framework Directive indicates

1.10 The Site Assessment Report (March 2010) (Appendix 1: Virtual Library) that has been prepared to record the assessment of suitable sites for waste management facilities, including those submitted by landowners and the Industry at the end of 2008, demonstrates the potential availability of sites to meet the projected need for additional waste management capacity. It has provided an opportunity to test site options in terms of meeting objectives for sustainable development (Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment, and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment).The assessment of sites will provide a basis for monitoring the success of the strategy for managing waste by delivering sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations.

that waste management plans should show existing/future waste management sites on a geographical map, or include a clear set of locational and other criteria to enable the regulatory authority to assess whether a particular site/proposal is consistent with the waste strategy.

2 Context and Conformity

Statement of compliance

2.1 The statutory process for the preparation of Development Plan Documents is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which replaces the Town and Country (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 as amended in 2008 and 2009. Detailed guidance for following this process was outlined in Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks but has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2.2 The Consultation Statement (also known as a Regulation 30 (1)(d) Consultation Statement under the 2004 Local Development Regulations as amended in 2008, but now known as a Regulation 22(1)(c) Consultation Statement under the 2012 Local Planning Regulations), available from Appendix 1: Virtual Library presents the evidence base for demonstrating that the production of this document has complied with the statutory regulations and guidance.

Community engagement

2.3 An important part of the production of this Joint Waste Local Plan has been a programme of involvement and engagement at every stage of the plan making process. The approach to community engagement is set out in the Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. (Refer to documents in Appendix 1: Virtual Library). The SCIs set out the respective Councils policies for involving the public, communities, interest groups, developers, landowners and statutory consultees in the planning process. They include a strategy for making community groups aware of how and when they can become involved in the planning system and identify the types of groups that need to be involved and ways of involving them effectively.

2.4 Appendix 1: Virtual Library contains a Consultation Statement (Regulation 30 (1) (d)) document detailing the responses received to the document at the various rounds of public consultation which have been undertaken and how these comments have informed the development of the Joint Waste Local Plan.

European Directives and national strategies, policies and guidance

2.5 To be judged sound the Joint Waste Local Plan must be consistent with national planning policy. National policy on waste however is derived from European legislation. This Joint Waste Local Plan works within, and takes account of, the revised European Union Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), the European Union Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) and the national policy

framework, provided through the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) and the Waste Planning Policy Statement (PPS10), which set out the Government's national policies on various aspects of planning.

European Directives.

2.6 Landfilling waste and transporting waste over long distances is a significant contributor to climate change. The European Union Landfill Directive (Article 5 of 99/31/EC) sets targets for reducing biodegradable waste (municipal waste) sent to landfill, and the revised European Union Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) advocates the "Waste Hierarchy" as a method of guiding sustainable choices about waste management options by ranking them in terms of their potential for causing harm to human health and the environment. Appendix 4: The Waste Hierarchy provides an explanation of the "Waste Hierarchy".The most effective environmental solution is waste prevention at the start of the hierarchy and the least desirable solution is disposal to landfill at the end. The revised European Union Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) states that "waste prevention should be the first priority of waste management, and that re-use and material recycling should be preferred to energy recovery from waste, where and insofar as they are the best ecological options" (Para 7). The revised Directive seeks to increase the use of waste as a resource (e.g. for fuel) and to place greater emphasis on the prevention and recycling of waste, while protecting human health and the environment (CLG letter to Chief Planning Officers, 31 March 2011).

National strategies, policies and guidance.

2.7 National guidance (Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management) and the National Waste Strategy 2007 set out that any waste that is generated needs to be managed in accordance with the "Waste Hierarchy". The overall objective of Government policy on waste (PPS10 paragraph 1) is to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. By more sustainable waste management, and moving the management of waste up the "Waste Hierarchy", the Government aims to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste. In addition to the European Union Waste Framework Directive, PPS10 requires planning authorities to ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations, including facilities for waste disposal (landfill) (PPS10 paragraph 16). Account must also be taken of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to adopt proactive strategies and support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

2.8 The National Infrastructure Plan (October 2010) seeks to support investment through national infrastructure to create the conditions for enterprise to flourish and supports the management of waste in accordance with the "Waste Hierarchy". Account should also be taken of the 'Planning for Growth' -

Ministerial Statement (March 2011) which supports development that secures economic growth except where this would compromise the principles of sustainable development.

2.9 The Joint Waste Local Plan is prepared as the planning system is undergoing major change. The removal of the Regional Spatial Strategy has already been announced and details of the Localism agenda are beginning to emerge, Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes have been replaced with one national planning policy document (the National Planning Policy Framework (NPFF). It should be recognised however that waste policy is not contained in the NPFF and PPS 10 will be revised and annexed to the National Waste Management Plan for England and remain in force until that Plan is finalised. Local authorities preparing waste plans should have regard however to policies in the NPPF. In June 2011, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 was also published. However, until it is formally replaced by the National Waste Management Plan, the National Waste Strategy (2007), which sets targets for reducing the amounts of waste sent to landfill, will remain the operative document for England's share of UK compliance with the EU Waste Framework Directive. The Government's ambition for waste management in England was defined in the Coalition's Programme for Government and Defra's Structural Reform Plan as "working towards a zero waste economy". Whilst the Joint Waste Local Plan is fully compliant and in accordance with current national policy, it is written with these potential changes in mind. National planning policy (NPPF) relevant to the Joint Waste Local Plan is listed in Appendix 7: National Planning Policy.

2.10 Despite the uncertainty due to changes taking place to the planning system the production of the Joint Waste Local Plan cannot be delayed given the requirements of the revised European Union Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) for a waste framework, through the provision of local waste plans, to be in place. The revised Directive (Article 28 (3) (d) of 2008/98/EC) requires that waste plans contain "sufficient information on the location criteria for site identification and on the capacity of future disposal or major recovery installations, if necessary". Current national planning policy for sustainable waste management requires that the planned provision of new waste management capacity and its spatial distribution should be based on clear policy objectives, robust analysis of available data and an appraisal of options.

Regional plans, policies and programmes

2.11 Originally, the Joint Waste Local Plan needed to conform with the adopted West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), however when the coalition government came to power it announced an intention to abolish RSSs. Following a number of legal rulings it has been confirmed that the RSS remains in force, though its formal withdrawal is imminent, now that the Localism Bill has received Royal Assent. So whilst the RSS currently remains in place, the weight attached to policy within the RSS is diminished. The Joint Waste Local Plan has been prepared with these changes in mind.

2.12 A considerable amount of technical work has been undertaken at a regional and local level to determine how much waste is likely to arise in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent between now and 2026. This is set out in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables. Whilst the strategy is considered to be broadly in conformity with the RSS, and whilst it uses much of the RSS's tested evidence base for the Phase 2 Review of regional waste policies~~,~~ as the most up to date source of data, it is not considered necessary to provide a Statement of Conformity with regard to the Joint Waste Local Plan's relationship with the RSS.

Local and sub-regional plans, policies and programmes

Community Strategies

2.13 A key test for the soundness of the Joint Waste Local Plan is that it has regard to the Community Strategies for both Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council.

2.14 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Staffordshire 2008-2023 'Our County, Our Vision' was launched in 2008 and identified four overarching priorities:

- A vibrant, prosperous and sustainable economy
- Strong, safe and cohesive communities
- Improved health and sense of well being
- A protected, enhanced and respected environment

2.15 The Community Strategy for the City of Stoke-on-Trent was adopted in 2004 and identifies six key priorities.

- A Healthier City
- A Safer City
- A Wealthier City
- A Greener City
- A Learning City
- A City with a Strong Sense of Community

A review of the strategy was published in 2008 which looked at the successes of the strategy and where further work needed to be undertaken. Physical regeneration and economic development were identified as priority areas for further work.

2.16 The links between the Joint Waste Local Plan and the delivery of the Community Strategies for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are shown in Appendix 2: Links with other strategies

Municipal Waste Management Strategy

2.17 A key requirement of national planning policy for waste (PPS10) is that the Joint Waste Local Plan should both inform and in turn be informed by any relevant municipal waste management strategy (MWMS). Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the eight Staffordshire Borough and District Councils worked in partnership to agree a joint MWMS which was published in November 2007. This strategy sets an overall vision for the sustainable management of municipal waste in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to 2020 and beyond, and contains three overarching principles.

- To increase household recycling: delivering a combined household recycling and composting target of 55% (equivalent to 50% of all municipal solid waste).
- To recover benefit from all remaining municipal solid waste: sending approximately 50% of all municipal solid waste for recovery.
- To achieve the target of zero municipal waste to landfill: minimising municipal waste to landfill through increased recycling followed by maximum recovery of all remaining residual waste, thus placing landfill as the last and final option.

2.18 The joint MWMS acts as an up-to-date, regularly reviewed, route-map for the further investment required to meet the authorities' needs. Since the MWMS was published, there have been advances towards many of the high level strategic ambitions of the authorities. In particular the procurement of a new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) to serve Southern Staffordshire has been completed and a planning permission secured at Four Ashes. A Waste Transfer Station (WTS) associated with the new ERF has also gained a planning permission and has reached an advanced stage of procurement at a site adjacent to the Borough of Tamworth, in the adjoining County of Warwickshire.

2.19 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is due to be reviewed in 2012, when new strategic priorities for the Waste Disposal and Waste Collection Authorities will be set. Table 27 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables lists the set of strategic priorities reflected in recent action plans supporting the MWMS on which the authorities are now focused.

Cross boundary and partnership working

2.20 A further key test of soundness of the Joint Waste Local Plan is that it has regard to the plans, policies and strategies of adjoining areas and has been drawn up in co-operation with them. The document itself is prepared jointly by both Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council in recognition of the fact that there are many issues which need considering which cross administrative boundaries. Ensuring that this is the case has involved close working not only between Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, but also with local authorities and parish councils in the plan area, neighbouring local authorities and parishes, and neighbouring regions. Many groups and neighbouring authorities have been part of the consultations, as have many other key stakeholders.

2.21 Whilst previously the regional focus of spatial planning would have been achieved through conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy, this tier of regional plan making will be removed by the Localism Act. It is important however that planning at this level does not disappear especially for complex regional/sub national and also sub regional issues such as waste. The Localism Act does stress the ‘duty to cooperate’ on issues of regional and sub regional importance. The Joint Waste Local Plan is therefore designed to take into account the cross boundary issues associated with waste.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

2.22 In 2005 the Government published 'Sustainable Development Strategy-Securing the Future' which identified four key priorities.

- Sustainable production and consumption
- Climate change and energy
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Sustainable communities

2.23 Every Development Plan Document must deliver strategies and policies that support these priority areas. Therefore, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 local authorities must undertake Sustainability Appraisals (SA) during the preparation of each Development Plan Document. The process aims to promote sustainable development by integrating social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation and adoption of all parts of the plans. It is important that it is seen as an integral part of good plan making, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the significant effects of the plan as it emerges, and to identify measures through which its sustainability performance can be monitored and enhanced.

2.24 The European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (generally known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment, or SEA Directive) also requires us to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessments of all of the emerging plan documents. This aims 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans….with a view to promoting sustainable development'.

2.25 The Government recommends an approach in which the requirements of the SEA Directive are incorporated into the wider SA process, but care must be taken to ensure that the requirements for each piece of legislation are fully met.

2.26 A combined approach Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment has been integral to the development of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan from the first "Issues and Options stage in 2007 through to this document. Results from the various stages of appraisal provide key evidence for the identification of, and justification for, the vision, strategic objectives and policies included in the Joint Waste Local Plan.

2.27 The Appendix 1: Virtual Library contains the Sustainability Report to accompany the Joint Waste Local Plan, as well as a Site Assessment Report which applied the principles of SA to the identification of sites which had potential for the development of new or enhanced waste management facilities.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

2.28 European Union Directive 92/43/EEC 'on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora' (the "Habitats Directive") established the "Natura 2000 network" of sites which are of exceptional importance for the protection of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European Community. To protect these sites, the Habitats Directive effectively requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on any of them must be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site, and that a plan or project may only be agreed after the competent bodies are confident that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. The overall process of screening and assessment required for complying with the Habitats Directive is referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

2.29 The Joint Waste Local Plan does not allocate any sites for the development of new waste facilities, and its policies are not linked to specific locations, but it does attempt to demonstrate that a range of sites are available to meet the future waste management needs. Sites identified as having potential for accommodating waste management facilities have therefore been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening to determine whether they are 'likely to have significant impacts' on Natura 2000 Sites. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (September 2011) sets out the findings of that screening, and identifies those sites that will require more detailed Appropriate Assessment at the planning application stage, should those sites be proposed for waste management uses.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

2.30 National policy guidance [(1)] advises that Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) need to be included at all levels of the planning process, taking into account the effects of climate change. Waste and Minerals Planning Authorities are required to apply the sequential approach to the allocation of sites for waste management.

2.31 We therefore need to ensure that the Joint Waste Local Plan and any waste management facilities identified within it, are not susceptible to flooding, and do not add to the risk of flooding in the future. Although the Joint Waste Local Plan does not need to allocate specific strategic sites, it does need to demonstrate that there are a range of sites available to meet the future waste management needs. To seek to meet the Council's obligations and requirements, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was carried out for all of the sites with potential to meet the waste management capacity gap. The Appendix 1: Virtual Library contains the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Report . Stoke-on-Trent also has a Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk

1 currently in Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk

Assessment for its own area which identified those parts of the City which would require Level 2 SFRA should development be considered. This is available in Appendix 1: Virtual Library.

3 The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

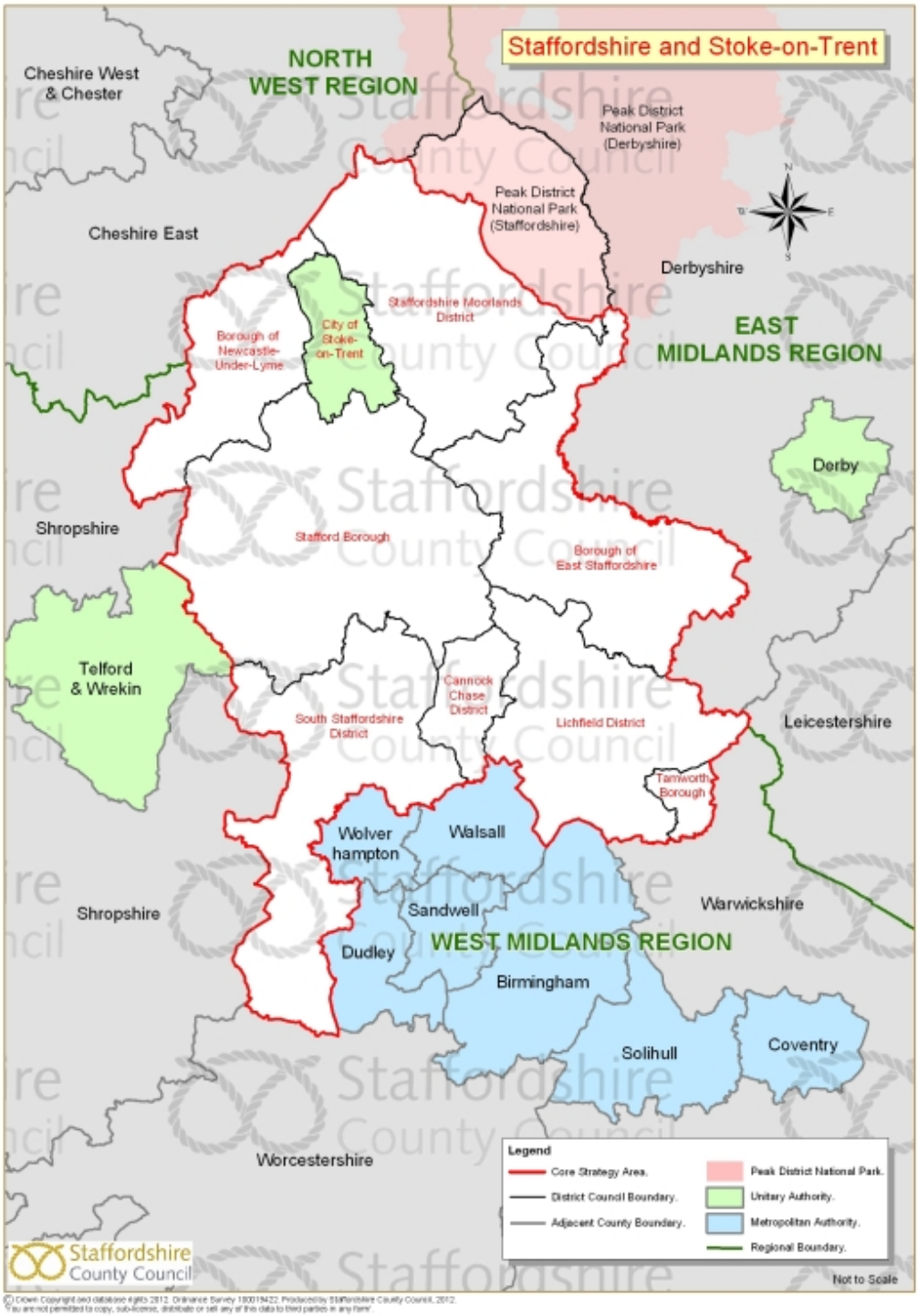
General characteristics

3.1 Staffordshire is within the West Midlands Region and is both a rural and urban county. Approximately 75% of the land area is rural, however, only around one quarter of the population lives in these rural areas. The City of Stoke-on-Trent is situated in the north of Staffordshire and together with Newcastle-under-Lyme forms the North Staffordshire conurbation. This conurbation is recognised as a Major Urban Area (MUA) in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The County is bounded by Cheshire East to the northwest; Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin to the west; Derbyshire to the east and the West Midlands conurbation to the south. The southeast of the County is also bounded by Leicestershire and Warwickshire and to the southwest by Worcestershire. Eight percent (20,673 hectares) of Staffordshire County land area is administered by the Peak District National Park Authority, and is not covered by this Joint Waste Local Plan. Refer to Figure 1 below.

3.2 Eight District Council areas combine to shape Staffordshire's varied environment - Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands and Tamworth. Stoke-on-Trent City Council is a unitary authority bordered by Staffordshire Moorlands to the east, Newcastle-under-Lyme to the west and Stafford to the south. Stoke-on-Trent has been administered separately from the rest of Staffordshire since April 1997. Refer to Figure 1 below.

The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

Figure 1: Location of Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent



Transport Links and Environment

3.3 Located near the geographical centre of the country, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have good transport links. Due to its location, large amounts of road and rail traffic pass through the City and the County. The M6 and M54 motorways; the A38, A449, A50, A34, A5 and A500 trunk roads; and the West Coast Mainline Railway run through the County, accounting for significant

volumes of through traffic, whilst the completion of the M6 Toll has improved access to the southern parts of Staffordshire. The Highways Agency is responsible for the operation and management of these motorways (with the exception of the M6 Toll) and trunk roads, as they form part of England's Strategic Road Network (SRN). References within this Strategy's Objectives and Policies to transportation and highway networks includes the SRN, and, where this is subject to potential impact, the Highways Agency should be consulted as the body responsible on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. Refer to Figure 2 below.

3.4 Our inland waterways are also a key characteristic of the area. Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent contain a number of canals, feeders and reservoirs, some of which are located near to waste sites, however they are mostly Canal Conservation Areas and located within the Green Belt. The presence of the waterways provides opportunities and benefits for the waste industry as a potential freight route for the transit/movement of material and waste by water. Although the scope for transporting freight on waterways may be limited due to the size of the navigations and the available navigation routes, where it is appropriate to move freight by water this option should not be disregarded. Also dredged material and canal excavation material, if treated to prevent land contamination, can be recycled and reprocessed at canal side locations and used as soil material.

3.5 Staffordshire is one of the most important mineral producing counties in England with 59 quarries with permitted reserve. As a consequence landfill capacity has been in abundance in the past. The most significant mineral produced in terms of tonnage is sand and gravel. The 19 permitted clay quarries are however significant in terms of landfill potential. The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent area also contains coal resources, some of which are capable of extraction by surface mining operations. The Coal Authority is keen to ensure that coal resources are not unduly sterilised by new development. There is also the legacy of previous coal mining in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to consider. The Coal Authority require the planning process in coalfield areas to take account of mineral sterilisation and address any land instability issues and/or contamination arising from the coal mining legacy.

3.6 Protection of the environment is a key objective for planning and in Staffordshire there are significant areas of land that are designated to safeguard landscapes; open spaces; and areas of ecological, cultural and geological value: (See detailed maps of designations in Appendix in Site Assessment Report July 2010)

- There are three areas of Green Belt within Staffordshire, which cover around 35% of the County land area. One area surrounds the North Staffordshire Conurbation (37,919 hectares); the second area is north and west of the West Midlands Conurbation (54,387 hectares) and a

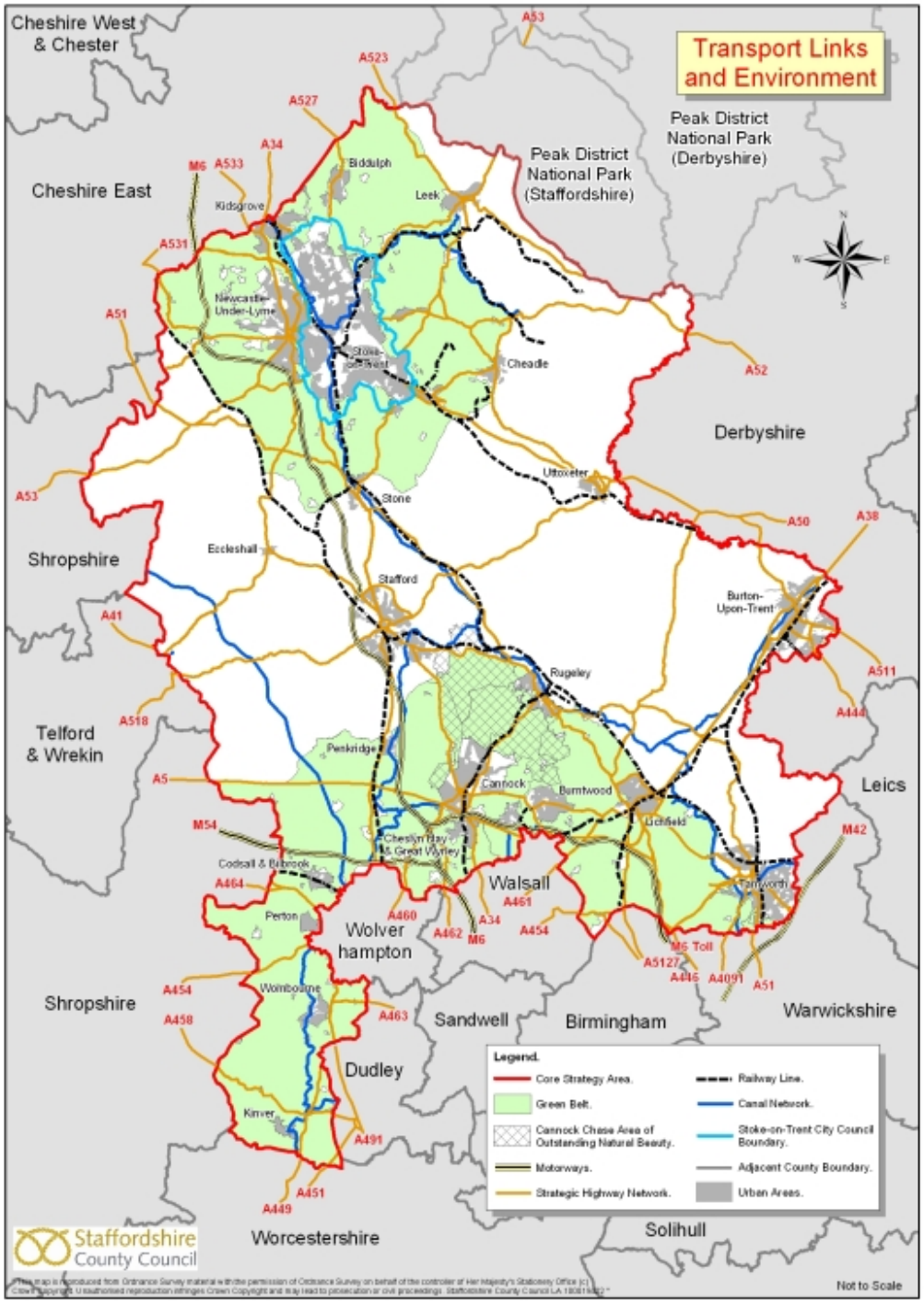
further 39 hectares of Green Belt is located near to Burton-upon-Trent, East Staffordshire (due to extent of this area it cannot be shown on Figure 2).

- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is between Stafford, Cannock and Rugeley and covers an area of 6,905 hectares, approximately 2.5% of the County land area.

- As at March 2010 in Staffordshire there were 74 Sites of Special Scientific Interest based on ecological and/or geological interest, covering approximately 4% of the County land area. There were also 14 international sites of ecological value (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites). There were more than 800 Sites of Biological Importance and 400 Biodiversity Alert Sites; more than 1000 ancient woodland compartments; and 65 Regionally Important Geological Sites. Staffordshire also contains a wealth of heritage assets including 289 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 5,046 Listed Buildings & 159 Conservation Areas.

- In the City of Stoke-on-Trent, as at March 2010, there were 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; 40 Local Wildlife Sites; 2 Ancient Woodland compartments and 3 Regionally Important Geological Sites. With regard to the historic environment, there are 5 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 192 Listed Buildings & 23 Conservation Areas.

Figure 2: Transport links and the environment in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent



The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

Demographic Profile

3.7 Population increases and increased housing will inevitably result in an increase in the amount of waste generated even with the drive towards measures which reduce waste production and disposal.

3.8 In 2009 Staffordshire had a population of 828,700 and the population of Stoke-on-Trent was 238,900. [(1)] At a district level, the highest populations are found within the Boroughs of Stafford and Newcastle-under-Lyme. The population is growing, and by 2026 it is predicted that up to 909,100 people will be living in Staffordshire and 254,600 in Stoke-on-Trent. [(2)] By 2033 the population in Staffordshire will be in the region of 912,800, this equates to a growth of around 10.4% over the 2008 to 2033 period. The predicted growth in population is unlikely to be distributed evenly throughout Staffordshire, with Lichfield, East Staffordshire and Stafford districts expected to experience the greatest percentage increases in total population. Population growth is expected to be particularly strong among older people. [(3)]

3.9 At the 2001 Census, the total number of households in Staffordshire was 338,005. [(4)] Between 2006 and 2026, projections suggest that the total number of households in Staffordshire County will rise by some 65,000 to a figure of 409,000 households. [(5)]

3.10 Stoke-on-Trent has an adopted Core Spatial Strategy in place which was prepared jointly with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. The document outlines the proposed growth levels for both authorities in the period to 2026. In terms of pure housing numbers it is expected that there will be a minimum of 5,700 houses (net) for Newcastle-under-Lyme and 11,400 (net) for Stoke-on-Trent.

3.11 Outside of the North Staffordshire conurbation no other Local Development Framework Local Plan has currently been adopted and, given the Government's intention to abolish regional housing targets, there is uncertainty over the intended levels of housing and employment proposals in the other remaining districts, and over the associated implications for waste activities. The Phase 2 Review of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy indicates that the most significant levels of housing development are likely to be seen in the districts of East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Stafford. Burton upon Trent and Stafford have been proposed as settlements of significant development within the Phase 2 Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy, and these towns were also nominated as 'growth points' by the previous Government. It is assumed

1 ONS, 2009 Mid Year Estimates.
2 ONS, 2006 Based Sub-National Population Projections
3 ONS, 2008 Based Sub-National Population Projections.
4 2001 Census.
5 Department for Communities and Local Government, 2006 based sub-regional household projections.

that this designation will now be under review, however the eight Local Planning Authorities, through stakeholder meetings to discuss the Joint Waste Local Plan, have confirmed that their Local Development Framework Core Strategies are still being based on the regional housing targets. (Appendix 1: Virtual Library provides a Background Paper on broad locations).

Economy

3.12 In most recent years, the economy of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has seen a shift away from primary industries towards a manufacturing, distribution and service led economy. There are around 325,200 employee jobs in Staffordshire County [(6)], with the main sectors being Public Administration, Education and Health (26.1%) and Distribution, Hotels and Catering (24.8%). Manufacturing, accounting for 14.5% of the local economy, is more important to the Staffordshire economy than for Great Britain overall (10.6% of total employee jobs). This has resulted in a major change in the composition of waste generated by the commercial and industrial sector.

3.13 For further contextual information refer to the Staffordshire Annual Monitoring Reports and Stoke-on-Trent Annual Monitoring Report.

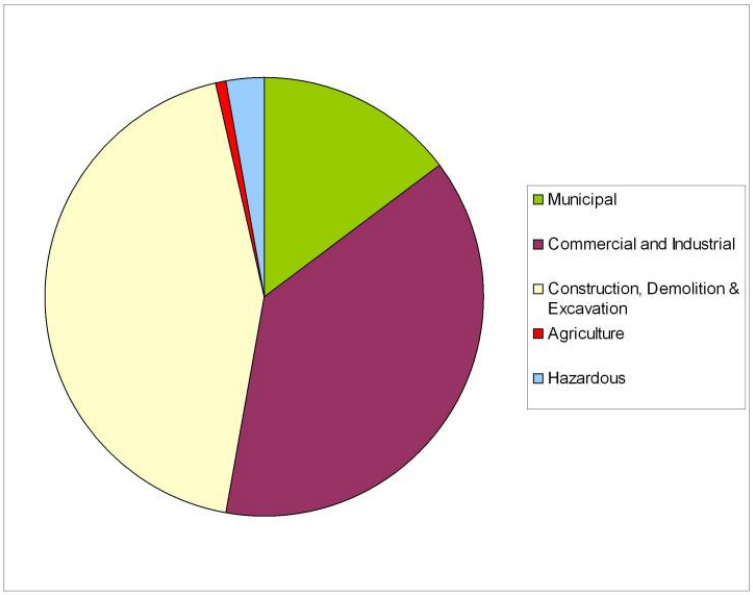
Production of waste- types and quantities

3.14 Currently available estimates indicate that Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent produce around 4.2 million tonnes of waste each year. A summary of estimates for each type of waste stream and the split between Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, is produced in Table 17 of Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables. The majority of waste is generated from construction, demolition, commercial and industrial activities, with municipal waste (MSW), mainly from households, making up less than 15% of the total waste amount.

6 ONS/NOMIS, Annual Business Inquiry 2007)

The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

Figure 3: Estimated controlled Waste Arisings in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent



3.15 Construction, demolition and excavation (CD&E) waste accounts for 44% of the total waste arisings in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and as this is mainly clean/inert material, it is often used in quarries for restoration purposes. Due to increasing transport costs and landfill tax, this waste stream is increasingly processed and re-used on site whenever possible, or used for agricultural improvements, landscaping or engineering purposes e.g. re-profiling golf courses.

3.16 Commercial and industrial (C&I) waste accounts for 39% of the total waste arisings, two thirds of the waste is from industrial sources, one third from commercial sources, however given the national trend of declining industry and expanding service sectors the future may see a reduction in the above industry/ commerce divide.

3.17 The latest national survey for C&I waste arisings **(7)** which reports the results of a 2009 survey at a regional level, estimates that for the West Midlands 5,248,000 tonnes of C&I waste was produced (11% of the national total). This represents a decrease of approximately 28% from the previous survey in 2002/3. Nationally the proportion of C&I waste landfilled had fallen from 41% to 23%, and in the West Midlands 26% of the C&I waste was landfilled. In May 2010 a report **(8)** commissioned to examine the anticipated C&I waste infrastructure capacity gap in the West Midlands, concluded that there is a significant opportunity to increase recovery rates for plastic and food, and with

7 2009 C&I Survey published by Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in December 2010

8 'C&I Waste - Opportunities for Recycling and Recovery' commissioned by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and delivered by Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), published May 2010

increased segregation at source this can be also be said for glass and paper and card. Without investment in new facilities the capacity gap identified is expected to grow.

3.18 Hazardous waste accounts for less than 3% of the total controlled waste arisings in the area. Data[9] indicates that 11,700 tonnes, 10% out of the total of hazardous waste arisings in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is recycled, treated or disposed of locally, with the rest being sent for treatment elsewhere outside of the plan area. Within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, there are 47 existing waste management facilities licensed to handle hazardous waste, the majority of which are waste transfer facilities, however, there is one landfill site in the county (Meece Landfill in Stafford Borough) with planning permission to accept hazardous waste.

3.19 Agricultural waste arisings account for only 0.2% of total controlled waste arisings in the area however information on agricultural waste arisings and management requirements are currently limited.

Waste management facilities and their location

3.20 Available information at 1 May 2012 indicates that there are currently 268 permitted waste management facilities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent which are classified as operational or known to be pre-operational (i.e. with planning permission but which has not yet been implemented). Appendix 5: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Infrastructure at May 2012 provides a schedule of waste management facilities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and illustrates their location. Tables 18 and 19 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables also provide information on the number, type and permitted capacity of existing waste management facilities.

3.21 The facilities tend to cluster around the main towns, i.e. close to where the majority of waste is generated. Facilities are wide ranging in terms of the type of waste they handle, processes used and the size/capacity of the operation. Typical facilities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent vary considerably from open-windrow composting facilities, small metal recycling sites and small waste transfer stations to large Anaerobic Digestion facilities, large Energy Recovery Facilities, and large landfill sites for inert and non-hazardous waste streams and even a landfill site with permission to accept hazardous waste. Many small waste transfer facilities have been in operation for a number of years and were perhaps less restricted through the planning and licensing system operating at the time when they became operational. As a consequence there are a number of facilities that carry out much of their operations in the open-air. As new planning applications are considered at existing facilities, it is important that enclosed waste management facilities are encouraged, environmental standards are met, environmental, social and economic impacts are minimised including the avoidance of adverse cumulative impact, the recovery of waste

9 EA, 2008 Hazardous Waste Interrogator

is maximised and high quality design is promoted. In recent years we have seen a number of planning applications for waste transfer stations incorporating an element of recycling on-site, and for open-windrow composting sites to enclose their operations and accept food waste in addition to green waste. Refer to Staffordshire Annual Monitoring Reports in Appendix 1: Virtual Library.

Cross border movement of waste

3.22 Whilst the majority of municipal waste from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is managed in the plan area, a proportion is exported as indicated by the following examples:

- Most biodegradable garden waste is composted in Staffordshire, however, co-mingled food and green waste is currently managed at in-vessel composting facilities at Etwall and Ashbourne, Derbyshire, in addition to the in-vessel composting facility in South Staffordshire.
- The household waste recycling centre in North Warwickshire also serves the Tamworth area.
- There is also a joint contract for the Waste Collection Authorities in the south of the county to send municipal co-mingled dry recyclables to the Biffa material recycling facility in Aldridge, which then distributes the segregated materials all over the UK for reprocessing.

3.23 Staffordshire receives imports of municipal waste for management from neighbouring authorities, particularly the West Midlands conurbation as illustrated by the following examples:

- Municipal waste from the West Midlands conurbation, Warwickshire and Worcestershire is also imported to Staffordshire for disposal in landfill sites. Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils have contracts in place to dispose of bulky residual waste to Cannock (Poplars landfill).
- Part of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's residual municipal waste is currently dealt with at the Energy Recovery Facility at Hanford Stoke-on-Trent. The new Energy Recovery Facility at Four Ashes, South Staffordshire, once operational will also deal with residual municipal waste from southern Staffordshire. The Four Ashes facility will also receive residual municipal waste from Walsall, Sandwell and parts of Warwickshire.
- Birmingham City Council's municipal co-mingled dry recyclables are sorted at a material recycling facility at Four Ashes in South Staffordshire and then distributed to accredited reprocessors all over the UK.

- Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils have contracts in place to manage green garden waste at open-windrow composting facilities in the south of the county (Coven, Shareshill, Wall, and Cannock) and the in-vessel composting facility in the south of the county (Shareshill).

- Wolverhampton City Council has contracts in place for food waste to be taken to the anaerobic digestion site in the west of the county (Lower Reule) and asbestos to a treatment facility at Four Ashes in South Staffordshire. Dudley Council has contracts in place for the treatment of car oil at Cannock.

3.24 It should be noted that municipal waste management arrangements are subject to change as short-term contracts are re-negotiated. The current tonnage of municipal imports involved is however considered much greater than Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's exports of municipal waste.

3.25 In addition to municipal waste, Staffordshire receives commercial and industrial waste from Warwickshire and the West Midlands conurbation particularly for disposal to landfill, and for example the treatment of food waste at the 120,000 tonnes per annum Anaerobic Digestion facility at Cannock. Construction, demolition and excavation waste from the West Midlands conurbation is also recycled at facilities in the south of the county or used for the purposes of mineral restoration.

3.26 Imports of waste into waste facilities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent regulated by the Environment Agency far exceeds exports from these sites. In 2010, total exports from the plan area were just less than 400,000 tonnes whereas imports, mainly to landfill sites in the plan area, were 1.2 million tonnes, a net difference of just over 860,000 tonnes. **(10)** This demonstrates that the plan area is not dependent on any other area for its waste management needs; however waste still crosses the boundary for treatment due to market conditions.

3.27 From now until 2026, it is anticipated that the rate of diversion from landfill will increase, as a result of the landfill tax escalator and gate fees (refer to 'Glossary'), and less waste will be disposed of in landfill sites. Neighbouring authorities that currently rely on landfill sites in Staffordshire, are also anticipated to move away from landfilling waste and this in turn will reduce the demand for landfill capacity available in Staffordshire.

10 Waste Data Interrogator, Environment Agency

Future facility need

3.28 The Localism Act is due to remove the regional plan making tier. Nevertheless, the evidence base supporting the Joint Waste Local Plan is based on much of the regional waste policy evidence base, gathered when the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Review was taking place (Refer to 'Glossary'). The Review reached examination stage and a report was published in September 2009. This evidence is considered to be the most up to date source of data waste forecasts as each of the Local Planning Authorities within the Plan area have confirmed that their emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategies are still being based on the regional housing targets. Account can therefore still be taken of the draft regional policies relating to waste which apportion the minimum tonnages of municipal (MSW) and commercial and industrial (C&I) waste requiring management to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent sub-region.

3.29 Future quantities of MSW, and C&I waste are forecast to exceed 3 million tonnes per annum by 2026 and draft regional policy W2 provides the targets of 2.3 million tonnes requiring treatment and a maximum of 0.7 million tonnes 'allowed' to be sent to landfill. This is based on minimum landfill diversion targets and maximum landfilling targets as a percentage of total MSW and as a percentage of total C&I waste (80% landfill diversion of MSW by 2020 and 75% landfill diversion of C&I by 2020). (Refer to Table 20 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables). With regard to construction, demolition and excavation waste (CD&E waste), production of this waste stream in the plan area is forecast to decrease from 1.8 million tonnes at 2010/11 to 1.3 million tonnes by 2025/26. 0.07 million tonnes is projected to be landfilled. **(11)** (Refer to Table 21 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables).

3.30 Work has been undertaken at a local level to examine the evidence base in relation to the waste apportionment for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent as identified in the RSS Phase 2 Review. The annual waste treatment requirement of diversion of MSW and C&I waste from landfill has been split into the three broad types of waste management: recycling, organic treatment and residual treatment. Based on the regional targets and tonnages, and permitted waste management capacity at 1 May 2012, future facility/capacity need in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has been calculated (Refer to Table 22 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables). The analysis concludes that there is a small capacity gap for recycling and additional capacity is required by 2020/21 of 2,000 tonnes per annum. If however no facilities and subsequent recycling capacity are permitted during the period up to 2020, additional recycling capacity of 11,000 tonnes per annum would be required by 2025/26). There is however sufficient organic and residual treatment capacity at May 2012 in

11 The most up to date source of data on CD&E forecasts is the '2009 Update West Midlands Landfill Capacity Study' by Scott Wilson which was produced as background evidence for the RSS Phase 2 Review. Refer to Appendix C –Scenario 1 WMRSS adjusted for economic impact).

order to meet the minimum landfill diversion tonnages of MSW and C&I at 2026 and allow still for the current contractual arrangements importing municipal waste from the authorities in the West Midlands conurbation for management in Staffordshire. If we are however to reduce the export of our MSW to adjoining authorities, additional recycling and organic treatment facilities would be required. If imports are to reduce then adjoining authorities need to plan for additional facilities and we need to reduce our existing and future landfill capacity.

3.31 As the landfill diversion targets of the draft regional policies are minimum targets, given European drivers to reduce the landfill of waste and manage waste higher up the "Waste Hierarchy", and given the minimal capacity requirements to achieve the RSS targets, it is considered appropriate to base a strategy and targets for additional waste infrastructure on the application of more ambitious landfill diversion targets to the regional waste forecasts. As the target for the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 (MWMS) is 'zero (municipal) waste to (primary) landfill by 2020, it seems reasonable to take the same approach for commercial and industrial waste by 2020. In order to achieve this trajectory, landfill diversion rates of 95% are proposed at 2015/16 to the regional waste forecasts for MSW and C&I waste. Refer to Table 23 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables. In the case of MSW the zero waste to landfill ambition is reliant on 50% of all MSW being recycled and composted (equivalent to 55% of household waste) and 50% being recovered. Also as is the case with the MWMS, despite the 100% landfill diversion target, an assumption needs to be made that a quantity of residual MSW and C&I waste will still be sent for disposal at an appropriately licensed landfill. This is because small quantities of non-recyclable, non-recoverable or hazardous materials (e.g. fly ash or rejects) will remain after the recycling, organic treatment or recovery processes. The MWMS labels this as 'secondary landfill' and estimates that it amounts to about 10% of overall MSW generated in the plan area. There is no reason to believe that the proportion will be significantly different for C&I waste, so we would expect that at least 10% of overall C&I generated in the plan area will need to be sent to 'secondary landfill' after initial processing. It should also be noted that the primary destination for management of asbestos remains as disposal to landfill in order to comply with waste regulations. As the quantities of this type of waste arising is so small, it is included in the 'secondary landfill' category. Table 24 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables calculates the new waste capacity requirements for MSW and C&I waste in line with the revised local landfill diversion targets. This analysis concludes that there is a capacity gap for recycling and additional capacity is required by 2020/21 of 380,000 tonnes per annum. If however no facilities and subsequent recycling capacity is permitted during the period up to 2020, additional recycling capacity of 389,000 tonnes per annum would be required by 2025/26. Table 24 and also Table 25 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables form the basis of Policy 2: Targets and broad locations for waste management facilities. Refer also to Revised Evidence Base Report for Policy 2.1 and Policy

2.2 (June 2012) which updates Evidence Base Report 2 - Managing Municipal and Commercial and Industrial waste, and, Evidence Base Report 3 - Managing Construction, Demolition and Excavation waste in Appendix 1: Virtual Library.

3.32 Growth predictions for construction, demolition & excavation (CD&E) waste are shown in Table 25 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables. CD&E waste production is predicted to decline from 1.8 million tonnes at 2010/11 to 1.3 million tonnes by 2025/26. No targets for recovery of CD&E waste were proposed in the RSS Phase 2 Review. The European Waste Framework Directive (WFD) however sets a target to recover at least 70% of construction and demolition waste by 2020. The Government's Review of Waste Policy 2011 highlights this WFD target. Given the uncertainties relating to the data for this waste stream, it is difficult to predict a requirement for additional fixed throughput recovery capacity. It is however suggested that an 'aspiration' target of 200,000 tonnes per annum of additional recycling capacity required by 2020 is considered reasonable in view of the WFD target, data on existing recycling capacity and trends in CD&E waste production.

3.33 In relation to landfill and void capacity, there are 21 permitted landfill sites, 10 of which are currently operational and evidence suggests that currently, based on forecasts for waste produced in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, there is sufficient void capacity over the next 15 years to accommodate the 'secondary' landfill of MSW and C&I waste, and the disposal of CD&E waste to restore mineral sites. There is no evidence of a requirement "to meet specific local circumstance"[(12)]. (Refer to Tables 19 and 26 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables, Evidence Base Report 4 - Maintaining Landfill Capacity, and Revised Evidence Base Report for Policy 2.1 and Policy 2.2 (June 2012) in Appendix 1: Virtual Library). Evidence also indicates that due to the many mineral extraction sites, Staffordshire has been providing landfill capacity to neighbouring authorities for many years, and concludes that for non hazardous waste there is likely to be capacity to receive 'imports' because of the capacity available at planning obligated sites i.e. mineral sites with planning permission that permits restoration by landfill. Whilst this pattern is likely to continue, the timely restoration of mineral sites in the plan area will become an increasing issue due to the declining availability of waste. The Minerals Local Plan will need to review the amount of future mineral extraction required in the county and for existing and future sites to be reliant on landfill to secure adequate restoration. One of the key issues to address will be identifying alternative restoration plans and designing out backfill involving the disposal of waste. Opportunities will also need to be taken when they arise when the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority determines applications to extend sites or consolidate planning permissions, to negotiate revised restoration schemes that are not so dependent on backfilling with waste.

12 Requirement of RSS Phase 2 Review Policy W11 'New Sites for Landfill'

3.34 Irrespective of our ambition to increase diversion from landfill, proposals which will deliver economic growth and manage waste higher up the waste hierarchy should be given favourable consideration if they meet the requirements of all the policies of the Local Plan. In particular opportunities to provide for / encourage the formation of waste synergies, for example through the creation of resource recovery parks or combined heat and power should be considered.

The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

For Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to be able to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount generated in the area, the current requirements, as at 1 May 2012,for additional waste management facilities and capacity are:

- Additional recycling capacity for municipal and commercial and industrial waste (380,000 tonnes per annum is required by 2020/21 or 389,000 tonnes per annum by 2025/26, to reduce the export particularly of municipal co-mingled dry recyclables).(Refer to Revised Evidence Base Report for Policy 2.1 and Policy 2.2 (June 2012), which updates Evidence Base Report 2 - Managing Municipal and Commercial and Industrial waste in Appendix 1: Virtual Library);

- Additional organic treatment capacity for treating co-collected municipal green and kitchen waste, to meet aspirations of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy (November 2007) and reduce the export of this waste stream (60,000 - 80,000 tonnes per annum required by 2020);

- There are no targets for management of hazardous waste set at the national and regional level, and it was not considered possible to set targets for additional facilities and capacity for managing this waste stream. The RSS Phase 2 Revision does however require this Joint Waste Local Plan to support the regeneration of the North Staffordshire conurbation by giving specific priority to identifying new sites, particularly in or close to the conurbation, for facilities to store, treat and remediate contaminated soils arising from the redevelopment of 'brownfield sites'.(Refer to Evidence Base Report 3 - Managing Construction, Demolition and Excavation waste in Appendix 1: Virtual Library);

- For construction, demolition and excavation waste, given the uncertainties relating to the data for this waste stream, it is difficult to predict a requirement for additional fixed throughput capacity. To assist the Joint Waste Local Plan, it is however suggested that an "aspiration" target of 200,000 tonnes per annum of additional recycling capacity by 2020 is considered reasonable in view of data and trends to achieve the revised European Waste Framework Directive target to recover at least 70% of CD&E waste, (Refer to Revised Evidence Base Report for Policy 2.1 and Policy 2.2 (June 2012), which updates Evidence Base Report 3 - Managing Construction, Demolition and Excavation waste in Appendix 1: Virtual Library).

- There are no targets for management of low level radioactive waste set at the national and regional level, and it was not considered possible to set targets for managing this waste stream.

- There are no targets for management of sewage and water waste. Severn Trent Water, the major water company offering a sewage service in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, has confirmed that they have no immediate

plans or need for significant investment in waste water treatment facilities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent for the next 5 years cycle of the Asset Management Plan process .(Refer to Evidence Base Report 5 - Managing Hazardous Waste, Radioactive Waste, Agricultural Waste and Sewage and Water Waste in Appendix 1: Virtual Library).

In order to maintain the network of waste management facilities, so that we can continue to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount generated in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and reduce the need over the time period of this Local Plan to plan for replacement waste management capacity and additional facilities to those listed in the schedule in Appendix 5: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Infrastructure at May 2012, awareness of the existence of the 268 existing waste management facilities needs to be raised with Local Planning Authorities so that proposals for non waste related developments do not restrict or constrain permitted activities or future developments at these facilities which would allow for their expansion and environmental improvement.

3.35 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007), which has informed the Joint Waste Local Plan, is to be reviewed in 2012. Having secured the residual treatment facility at Four Ashes, the Waste Disposal Authority and Waste Collection Authorities have now provided a list of their priorities, as at April 2011. (Refer to Table 27 in Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables) . It is considered that these priorities represent non-strategic facilities that could be accommodated through the normal planning application process and do not require a specific strategic site allocation in the Joint Waste Local Plan.

Key issues

3.36 Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, acting as Waste Planning Authorities, (hereafter referred to as 'We'), have:

- Considered the evidence relating to the waste produced within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ('our waste');
- Considered the evidence relating to the waste managed by the network of waste management facilities across the County and City ('our waste infrastructure');
- Taken account of national strategies, policies and guidance including policy objectives to manage waste more sustainably; and
- Taken account of the comments received from previous consultations.

3.37 Based on the work listed above we have identified the following four key issues:

The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

Issue 1: We need to take steps to minimise the negative effects of waste management on climate change by:

- **Working towards a zero waste society with greater resource efficiency and supporting, insofar as we are able, initiatives that help us to move towards improved recycling rates;**
- **Encouraging waste operators to treat waste further up the "Waste Hierarchy";**
- **Continuing to reduce our reliance and use of landfill; and**
- **Using our influence in the planning process to encourage, insofar as we are able, resource efficiency during demolition, construction and use of new buildings.**

Linked Strategic Objectives: 1 & 2

Linked Policies: 1, 2, 3, 4

Evidence: Staffordshire County Council Climate Change report; Stoke-on-Trent City Council Sustainability and Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document. Revised EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) - the full definition of each level of the waste hierarchy is set out in Article 3; PPS10 (note paragraph 1 and Annex C has been updated by a letter from the Chief Planning Officer dated 31 March 2011 to ensure that it incorporates the new waste hierarchy set out in the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC); Municipal Waste Management Strategy (Nov 2007).

Issue 2:

We must continue to take responsibility for managing the waste we generate by ensuring we have the facilities and capacity to manage an amount of waste at least equivalent to that generated within our areas.

We need to increase the diversion of waste from landfill by:

- **Maintaining the existing capacity of our non landfill related waste infrastructure;**
- **Reducing our reliance on landfill and void capacity;**
- **Supporting proposals for new and enhanced waste management facilities to develop our waste infrastructure where it can be shown to be sustainable and presents an opportunity to contribute to our local economy; and**
- **Working in co-operation with adjoining authorities**

We also need to continue to encourage waste operators to increase their capacity to recycle additional construction, demolition and excavation waste to conserve our mineral resources.

Linked Strategic Objective: 2

Linked Policies: 2, 3

Evidence: Evidence Base Reports 1 - 5; Municipal Waste Management Strategy (Nov 2007);National Infrastructure Plan (October 2010); 'Planning for Growth' Ministerial Statement (March 2011); LEPs.

The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'

Issue 3: Some of our waste infrastructure does not meet modern design standards. We need to encourage waste operators to raise the standard of our waste infrastructure by:

- **Ensuring new waste management facilities meet modern design standards; and**
- **Supporting proposals to improve the quality of existing waste management facilities, as they are developed, to keep pace with the requirements of legislation and meet modern design standards.**

Linked Strategic Objective: 3

Linked Policies: 3, 4

Evidence: Evidence Base Report 1; Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11; National standards – DEFRA/CABE ; and Stoke-on-Trent City Council Urban Design SPD

Issue 4: In order to provide sufficient opportunities for our waste infrastructure to develop the right type of facilities, in the right place and at the right time, we need to ensure that proposals:

- **Make a positive contribution to people's lives, by helping to deliver jobs, economic growth, and better opportunities for all;**
- **Protect and/or enhance the natural, historic and water environments and conserve the countryside and open spaces that are vital resources for everyone; and**
- **Address the legitimate concerns and interests of local communities and businesses, particularly on human health issues**

Linked Strategic Objective: 4

Linked Policy: 4

Evidence: Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Core Spatial Strategy (which sets out development levels and patterns which will effect locations of housing, employment etc); Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Employment Land Review; Other Local Planning Authority LDFs and Employment Land Reviews; Local Transport Plan; Revised EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC); Spatial Portrait. LEPs. National Infrastructure Plan (October 2010); 'Planning for Growth' Ministerial Statement (March 2011).

4 The Vision and Strategic Objectives: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2026'

The Vision

4.1 The Joint Waste Local Plan provides a new Vision for managing our waste and the development of our waste infrastructure for the period to 2026. The outcomes identified in the Vision address the four Key Issues identified in Section 3: The Spatial Portrait.

Vision

By 2026 the people and businesses of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will be actively minimising waste and regarding waste as a resource.

To support this, 'our waste infrastructure' will comprise a network of existing, enhanced and new sustainable waste management facilities that are in the right place to contribute to the local economy, and to minimise and/or mitigate any impacts on climate change, people, transportation systems, and the built, natural, historic and water environment.

More specifically 'our waste infrastructure' will:

- Have the capacity to manage an amount of waste at least equivalent to the amount we generate. This capacity will be higher up the “waste hierarchy” so that we can minimise our reliance on and use of landfill. In order to maintain this capacity, we will have used our planning powers where necessary to try to protect our waste infrastructure from constraints that may be imposed by non-waste related development in the vicinity;

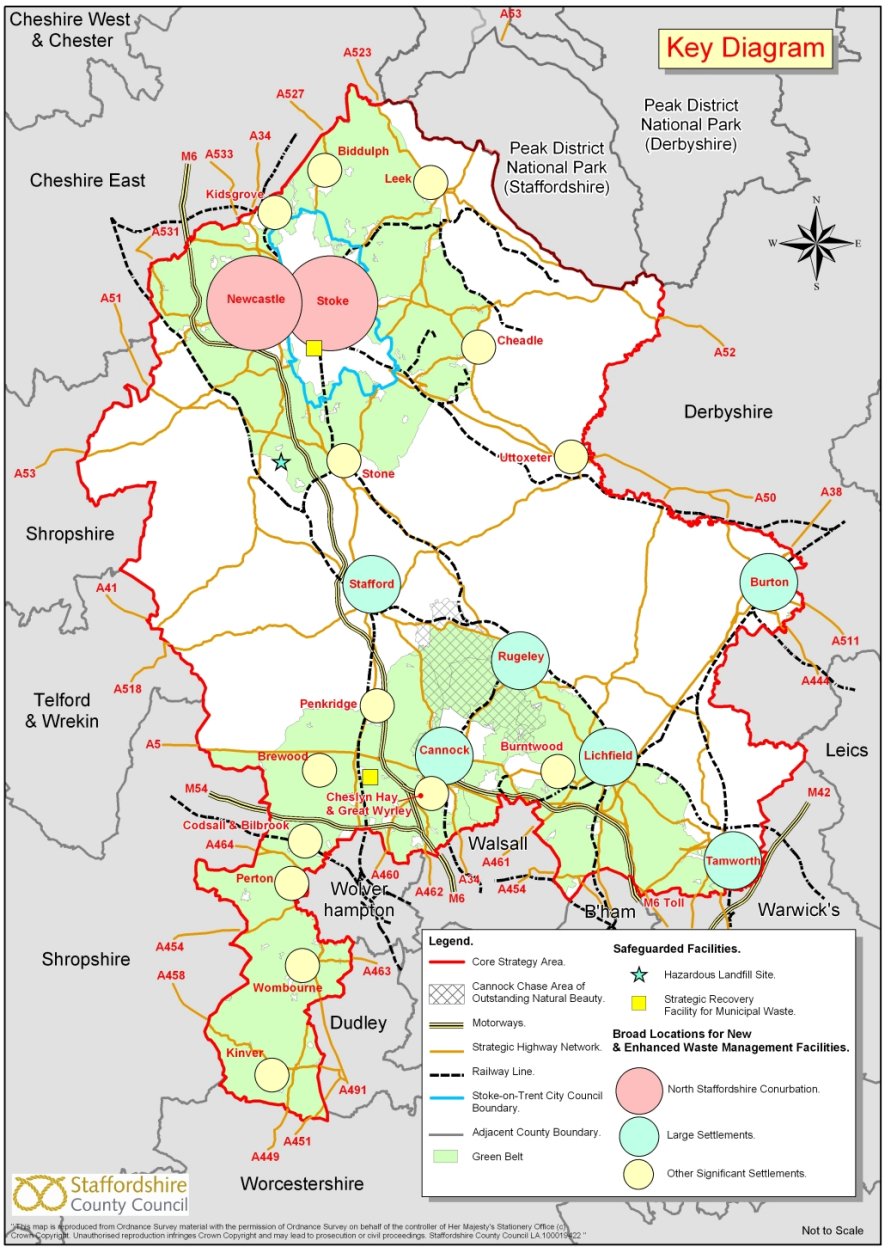
- Be located close to the main urban areas, as far as practicable, to minimise the impacts of transporting waste and recycled materials; and,

- Meet modern design standards and, wherever practicable and environmentally acceptable, be located within buildings or enclosed structures appropriate to the technology or process, on general industrial or previously developed land.

Key Diagram

4.2 The following diagram illustrates the key aspects of the proposed spatial strategy in terms of the location of new and enhanced waste management facilities and existing strategic facilities to be safeguarded:

Figure 4: Key Diagram



The Vision and Strategic Objectives: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2026'

Strategic Objectives

4.3 The way in which the outcomes of the vision are to be achieved is explained by a set of four Strategic Objectives as listed below:

Strategic Objective 1: To support new waste development that helps minimise greenhouse gas emissions and incorporates appropriate measures to mitigate and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by permitting facilities/infrastructure that:

- **Maximise use of waste as a resource;**
- **Increase diversion of waste from landfill through restricting new landfill proposals and encouraging new and enhanced waste management facilities involving treatment further up the "waste hierarchy";**
- **Make a contribution towards secure renewable energy supplies where recycling is not viable.**

And to influence the development process by encouraging resource efficiency in the demolition, construction and the use of new buildings.

Linked Key Issue: 1

Linked Policies: 1, 2, 3, & 4

4.4 This objective is consistent with national policy (NPPF Section10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change) and national planning objectives for waste (PPS10 paragraph 3) recognising the "Waste Hierarchy", communities taking more responsibility for their own waste and developers taking account of waste produced by new development (PPS10 paragraph 36). The objective is also consistent with the National Infrastructure Plan (October 2010) and is a priority in Staffordshire County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2023, Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy, the County Council's Strategic Plan and in the Stoke-on-Trent City Council's adopted Local Plan. Climate Change impacts can be reduced by ensuring that facilities are designed, located, constructed and operated in a way that:

- Minimises their impact on climate change through reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Increases their resilience to changes in weather (e.g. avoiding locations liable to flooding and incorporating sustainable drainage systems).

Strategic Objective 2: To encourage the maintenance of the network of new or enhanced sustainable waste management facilities ('our waste infrastructure') so that we can continue to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount we generate ('our waste'). In addition, to support the development of new waste treatment facilities so that we can reduce our reliance on and use of landfill, and conserve our mineral resources by:

- **Permitting waste recycling and recovery facilities in appropriate locations;**
- **Monitoring the capacity of our waste infrastructure and comparing that data with surveys that tell us how much waste we are generating and forecasts that tell us how much waste we are likely to generate in the future; and,**
- **Taking steps where necessary to protect/safeguard our waste infrastructure so that it is not unnecessarily constrained by non-waste related development in the vicinity.**

Linked Key Issue: 2

Linked Policies: 2, & 3

4.5 This objective is based on the national planning objectives for waste ensuring that there is a sufficient provision of facilities to meet the needs of communities (PPS10 paragraph 3). It also reflects a priority for the County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2023, the Strategic Plan 2011 - 2016 and the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. As well as reflecting national policy for waste, this objective is based on national policy for aggregates supply (Annex 1 to MPS1) which is to encourage the greatest possible use of alternatives to aggregates supply; a priority of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2023. Account is also taken of national waste policy where the impact of non waste related development on existing waste management facilities should be carefully considered (PPS10 paragraph 33). Also, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 35) requires every local planning authority to produce an Annual Monitoring Report each year, and this will contain information on monitoring results of the implementation and effectiveness of waste policy in respect of national, regional and local policy targets and in respect of social, environmental and economic objectives. Developing a monitoring system is a key means of assessing the effectiveness of whether the spatial vision, and objectives of the Joint Waste Local Plan are being delivered.

4.6 We need to maintain and develop our waste infrastructure if we are to continue to manage our waste (treat an amount of waste equivalent to that generated within our area). The various types of facility that make up our waste infrastructure have a role to play but in combination provide the capacity we need to manage our waste. This currently includes landfill capacity albeit that our reliance on it is continuing to decline. Non-waste related developments within the vicinity of existing waste management facilities can restrict their future development and constrain their ability to continue to provide essential services and therefore can prejudice the implementation of the Joint Waste Local Plan. It may sometimes be necessary to take steps to safeguard sites, as well as some landfill capacity (hazardous), and the Energy Recovery Facilities used for the recovery of municipal waste in order to meet the requirements of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy (November 2007). This should be backed by the development of additional treatment capacity, and expansion of appropriate existing waste management facilities to meet the needs of our businesses and communities to re-use, recycle, compost or reprocess waste, or to generate low-carbon energy from the waste they generate, thereby minimising residue sent to landfill. In order to conserve mineral resources and reduce the reliance on primary aggregates, there is also a particular need to develop facilities capable of producing high quality recycled aggregates from construction, demolition and excavation waste, and to encourage resource efficient construction techniques.

Strategic Objective 3: To encourage appropriate siting and modern design standards and provide opportunities to enhance existing waste management facilities by:

- **Supporting new waste management facilities that, wherever practicable and environmentally acceptable, treat waste close to the main urban areas, within buildings or enclosed structures appropriate to the technology or process, and are located on general industrial or previously developed land; and,**
- **Supporting proposals to improve the environmental quality of existing waste management facilities when development opportunities arise.**

Linked Key Issues: 3

Linked Policies: 3, & 4

4.7 Good design is recognised in national policy (NPPF paragraphs 56 - 68 and PPS10 paragraph 36) and is subject to guidance produced jointly by the Government and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE, who have now joined with the Design Council). (Refer to document in Appendix 1: Virtual Library). This objective continues the aims of saved

'Waste Local Plan Policy 14:*Waste Treatment Facilities within buildings and in the open air*', to secure higher environmental standards for the management of waste and to minimise the impact on adjoining land-uses. This objective aims to site facilities in the right location and improve the overall quality of our waste infrastructure by encouraging waste management facilities to be fully contained within buildings or enclosed structures wherever practicable and environmentally acceptable.

Strategic Objective 4: To support job creation, economic growth and investment in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by providing sufficient opportunities to develop new waste management infrastructure of the right type, in the right place and at the right time, and by minimising and mitigating any adverse impacts and avoiding any unacceptable impacts paying particular attention to assessing the suitability of sites in terms of:

- **The physical and environmental constraints on development, including existing and allocated neighbouring land uses;**
- **The cumulative effect of previous waste disposal facilities on the well-being of the local community, including any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential; and,**
- **The capacity of the transport infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of waste, and recovered materials, seeking when practicable, environmentally acceptable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport.**

Linked Key Issue: 4

Linked Policies: 4

4.8 'Planning for Growth' Ministerial Statement (March 2011) supports development that secures economic growth except where this would compromise the principles of sustainable development. The National Infrastructure Plan (October 2010) seeks to support investment through national infrastructure to create the conditions for enterprise to flourish and supports the management of waste in accordance with the "waste hierarchy". National policy for waste seeks to prevent harm to the environment and protect human health. This is a key part of the overall national objective for waste planning, accepting that the day to day control of pollution associated with waste operations is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The principles of the European Landscape Convention are also relevant and environmental protection also

reflects a priority for the County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2023. Preserving the quality and character of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent therefore involve:

- Protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment, including the historic environment, biodiversity and geodiversity and ensuring that the water environment is properly protected from adverse impacts, and where possible is improved through this strategy being implemented. In particular waste management developments should be prevented that might adversely affect the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Peak District National Park and other international and national designated areas, and inappropriate forms of waste management development should be prevented in the Green Belt and the countryside. Waste management developments should also be avoided in the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b) and away from water bodies which are particularly sensitive to pollution (ground water abstraction points and associated Source Protection Zone 1).

- Ensuring that the general amenity, health, well being and safety of people and communities are not seriously harmed and are taken into account when considering new proposals and monitoring existing waste management facilities; and

- Reducing the need to transport waste long distances for treatment, especially by road, by dealing with waste as close as possible to where it arises; and to supporting the use of more sustainable transportation options where practicable and environmentally acceptable.

5 The Planning Policies

National Policy: Presumption in favour of sustainable development

National Policy: Presumption in favour of sustainable development

When considering development proposals the Councils will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. We will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the plan area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with polices in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

• Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework and national waste planning policy[(1)] taken as a whole; or

• Specific policies in the National Planning Policy Framework or national waste planning policy indicate that development should be restricted.

Justification

5.1 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system. This includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development but does not contain specific waste policies, since national waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan for England. Local authorities preparing waste plans and taking decisions on waste applications should have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework so far as it is relevant. The policies in the Joint Waste Local Plan guide how the presumption in favour of sustainable development will be applied locally.

1 Currently Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

5.2 The Councils will work proactively with developers throughout the process to enable the delivery of proposals which secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the plan area. The Councils offer a pre-application advice service to assist with this at an early stage and developers are encouraged to use this service.

5.3 The Joint Waste Local Plan must be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances. It will be monitored on an annual basis and reviewed and revised as appropriate. However in order not to stifle development whilst the policies are being reviewed the National Policy: Presumption in favour of sustainable development sets out provisions for circumstances where there are no policies in the Development Plan that are relevant to the application or where relevant policies are out of date. An important consideration when looking at whether the Joint Waste Local Plan is deliverable is however that applications will only be brought forward if there is adequate land available.

A strategy for managing waste

5.4 This section sets out the policies that identify the ways in which the Vision for the Joint Waste Local Plan can be achieved. Four broad policy areas address the Strategic Objectives which in turn are the means to tackling the four issues identified through the preparation of the Joint Waste Local Plan. The policies provide the detail of requirements for the development of new waste facilities and the management of waste associated with non waste development that will have to be considered when planning applications are submitted for determination. The following points need to be born in mind when reading the policies:

- Policies are not listed in any priority order;
- Where a policy contains a list of criteria, these are not in any order of importance or priority, unless the policy specifically states they are;
- Individual policies need to be read in the context of other policies in the Joint Waste Local Plan and not interpreted in isolation;
- New development will be assessed against all relevant policies in the Joint Waste Local Plan and in the context of any other relevant development plan policies and material considerations (refer to 'Glossary');
- The interpretation of various phrases and terms is in many cases an important part of the policy. Phrases or terms with a particular meaning are defined in the 'Glossary'; and,
- National Planning Policy will be a material consideration but is not repeated here.

Policy 1: Waste as a resource

Policy 1.1 General principles

Planning permission for the development of new sustainable waste management facilities will be granted where the applicant can demonstrate that the proposal accords with the principles listed below:

i. Waste is minimised;

ii. Waste is used as a resource, including the formation of waste synergies, for example through the creation of resource recovery parks;

iii. The proposals represent the most sustainable option for management of waste as high up the "waste hierarchy" as feasible (Refer to Appendix 4: The Waste Hierarchy);

iv. Protection of human health and the environment.

v. Unacceptable adverse impacts, including cumulative effects, should be avoided and adverse impacts minimised and mitigated as part of the proposals;

vi. The overall (economic, social and environmental) benefits outweigh any material planning objections.

Policy 1.2 Make better use of waste associated with non-waste related development

All major development proposals[(2)] should:

i. Use /Address waste as a resource;

ii. Minimise waste as far as possible;

iii. Demonstrate the use of sustainable design and construction techniques, i.e: resource-efficiency in terms of sourcing of materials, construction methods, and demolition;

iv. Enable the building to be easily decommissioned or reused for a new purpose; and enable the future recycling of the building fabric to be used for its constituent material;

v. Maximise on-site management of construction, demolition and excavation waste arising during construction;

vi. Make provision for waste collection to facilitate, where practicable, separated waste collection systems; and,

vii. Be supported by a site waste management plan.

Policy 1.3 Construction, demolition and excavation waste

Recycling of construction, demolition & excavation waste and the diversion of inert waste to quarries requiring backfill for restoration purposes will be favoured over new inert landfill / landraising proposals.

2 (as defined by the Town and Country Planning (England) Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (the DMPO) or any subsequent changes/revisions)

Policy 1.4 Use of waste for landscaping, screening, engineering purposes or for the improvement of agricultural or forestry land

A) Where **inert** waste is to be used for the improvement of agricultural or forestry land, or for landscaping, screening or engineering purposes to enable non waste development to proceed, the applicant should demonstrate that the proposal addresses the following:

i. It can demonstrate that the nature and extent of landscaping and screening is reasonable and necessary;

ii. The amount of waste proposed to be deposited is the minimum necessary for the intended / agreed purpose;

iii. It will not undermine the restoration of quarries that require the inert materials for restoration purposes;

iv. It can demonstrate that flood risk will not be increased, and surface run-off will be managed safely;

v. It would not raise the level of the land to an unacceptable degree such that it would create an adverse visual impact on the landscape and/or reduce openness of the Green Belt;

vi. The proposals are comprehensive, detailed, practicable and achievable within the proposed timescales.

B) Where **non-inert** (organic) waste is to be spread on land for the primary purpose of waste disposal, the proposed development should address the following:

i. The amount of waste proposed is appropriate to the scale of the farm holding and for carrying out the proposed agricultural activities/operations; and

ii. It has a demonstrable benefit for agriculture or nature conservation.

In the case of spreading compost, the material spread must meet the recognised quality standards to no longer be regarded as waste

Policy 1.5 Energy recovery

Proposals for energy recovery should demonstrate that they:

i. Are consistent and comply with the requirements of Policy 4;

ii. Will not undermine the provision of waste management facilities operating further up the waste hierarchy. The waste to be treated therefore cannot practically be suitable for reuse, recycling or processing to recover materials;

iii. Are in close proximity to the source of waste in order to obtain reliable and regular supply of feedstock and minimise transport emissions;

iv. Include maximum energy recovery, either by combined heat and power (CHP) or electricity generation, or be CHP ready, with a realistic prospect of a market for the energy in the area; and

v. Meet the locational approach of the Strategy set out in Policy 2.

Policy 1.6 Landfill or landraise

Proposals for new sites for landfill or landraise will generally not be permitted and waste disposal should be considered as the last resort.

Proposals for new landfill or landraise, or for the treatment of new forms or categories of waste at existing sites, will be only considered where they are supported by:

i. Robust evidence that there is an overriding need for the landfill capacity or capacity to treat a specific form of waste;

ii. Proposals, where relevant, to capture the landfill gas, and recover energy, where practicable;

iii. A detailed restoration and aftercare scheme providing for an acceptable afteruse;

iv. Evidence that there are sufficient materials available to complete the infilling in a reasonable timescale and to agreed levels.

Justification

5.5 There are a number of driving factors that are motivating growth in sustainable waste management. The principal requirement however derives from the revised EU Waste Framework Directive (EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC), which advocates the waste hierarchy as a method of sustainable waste management and focuses more strongly on the prevention of waste (SeeAppendix 4: The Waste Hierarchy). Paragraph 7 of the Directive states that "waste prevention should be the first priority of waste management, and that re-use and material recycling should be preferred to energy recovery from waste, where and insofar as they are the best ecological options". At the local level the principles of waste prevention, waste minimisation and waste hierarchy is also supported by the Sustainable Community Strategy for Staffordshire 2008-2023 'Our County, Our Vision' and is also built in to the Vision and Strategic Objective 1 of the Joint Waste Local Plan.

Policy 1.1 General principles

5.6 **'Waste is Minimised'** means not producing waste in the first place. This requires the reduction of waste at source. One of the objectives of the Joint Waste Local Plan is to move towards a zero waste economy. All proposals must seek opportunities to reduce waste arisings as part of the planning application, for example, through the careful design. For waste that cannot be avoided, reuse, recycling, composting and recovery will lead to increased resource efficiency and a resource management economy and reducing the amount of waste requiring disposal to landfill in due course.

5.7 Managing **waste as a material resource** is an important element of sustainable waste management. Moving away from waste management to resource management can conserve natural resources and reduce carbon emissions, mitigating climate change and creating employment opportunities. Locally, the policy is driven by the desire to reduce the demand for extraction of minerals, used in construction works such as sand and gravel, and reduce the need to landfill waste.

5.8 Sustainable resource and waste management starts with good product design and producer responsibility. Wherever possible, building, engineering and landscaping projects should use secondary, recycled, renewable and locally sourced products, and materials with low environmental impacts. Where development of buildings or structures on existing sites and/or remediation of derelict land is proposed, construction, demolition and excavation wastes should be managed on-site where feasible and as much material as possible should be recovered and re-used for engineering or building either on-site or on the nearest existing waste management sites.

5.9 **The Waste hierarchy** is another guiding principle, designed to encourage the increased use of waste as a resource by determining proposals in accordance with the waste hierarchy and placing an emphasis on waste prevention, reuse,

recycling and organic treatment and recovery, as explained in Appendix 4: The Waste Hierarchy. Proposals for landfill/landraise will be restricted and viewed as the last option since there is adequate landfill provision in the plan area (Policy 1.6).

5.10 **Protection of human health and the environment** is a key principle when examining proposals for waste management development in the vicinity of existing facilities and amenities. The Government advises that modern, appropriately located, well-run and well-regulated~~,~~ waste management facilities, operated in line with the current pollution control techniques and standards, should pose little risk to human health and the surrounding environment.[3] In determining the implications of waste management development for human health and the environment, the following will be relevant considerations:

- Government advice, research, local evidence and consultations with the relevant health authorities and agencies on the possible health implications of various types of waste management, particularly in areas where there are already health issues;
- The advice on effective pollution control measures provided by the relevant health authorities and agencies such as Environment Agency and City and District Council Environmental Health Officers;
- Cumulative effect of previous waste disposal facilities on the well-being of the local community, including any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential;
- The potential effect on amenity and the environment, together with 'designated sites' (listed in Policy 4.2), whether as the result of the new waste management development and/or its operations; and,
- Where necessary and appropriate to require proposals to be accompanied by health impact assessments.

Policy 1.2 Make better use of waste associated with new development

5.11 The principles of waste minimisation should be applied to all development, particularly major developments, alongside increasing waste awareness amongst business operators and local communities. In order to encourage opportunities to drive change and maximise resource efficiency, all major development whether waste or non-waste related (as defined in the Town and Country Planning (England) Development Management Procedure Order 2010, or any subsequent changes/revisions (the DMPO)) should demonstrate how they have addressed waste minimisation and resource efficiency issues.

3 PPS10 paragraph 30.

5.12 The policy encourages the recycling of waste in order to conserve natural resources. As a matter of course, **all new developments should incorporate recycled and waste materials during construction**, for example, during road maintenance and construction, or development of employment land. The layouts for new developments should include adequate storage for waste pending collection including storage for recyclable wastes, and access for waste collection vehicles. Applicants for such development should therefore liaise with the relevant Local Planning Authority at the earliest opportunity, to check the requirements for storage of recyclable and non-recyclable waste and the access requirements for waste collection vehicles.

5.13 In order to minimise the potential negative impacts of new developments on the environment, it is vital that such development incorporates **sustainable design and construction techniques** wherever possible. At a national level, the construction industry is a major producer and source for waste that is disposed to landfill sites. All new developments should ensure better site practices and techniques during the construction process, to re-use on-site materials and utilise these in the development in order to reduce both the need for new primary resources and also the need to dispose of the on-site waste. The potential for incorporating sustainable design and construction techniques will be greatest in larger development hence this explains why the national strategies and policies focus primarily on major developments. However, a similar approach is encouraged in smaller developments, as incrementally these also have a significant impact on the environment. Further guidance on minimising the waste generated during the construction process is available from the following sources:

- The ICE Report on Demolition Protocol
- Recycled Content Toolkit, and Choosing Construction Products, WRAP website
- Building Research Establishment (BRE) Green Guide to specification
- Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice

5.14 Wider use of recycled and recovered construction, demolition and excavation waste (CD&E waste) should be viewed as a norm. However, creation of CD&E waste should be avoided in the first place hence **conversion of existing buildings to new uses** should be considered. Whilst this does require a fundamental shift in usual design practice, there are many benefits, not least of which might be a significant reduction in costs. As a matter of course, whole building systems are regularly recommissioned / reused for a new purpose in the agricultural sector, and there is no reason why such design practice should not become more commonplace.

5.15 The Joint Waste Local Plan encourages **on-site management of construction, demolition and excavation waste during construction works**, where practicable. While there may be a need for off-site management of certain waste at dedicated facilities, opportunities for on-site waste management of waste using mobile plant should also be considered. Opportunities to reduce the generation of waste materials should be sought at the outset, for example by reviewing the layout of a new development to reduce the amount of excavated waste [(4)] produced. Reuse of material on site, where it can be put to an appropriate use, should also be considered.

5.16 **Site Waste Management Plans** are a good practice tool for promoting management of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy. They are likely to reduce fly-tipping and will help reduce costs. In order for developers, local authorities and the construction industry to reduce waste to landfill, all projects over £300,000 are legally required to prepare a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). This should be done in order to ensure appropriate management of all wastes arising from the preparation and construction works, to be able to monitor waste management, encourage re-use and recycling, improve resource efficiency and avoid illegal waste activities such as unauthorised waste disposal. One of the ways to encourage sustainable waste management is to guide the developers in preparing plans to manage their waste before work begins on site and to implement them during the construction works. The requirement to provide SWMPs will also put a mechanism in place to monitor the C,D&E waste, its volume and types and ensures its re-use and recycling on the authorised site. Building Research Establishment (BRE) have designed a free software tool to help the industry prepare, implement and review SWMPs in full compliance with the legal requirements. This tool is called SMARTWaste Plan. Details can be obtained from the following website http://www.smartwaste.co.uk/swmp.jsp . Developers are also referred to the relevant SWMP guidance prepared by Local Planning Authorities as part of their validation checklist. Local Planning Authorities should encourage applicants preparing major development proposals to submit a provisional SWMP as part of the supporting or environmental information to demonstrate that such matters have been taken into account and waste will be managed during site clearance, construction and within the development once it is in use.

Policy 1.3 Construction, demolition and excavation waste

5.17 The recycling of C,D&E waste provides good quality materials to be used in place of primary aggregates and therefore planning applications for landfill of C,D&E waste will not normally be supported. However, this type of waste

4 Providing certain conditions are met, excavation material that is re-used on the site where it was produced, without requiring further treatment, may be considered not to be a waste.

provides a valuable resource for the restoration of former minerals sites. There will be some wastes for which landfill remains the best, or least worst, option. These are likely to include:

- Some inert materials and wastes to restore quarries and mineral workings
- Wastes for which the alternative to landfill are not justified by economic cost, or environmental and resource efficiency benefits.

Policy 1.4 Use of waste for landscaping, screening, engineering purposes or for the improvement of agricultural or forestry land

5.18 Policy 1.4 A) There may be reasons why C,D&E waste is proposed to be used for landscaping, screening and engineering purposes, for example in order to resolve problems such as infilling, land-raising of uneven land level and to allow development to take place on the land or nearby. The C,D&E waste can be recovered for use as engineering fill and other low grade uses avoiding the need to use valuable primary aggregates. Increasing, landfill tax is a factor in determining whether to recycle or landfill and the tightening up of the Environment Agency waste licence exemptions may help to discourage tax free landfill sites. Where waste materials are to be used for landscaping and similar purposes, the applicant should demonstrate clearly that the amount of waste to be used in the process is the minimum necessary, and the nature and extent of landscaping, screening and engineering works would move waste management up the waste hierarchy toward re-use and recovery and not constitute a landfilling operation. Further advice and guidance on waste recovery is provided in the Environment Agency's Regulatory Guidance (EPR13) Defining Waste Recovery : Permanent Deposit of Waste on Land produced in March 2010, which defines waste recovery process.

5.19 Permitted development rights[(5)], allow farmers to bring waste on to their land if it is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture and forestry. For example, farmers may wish to provide a base to a farm building or form a hard surface or a private driveway. In such cases the waste material must be incorporated forthwith, not stockpiled or processed. Farmers must give the local planning authority prior notification before commencing such work to confirm that the proposed development falls within the legislation, or to confirm whether planning permission is required. Farmers must also contact the Environment Agency to establish whether or not the proposed operations require a waste management licence, or whether the proposed operations should be registered as an exempt activity. Farmers should also contact HM Revenue and Customs to establish whether they would be required to pay the landfill tax.

5 Permitted development rights are set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

5.20 When considering proposals for landscaping, screening and other engineering purposes, a balance needs to be struck between encouraging re-use and recycling, and the impact that this type of work may have on the site and its surroundings. All proposals should comply with the requirements of 'Policy 4: Sustainable design and protection and improvement of environmental quality', such as prevention of flood risk arising as the result of the resultant development and any adverse impacts on the openness of the Green Belt and designated sites.

5.21 Policy 1.4 B) There may be occasions, where the spreading of non-inert (organic) waste is necessary for the purposes of land treatment resulting in agricultural improvement. This needs to be consistent with the principles of sustainable development promoted by national policy [(6)], which ensures that the best and most versatile agricultural land is protected as a resource for future generations.

5.22 Proposals involving the importation of waste will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is a genuine agricultural justification for the spreading activities. Where agricultural land has been neglected, or poor farming practices have been undertaken, it is often argued by applicant that the land is derelict and tipping of waste is required to return such land to agricultural production. Additional information will be required in support of the planning application to show that the waste will constitute recovery, the amount and quality of waste is appropriate to the scale of the farm holding and beneficial for agriculture or nature conservation.

Policy 1.5 Energy recovery

5.23 Energy from waste and waste derived fuels has an important role to play alongside recycling and composting in a system of integrated sustainable waste management. The Strategy indicates that there is no evidential need for additional energy recovery facilities, as no shortage of residual treatment capacity is anticipated in the plan period. However, in cases where such proposals are brought forward, and particularly for large scale energy recovery facilities, the applicant should demonstrate that the proposed development would not undermine more sustainable methods of waste management, such as re-use, recycling and composting.

5.24 The quality of design will be of paramount importance in all cases as well-designed facilities are crucial to improving the image and acceptability of waste management proposals and meet the requirements of Policy 4.1 and impacts on the adjoining/ neighbouring uses in line with Policy 4.2.

6 National Planning Policy Framework(NPPF)

5.25 All proposals for energy recovery facilities should also address locational issues such as proximity to the source of waste in order to obtain reliable and regular supply of feedstock and minimise transport emissions, and other locational considerations listed in Policy 2.

Policy 1.6 Landfill and Landraise

5.26 European and national policy encourage us to change our attitude towards the landfilling of waste. One of the key principles is that waste should be managed as a resource. Both European and national policy is also seeking to ensure that the waste management facilities have a key role in resource efficiency, facilitating the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy (See Appendix 4: The Waste Hierarchy). These guiding principles are also supported by the Joint Waste Local Plan as explained earlier in 4 'The Vision and Strategic Objectives: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2026'' and Policy 1.1: to move away from landfill as a method of waste disposal by seeking alternative methods of waste management, minimising waste production in the first instance and then requiring the remaining waste to be treated in waste management facilities at a higher level of the waste hierarchy.

5.27 Staffordshire has a number of operational landfill sites and there is also potential additional capacity available at planning obligated sites i.e. mineral sites with planning permission to restore by landfill. Based on forecasts for waste produced in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, there is sufficient landfill capacity over the next 15 years and there is no evidence of a requirement "to meet specific local circumstance"[7]. Evidence also indicates that due to the many mineral extraction sites, Staffordshire has been providing landfill capacity to neighbouring authorities for many years, and that is likely to continue in the future due to the number of mineral extraction sites where there is an obligation to restore by landfilling. As part of the review of the Minerals Local Plan the restoration requirements of existing and new mineral sites will be considered to determine whether future use and reliance on landfill can be minimised in line with our ambition of zero waste to landfill.

5.28 Given the aim to reduce the amount of waste deposited in landfills, and the fact that there is adequate provision within the plan area, proposals for development of new landfill or landraise, or the disposal of new waste streams within existing landfill sites, will not be supported unless it is demonstrated that there is a robust evidence of an overriding need for such sites. New proposals will be required to be supported by a detailed restoration and aftercare scheme and evidence that there are sufficient materials to complete the infilling in a reasonable timescale. Whilst these requirements relate to developments in all locations, it is particularly important for high environmental standards and well restored sites in Green Belt locations.

7 Requirement of RSS Phase 2 Review Policy W11 'New Sites for Landfill'

Policy 2: Targets and broad locations for waste management facilities

Policy 2.1 Landfill diversion targets

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will support the development of a network of sustainable waste management facilities which allow the following levels of landfill diversion to be achieved as a minimum, moving towards a situation where landfill is only used for wastes for which there is no better use.

Table 1 Targets for minimum overall diversion from landfill for waste generated in the plan area.

Waste Stream	2010/11	2015/16	2020/21	2025/26
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	75%	95%	100%	100%
Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I)	75%	95%	100%	100%
Construction, Demolition & Excavation Waste (CD&E)			70%	

Policy 2.2 Targets for new waste management facilities required by 2026 to manage municipal, commercial & industrial, and construction, demolition & excavation waste streams.

To meet the landfill diversion targets set out in Policy 2.1 and be able to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount generated in the plan area new waste management facilities/capacity will be required by 2026 across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in accordance with the number of facilities/future treatment tonnages set out below:

Table 2 New waste capacity requirements for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I) Treatment .

Waste Management Types	Total Additional Capacity Required By 2025/26 (tonnes per annum)	Equivalent No. of Facilities Required	Typical Average Land Take (ha) and Throughput (tonnes per annum) Per Facility	Total Land Take Required (ha)
Recycling / Material Recovery (mechanical sorting)	Minimum of 380,000 tonnes per annum required by 2020/21 or 389,000 tonnes per annum by 2025/26	6 - 8 facilities	0.9 hectares. 55,000 tonnes per annum.	Equivalent to 5.4 - 7.2 hectares in total land area.

Waste Management Types	Total Additional Capacity Required By 2025/26 (tonnes per annum)	Equivalent No. of Facilities Required	Typical Average Land Take (ha) and Throughput (tonnes per annum) Per Facility	Total Land Take Required (ha)
Organic Waste Treatment	60,000 - 80,000 tonnes per annum required by 2020 capable of treating co-collected municipal green and kitchen waste. (In-vessel composting or new technology e.g. Advanced anaerobic digestion ('wet process)).	2 - 3 facilities. 1 facility is specifically required to serve the North Staffordshire Conurbation and Staffordshire Moorlands.	Dependent on facility type. An In-Vessel Composting facility (IVC) is approximately 1.3 hectares in size and throughput is 32,500 tonnes per annum. An Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility is approximately 0.9 hectares in size and throughput is 30,000 tonnes per annum.	Equivalent to 1.8 - 3.9 hectares in total land area.

Table 3 New waste capacity requirements for Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste (C,D&E) / Hazardous Waste Treatment

Waste Management Types	Total Additional Capacity Required By 2025/26 (tonnes per Annum)	Equivalent No. of Facilities Required	Typical Average Land Take (ha) and throughput (tonnes per annum) per Facility	Total Land Take Required (ha)
Recycling / Material Recovery	Minimum of 200,000 tonnes per annum required by 2020/21.	2 - 4 facilities. Facilities are required in or close to large areas of development/ construction.	Land take and throughput difficult to quantify. An average facility is between 2 - 4 hectares in size with a throughput of between 50,000 and 100,000 tonnes per annum.	Equivalent to 4 - 16 hectares in total land area.
Contaminated Soils (Storage, Treatment and Remediation)	Not possible to quantify	Not possible to quantify what is required to serve the regeneration of the North Staffordshire conurbation.	Not possible to quantify land take and throughput.	May be met through permanent site(s) or temporary 'hub' sites to serve regeneration corridors.

The specific new waste capacity requirements set out above assume that existing capacity will be maintained in line with Policy 2.5.

Proposals consistent with the locational approach; the requirements of Policies 1, 3 and 4; and which meet the following requirements will also be given favourable consideration:

i. Proposals that will deliver local economic growth and exceed the minimum landfill diversion targets in Policy 2.1; and,

ii. Proposals that help to reduce our reliance on landfill by diverting more residual waste away from landfill than the minimum diversion target and/or help to reduce permitted landfill capacity.

Policy 2.3 Broad locations

In order to minimise the impact of our waste infrastructure, and provide a network of sustainable waste management facilities which enable the movement of waste to be minimised, ensure that waste is being dealt with as close as possible to where it arises, and reduce the need to transport waste great distances, preference will be given to such developments on general industrial land (including urban and rural general industrial estates (alongside B2& B8 uses)), previously developed (provided that it is not of high environmental value) land and existing waste management sites, within or close to the hierarchy of urban areas defined below and shown on the Policy Map.

a) Proposals of a local or sub-regional scale will be supported provided that they are located in or close to the **North Staffordshire Conurbation** (City of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle - under-Lyme), or the **Large Settlements** of: Stafford; Burton upon Trent; Cannock; Lichfield; Rugeley; or Tamworth.

b) Proposals of a local scale only will be supported if they are located in or close to the **Other Significant Settlements** of: Burntwood; Kidsgrove; Cheslyn Hay & Great Wyrley; Biddulph; Leek; Stone; Uttoxeter; Wombourne; Cheadle; Codsall & Bilbrook; Perton; Penkridge; Kinver; or Brewood.

c) Proposals for the storage, treatment, and recycling of soils; construction, demolition and excavation waste; and, comparable industrial wastes will be supported in or close to areas of large development in the **North Staffordshire Conurbation** (City of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle - under-Lyme), and the **Large Settlements** of: Stafford; Burton upon Trent; Cannock; Lichfield; Rugeley; or Tamworth, where they can demonstrate the availability of a reliable supply of waste material and have good access to the market for the resultant recycled product.

d) Proposals of a regional and national scale must demonstrate/meet the following siting/locational criteria:

i. Be sustainably located within the waste supply area to minimise transport impacts (seeking where practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport) both in and outside the county;

ii. The site selection process has considered viable sustainable alternatives, including sites within and outside the plan area, and demonstrates that the chosen site is the most suitable;

iii. Be of a scale and size which is proportionate and appropriate to the area;

iv. Avoid causing unacceptable adverse impacts;

v. The overall (economic, social and environmental) benefits outweigh any material planning objections.

Policy 2.4 Strategic waste facilities to be safeguarded

The existing strategic residual treatment Energy Recovery Facilities for municipal waste; and the hazardous waste landfill, as listed below and shown on the 'Key Diagram', will be safeguarded.

Energy Recovery Facility	Address
Hanford Energy Recovery Facility	Campbell Road, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent
Four Ashes Energy Recovery Facility	The Dell off Enterprise Drive, Four Ashes South Staffordshire

Hazardous Landfill	Address
Meece Landfill	Swynnerton, Cold Meece, Nr Stone

Policy 2.5 The location of development in the vicinity of waste management facilities

a) In order to implement our Waste Local Plan and ensure that waste is being treated as high up as possible in the waste hierarchy the Waste Planning Authority requires a network of different types of waste management facilities each playing their separate role.

To minimise any risk of waste moving down the waste hierarchy due to impacts on this network, and in order to maintain capacity and manage an amount of waste at least equivalent to the amount generated in the plan area, the Waste Planning Authority will not support proposals for non-waste related development on or in the vicinity of all permitted waste management facilities, as listed in the Schedule in Appendix 5: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Infrastructure at 1 May 2012 (and updated in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)), which would:

i. Unduly restrict or constrain the activities permitted or allocated to be carried out at any waste management facility; or

ii. Restrict the future expansion and environmental improvement of existing operational waste management facilities.

b) The Waste Planning Authority will only support proposals for non-waste related developments on sites permitted for waste management once the waste management capacity targets for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have been met, unless there are overriding planning reasons why the non-waste related development should be permitted, including the relocation of waste facilities to alternative sites.

c) The Waste Planning Authority requests that development proposals which would prejudice the implementation of the Waste Local Plan and result in the loss of a waste management site to a non-waste management use must be accompanied by supporting information setting out how much waste management capacity would be lost as a result of the proposal, the impact of the loss of waste management capacity, and justification for any loss of capacity. This information should be supplied to the Waste Planning Authority. This policy also applies to sites which may be subsequently permitted [or allocated] for waste management identified in Annual Monitoring Reports or adopted Development Plan Documents.

Justification

5.29 European [8] and national policy [9] requires a positive policy framework to identify sites and broad areas suitable for new and enhanced waste management facilities. Waste Planning Authorities are also required to provide sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities that are realistically deliverable and that would be sufficient to meet a realistic assessment of the waste management needs of their areas. National policy guidance requires Waste Core Strategies to demonstrate how at least ten years' worth of the annual landfill diversion requirements for municipal (MSW) and commercial and industrial waste (C&I) could be provided.[10] The Local Plan must also consider future needs for other waste streams (Construction, demolition and excavation waste (C,D&E waste) and hazardous waste) and for waste handling, bulking and transfer facilities and landfill. The strategy must therefore identify the mechanisms which will deliver new capacity, indicating when development is intended to happen and by what means it will be delivered. Consideration also needs to be given to whether proposals would prejudice the implementation of the waste strategy in the development plan. National policy requires 'all planning authorities, where relevant, to consider the likely impact of proposed, non-waste related, development on existing waste management facilities'.[11]

5.30 In order to be able to manage at least an equivalent amount of waste to that which we produce in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, this policy sets targets for waste management facilities for the various waste streams and indicates favoured broad locations when considering site allocations that may be needed and subsequent planning applications for new and enhanced waste management facilities. By setting location criteria that are sufficiently precise this Policy and Policy 3 will enable developers to assess where they would be likely to receive permission, if other relevant considerations were satisfied. (Other relevant considerations include the requirements of Policies 1 and 4 and also relevant national policy).

Policy 2.1 Landfill diversion targets

5.31 European and National targets are set for reducing the amounts of waste sent to landfill. Policy 2.1 supports the development of a network of sustainable waste management facilities which allow these to be achieved. The targets in Policy 2.1 reflect local landfill diversion targets applied to regional waste forecasts for municipal, commercial & industrial, and construction, demolition & excavation waste. (Refer to The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'- future facility need and Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables).

8 The EU Waste Framework Directive (Article 28 (3) (d) of 2008/98/EC)
9 PPS10, paragraphs 2, 3, 16 - 21, and 33. PPS1 paragraph 1. PPS12 paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5
10 PPS10 paragraph 18.
11 PPS10 paragraph 33.

As the target for the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 (MWMS) is 'zero (municipal) waste to (primary) landfill by 2020, it seems reasonable to take the same approach for commercial and industrial waste by 2020. In order to achieve this trajectory, landfill diversion rates of 95% are proposed by 2015/16 to the regional waste forecasts for MSW and C&I waste. For Construction, demolition and excavation waste the European Waste Framework Directive sets a target to recover at least 70% of construction and demolition waste by 2020. These targets are minimum targets and given the promotion of facilities higher up the waste hierarchy which deliver economic growth and meet the requirements of all the policies of the Strategy, it is considered that these targets could be exceeded and we could move towards aspirations of zero waste to primary landfill. The Government's vision[(12)] is that landfill is only used for wastes for which there is no better use.

5.32 Whilst landfill is a 'last resort', it however must be recognised that some waste streams cannot be economically or beneficially re-used, recycled or recovered for energy e.g. hazardous wastes such as asbestos, and inert materials and wastes needed to restore mineral workings. Despite the 100% landfill diversion targets, an assumption needs to be made that a quantity of residual MSW and C&I waste will still be sent for disposal at an appropriately licensed landfill. This is because small quantities of non-recyclable, non-recoverable or hazardous materials (e.g. fly ash or rejects) will remain after the recycling, organic treatment or recovery processes. This is ‘secondary landfill’ and will amount to approximately 10% of overall MSW and C&I waste generated in the plan area. (Asbestos is included in this category). Staffordshire has a number of operational landfill sites and there is also potential additional capacity available at planning obligated sites i.e. mineral sites with planning permission to be restored by landfilling. Landfill sites in Staffordshire will therefore continue to play a role, at least in the short term, in managing waste from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and from adjoining authorities. Our long term aim, however, is to move toward zero waste to landfill, including active/ non-inert waste and inert waste, unless there is no better use. The recycling of inert construction, demolition and excavation waste, for example, provides good quality materials to be used in place of primary aggregates, thus conserving our mineral resources.

5.33 Irrespective of our ambition to increase diversion from landfill, proposals which will deliver economic growth and manage waste higher up the waste hierarchy should be given favourable consideration if they meet the requirements of all the policies of the Local Plan. In particular opportunities to provide for / encourage the formation of waste synergies, for example through the creation of resource recovery parks or combined heat and power should be considered. Opportunities to reduce permitted landfill should also be taken as they arise. Evidence indicates that due to the many mineral extraction sites, Staffordshire has been providing landfill capacity to neighbouring authorities for many years, and concludes that for non hazardous waste there is likely to be capacity to

12 Defra: Review of Waste Policy in England 2011

receive 'imports' because of the capacity available at planning obligated sites i.e. mineral sites with planning permission that permits restoration by landfill. Whilst this pattern is likely to continue, the timely restoration of mineral sites in the plan area will become an increasing issue due to the declining availability of waste. The Minerals Local Plan will need to review the amount of future mineral extraction required in the county and for existing and future sites to be reliant on landfill to secure adequate restoration.

Policy 2.2 Targets for new waste management facilities

5.34 The future requirements set out in Policy 2.2 reflect proposed housing growth, proposed employment land provision, and the landfill diversion targets in Policy 2.1, and are the "capacity gaps" that the Joint Waste Local Plan must address if Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent as a whole is to continue to have the facilities and capacity needed to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount arising/generated within the area across all waste streams by 2026.

5.35 This does not mean that all of the waste arising in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will necessarily be managed in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. There will always be quantities of specialist waste which will travel across the country for treatment. There may also be facilities on the border and outside of the plan area to which waste originating in the plan area is taken to as those facilities are the closest appropriate installations. Allowance therefore must be made for cross boundary waste flows due to contracts; market conditions; communications; and as it may not be economically viable for all wastes to be managed in the quantities that arise within each local authority area or waste planning authority area and some waste management facilities have specific locational requirements, e.g. to be located a distance from sensitive receptors, therefore their location will often be outside where the waste arises. The intention of the Joint Waste Local Plan is however to ensure that there is a choice of waste management facilities within the plan area which can manage an amount of waste at least equivalent to the amount arising / generated within the area for the plan period, and which provide an alternative to landfill. If the area has more waste facilities which can manage a wider range of wastes, this should give local communities and businesses more opportunities to manage their waste locally rather than having to export it to other areas. Minimising the distance waste needs to travel will also indirectly reduce the impact of waste on the highway network, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as reducing the financial cost to local residents and businesses.

5.36 3 'The Spatial Portrait: 'Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent today'' of the Strategy indicates that our waste infrastructure has significant waste management capacity, however to achieve 100% diversion of MSW and C&I waste from 'primary' landfill there is a gap in waste treatment provision particularly for the recycling of these waste streams. Also whilst the range of waste management facilities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is extensive, there are gaps in

the provision of facilities for managing certain types of waste, particularly there is a need to diversify the range of organic treatment capacity currently available for the management of co-collected municipal green and kitchen waste and the need to conserve mineral resources by recycling more construction, demolition and excavation waste.

5.37 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007) highlights targets and tonnages for treating co-collected municipal green and kitchen waste and evidence demonstrates a shortfall in capacity and an export of this co-collected waste for management. Table 27 of Appendix 6: Waste Data Tables provides further information on strategic priorities for the Waste Disposal Authorities and Waste Collection Authorities which highlight that municipal waste infrastructure needs to be improved, and that the waste management needs of small businesses are not being fully catered for.

5.38 Whilst the treatment of contaminated soils on site wherever possible is encouraged, the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision identified the need for a facility to serve the North Staffordshire Conurbation that has the capacity to store, treat and remediate contaminated soils.

5.39 For construction, demolition and excavation waste, given the uncertainties relating to the data for this waste stream, it is difficult to predict a requirement for additional fixed throughput capacity. To assist the Joint Waste Local Plan, it is however suggested that an "aspiration" target of 200,000 tonnes per annum of additional recycling capacity by 2020 is considered reasonable in view of the European Waste Framework Directive recovery target, data on existing recycling capacity and trends in CD&E waste production.

5.40 There is no requirement for additional landfill sites and landfill void capacity for hazardous, non-hazardous and inert landfill. Existing infrastructure capacity is in excess of waste projections, and maximum 'primary' landfill allowances and 'secondary' landfill requirements, and there is therefore sufficient landfill capacity to serve Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and continue to provide landfill capacity to neighbouring authorities in the short to medium term. This situation will continue to be monitored through the Annual Monitoring Reports, and the Minerals Local Plan and mineral applications will provide opportunities to review the existing and future mineral restoration requirements.

5.41 By setting targets for new and enhanced waste management facilities and capacity further up the waste hierarchy in order to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount arising/generated within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, the policy should meet the principles of the European Union Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and meet a key planning objective of PPS10 (para 3) of enabling sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of communities.

5.42 Our Vision and Strategic Objective 2 are for our waste infrastructure to have the capacity to manage an amount of waste at least equivalent to the amount we generate through provision of the additional facilities highlighted in Policy 2.2. There is no evidence at present to justify different targets, nor is there evidence to suggest that they should be regarded as a cap [13]. Proposals which will deliver economic growth and manage waste higher up the waste hierarchy and reduce the amount of waste being landfilled will be given favourable consideration if they meet the requirements of all the policies of the Strategy and the objective of sustainable development. In particular opportunities to provide for / encourage the formation of waste synergies, for example through the creation of resource recovery parks and combined heat and power will be considered favourably.

5.43 In order to assess waste infrastructure capacity and the need for additional capacity over the plan period all proposals should be submitted with details of the annual throughput and waste types that the site is intended to handle.

Policy 2.3 Broad locations

5.44 Broad locations are listed in Policy 2.3 to provide sufficient locational guidance for considering site allocations and subsequent planning applications for new and enhanced waste management facilities. By setting location criteria that are sufficiently precise, this Policy and Policy 3 (which sets out the general requirements and exceptions criteria for new and the expansion of existing waste management facilities) will enable developers to assess where they would be likely to receive permission, if other relevant considerations were satisfied. The criteria guide development close to where the waste arises to enable the movement of waste to be minimised/ reduce the need to transport waste long distances and 'help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment, and enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations' thereby providing a framework in which 'communities take more responsibility for their own waste' (PPS10 para 3, and Principle of proximity and protection of human health and the environment EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)).

5.45 The urban areas listed are the main urban areas in the plan area, given their size of population[14], their existing employment land, and their individual Local Development Frameworks proposals for housing and economic growth areas (Refer to Background paper in Appendix 1: Virtual Library). The population and/or level of existing and proposed housing or employment land is significantly lower in the category of "Other Significant Settlements" in

13 Paragraph 7.27 of the Companion Guide to PPS10 says in relation to paragraph 4 and the need to provide sufficient opportunities for waste management that this is a broad test and 'it is not intended as a rigid cap on the development of waste management capacity in line with the core strategy'

14 Defined as main urban areas in the Census 2001, the majority of settlements have a population over 10,000

comparison to the categories "Large Settlements" and North Staffordshire Conurbation". Proposals for new waste management facilities within or close to the towns within the "Other Significant Settlements" should meet local needs for waste management only and be small scale facilities managing waste from that locality or from a limited distance rather than drawing waste from further afield. Large scale facilities which serve more than one Waste Planning Authority however would be supported within the larger urban areas in terms of population, housing and economic growth areas, listed within the categories "Large Settlements" and North Staffordshire Conurbation".

5.46 Different types and scale of waste management facility will serve different kinds of community and catchment area however it is not considered appropriate to specify through a policy how far waste should reasonably travel as waste movements are dictated by individual contracts which are outside of the control of the Waste Planning Authority. Proposals should however demonstrate that waste is being dealt with as close as possible to where it arises thus reducing the need to transport waste great distances. A local facility deals with waste generated from its locality or from a limited distance. The criteria for a sub-regional or regional facility is a facility dependent on drawing waste from beyond their immediate area/community, and from more than one Waste Planning Authority. For example, residual waste treatment (Energy Recovery Facilities) & disposal facilities (Landfill) are generally considered sub-regional or regional facilities (200,000 to 400,000 tonnes per annum capacity facilities serving a 20 to 30 mile catchment area) supported by Waste Transfer Stations. In contrast, in-vessel composting facilities are generally considered local or sub-county scale facilities (30,000 to 50,000 tonnes per annum capacity facilities serving a 15 mile catchment area) supported by direct deliveries from kerbside refuse collection vehicles.

5.47 The policy is flexible in that a specific distance is not defined for what is meant by locating new and enhanced waste management facilities 'close to urban areas', due to the suitability of previously developed land or industrial land that serve a settlement but may be a distance from that settlement. National policy (PPS10) recognises the suitability of industrial land and previously developed land for a waste use, and within Staffordshire industrial land consists of urban and rural industrial estates.

5.48 For the purposes of the Joint Waste Local Plan it is considered that suitable industrial land is defined as land where the use of the area is predominantly made up of industrial and commercial development falling within the following use classes:-

B2 – General Industry

B8 – Wholesale warehouse, storage and distribution uses, repositories

It is considered that there is no conflict between the above mentioned use classes and the operation of a waste facility approved in accordance with other policies contained within this plan. Indeed many waste uses may fall within the B2 and B8 use classes discussed above. Consideration was given to the inclusion of B1 use classes, but it is acknowledged that there could be potential conflict with certain uses within this classification, particularly with B1(a) uses. It was therefore decided to limit the suitable use classes to B2 and B8.

5.49 Development proposals for the storage, treatment, and recycling of soils; construction, demolition and excavation waste; and comparable industrial waste i.e. Incinerator bottom ash, glass, slag, railway ballast, ceramic waste and tyres are supported in or close to areas of large development in the North Staffordshire Conurbation and Large Settlements. Urban regeneration, housing growth areas and areas of large-scale demolition and construction constitutes what is meant by large areas of development. Existing waste management facilities and mineral sites may be an appropriate location for recycling of C,D & E waste, refer to Policy 3.3. There is however scope for permitting temporary recycling operations for C,D&E waste in association with large scale development (Permitted Development Rights).

5.50 Due to the vacuum that will be left when the Regional Strategy is abolished, and the absence of siting criteria in PPS10 for large scale facilities that serve waste arising from more than one Waste Planning Authority Authority, criteria is set out in Policy 2.3 (d) for considering the locational requirements of a national and regional scale waste management facility.

Policy 2.4 Safeguarded facilities and protection of capacity

5.51 The Joint Waste Local Plan needs to ensure that there is provision of sufficient waste management capacity available to cover the 15 year period of the plan. The capacity of our waste infrastructure will be monitored annually as each year capacity can increase, be replaced, or be lost. Ensuring that we have the facilities and capacity needed to manage an amount of waste, at least equivalent to the amount arising/generated within the plan area can only be achieved by maintaining and enhancing existing waste management capacity.

5.52 Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs) are required to achieve recovery targets set out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (November 2007). Experience shows that it will be difficult to identify and gain public support for sites for large scale incineration, therefore the two ERF sites are safeguarded by Policy 2.4 for this use.

5.53 Although the Waste Local Plan promotes management of waste higher up the waste hierarchy, landfill will still continue to be required for the disposal of non-combustible residual waste and certain hazardous wastes. Policy 2.4 safeguards the strategic hazardous landfill site. The locally important landfill, non hazardous and inert landfill sites, will be protected if necessary by Policy

2.5, however opportunities to reduce the disposal of waste to landfill and reduce the need to backfill mineral sites i.e. reduce void capacity/landfill, should be taken if the opportunities arise.

Policy 2.5 The location of development in the vicinity of waste management facilities

5.54 As at 1 May 2012, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent had 268 existing facilities representing our waste infrastructure, shown in the schedule in Appendix 5: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Infrastructure at 1 May 2012. It is difficult to define which are strategic as there are lots of small sites in terms of the amount of tonnage they manage and so in isolation individual sites are not considered strategic. Combined however they contribute to our existing infrastructure capacity and so require some form of protection. Policy 2.5 sets guidelines for local planning authorities to take into consideration when determining proposals for non-waste related developments in the vicinity of existing waste management facilities. A strategic objective of the Joint Waste Local Plan is to encourage improvement of existing waste management facilities and therefore this policy aims to prevent other non waste related development, which would restrict future development at these waste facilities and prevent their expansion. The main objective of this policy is to protect existing waste management capacity / capabilities, rather than necessarily protecting existing waste management facilities on their existing sites. The policy recognises that in some cases, relocation of a facility will be beneficial in terms of moving towards better /more sustainable waste management and design or increasing waste management capacity. Effective implementation of the policy will be dependent on monitoring net gains/losses in overall waste management capacity. Hence there are requirements within the policy for proposals affecting waste management sites to supply information on losses or gains of existing waste management capacity to the Waste Planning Authority so that existing infrastructure capacity and the relevant targets for additional facilities and capacity outlined in Policy 2.2 can be adjusted to compensate for this.

5.55 Local planning authorities, when determining proposals for non-waste related developments in the vicinity of existing waste management facilities, will need to consider the exact nature of the proposed development, and also the characteristics of that waste management facility in order to assess sensitivities. A definition of vicinity is not included in the plan, as the distance will depend on the exact nature of the proposed development and the type of waste management facility. Different waste treatment technologies will have different sensitivities. An enclosed recycling plant on an industrial estate, for example, would be unlikely to be affected by the development of a light engineering factory unit on an adjacent plot. However, the operation and expansion of a green waste open-windrow composting facility may be restricted by the development of a housing estate within 500 metres of the site. Imposing a strict vicinity rule could immediately rule out development without allowing discussion on potential ways of mitigation which may make the development acceptable in the proposed location. To assist local planning authorities, boundary information for all waste management facilities has been provided

by the Waste Planning Authorities in an electronic format (Geographic Information Systems (GIS) shapefile for each site) for them to incorporate in their own GIS constraints mapping projects so when validating applications they are aware of waste sites and can decide on whether or not to consult the Waste Planning Authority on a specific proposal that may affect a waste management facility. Information on minerals and waste sites within the plan area are also available on the publicly accessible LocalView Planning Mapping Portal (http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/applications/mapyourarea/mappingfacility/LVPlanningMappingPortal.aspx).

This GIS boundary information (GIS layers) for waste management facilities will be updated on the LocalView Planning Mapping Portal and update.d electonic information will also be supplied to the local planning authorities on an annual basis when producing the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Policy 3: Criteria for the location of new and enhanced waste management facilities

Policy 3.1 General requirements for new and enhanced facilities

Within the broad locations set out in Policy 2.3, proposals for new and the expansion of existing waste management facilities should:

i. Be fully contained within well designed purpose built or appropriately modified existing buildings or enclosed structures appropriate to the technology or process. Where this is not practicable or environmentally acceptable, the applicant must clearly demonstrate that any environmental impacts can be effectively mitigated by alternative means;

ii. Include a programme of phased improvements, which are proportionate to the nature of the application, in order to bring the whole site up to modern standards, if the proposal relates to an existing facility which is to be extended or enhanced.

iii. Be compatible with nearby uses, and appropriate in scale and character to their surroundings giving careful consideration to any cumulative effects that may arise (Refer to 'Policy 4: Sustainable design and protection and improvement of environmental quality')

iv. Complement existing or planned activities or form part of an integrated waste management facility and demonstrate an overall enhancement of the site; and,

v. All proposals should be submitted together with details on the annual throughput and waste stream that the site would handle

Policy 3.2 Exceptions criteria for organic treatment in farm locations close to the urban areas/broad locations

Where facilities can not be accommodated in line with Policies 2.3 and 3.1, exceptions will be considered for the following:

a) Proposals for enclosed organic treatment facilities on farm locations will be supported provided that they meet the following:

i. It is demonstrated that the proposed operation could not be carried out on general industrial or previously developed land within or close to the hierarchy of urban areas defined in Policy 2;

ii. More than half of the material would derive from farm activities taking place on the site itself and surrounding farms or more than half of the material produced would be used on the farm land or surrounding farms without having an unacceptable adverse impact upon the highway network; and,

iii. The proposed facility would be integrated as part of the farm business and would not represent a stand-alone waste management facility.

iv. Any new buildings necessary for the proposed facility would be adequately shielded by appropriate landscaping, and would be designed to minimise visual intrusion and incongruity.

b) Proposals for open windrow composting on agricultural land in farm locations should satisfy the following:

i. The proposals are supported by a robust evidence of need arising from a shortage of local capacity that exists in the plan period; and

ii. The proposed location is capable of meeting the highest air quality standards.

iii. Any new buildings necessary for the proposed facility would be adequately shielded by appropriate landscaping, and would be designed to minimise visual intrusion and incongruity.

c) The re-use of redundant farm or forestry buildings will be supported provided that the external character and appearance of the building is either substantially unchanged, or improved.

Policy 3.3 Exceptions criteria for facilities recycling construction, demolition & excavation waste or comparable industrial wastes

Proposals for such facilities on existing landfill or mineral sites will be supported where they can demonstrate that:

i. They are related to the lawful/permitted use of the land; and,

ii. Timely and appropriate restoration of the site is not undermined by the facility in terms of duration of the operations.

Temporary facilities will be permitted at mineral extraction sites with existing processing plants, where this allows for secondary and recycled materials to be processed or blended with newly extracted material from the site to achieve a higher quality end use.

Policy 3.4 Temporary planning permissions for open air facilities

Where there are doubts remaining about the character or effect of the proposed open air waste management facility, a temporary planning permission may be issued. The duration of the temporary period will have regard to the location, nature or scale of the proposed development and the level of investment required to put in place systems to control the operations and minimise the impacts.

Justification

5.56 European [15] and national policy [16]require Waste Planning Authorities to ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations by providing a clear set of locational and other criteria to enable the regulatory authority to assess whether a particular site/proposal is consistent with the waste strategy. Whilst Policy 2 sets out the broad locations for considering site allocations and subsequent planning applications, this policy sets out the general requirements for facilities proposed within those broad locations. The particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities however needs to be recognised and therefore this Policy 3 sets out the exceptions criteria for considering proposals outside of the broad locations. By setting location criteria that are sufficiently precise this

15 The EU Waste Framework Directive (Article 28 (3) (d) of 2008/98/EC)

16 PPS10, paragraphs 2, 3, 16 - 21, and 33. PPS1 paragraph 1. PPS12 paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5

policy will enable developers to assess where they would be likely to receive permission, if all other relevant considerations were satisfied.In particular proposals should address the considerations listed in Policy 4.

5.57 This policy sets out the general requirements and exceptions criteria for new and the expansion of existing waste management facilities. It also addresses the local aspiration to encourage new standards at sites that have been in operation for a number of years and perhaps were less restricted through the planning and licensing system operating at the time when they became operational.

Policy 3.1 General Requirements

5.58 Policy 3.1 sets out the general requirements for facilities proposed within the broad locations specified by Policy 2, i.e. preference is given to general industrial land (including urban and rural general industrial estates (alongside B2& B8 uses; see 'Glossary'), previously developed land and existing waste management sites, within or close to the hierarchy of urban areas. The Waste Planning Authorities, together with the Environment Agency, wish to encourage the provision of waste management facilities within buildings to secure higher environmental standards for the management of waste and to minimise the impact on adjoining land uses. Most modern waste management facilities (treatment and transfer) are contained facilities / enclosed within buildings which can satisfactorily be located/ accommodated on industrial or previously developed land within or near urban areas. However, waste facilities are defined as 'sui generis' (of their own category) and therefore require separate planning permission from the relevant Waste Planning Authority rather than a change of use.

5.59 The development of facilities for waste management has traditionally been dogged by a poor image and negative perceptions. With the introduction of new legislation on the management of waste and pollution control, potential impacts of waste management facilities are easier to mitigate and control if the waste management operations are contained within a building/ sealed building / under negative pressure. The location of modern facilities within contemporary, and well designed buildings or enclosed structures appropriate to the technology or process, and appropriate in scale and character to the surroundings, will assist in over-coming these problems and should help to resolve planning objections.

5.60 Enclosing waste operations within a building can help prevent emissions of pollutants such as dust and litter, it can also help to address some of the visual impacts of the facility enabling it to be successfully integrated into the surrounding area for example on an industrial estate. For reasons of pollution control the Environment Agency require certain waste operations carried out

under Standard Rules Permits [17] to be undertaken inside a building. For example bulking, transfer or treatment of particular waste types. This policy therefore seeks to control and contain any potential impacts of waste management operations by fully enclosing them within well designed buildings or enclosed structures appropriate to the technology or process, and appropriate in scale and character to their surroundings. Proposals for new buildings to enclose waste operations will need to apply the considerations listed in Policy 4.

5.61 It is however clearly impractical to require all activities to be under cover at all times and part or all of certain waste operations/activities may reasonably only be carried out in the open air or are required by statutes or regulations to be carried out in the open air. Where proposals do not include the provision or use of a building, then the applicant will be required to demonstrate that it is not practicable or environmentally acceptable for the proposed facility within the broad location to be within an enclosed structure. The applicant will also be required to demonstrate that any environmental impacts can be effectively mitigated by alternative means. The policy is therefore flexible to allow for circumstances when it is reasonable for the operation or parts of the operation to be carried out in the open.

5.62 Where the expansion or intensification of an existing facility is proposed and that facility is not deemed to be up to modern design and environmental standards, i.e. it wouldn't receive planning permission if an application was made for that facility today, opportunities to improve the overall quality and standard of the development should be taken as the site/facility is developed. Improvement can be delivered through a phased programme of works and should apply the considerations listed in Policy 4. Improvements include allowing sites that operate at a lower level of the waste hierarchy to move up the hierarchy; increasing the throughput of waste to be managed and/or quality of the output through the use of advanced technology; allowing the site to operate to a higher environmental standard by enclosing open air facilities where practicable within a purpose built or appropriately modified existing building; or by other beneficial improvements such as drainage.

5.63 The Waste Planning Authority will seek improvements to existing waste management facilities through the planning application process, which are proportionate to the size and scale of the expansion or new planning application/operation, and which are proportionate to the negative impacts which may already exist on the application site and which may be increased through expansion or the approval of any new operation.

Exceptions criteria

17 Standard Rules Permits can be viewed on the Environment Agency website at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/118404.Aspx . See also 'Glossary'.

5.64 Certain waste activities may need to take place outside of the broad locations and main urban industrial areas and therefore Policies 3.2 and 3.3 provide exceptions criteria for proposals that will not meet the general requirements set out in Policy 3.1,but which will be supported in certain locations. As the locational preference of the Strategy is to guide waste management development to industrial and previously developed land and given the extent of industrial estates and general industrial land (with B2 and B8 uses) and previously developed land outside of the main urban areas within the countryside, it is considered that the types of facility that are exceptions to the general rule are organic treatment facilities, recycling of construction, demolition and excavation waste or comparable industrial waste (incinerator bottom ash, glass, slag, railway ballast, ceramic waste, tyres), and landfill. Organic treatment may be appropriate in redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilage. Recycling of construction, demolition or excavation waste or comparable industrial wastes may be appropriate at landfill sites or active mineral working sites where the proposal is operationally related to the permitted use.

Policy 3.2 Organic treatment in farm locations

5.65 Facilities designed to treat biodegradable wastes may need to be located away from sensitive land uses such as housing, schools, and work places in order to control potential environmental impacts including bioaerosols. The way in which the Environment Agency regulate composting facilities is under review.**(18)** Existing regulations however require new sites within 250m of a sensitive receptor (e.g. a workplace or dwelling) to submit a site specific bioaerosol risk assessment, which the Environment Agency will review rigorously. Applications which are not accompanied by a sufficiently robust risk assessment will be rejected. It is advised that it is unlikely that sites within 250m of a workplace or dwellings that treat more than 500 tonnes of waste at any one time, and which include the use of open composting or maturation using turned windrows or similar, will be able to produce a sufficiently robust risk assessment. With regard to existing sites within 250m of a sensitive receptor the Environment Agency are considering options with Defra. This includes the possibility of increasing the level of bioaerosol monitoring at these sites. A risk based approach will be taken and the level of regulation imposed will be proportionate to the environmental risks.

5.66 Given the specific waste technology it may not be possible to accommodate a waste facility within a traditional farm or forestry building and a purpose built facility will be required. Considerations particularly with regard to Green Belt, countryside and landscape listed in Policy 4 will need to be applied.

18 Current Environment Agency position on regulating composting facilities is published on their website at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Bioaerosols.pdf.

5.67 This policy allows the opportunity and flexibility for on-farm organic waste treatment schemes including Open Windrow Composting, Anaerobic Digestion, and In-vessel Composting. As the evidence base supporting the Joint Waste Local Plan shows that there is only a shortfall in organic treatment capacity for co-collected green and food waste in order to achieve net/equivalent self-sufficiency, and the Strategy aspires to enclose waste management facilities, there is a requirement for applicants to demonstrate need arising from a shortage of local capacity for open windrow composting.

Policy 3.3 Recycling of construction, demolition or excavation waste or comparable industrial waste

5.68 Given Permitted Development Rights there is scope for temporary recycling operations for construction, demolition and excavation waste in association with large scale development. However given the strategic objective to conserve mineral resources we need to continue to encourage the development of our waste infrastructure to recycle more construction, demolition and excavation waste. Policy 2.2 suggests an "aspiration" target of 200,000 tonnes per annum of additional recycling capacity by 2025/26 in view of data and trends and Policy 3.3 provides criteria for facilities at mineral and landfill sites. Whilst the Joint Waste Local Plan aspires to enclose waste management facilities, in terms of requirements for construction, demolition and excavation recycling facilities, fully enclosed operations generate health and safety concerns for operators and employees in terms of noise, vehicle manoeuvring and dust. Where odour is not an issue, if an operator can demonstrate that relevant environmental concerns can be satisfactorily addressed by means other than full enclosure, proposals will be given favourable consideration.

5.69 CD&E recycling may be acceptable at existing mineral or landfill sites provided that it is related to the lawful/permitted use of the land. This means that the material must be either:

a) mixed with newly extracted material from the site to produce a product that is suitable for higher quality end uses than would be possible for the recycled material alone;

b) processed through existing specialised plant at the site to produce a higher quality product than would be possible at an alternative site, for example to make concrete products or tarmac;

c) processed as part of the restoration process with a reasonable proportion of the material remaining on site.

Policy 3.4 Temporary permissions.

5.70 Policy 3.4 outlines that temporary permissions may be granted for open air facilities where there are doubts remaining about the character or effect of the proposed development. The duration of the temporary permission, will be

decided on a site by site basis having regard to the location, nature or scale of the proposed development; the level of investment required to put in place systems to control the operations and minimise the impacts; the type of waste management technology; and the time of year that the permission is implemented.

5.71 The temporary time period of the permission should be a sufficient period in order to get the facility set-up and operating for a reasonable time period in order to effectively monitor the site and operations and assess any effects. If on monitoring the site and without change or intensification to the site it has operated to a high standard without causing problems then a permanent planning permission may be granted. If however on monitoring the site the systems and operations have caused problems then a permanent permission may be refused and the site closed down.

Policy 4: Sustainable design and protection and improvement of environmental quality

Policy 4.1 Sustainable design

All proposals for waste management facilities should be designed and operated to high environmental standards. They should avoid unacceptable adverse impacts and minimise adverse impacts, taking particular account of climate change implications. Where practicable they should positively contribute to the character and quality of the local natural, historic and built environment and amenity, and provide safe and convenient access for all potential users.

In particular the proposal should:

i. Be compatible with adjoining land uses and the locality, taking into account national and local policies for building design, landscape character, ecology, historic environment and sport and recreation;

ii. Provide measures to minimise greenhouse gases associated with the construction, and operation of the facility, and where relevant, the decommissioning and reinstatement of the site.

iii. Provide measures to adapt to climate change;

iv. Consider design and environmental performance of the facility from the design stage and as a minimum standard should aim to achieve a BREEAM 2011 rating for industrial buildings of “very good” or higher;

v. Be supported by a site waste management plan;

vi. Provide a sustainable drainage system, unless it can be shown to be impractical to do so, to manage clean uncontaminated roof and surface run-off, with a focus on filtration techniques to improve the quality of the water environment;

vii. Consider rainwater harvesting from impermeable surfaces and encouragement of layouts which accommodate wastewater recycling, where practicable;

viii. Make a positive contribution, where appropriate, towards decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy supply;

ix. Assess the capacity of existing and potential transport infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of waste, and products arising from resource recovery, minimising transport emissions and seeking when practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport;

x. Enhance biodiversity where possible and contribute where appropriate to green infrastructure initiatives as supported by local policies;

xi. Consider any impact upon mineral resources through potential sterilisation and address any land instability issues and/or contamination arising from former land uses; and

xii. Where restoration and aftercare is applicable, provide comprehensive, detailed, practical and achievable restoration and aftercare proposals for the site, that would achieve at the earliest opportunity, an acceptable after-use.

Policy 4.2 Protection of environmental quality

The development of waste management facilities will be supported provided that the proposals would not give rise to materially harmful impacts, except where the material planning benefits of the proposals outweigh the material planning objections.

Where proposals have an unavoidable adverse effect on these natural and cultural assets, impacts should be minimised by design and layout. Residual impacts should be mitigated or compensated for, either on or off site

In determining the impact of the proposed development, consideration will be given to the effect of the proposals on the following:

i. People and local communities, including the potential health effects;

ii. The highway network and other public rights of way;

iii. Historic environment;

iv. Natural environment features and landscape networks important for wildlife and amenity;

v. Sites, habitats and species of importance for biodiversity or geodiversity;

vi. The Landscape;

vii. Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the setting of the Peak District National Park;

viii. The Green Belt;

ix. The Countryside;

x. Trees, hedgerows and woodland;

xi. Agricultural land;

xii. Open space (including recreational and sporting facilities)

xiii. Protection of air, soil and water and reduction of flood risk;

xiv. Any other interests or acknowledged importance

Justification

5.72 In accordance with our Vision and strategic objectives we wish to ensure that our waste infrastructure is correctly sited and designed and operated to a high standard. Modern, correctly sited, well designed and well operated and managed waste facilities can make a positive impact on the local environment. This policy seeks to ensure that developers demonstrate that high quality design and sustainablity considerations have been integrated in their proposals. High quality design and enhanced waste management facilities are requirements built in to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's Vision and Strategic Objectives. The policy also seeks to ensure that our environment and amenity is protected and / or enhanced where possible. This policy also needs to be read in conjunction with the other development plan documents prepared by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the other Staffordshire Borough and District Councils.

Policy 4.1 Sustainable Design

5.73 High quality design is fundamental to the development of sustainable waste management facilities. High quality design and improvement of the environmental standards of our waste infrastructure have been identified through the Joint Waste Local Plan preparation and consultation process as an essential element, which increases economic competitiveness, is beneficial to the environment and helps to change the perception of this type of development as being a 'bad neighbour'. It is through high quality design and layouts that the integration of waste management facilities can be secured and adverse impacts on the street scene or, in less developed areas, the local landscape can be avoided or minimised, thus helping new waste development to be able to fit in with surrounding land uses and to act as a 'good neighbour'.

5.74 This policy seeks to ensure that all waste management facilities are sustainable and built to high-quality design standards so that they are more efficient to run and sensitive to the surrounding environment. The Design and Access Statement should support planning applications for waste management facilities setting out how the proposal takes on board good practice such as Defra/CABE guidance "Designing Waste Facilities, A Key Guide to Modern Design in Waste" (2008). The Design and Access Statement should set out how the siting and appearance complements the existing topography and vegetation. Material and colouring need to be appropriate to the location. The 'Local List' to Validate Planning Applications submitted to Staffordshire County Council and an equivalent list, which is currently in its draft for Stoke-on-Trent, provide advice on what information should be submitted in support of the planning applications for waste related applications.

5.75 Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council expect high quality design, construction and operation of waste management developments. All proposals should demonstrate how they make the fullest possible contribution to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and

promote energy and resource efficiency during construction and operation. The layout and orientation of the site together with the energy and materials to be used can make a large impact on the long term sustainability of the development. Developments should achieve the highest possible standard under the approved sustainability metric such as Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). BREEAM provides an assessment tool, which is designed to evaluate the environmental and sustainable performance of any type of buildings (new and existing)and enables designers and developers to prove the environmental credentials of their building[19]. One of the ways to encourage sustainable waste management is also to guide the developers to prepare plans to manage their waste before work begins on site and to implement these plans during the construction works. Refer to paragraph 5.13 above. Major projects, when appropriate, will be referred for a national design review (currently provided by the Design Council and CABE).

5.76 New waste management and recycling methods can reduce the impacts of climate change through more efficient use of resources. Many modern waste processing facilities produce waste heat that could be used in district heating schemes, thus adding to the national decentralised energy target. Decentralised energy can make a significant contribution to reducing Staffordshire's and Stoke-on-Trent's carbon emissions and the tackling of climate change because it produces energy near to where it is used. Both the County Council and City Council aim to contribute as far as possible towards the achievement of the national energy target. Staffordshire County Council aims at an overall target of 80% reduction in emissions to be achieved by 2050 and an overall target of 15% of renewable energy generation by 2020 as a contribution to the national target.

5.77 Waste and recyclables require transportation at various stages of their collection and management. As traffic on the roads has increased, emissions from transport have become a major source of many pollutants. Air quality is therefore an important consideration within the transport requirement. That is why developers should demonstrate how the proposal can be made acceptable in transport terms including specification of any remedial measures. Applicants engaged in the preparation TA/TS should have regard to the Staffordshire LTP and the relevant District Integtrated Transport Strategy.

5.78 Waste management facilities are often characterised by large areas of hardstanding for vehicles and large roof areas. Development will be required to show that flood risk has not been increased as part of the development and, where possible, has been reduced overall through the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and other techniques.

19 http://www.breeam.org/page.jsp?id=298.

5.79 In order to ensure successful integration of waste developments into surrounding environment, where appropriate, all proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to existing green infrastructure initiatives, biodiversity or other environmental enhancements in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The opportunities to contribute could arise, for example, as part of landfill restoration schemes, particularly supporting and encouraging schemes which benefit wildlife and biodiversity, providing important local amenity and offer sport and recreational opportunities in areas. In such cases, the proposals will need to be accompanied, where applicable, by a comprehensive management plan to ensure the long-term viability of the public/private facility. District-wide local core strategies/development plans may also contain relevant policies that should be taken into account, for example Green Infrastructure Initiatives and Local Authority Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Strategies. In particular the following local Green Infrastructure Initiatives should be taken into consideration and contributed to:

- National Forest
- Forest of Mercia
- Newcastle Community Woodland Zone
- Central Rivers Initiative
- Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan
- Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.

5.80 Although the Joint Waste Local Plan does not cover minerals specifically, as this will be contained within the Staffordshire's Minerals Local Plan, Staffordshire contains a wide range of minerals resources, which are capable of extraction mainly by quarrying. At present the Staffordshire Minerals DPDs have not devised the relevant Mineral Safeguarding Areas, apart from those already outlined in the current Minerals Local Plan (1994-2006), however Staffordshire County Council is seeking the designation of the mineral resources in the Minerals Local Plan or relevant Site Allocation DPD that is due to undergo production in the near future and it is intended to continue to safeguard mineral resources in the Minerals Local Plan which will replace the Minerals Local Plan in due course. The Minerals Policy for Stoke-on-Trent is contained within the Core Spatial Strategy under policy CSP8 - Minerals in Stoke-on-Trent. It considers the preservation and non sterilisation of Etruria Marl, and whilst recognising there may be some small scale extraction left of other minerals through previous extraction and sterilisation there is little practical mineral development left within the City.

5.81 The County Council and City Council are keen to ensure that minerals resources are not unduly sterilised by new waste management development. We would seek to secure the extraction of minerals prior to development taking place provided that this is practicable and environmentally acceptable. Locations that are liable to be affected by land instability will not normally be suitable for waste management facilities, but prior extraction may also remove potential land instability problems in the process and provide potential for using some of the extracted mineral during construction, thereby reducing the need to rely on transporting building materials long distances.

5.82 Some waste management facilities may be regarded as a temporary use of land, albeit that they may operate for a long period of time, for example landfill. In the context of sustainable development, it is important in such cases that proper provision is made for the restoration and aftercare of the land so that the site is restored to a standard suitable for the intended after-use. Detailed restoration and aftercare proposals should be designed to take account of the existing land-uses and where appropriate consideration should be given to the surrounding landscape character, recreation or amenity after-uses, proposals for forestry expansion and measures to protect or enhance our cultural assets.

5.83 The success of restoration and aftercare is dependent on having practical and achievable measures that will ensure that the after-use is satisfactorily established and is sustainable. Aftercare proposals for agriculture, forestry, amenity and nature conservation schemes will need to provide for up to five years rehabilitation although a longer timescale may be required for certain after-uses. For example, applicants should show how and when they intend to install, maintain and where appropriate, remove any pollution control infrastructure such as gas and leachate pipe work and lagoons. In some instances a legal agreement may be required, for example to extend the aftercare period.

Policy 4.2 Protection of Environmental Quality.

i) People and local communities including the potential health effects

5.84 Impact on the local environment and amenities are the factors considered in every application. These will include such factors as noise, vibration, dust, odour, litter, and the attraction of vermin and birds. The Waste Planning Authority is focused on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves where these are subject to approval under pollution control regimes. The proposals should ensure that the proposed operations are located, where practicable, in areas where they will have the least adverse impact on the environment and the well being and working conditions of people. Whether a proposal has an unacceptable adverse impact either on its own or in conjunction with other developments upon people, transportation systems or the environment, will be a matter of fact and degree, which will be

dependent upon the nature and extent of the waste management proposal. The cumulative effect of previous waste disposal facilities will be an important consideration including any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential. Therefore it is important that the sensitivity of the site and its surroundings are taken into account. The impact on human health will be an important consideration even though modern, appropriately located, well run and well regulated, waste management facilities, operated in accordance with current pollution control techniques and standards, should pose little risk to human health[20]. If local evidence of health issues or concerns in particular locations is available then operators will be expected to submit health impact assessments with their proposals in order to determine whether the development is likely to be acceptable in a given location.

5.85 Consideration of compatibility with nearby uses will ensure the protection of local amenities and a suitable design and layout. There may be locations where it is felt that there is a significant concentration of a variety of large-scale development activities in close proximity to each other in terms of time and/or space causing continuous cumulative problems, for example, where there is a concentration of mineral extraction and waste management activities. As a consequence, people and the environment are likely to be particular sensitive to future developments, that would contribute towards or extend any adverse impacts beyond what has already been accepted. If the adverse impacts are not properly addressed then cumulative impacts can result in an unacceptable diminution of the quality of life of neighbouring communities or the local environment.

ii) <u>The highway network and other public rights of way</u>

5.86 Traffic generation arising from waste management activities in relation to its impact on the highway network is a sensitive planning consideration. A significant amount of material needs to be transported to waste management facilities, in the form of 'raw waste', or inputs, and from such facilities in the form of sorted waste or processed materials, or outputs. This has the potential to generate significant vehicle movement and associated impacts such as congestion, noise, visual impacts and emissions including carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change. The impact of development and associated traffic on the public rights of way network is also a relevant consideration, particularly in cases where the proposed development may require a permanent or temporary realignment of some routes. Disruption to the path network should be kept to a minimum and any necessary changes need to be implemented before the development commences so that the public's enjoyment is not detrimentally affected.

20 PPS10 paragraph 30.

5.87 Sustainable waste management facilities should be well located, with good access, in order to minimise the environmental impact arising from the transport of waste. Waste development will be supported where they facilitate the use of non-road transportation system seeking whenever practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport, for example the use of rail and water. This is also consistent with the Joint Waste Local Plan's objective to reduce the need to transport waste long distances for treatment, and reduce the impact of waste transport on people, the highway network and the environment, encourage waste development as close as possible to it's source, and to support the use of more sustainable transportation options where practicable and environmentally acceptable.

5.88 Applicants proposing waste management facilities will be advised to introduce traffic management measures, where necessary, to:

(a) Control the volume and speed of traffic;

(b) Ensure the most efficient use of highway capacity on the Strategic Highway Network / Strategic Road Network;

(c) Reinforce the road network hierarchy and control use of unsuitable roads by non-local traffic;

(d) Minimise the impact of traffic in residential and other environmentally sensitive areas;

(e) Improve road safety.

5.89 Where the use of roads is unavoidable, consideration will be given to the capacity of existing and potential transport infrastructure by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent as part of their duty as Highway Authorities, and by the Highways Agency who are responsible for motorways and trunk roads. A Traffic Assessment (TA) or a Transport Statement (TS) will be required to support any proposal involving waste operations likely to result in an increase in Heavy Commercial Vehicle (HCV) traffic.[21] These types of proposals should take into consideration advice provided in the Supplementary Planning Guidance "Code of Practice for the Assessment of the Impact and Determination of Mitigation Measures arising from Heavy Commercial Vehicles generated from Minerals and Waste Developments", which will remain a material consideration pending its replacement by more up to date detailed planning policy or supplementary planning documents. It is recommended that developers obtain pre-application advice in all cases in order to establish the need for scope and requirement of TA/TS. In summary the TA/TS will need to:

21 Highways advice from Staffordshire County Council is available at http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/abouthighways/highwayscontrol/home.aspx. Advice from Stoke-on-Trent City Council is available at http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/transport-and-streets/local-transport-plan/

- Demonstrate that access arrangements are adequate for the volume of traffic generated by the proposal and that no unacceptable safety or health hazards for other road users, cyclists, pedestrians and residents would be generated;
- Set out how the level of traffic generated would not exceed the capacity of the local and strategic road networks and that no unacceptable adverse impact upon existing highway conditions in terms of traffic congestion and parking would arise;
- Show that there are adequate arrangements for on-site vehicle manoeuvring, parking and loading/unloading areas and that any adverse traffic impacts that would arise from the proposal including queueing of vehicles can be satisfactory mitigated by routing controls or other highway improvements.

5.90 More information and advice to assist developers is provided in Guidelines for Transport Assessment and Travel Plans for Staffordshire (January, 2008) and Local Transport Plan for Stoke-on-Trent (March, 2006)

5.91 All developments for waste management facilities should provide adequate space within the site for loading, unloading, parking and servicing of vehicles visiting and/or operating from the site. Where wastes or recycled/reclaimed materials are to be transported to or from the site, lorries should be sheeted or netted to prevent the deposit of deleterious materials on the public highway. Operators should also encourage drivers not to arrive at the sites before the start of operations, as this can often cause significant disturbance to local residents at an early time of the day.

iii) Historic environment

5.92 The historic environment is an important aspect in planning considerations: it covers all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places, through time. Heritage assets can include designated as well as non designated buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and landscapes. It is also important to consider historic landscapes and townscapes as a whole to understand what gives an area its sense of place and identity.

5.93 The Government's objectives for sustainable development refers to the need to contribute to protecting the historic environment as well as seeking improvements in its quality. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Account should also be taken of:

- The wider social, cultural and environmental benefits of heritage conservation;

- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

5.94 Proposals for waste management facilities which affect the following existing or proposed designated heritage assets and/or their settings, will be subject to careful consideration. For these assets harm to or loss of significance will require clear and convincing justification:

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- Registered Historic Battlefields;
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens;
- Listed Buildings (including locally listed buildings);
- Conservation Areas.

5.95 There will be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the weight in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration and destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional. Substantial harm to, or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.

5.96 Non designated heritage assets should also be given careful consideration, and a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset .[22] Early consultation on proposals is crucial in determining the significance of a heritage assetand impacts of individual schemes and the need for and scale of mitigation. Within the process the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the County Council and local lists play an important role. The Baseline information can also be used to inform on the status of heritage assets.

22 Guidance is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

5.97 Proposals for waste management development affecting **Sites of National Archaeological Importance**, and their settings, will be considered in the light of information held by the County or City Council. Where necessary, developers will be required to supplement this information with the results of desk-based assessment and field evaluations before any decision on the proposal is taken. Where the Waste Planning Authority decides on the basis of professional advice that archaeological remains are not sufficiently important to warrant physical preservation in situ, developers will be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains prior to development, and for the publication of the results.

5.98 Proposals likely to affect the significance of **Registered Battlefields**, including its setting, should be accompanied by an appropriate assessment of the effect of the proposals on the asset.

5.99 Proposals which would adversely affect **Scheduled Ancient Monuments** or archaeological sites of national importance or, in either case, their setting, will only be supported in the most exceptional circumstances. All such sites are of national importance, but not all nationally important sites are necessarily scheduled.

5.100 Historic parks or gardens of particular historic design or aesthetic significance may be designated as **Registered Parks and Gardens**, included on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. Their settings will be protected from development which would cause harm to their significance. Some may also be designated as Conservation Areas, offering them further protection.In order to assist in the conservation and enhancement of designated sites:

- All developments that affect Registered Parks and Gardens need referring to The Garden History Society. Works that affect a Grade II* or Grade I Registered park or garden require consultation with both the Garden History Society and English Heritage.

- A historic landscape appraisal report may be required where development affecting a historic park or garden or its setting is proposed;

- Historic parks or gardens of particular historic design or aesthetic significance may be designated as Conservation Areas to help protect their character and appearance;

- The preparation of a conservation management plan may be required.

5.101 Development affecting the historic fabric and/or character of a Listed Building will require Listed Building Consent from the District / Borough Planning Authority. Consultation should be made with the District or Borough Conservation Officer at the earliest possible opportunity. In the case of Grade

II* and Grade I Listed Buildings, English Heritage should also be consulted. A historical and architectural evaluation of **Listed Buildings** may be required as part of the planning process to ensure decision-making is based on a proper understanding of their fabric and structure.

5.102 Proposals likely to affect the significance of a **Conservation Area** or its setting should be accompanied by an appropriate assessment of its significance and the impact of the proposal on this significance. This assessment should be informed by the conservation area appraisal and management plan and a visual impact assessment where appropriate.

iv) Natural environment features and landscape networks important for wildlife and amenity

5.103 There are a wide range of natural assets in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, some of which have been designated and therefore have a high status of protection in relation to landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity. It must be noted, however, that the identification of designated natural assets should not be taken to imply that non-designated sites and areas which have little or no designated value, will not be protected. In particular, landscape character and biodiversity networks are key to environmental quality and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

5.104 All proposals for waste management facilities should

- Minimise the harm to the natural environment through development and consider its protection and enhancement, including the quality, character and value of the landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and soil within rural and urban areas.

- Where practicable, contribute to enhancing biodiversity and landscape and opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife whilst ensuring that development takes account of the role and value of biodiversity and landscape quality in supporting economic diversification and contributing to high quality natural environment features and landscape.

v) Sites, habitats and species of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity

5.105 The protection of designated sites is considered to be of primary importance and will depend on their level of designation/importance, of which there are three categories: international, national and local. Maps on Designated Sites can be found in Habitats Regulations Assessment report (Page 11 of the document).

5.106 The sites concerned are existing or proposed:

International

- Special Protection Areas;
- Special Areas of Conservation;
- Ramsar Sites.

National

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- National Nature Reserves.

Local

- Local Nature Reserves;
- Local Wildlife Sites (Sites of Biological Importance)
- Regionally Important Geological Sites.

Sites of International Nature Conservation Importance

5.107 Proposals for waste management development where impacts on sites of international importance for nature conservation cannot be ruled out will be subject to the most rigorous examination. Proposals which may, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, have an adverse effect on the integrity of any of these sites, will not be permitted unless the Waste Planning Authority is satisfied that there is no alternative solution, there are reasons of public interest for the development of that waste management facility and full mitigation of adverse effects can be achieved. If significant harm cannot be prevented planning permission will be refused.

5.108 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been carried out alongside the Joint Waste Local Plan. The report sets out the findings of the HRA and identifies sites that will require more detailed Appropriate Assessment at the planning application stage, should those sites be proposed for waste management uses. In particular, the HRA identifies the need for careful assessment should new or enlarged waste management facilities be proposed at locations that bring the potential for increased traffic flows across those areas of Cannock Chase SAC that are identified as sensitive to nitrate / acid deposition.

Sites of National Nature Conservation Importance

5.109 Sites of national nature conservation interest are designated by Natural England to safeguard a representative series of the nation's most valuable biodiversity and geological features. Some of these are National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and all are managed with nature conservation as the principal objective.

5.110 Proposals for waste management development which affect **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSI) will be subject to the most rigorous examination. Up to date details of SSSIs can be found on the Natural England website: www.naturalengland.org.uk

5.111 Proposals for waste management facilities which would cause any direct or indirect adverse impacts on the special features of SSSI would not normally be supported, unless the developer can demonstrate that the benefits from the proposal outweigh their impacts on the features of the SSSI and on the network of the SSSIs. Where the benefits of a waste management proposal outweigh the national importance of a SSSI and will result in significant harm which cannot be prevented or adequately mitigated, appropriate compensation measures will be sought. If that significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated, or compensated for, then planning permission will be refused. Up to date information on sites of local nature conservation importance can be obtained from Staffordshire Ecological Record: www.staffs-ecology.org.uk

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance

5.112 Local Nature Reserves are statutory sites declared by Local Authorities for their value for wildlife and people's access to nature. Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Biological Importance and Regionally Important Geological Sites are selected by local partnerships using criteria which measure their biodiversity and geodiversity interest at a County level. Proposals for waste management facilities which are likely to have an adverse effect on a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site, Site of Biological Importance, or Regionally Important Geological Site will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable mitigation measures should be included in the proposal so that the value of the site is preserved aiming to maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity in the Wider Environment

5.113 A large range of wildlife species, and in some cases the habitats on which they depend, are protected in accordance with European and National legislation. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan lists habitats and species which require special consideration due to their rarity, vulnerability or importance to the UK's biodiversity and includes objectives and targets for their protection and enhancement. The Government White Paper on the Natural Environment published in June 2011 highlights the importance of ecological networks and

the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment. Proposals for waste management facilities should take account of these natural assets and should contribute to enhancement where possible. The Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan outlines local objectives and targets. The Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan outlines priorities for the geological environment and its value for science and education. All new proposed waste management developments should take account of biodiversity and geodiversity objectives and targets set out at the national and local levels; including contributions to these where possible and practicable.

5.114 Proposals, which would have an adverse impact on key habitats of legally protected species, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, will not be supported. Where development involving satisfactory mitigation is possible, the emphasis will be given to reducing disturbance to a minimum; facilitating the survival of individual members of the species; providing adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current population levels. Up to date information on protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species can be obtained from Staffordshire Ecological Record: www.staffs-ecology.org.uk

vi) The landscape

5.115 Safeguarding features that contribute to diversity, character and distinctiveness require special attention. Emphasis will be placed on the conservation, enhancement and restoration of landscapes both within settlements and in the wider countryside, and integrating development into the surrounding landscape. Regard should be given to the Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Planning for Landscape Change' accompanying the adopted Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan, or its successor document, which will remain a material consideration.

5.116 All proposals for waste management facilities should

- Be informed by and be sympathetic to landscape character and its quality in terms of location, siting, scale, material and design; and
- Contribute, as appropriate, to the regeneration, restoration, enhancement, maintenance or active conservation of the landscape likely to be affected.

5.117 The European Landscape Convention, which came into force in the UK on March 1 2007, acknowledges that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside. It sets, as part of its principle aims, the promotion of landscape protection, management and planning, to be implemented through; recognising landscapes in law as an essential component of peoples surroundings, to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning, to establish procedures for the participation of the general public,

local and regional authorities in the implementation of the policies above, and to integrate landscape into regional and town planning policies as well as any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

5.118 The assessment of the proposals for waste management facilities with landscape and visual implications will have regard to the extent to which they would:

A) Cause unacceptable visual harm;

B) Introduce (or conversely remove) incongruous landscape element;

C) Cause the disturbance or loss of (or conversely help to maintain):

(i) landscape elements that contribute to local distinctiveness;

(ii) historic elements within contribute significantly to landscape character and quality, such as field, settlement or road patterns;

(iii) semi-natural vegetation which is characteristic of that landscape type;

(iv) the visual condition of landscape elements;

(v) tranquillity.

5.119 The aim of the assessment process is to help to determine what type and scale of development would be acceptable in different rural landscapes, and by identifying those areas which require positive investment, either to maintain their high landscape quality or to restore or recreate lost quality and character. This would necessarily be subject to the provisions of other relevant policies, including those relating to areas within Green Belt, to the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land and countryside.

5.120 Where compatible with other planning policies, waste management development which secures landscape or nature conservation improvements, including woodland planting, reclamation of derelict or despoiled land, or relevant community benefits will be supported. Conversely, proposals which will conflict with measures to conserve or enhance the environment and economies of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will be resisted.

vii) <u>Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the setting of the Peak District National Park</u>

5.121 In England and Wales, those landscapes considered most valuable are protected as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These landscapes are protected and managed by law to maintain their special character for now and the future.

5.122 Cannock Chase is Staffordshire's only AONB and is characterised by heathland landscape, supporting priority habitats and species, and extensive tree cover. Given the importance of **Cannock Chase AONB, and its setting**, the Joint Waste Local Plan seeks to safeguard this resource. There will be a presumption against waste development within Cannock Chase AONB, except in exceptional circumstances. The acceptability of waste management development proposals outside the boundary of the AONB will be assessed with regard to the extent of any adverse impact on the landscape, nature conservation or recreation interest of the AONB in order to ensure that the appearance and valued characteristics of the AONB are not compromised. More specifically, proposals in Cannock Chase AONB should take into account the objectives and purposes listed in Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan [(23)], related to protection of the landscape character of the AONB, visual impact of activity within the AONB landscapes and protection of the peace and tranquillity in order to ensure that requirements of Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 are met.

5.123 The Peak District National Park is a separate Waste Planning Authority responsible for determining applications within its area and has an adopted Local Development Framework (Appendix 1: Virtual Library). The Peak District National Park contains some of the country's wildest and most beautiful landscapes. In order to protect against impacts of waste development outside the Park itself, there will be a presumption against waste development that might impact on the setting of the Peak District National Park. The National Park Authority will be consulted on any proposal which may have such an effect.

viii) The Green Belt

5.124 Green Belts have been an important concept in planning policy for many years and their principle aim, which is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open, has remained unchanged. There are three areas of Green Belt in Staffordshire:

- Around the North Staffordshire Conurbation;
- To the north and west of the West Midlands Conurbation; and
- The small area to the east of Burton upon Trent

5.125 In line with the national planning policy [(24)], there is a presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt and therefore inappropriate development is only permitted in very special circumstances. Proposals for waste management facilities within the Green Belt, which do not comply with

23 Current Version 2009-14. See: http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/page.asp?pid=30
24 Previously Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belt but now refer to section 9 of the NPPF

the objectives of the Green Belt or the purpose of including land in the Green Belt, would be regarded as inappropriate development unless the openness is maintained and therefore any proposals will need to be clearly justified before permission is granted. Where this would not be the case then the applicant will need to demonstrate that 'very special circumstances' exist to override the Green Belt objection.

5.126 Reuse of buildings within the Green Belt may be appropriate provided that the new use does not have a materially greater impact on the openness or quality of the Green Belt and that any conversion work does not disproportionately increase the size of buildings and is in keeping with the surroundings.

ix) The countryside

5.127 The countryside will be safeguarded for its own sake as a non-renewable natural resource. Waste management developments are acceptable where they respect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of natural resources and maintain or improve the quality of the surrounding environment. Where overriding economic or social interests outweigh the need for environmental maintenance or improvement, development proposals should include measures for adequate mitigation of, or compensation for, adverse environmental impacts.

5.128 In assessment of the proposals for re-use of buildings in the countryside for waste management purposes, the following will be considered:

- The potential impact on the countryside, landscapes and wildlife;
- Special local economic and social needs and opportunities;
- Settlements of patterns and accessibility to service centres, markets and housing;
- The suitability of different types of buildings of different scale, for re-use.

5.129 Proposals for replacement of buildings in the countryside would be favoured where this would result in a more acceptable and sustainable waste management development than might be achieved through conversion, for example, where the replacement building would bring about an environmental improvement in terms of the impact of the development on its surrounding and the landscape.

x) Trees, hedgerows and woodlands

5.130 It is widely acknowledged that the presence of trees enhances urban and countryside living. Trees, hedgerows and woodlands are significant in ecological, visual and cultural terms. They contribute considerably to the amenity of the landscape and streetscene, and add maturity to new

developments, making places more attractive for living and working, thus adding value and attracting investment. Trees and hedgerows help soften the built environment, by enhancing pleasant views and breaking-up view lines and providing screening of unattractive buildings and undesirable views. They contribute to people's quality of life and sense of wellbeing, providing numerous health, social, and environmental benefits. More specifically, trees produce oxygen, store carbon, intercept and absorb rainfall reducing flood risk, absorb pollutants which help in reducing the causes of respiratory illnesses, filter noise, provide shelter and shade and provide habitat for wildlife. They have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets, and in supporting research and education.

5.131 Removal of trees and hedgerows should be avoided where possible. This will particularly be the case in respect of areas identified for woodland conservation or enhancement and those trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders. Careful consideration also needs to be given to proposals affecting Ancient semi-natural woodlands and veteran trees, which have particular value as they cannot be recreated.

5.132 Appropriate woodland planting is important. Within the strategy area, the National Forest, which covers parts of East Staffordshire, the Forest of Mercia between Cannock and the West Midlands Conurbation, along with zones identified in the Staffordshire District Core Strategies have been designated as woodland planting areas. All proposals for waste management facilities affecting woodland settings should provide appropriate landscaping and tree planting which reflects the forest context.

5.133 Where trees, hedgerows or woodland are lost to development, appropriate and feasible compensatory planting should be incorporated into proposals in order to prevent the loss of this valuable environmental resource. Schemes for the planting of a new woodland should include subsequent aftercare and management proposals.

5.134 All proposals for waste management facilities should:

- Be encouraged to incorporate measures to improve the management and conservation of existing woodlands, important trees and hedgerows;
- Not result in the loss of, or damage to, ancient woodlands, and veteran trees;
- Not have an unacceptable adverse effect on other woodlands and hedgerows which contribute significantly to landscape character and quality or to the meeting of biodiversity targets, unless it can be demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the site.

xi) Agricultural land

5.135 Staffordshire and parts of Stoke-on-Trent are very diverse farming areas and particularly as far as Staffordshire's economy is concerned, agriculture plays an important role in the local economy. The principles of national policy on sustainable development is to protect best and most versatile agricultural land from any forms of development as a resource for future generations.[25]

5.136 Agricultural land is graded according to the degree to which its physical and chemical characteristics impose long term limitations on agricultural use. The grades range from 1 (the most versatile) to 5 (the least versatile). Grades 1 and 2 cover about 9% of the Plan area and have no, or only minor, limitations to their agricultural use. The majority of the Plan area, 57% is classified as Grade 3 (sub-categorised 3a and 3b in local surveys), with 15% being Grades 4 and 5, the lowest agricultural category. The remainder of the land is in urban (11%) and non-agricultural uses (8%), such as golf courses, allotments, public open spaces, etc.

5.137 The presence of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 - 3a) should be taken into account alongside other sustainable considerations when determining planning applications. Development of waste management facilities on the best and most versatile agricultural land should be resisted, unless:

- There is a strong case of overriding need for development on that site;
- Opportunities have been assessed for accommodating development needs on previously developed sites, land within the boundaries of existing developed areas, and on poorer quality farmland;
- There is no other site suitable (or which could be made suitable) for the particular purpose, and insufficient lower grade land which does not have an environmental value recognised by statutory designation;
- The development fully accords with other policies in the Joint Waste Local Plan.

5.138 Proposals for waste management facilities to be located on the best and most versatile agricultural land should include details to demonstrate the feasibility of protecting the soil resource and the prospect of restoring the land to its original agricultural quality.

5.139 Where alternative after-uses, for example forestry and recreation, are proposed on such land then the methods used in restoration and aftercare should enable the land to retain the capability of being farmed to its agricultural land classification potential.

xii) Open space (including sports and recreational facilities)

25 PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas.

5.140 Public open spaces, including recreational and sport facilities are an important component in the overall quality of life of the sub region. National planning policy [26] protects and promotes public open space, sports and recreational facilities. Proposals for waste management facilities which would result in a reduction to the overall value of open space, sport and recreational network in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will be resisted, unless they are surplus to requirements.

5.141 Where a development would result in an adverse impact on open space, mitigation measures to address any harmful aspects of proposal will be sought. Applicants will be advised to amend their proposals to reduce the impact or/and incorporate compensatory measure to replace or enhance the existing provision. Where a proposal would cause significant harm to the functioning of a green infrastructure network, particularly in relation to reducing the impacts of climate change, and harm cannot be mitigated, planning permission will normally be refused.

5.142 Waste management proposals may also provide opportunities for new open spaces and recreational facilities, for example as part of landfill restoration schemes. These type of proposals will be supported and encouraged if proposed open space, sports or recreational facilities are of particular value to a local community, which benefit wildlife and biodiversity, provide important local amenity and offer recreational opportunities. In such cases, the proposals will need to be accompanied, where applicable, by a comprehensive management plan to ensure the long-term viability of the public facility. District-wide development plan documents may also contain relevant policies that should be taken into account including Local Authority Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Strategies.

xiii) Protection of air, soil and water and reduction of flood risk

5.143 Waste management activities have the potential to generate considerable adverse impacts on air, water and water quality if not properly controlled. It is one of the Joint Waste Local Plan's objectives to ensure that the general amenity, health and safety of people and communities are not significantly harmed and are taken into account when considering and monitoring waste management facilities.

5.144 Air quality is generally good across much of Staffordshire. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) have, however been declared in the areas immediately surrounding six busy road junction, and across the whole of the City of Stoke-on-Trent, where levels of certain pollutants may sometimes exceed those permitted in air quality standards, largely as a result of vehicle emissions.

26 Previously Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation but now refer to section 8 of the NPPF

5.145 Air quality will be a material consideration, particularly in AQMAs, where proposals for waste management developments is likely to exacerbate the situation. Air quality assessment will need to be carried out based on appropriate methodology agreed with the relevant local authority Environmental Health Officer and the Environment Agency. The location of waste management facilities within buildings and the introduction of management systems to control dust, gases, odours or plumes of smoke or vapour can play an important role in controlling the impact on the air quality arising as the result of operations.

5.146 Soil is an important natural resource and it should be conserved as far as possible. It supports the infrastructure and cultural heritage, shapes the landscape and supports a wide range of biodiversity. All proposals for waste management facilities should take sufficient account of soil quality, particularly when significant areas of the best and most versatile and agricultural land is concerned (refer to paragraph 5.130). When assessing proposals for waste management facilities, protection and improvement of the existing soil resources will be taken into consideration for example, soil handling or soil improvers such as compost or soil making material.

5.147 Waste management activities can potentially have serious impacts on groundwater quality unless the development is properly controlled and suitably located. In particular the risk of pollution, and disruption to drainage systems, including the potential for dewatering watercourses, groundwater and water bodies. There may be potential adverse impacts on habitats, fisheries and existing water abstraction measures. Mitigation measures should be employed to minimise adverse impacts. There may be circumstances where, even allowing for such measures, the residual impacts are such that permission should not be granted. In particular, the Water Framework Directive imposes strict targets for water quality which must be achieved.

5.148 The water environment and its wider landscape character will be protected, to safeguard biodiversity control, pollution and enhance and create habitats. This will ensure that any new development seeks to protect and enhance the water quality, biodiversity and landscape of water corridors, by helping to meet the objectives set out in the Humber, Seven and North West River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), under the Water Framework Directive. Close collaborative working between the Waste Planning Authorities and the Environment Agency will help to ensure that water resources are effectively and efficiently protected from potentially polluting development.

5.149 The Water Framework Directive requires all waterbodies to achieve 'Good Ecological Status or Potential' by 2015. In this regard, no deterioration in water quality from current status should be allowed. Therefore it is imperative that adequate consideration be given to the watercourses themselves at all times (including those directly and indirectly affected by development, on and off-site,

pre and post construction). More information on the Water Framework Directive can be found in the Humber, Seven and North West River Basin Management Plans (RBMP).

5.150 Wherever possible, watercourses should be returned to a more natural state in support of the Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) aims to renaturalise water bodies and wider RBMP objectives to improve the ecological value of the water environment. Easements between development and watercourses should be considered for habitat creation, and also to allow for overland flood flows, to reduce the likelihood of pollution of the watercourse and to allow for essential maintenance access. This easement should be detailed within the site specific flood risk assessments.

5.151 Unless carefully sited and designed, waste management development could be at risk of flooding, or could increase the chance of flooding elsewhere. It is essential that the future development is planned carefully to avoid the areas at risk from flooding. In line with the National requirements the risk based Sequential Test[(27)] should be applied at all stages of planning steering new development to areas at the lowest probability of flooding (Zone 1). Most waste management facilities are defined as being less vulnerable to flooding and therefore acceptable in Flood Zones 1 - 3a (Low - High Probability of flooding). Landfill and hazardous waste facilities are considered more vulnerable and so would only normally be acceptable in Flood Zones 1 and 2 (Low - Medium Probability of flooding). Where the site lies partially within the floodplain, and the sequential test cannot be passed for the site, a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should be undertaken to inform the exact extent of floodplain at the site.

5.152 Planning applications should be supported by an appropriate Flood Risk Assessment. This should demonstrate how the proposal will address and manage the risk of flooding from all sources to the development itself; and the risk of the development increasing the flood risk to others. The level of details to be included in the supporting information can be found in the validation guidance provided by the Councils.

xiv) <u>Any other interests or acknowledged importance</u>

5.153 Policy 4.2 identifies a wide range of considerations and factors, which should be taken into account when assessing proposals for waste management facilities. However there may be other factors not listed in the policy which come to light when considering a planning application which may represent material planning considerations and therefore need to be taken into account before reaching a decision.

27 Previously set out in Annex D of Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk but now refer to "Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework"

6 Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation

6.1 Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council as Waste Planning Authorities will take the lead role in the implementation of the objectives and the policies of this Development Plan Document primarily through the determination of individual planning applications for waste management facilities. The Councils will seek to work closely with local stakeholders and the waste industry, to provide appropriate advice, prior to the submission of an application. The intention will be to ensure that development delivers the vision and objectives of the Local Plan. The variety of methods of implementation include:

- Determining planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan, government policy and guidance and other material considerations;
- Attaching conditions to planning permissions;
- Seeking legal agreements with developers where appropriate;
- Enforcing breaches of planning control as necessary;
- Maintaining a dialogue with the waste management industry and local communities through participation in local liaison committees and other means;
- Liaising and co-operate with other departments within the Councils and bodies such as the District and Borough Councils, Parish Councils, adjoining Waste Planning Authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage, Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Highways Agency, and interest groups;
- Working with the waste management industry and others to identify and develop suitable initiatives and sites; and,
- Issuing advice or supplementary planning documents if appropriate.

6.2 In order to protect our waste infrastructure and existing waste management capacity, cooperation will be required from the Local Planning Authorities in Staffordshire who will determine planning applications for non-waste related development in the vicinity of waste management facilities.

6.3 Implementation may also involve the consolidation of existing planning permissions in order to avoid or reduce any adverse cumulative effects.

Planning Conditions.

6.4 National policy on waste[1] clarifies that it should not be necessary to use planning conditions to control the pollution aspects of a waste management facility where it requires a permit from the pollution control authority (The Environment Agency). A close working relationship will be maintained with the pollution control authorities and unless there are clear land-use planning reasons, conditions will not be imposed if appropriate controls exist under other legislation to address the matter. Matters for control by the imposition of conditions are set out below. It is not necessarily an exhaustive list nor are all the matters relevant to every development.

1 Current National policy on waste is PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management

1. Definition of consent;
2. Commencement and duration of the permission (including cessation, site clearance, restoration and aftercare);
3. Display of conditions;
4. Types of waste materials (including non-conforming waste);
5. Amount of waste (including annual throughputs);
6. Site layout and appearance (including location, design and size of buildings);
7. Highway safety;
8. Site access;
9. Vehicle numbers (including movements);
10. Drainage;
11. Hours of working;
12. Working method and area (including type of machinery);
13. Noise generation (including plant);
14. Emissions of dust, smoke, fumes etc;
15. Odour management;
16. Litter and pest control;
17. Landscaping (including screening);
18. Protection of existing trees, hedges, shrubs and other landscape features
19. Protection of ecological and geological interests;
20. Archaeological interests and protection of other historic sites or features;
21. Protection of water environment;
22. Prevention of flood risk;
23. Protection of public rights of way;
24. Soil management;
25. Restoration /reclamation;
26. After-care;
27. After-use;
28. Record keeping;
29. Site security;
30. Fuels and chemical storage (Environment Agency conditions).

Planning Obligations.

6.5 Where the use of planning conditions is not possible, it may be possible to make development proposals acceptable through the use of planning obligations. These are legal agreements usually entered into by a planning authority and any person with an interest in the development and the relevant land. Obligations can also be secured through unilateral undertakings by developers. The types of matters that can expect to be included in planning obligations are listed below. It is not necessarily an exhaustive list nor are all the matters relevant to every development.

1. The relinquishment or modification of existing planning consents to consolidate existing consents;
2. Access and highway improvements;
3. Traffic management measures including the routeing of vehicles;
4. Off site environmental improvements or nature conservation works;
5. Long term management requirements (beyond the statutory aftercare period) to establish beneficial after-use;
6. The physical, planning and financial requirements needed to secure the after-use of a site;
7. Provision for long term environmental monitoring and control systems;
8. Provision of infrastructure and public facilities;
9. Flood risk compensation works;
10. Establishment of a liaison committee.

6.6 Account may also be taken of the new planning charge, the Community Infrastructure Levy, which came into force in April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (now amended by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2011). It allows local authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. The Planning Act 2008, as updated by The Localism Act 2011, provides a wide definition of the infrastructure which can be funded by the levy, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities. The funding could also be used for mitigation within the AONB where necessary and appropriate. Charging authorities wishing to charge the levy must produce a charging schedule setting out the levy's rates in their area. For developments not capable of being charged the levy the policy in the NPPF will apply[(2)]. CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions whilst S106 obligations will be for site-specific mitigation.

6.7 For further information about making a planning application visit our respective websites at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning and http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/planning

Monitoring framework

6.8 As part of our Annual Monitoring Report we will assess the effectiveness of the Joint Waste Local Plan and whether the spatial vision, and objectives are being delivered. It will aim to determine:

2 Refer to paragraphs 203-206

- Whether policies and related targets or milestones have been met or progress is being made towards meeting them or, where they are not being met or on track to being achieved, the reasons why;

- What impact the policies are having in respect of national and local policy targets and any other targets identified in the document. This will include monitoring the National Policy 'Presumption in favour of sustainable development' and the reasons for any refusal; and monitoring the Duty to Cooperate by recording information on other authorities seeking our cooperation on waste matters;

- Whether the policies, where adopted, need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended;

- If policies or proposals need changing, what actions are needed to achieve this.

6.9 The conclusions are required to be set out in an Annual Monitoring Report [(3)], and in order to be able to do this it is necessary to compile targets linked to performance indicators, which provide a benchmark for measuring policy implementation. These are set out in the table below. The timescale for measurement of the indicators (i.e. the target period) is the twelve months from 1st April to 31st March to coincide with that of the Annual Monitoring Report, unless otherwise indicated. Should, through the annual monitoring process, a target be consistently missed this would be used to assist the Council's when undertaking the 5-yearly review of the Joint Waste Local Plan. Any changes in Government policy relevant to waste development, waste management or apportionment would similarly be expected to be addressed through the Annual Monitoring Report and the 5-yearly review of the Joint Waste Local Plan. Consideration will also be given to synchronising the refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (expected to cover the period 2016 - 2020) in tandem with the 5-yearly review of the Joint Waste Local Plan in order to bring forward development.

6.10 The Joint Waste Local Plan does not contain enforcement policies or monitor performance indicators on enforcement as both Councils have separate enforcement frameworks. The Stoke-on-Trent City Council 'Statement of Planning Enforcement Policy' was adopted in March 2010 . The County Council 'Monitoring and Enforcement Plan 2012 for the Extraction and Processing of Minerals and for Waste Management Facilities in Staffordshire' was produced

3 Staffordshire County Council AMR is available here http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/home.aspx & Stoke-on-Trent City Council AMR is available here http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/planning/planning-policy/

in line with the requirement of National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 207, and was adopted in July 2012. (Both documents are available in Appendix 1: Virtual Library).

Table 4: Measuring Policy Implementation

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
Policy 1.1 General principles **Policy 1.2 Make better use of waste associated with non-waste related** **development** **Policy 1.3 Construction, demolition and excavation waste**	**Waste as a resource.** Minimising waste and minimising the impacts of waste, managing it in a sustainable way higher up the hierarchy to reduce the overall amount of waste being landfilled. This relates to Issue 1 and Strategic Objective 1	1.1 Total waste arisings in the plan area.	Derived from periodic surveys of national / regional data by external agencies for C&I, CD&E, Hazardous and Agricultural waste streams. MSW data derived from County and City Council waste data flow records.	N/A	Survey data diverges significantly (more than 10%) from forecast for MSW and C&I waste (taken from RSS P2) and from forecast for CD&E waste (taken from Scott Wilson 2009 Update West Midlands Landfill Capacity Study).	Assess implications for Waste Local Plan targets and revise if required.
		1.2 Total arisings of MSW by management type.	Based on former National Core Output Indicator 6B – amount of MSW arising and managed by management type, and the percentage each management type represents	Landfill Diversion targets for MSW in Policy 2.1. Recycling,	Survey data of waste arisings diverges significantly from RSS P2 forecast (more	Assess implications for Waste Local Plan targets and revise if required.

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
Policy 1.4 Use of waste for landscaping, screening, engineering purposes or for the improvement of agricultural or forestry land			of the waste managed. Derived from County and City Council's records of MSW sent for recycling, organic treatment, energy recovery and landfill.	organic treatment and recovery targets from MWMS.	than 10%). Percentage each management type represents (recycling, organic treatment and recovery) diverges significantly (more than 10%) from MWMS target.	
Policy 1.5 Energy recovery **Policy 1.6 Landfill or landraise**		1.3 Additional waste treatment capacity approved and capacity implemented, by category (recycling, aggregate recycling, organic treatment, residual treatment, waste transfer and landfill).	Recorded from planning applications. Implementation checked periodically against EA RATS data.	As set out in Policy 2.2. waste infrastructure capacity to match waste production.	Failure to meet interim targets as set out in Policy 2.2.	Review policies to explore whether they could be refined to encourage desired applications.

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
		1.4 Waste treatment capacity lost, by category (recycling, aggregate recycling, organic treatment, residual treatment, waste transfer and landfill).	Recorded from planning applications where appropriate; from Regulation Team monitoring information; and, from periodic review of EA RATS data. Update of Appendix 5 Schedule of Waste Infrastructure – operational capacity and non operational permitted capacity, in order to assess if any capacity is lost to new developments, or temporary permissions have expired (including loss of landfill capacity) in order to adjust capacity gap and policy targets accordingly. Related to indicator 1.6.	N/A	Any loss greater than 20,000 tonnes per annum or of capacity for treating a specialised waste stream.	Revise targets if required.
		1.5 Net change in waste treatment capacity, by category (recycling, aggregate recycling, organic treatment, residual	Balance between Performance Indicator 1.3 & 1.4 above.	N/A	Net loss of waste management capacity, particularly towards the	Review policies to explore whether they could be refined to retain existing

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
		treatment, waste transfer and landfill).			upper part of the hierarchy.	capacity and encourage desired applications.
		1.6 Total permitted and operational waste treatment capacity, by category, as at 1 May each year	Calculated by adding results of Performance Indicator 1.3 to Appendix 5: Schedule of Waste Infrastructure (as updated by Performance Indicator 1.4).	As set out in Policies 2.1 and 2.2	Failure to meet interim targets as set out in Policies 2.1 and 2.2	Review policies to explore whether they could be refined to retain existing capacity and encourage desired applications
Policy 2.1 Landfill diversion targets	**Targets and broad locations for waste management facilities** Achieving and maintaining sufficient waste	2.1 Additional capacity required to achieve next landfill diversion target for MSW and C&I waste.	Calculated by subtracting the result for Performance Indicator 1.6 from the required capacity at the next target year point. Capacity of new and existing facilities compared to waste production (RSS P2 waste forecasts for MSW and C&I waste) to quantify existing capacity gaps	As set out in Policies 2.1 and 2.2.	Waste treatment capacity fails to grow fast enough to keep on track to meet interim targets as set out in Policy 2.2.	Review policies to explore whether they could be refined to encourage desired applications.

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
Policy 2.2 Targets for new waste management facilities required by 2026 **to manage municipal, commercial & industrial, and construction, demolition** **& excavation waste streams.** **Policy 2.3 Broad locations**	treatment capacity of the right type. This relates to Issue 2 and Strategic Objective 2		going forward to 2026 in terms of broad types of management (recycling, organic treatment, and residual treatment).			
		2.2 Additional capacity required to meet C,D&E recycling target	Calculated by subtracting the result for 1.6 from the required capacity at the next target point. Capacity of new and existing facilities compared to waste production (Scott Wilson 2009 Update West Midlands Landfill Capacity Study forecast for CD&E waste) to quantify existing capacity gaps going forward to 2026 in terms of aggregate recycling.	As set out in Policy 2.2.	Waste treatment capacity fails to grow fast enough to keep on track to meet target set out in Policy 2.2.	Review policies to explore whether they could be refined to encourage desired applications.
		2.3 Import / Export figures for MSW and for C&I / other waste streams.	Monitoring of waste disposal contracts will show fate of MSW. Difficult to measure for C&I waste and other waste streams, however EA data will provide a periodic snapshot of the situation.	Avoiding dependence on exports to manage waste (particularly MSW).	Proportion of waste (particularly MSW) exported rises by more than 5%.	Establish underlying factors to ensure that this does not

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
Policy 2.4 Strategic waste facilities to be safeguarded **Policy 2.5 The location of development in the vicinity of waste**					Quantity of waste imported rises by more than 5%.	indicate a need for additional facilities.
Policy 3.1 General requirements for new and enhanced facilities **Policy 3.2 Exceptions criteria for**	**Criteria for the location of new and enhanced waste management facilities.** Achieving the right waste management infrastructure, in	3.1 New approvals in line with locational criteria.	Recorded from planning applications. Geographic distribution of new facilities in accordance with the broad locations and hierarchy of urban areas as set out in Policies 2.3 and 3.1.	100%	N/A Later indicators address relevant trigger points.	N/A See later indicators.

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
organic treatment in farm locations close **to the urban areas/broad locations** **Policy 3.3 Exceptions criteria for facilities recycling construction, demolition** **& excavation waste or comparable industrial wastes**	the right place, moving towards higher standards This relates to Issue 3 and Strategic Objective 3	3.2 New approvals not in line with locational criteria.	Recorded from planning applications. Converse of Performance Indicator 3.1.	0%	Any approvals not in line with locational criteria.	Ensure that decision was appropriately based on special circumstances.
		3.3 Number of approvals granted under exceptions criteria.	Recorded from planning applications. Geographic distribution of new facilities in accordance with exceptions criteria in Policies 3.2 and 3.3.	N/A	Any approvals granted under exceptions criteria.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on special circumstances.
		3.4 Number of approvals granted involving temporary planning permissions.	Recorded from planning applications.	N/A	Any approvals granted involving temporary permissions.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on special circumstances.
		3.5 Number of applications approved showing phased improvement of existing waste	Recorded from planning applications.	N/A	Any approvals granted requiring phased improvement.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
Policy 3.4 Temporary planning permissions		management facilities.				special circumstances.
Policy 4.1 Sustainable design **Policy 4.2 Protection of Environmental Quality**	**Sustainable design and protection and improvement of environmental quality** High quality, sustainable design and protection and improvement of environmental quality This relates to Issue 4 and Strategic Objective 4.	4.1 Proportion of new facilities which are enclosed.	Recorded from planning applications.	100% of those not exempt (see Policy 3.1)	Any approvals granted for facilities which are not enclosed.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on special circumstances, and that impacts can be adequately controlled.
		4.2 Proportion of new facilities exempted from requirement for enclosure.	Recorded from planning applications.	N/A	Frequent approvals under exceptions criteria.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on special circumstances.
		4.3 Applications approved where adverse environmental	Recorded from planning applications.	N/A	Any significant residual impacts accepted.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
		Recorded from planning applications.impacts (as defined in Policy 4.2) are anticipated, but judged to be outweighed by material planning benefits.				special circumstances.
		4.4 Applications approved where specific environmental improvements are achieved.	Recorded from planning applications.	100%	Any approvals granted for facilities which do not include some form of environmental improvement.	Ensure that decisions are appropriately based on special circumstances.
Duty to Co-operate	Maintaining co-operation with neighbouring authorities on issues of common interest.	5.1 Continue co-operation on regional issues with regard to current waste management capacity.	Attendance at RTAB meetings and meetings with neighbouring authorities and the Waste Industry.	100% attendance.	RTAB ceases to operate through lack of support.	Consider alternative approach to joint working.
		5.2 Continue co-operation on	Attendance at RTAB meetings and meetings with	100% attendance.	RTAB ceases to operate	Consider alternative

Policy	Key Outcomes	Performance Indicator	Monitoring Method	Target	Trigger Point	Corrective Action
		regional issues relating to future waste management capacity requirements and future evidence base preparation.	neighbouring authorities and the Waste Industry.		through lack of support.	approach to joint working.

Glossary

Adoption: The final confirmation of a development plan or Local Development Document as having statutory status by a Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Aggregates: Term used to describe minerals used for construction purposes, such as sand and gravel, which can be used as hardcore or to produce mortar, cement, concrete and other building products, and hard rock, which can be crushed and used for foundations or as roadstone. Aggregates can be "primary" (virgin materials quarried from the ground), "secondary" (produced as a by-product of other mineral working or industrial processing), or "recycled" (produced from recycled waste).

Agricultural Waste Regulations 2006: This legislation came into force on 15 May 2006 and seeks to bring agricultural waste regulations in line with all other UK industrial waste controls. Unfortunately the majority of agricultural waste has in the past been disposed of on site by burning or burial which poses serious threats to the environment. Now farmers will need to either store up their waste for a maximum of twelve months prior to disposal at a licensed site, or apply to the Environment Agency for a licence exemption or waste management licence. Agricultural waste is that produced in the course of work on land used for agriculture and carried out in connection with the use of the land for that purpose will be considered to be agricultural waste. That is, it must be produced on a 'farm' and have been produced in the course of 'farming'". There is no definitive list for agricultural waste, however it includes: animal health products; building waste; cardboard and paper; hazardous waste; metal, wood, glass and rubber; non packaging plastic; plastic packaging; and vehicle and machinery waste. Note that as long as manure and slurry is used as a fertiliser on agricultural land then it will not be a waste.

Anaerobic Digestion (AD): A method of treating organic wastes (green wastes and food wastes). It is a biological process in which biodegradable organic matters in an enclosed vessel are broken-down by bacteria (in the absence of oxygen) into biogas, which consists of methane (CH4), carbon dioxide (CO2), and other trace amount of gases. This process breaks down the waste, generating useable products including: biogas which can be burnt to produce energy - heat and electricity; fibre, for soil conditioning; and liquor, which can be used as a liquid fertiliser.

Animal By-Products Regulations: The 2005 Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 controls the collection, transport, storage, handling, processing and use or disposal of animal by-products in EU member states. The 2009 new Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 apply from 4 March 2011.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR): A report produced by the local planning authority and submitted to the Government which includes an assessment of :

- Whether the policies and related targets or milestones in the Mineral and Waste Development Documents have been met;
- What impact the policies are having on national, regional and local targets identified in Mineral or Waste Development Documents;

- Whether the policies in the Mineral and Waste Development Documents need adjusting or replacing;
- If policies or proposals need changing and suggested actions to achieve this.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): A national landscape designation for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the countryside.

B2/B8 Use Class: Refer to use class order and general industrial land below.

Bioaerosols: The Environment Agency definition for Bioaerosols is that they are complex mixtures of airborne micro-organisms and their products (including bacteria, fungal spores, protozoa and organic constituents of microbial and fungal origin), and are ubiquitous, particularly in rural environments. The most serious health problems appear to arise from Aspergillus fumigatus, but there are other fungal spores and bacteria that cause problems. International studies have shown that there is a wide variability in individual susceptibility to bioaerosol exposure. Commercial scale composting activities tend to generate large amounts of bioaerosols and these are likely to contain human allergens and pathogens. They have potential effects on respiratory health and may cause headaches, nausea and fatigue. There has been very little investigation into the effects of community exposure to bioaerosols from composting, but there is some limited data that suggest that living close to a composting facility may be associated with an increased risk of adverse health effects. The consensus from various studies is that bioaerosols from composting activities decline rapidly within the first 100 metres from a site and generally decline to background levels within 250m. Acceptable levels at the sensitive receptors (see definition for sensitive receptors below) refers to the concentrations of bioaerosols (as predicted or as derived from direct measurements) which are attributable to the composting operations. Acceptable levels are: 300, 1000 and 500 cfu m-3 for gram-negative bacteria, total bacteria and Aspergillus fumigatus respectively, as measured by the standardised monitoring protocol.

Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW): Waste from households that is capable of undergoing natural decomposition such as paper and cardboard, garden and food waste.

Biodiversity (or Biological Diversity): The variety of life on Earth or in a specified region or area.

Biomass: Any fuel derived from organic matter, which can be used to power a boiler or power plant. It includes fuels made from timber and crops grown specifically for use as biomass, or fuels made from organic waste (e.g. Green garden and horticultural waste, low-grade waste wood, and food waste).

Bioremediation: Biological treatment of contaminated solids or water. Various methods are available, some of which can only be applied on site (in situ) and some of which can be applied off-site (ex-situ).

Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM): An environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings.

Civic Amenity Site (CA): See Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

Climate Change scenario: The change in climate by a certain time in the future, using a specific modelling technique and under specific assumptions about the growth of greenhouse gas and other emissions and about other factors that may influence climate in the future.

Clinical Waste: Derived largely from hospitals, medical and other related practices and defined as blood, tissue, and other bodily fluids and excretions from humans and animals; drugs and medical equipment; and other waste which unless rendered safe, may prove hazardous or infectious.

Combined Heat and Power/Combined Cooling Heat and Power (CHP/ CCHP): A type of power plant which generates heating and cooling as well as electricity. A CHP plant captures residual heat and supplies it to end users as heat and/or hot water. Heat can be captured and supplied in two ways; either through "district heating" (heat piped from the plant directly to end users) or Heat Storage (capture and storage of heat in tanks, in the form of hot water). CHP is therefore the simultaneous generation of usable heat and power (usually electricity) in a single process, thereby reducing wasted heat and putting to use heat that would normally be wasted to the atmosphere, rivers or seas. CHP is an efficient form of decentralised energy supply providing heating and electricity at the same time. CHP's overall fuel efficiency can be around 70-90% of the input fuel, depending on heat load; much better than most power stations which are only up to around 40-50% efficient.

Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I): Commercial waste is that arising from any premises which are used wholly or mainly for trade, business, sport recreation or entertainment, excluding municipal. Industrial waste is that from any factory and from any premises occupied by an industry (excluding mines and quarries). This waste is not the responsibility of the WDA to manage.

Communities and Local Government, Department of (CLG): The Department sets policy on supporting local government; communities and neighbourhoods; regeneration; housing; planning, building and the environment; and fire. The Department is ending the era of top-down government by giving new powers to councils, communities, neighbours and individuals. CLG once brought together regional and local government (including the regional Government Offices), however the Government Office Network closed on 31 March 2011 and some of their functions transferred to the relevant Government departments.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): CIL came into force in April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (now amended by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2011). It allows local authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of

infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. The Planning Act 2008 provides a wide definition of the infrastructure which can be funded by the levy, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities. This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, district heating schemes and police stations and other community safety facilities. Charging authorities wishing to charge the levy must produce a charging schedule setting out the levy's rates in their area. Charging schedules will be a new type of document within the folder of documents making up the local authority's local development framework. For developments not capable of being charged the levy the policy in Circular 5/05 will continue to apply for S106 planning obligations. CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions whilst S106 obligations will be for site-specific mitigation.

Community Strategy (CS): Community strategies (known also as Sustainable Community Strategies) should set out a vision for a local authority's area along with actions and commitments to further economic, social and environmental well-being. Community strategies are usually prepared by a body called a local strategic partnership, made up of representatives from local bodies and interest groups. The Strategy is prepared to help deliver local community aspirations, under the Local Government Act 2000.

Composting: A biological process which takes place in the presence of oxygen (aerobic) in which organic wastes such as garden and kitchen waste are converted into a stable granular material. This can be applied to land to improve soil structure and enrich the nutrient content of the soil.

Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste (CD&E): Waste arising from the development and redevelopment process, i.e. as a result of building (construction and renovation), engineering, demolition and land remediation activities, such as soil and rubble; wood; concrete, bricks and tiles; asphalt, tar and tar by-products; and metals.

Controlled Waste: Comprised of household, industrial, commercial, hazardous, clinical and sewage waste which require a waste management licence for treatment, transfer and disposal. The main exempted categories comprise mine, quarry and farm wastes. Radioactive and explosive wastes are covered by other legislation and procedures.

Decentralised energy supply: Energy supply from local renewable and local low-carbon sources (i.e. on-site and near-site, but not remote off-site) usually on a relatively small scale. Decentralised energy is a broad term used to denote a diverse range of technologies, including micro-renewables, which can locally serve an individual building, development or wider community and includes heating and cooling energy.

Development Plan: The documents setting out the policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 defined the Development Plan as consisting of the Regional Strategy and Development Plan Documents prepared by District, the City and County Councils. The Localism Act however abolishes Regional Strategies and Structure Plans. Refer to Localism Act and Regional Spatial Strategy below.

Development Plan Document (DPD): Development Plan Documents are prepared by local planning authorities and outline the key development goals of the local development framework. They include the core strategy, site-specific allocations of land and, where needed, area action plans. There will also be an adopted proposals map which illustrates the spatial extent of policies that must be prepared and maintained to accompany all DPDs.

Directive on Batteries and Accumulators (1991): This legislation prohibits the placing on the market of most batteries and accumulators with a certain mercury or cadmium content and establishes rules for the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of batteries and accumulators.

Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste (1994):This Directive aims to harmonise national measures in order to prevent or reduce the impact of packaging and packaging waste on the environment and to ensure the functioning of the Internal Market. It contains provisions on the prevention of packaging waste, on the re-use of packaging and on the recovery and recycling of packaging waste. In 2004, the Directive was reviewed to provide criteria clarifying the definition of the term 'packaging' and increase the targets for recovery and recycling of packaging waste. In 2005, the Directive was revised again to allow new Member States transitional periods for attaining the recovery and recycling targets.

Directive on End of Life Vehicles (ELV) (2000):This Directive aims to reduce the amount of waste produced from vehicles when they are scrapped.

Directive on Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE): The Directive on WEEE aims to prevent the disposal of electrical and electronic goods and ensure greater levels of recovery and disassembly.

Energy from Waste (EfW): Refer to Energy Recovery Facility below.

Energy Recovery Facility (ERF): The use of residual waste to generate energy in the form of electricity or heat and power. The term is most often used to describe facilities that burn waste materials at high temperatures to reduce the volume of waste and to generate electricity and heat. There are two examples of this type of facility in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent which will generate energy from the combustion of municipal waste: Hanford facility Stoke-on-Trent and Four Ashes facility, South Staffordshire. Energy can also be generated from waste using other

technologies, such as anaerobic digestion (AD), mechanical and biological treatment (MBT), and the capture of landfill gas. Organic wastes can also be used as "biomass" to power generators or power plants.

Examination in Public (EIP): This is an important stage in the preparation of a development plan document. All development plan documents are subject to examination by a Planning Inspector (an independent person) appointed by the Secretary of State. The inspector's role is to consider the development plan document as a whole and to determine whether the DPD is sound. The inspector will consider all the representations made on the submitted DPD. The procedure for consideration of representations may involve written procedures, informal hearings and formal hearings.

Flood Zone: A geographic area within which the flood risk is in a particular range (as defined by PPS25). These are defined as Zone 1 (low probability as having a less than 1 in 1000 years chance of flooding), Zone 2 (medium probability of between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 years chance of flooding), Zone 3a (high probability a 1 in 100 years or greater chance) and Zone 3b (functional floodplain a 1 in 20 years chance). Zones 2 and 3 are mapped in the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (see below).

Gasification: An advanced thermal treatment technology for waste. Involves heating of waste to a high temperature in aerobic conditions (i.e. In the presence of oxygen) to produce a gas called "syngas" which can be further processed to produce energy. Gasification in not yet a proven technology for managing waste.

General industrial land (refer to use class order and general industrial land below)

Geodiversity: The variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms and soils along with the natural processes that shape the landscape.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA): The Habitats Directive was introduced and designed to protect and enhance species and habitats of nature conservation importance at the European level. In accordance with this directive an 'Appropriate Assessment' must be carried out on land use plans where it is considered that they are likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. These sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and RAMSAR sites. The assessment identifies the potential impacts of land use plans against the Conservation objectives of European Sites.

Hazardous Waste: Waste by virtue of its composition, carries the risk of death, injury or impairment of health, to humans or animals, the pollution of waters or could have an unacceptable environmental impact if improperly handled, treated or disposed of, as controlled in the EC Directives on Hazardous Waste and defined by Special Waste Regulations 1996 (as amended) (schedule 2).

Historic Environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora. Those elements of the historic environment that hold significance are called heritage assets (A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions).

Household Waste: Waste from household collection rounds, waste from services such as street sweeping, bulky waste collection, hazardous household waste collection, litter collections, household clinical waste collection and separate garden waste collection, waste from CA sites / HWRC and wastes separately collected for recycling or composting through bring/drop off schemes, kerbside schemes and at CA sites /HWRC.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC):A facility operated by or on behalf od a waste collection authority, where the public or small traders can take bulky wastes which would not normally be collected, such as rubble, large household items, and surplus waste they need to dispose of outside of the normal collection arrangements. They are also sometimes called civic amenity sites(CA) or "bring" sites.

Industrial waste (comparable with Construction, Demolition & Excavation waste): Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA), glass, slag, railway ballast, ceramic waste and tyres.

Inert Waste: Waste that does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformations and which complies with criteria set out in Annex 111 of the EC Directive on the Landfill of Waste.

International, national and local sites of importance for biodiversity: All Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar sites, Local Sites and natural habitats (as identified in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 section 41 list) and areas identified for habitat restoration and creation.

In-Vessel Composting (IVC): An enclosed alternative to "open windrow composting, which can manage food waste as well as green garden and horticultural waste. The process involves placing the waste into sealed containers where naturally occurring micro-organisms break down the biodegradable waste (green and food waste) using oxygen, leaving a residue (compost), water and carbon dioxide. Waste is shredded in to fine particles before being piled into long rows (windrows). Air is allowed to pass over the waste, often fan assisted and using mechanical devices to turn the waste and cause it to decompose. Undertaking composting under cover allows for a greater degree of control of the process. The main end-product is a stabilised compost-like material which can be used as a soil conditioner.

Landfill / Landraise: A method of disposing of wastes or pre-treated waste residues wuthout attempting further re-use or recycling. It is the final disposal of solid waste onto and into land in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is prevented and, through restoration, to restore land which may be used for another purpose. Land raise is the raising of the level of the land by importing waste material. Most landfill sites are former quarries where the waste is used to fill the void and help restore the site to a beneficial end-use (restoration by landfilling with waste is normally a condition of the mineral permission).

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS): The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, LATS, is an initiative by the UK government, through DEFRA to help reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) sent to landfill. It was set up to allow local authorities to trade the ability to landfill biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) in line with the Landfill Directive diversion targets. The 'Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011', published 14 June 2011, abolishes the LATS from 2013. Refer to DEFRA web page.

Landfill Directive: The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) is legislation issued by the European Union to ensure high standards for disposal and to stimulate waste minimisation. Under the Landfill Directive the government has targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable and municipal waste. The government is using both legislation and taxes to encourage businesses to implement an effective recycling / waste management scheme.

Landfill Tax: Financial incentives have been introduced to drive waste away from landfill. The Landfill Tax Escalator will progressively increase the rate of tax from £56/tonne at 2011 by £8 per annum to £80/tonne by 2014 of non-inert waste, with a minimum floor under the level of tax until at least 2020. The disposal of inert waste currently costs £2.50/tonne.

Localism Act: The Act devolves greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning decisions. The planning and regeneration provisions will: abolish Regional Spatial Strategies; abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and return to a position where the Secretary of State takes the final decision on major infrastructure proposals of national importance; amend the Community Infrastructure Levy, which allows councils to charge developers to pay for infrastructure. Some of the revenue will be available for the local community; provide for neighbourhood plans, which would be approved if they received 50% of the votes cast in a referendum; provide for neighbourhood development orders to allow communities to approve development without requiring normal planning consent; give new housing and regeneration powers to the Greater London Authority, while abolishing the London Development Agency.

Local Development Document: The collective term for development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.

Local Development Framework (LDF): A "portfolio" of local development documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the area. The Stoke-on-Trent City Council Local Development Framework or LDF, is the land use planning strategy for all development in the City. It will comprise of: The Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy, May 2008, Adopted Octobe r 2009 (which contains strategic mineral planning policies);and The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy.

Local Development Scheme (LDS): A document setting out the local planning authority's intentions for its Local Development Framework; in particular, the Development Plan Documents it intends to produce and the timetable for their production and review. In the case of the County Council, it is a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS).

Local Transport Plan (LTP): A statutory plan detailing the future transport approach to a Plan area.

Low Carbon Energy and Renewable Energy: Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment - from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce carbon emissions. Renewable and/or low carbon energy supplies include, but not exclusively, those from biomass and energy crops; Combined heat and power (CHP), Combined Cooling, heat and power (CCHP), and micro-CHP; waste heat that would otherwise be generated directly or indirectly from fossil fuel; energy-from-waste; ground source heating and cooling; hydro; solar thermal and photovoltaic generation; wind generation.

Major Urban Areas (MUAs): MUAs are urban areas defined in the West Midlands Regional Strategy. North Staffordshire – Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme are MUAs in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Material consideration: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - section 38(6) states that: "If regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise."

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF): An enclosed facility which separates and recovers raw materials from recyclable wastes. The facility sorts, separates and packs or bails recyclable materials into individual materials prior to reprocessors who wash and prepare the materials for manufacturing into new recycled products. MRFs can also be referred to as materials recovery or reclamation facilities. MRFs use a variety of machinery for sorting and separating alongside hand sorting. A MRF can be "clean" using only dry recyclables such as washed plastics, cans, glass, paper and card, or "dirty", using mixed wastes.

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT): A mechanical biological treatment system is a form of waste processing facility that combines a mechanical sorting of mixed wastes (using a "dirty" MRF) with a form of biological treatment such as composting or anaerobic digestion. MBT plants are designed to process mixed household waste as well as commercial and industrial wastes. After the waste is physically sorted and separated and the recyclable elements removed, the non-recyclable waste is treated to produce a stable, solid residue which can then be sent to landfill or used as a "refuse derived fuel". There are various alternative biological and heat treatments available.

Metal Recycling Site (MRS): Any facility involving or related to metal recycling, such as a scrap yard, a metal processing facility, or a vehicle dismantler / car breaker.

Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF): Mineral and waste local plans will be replaced by mineral and waste development frameworks. These will operate in non-metropolitan areas where there are County Councils and National Park Authorities. The Staffordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework, or MWDF, is the land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development in the County. The MWDF will comprise of: The Staffordshire Minerals Core Strategy; and The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy.

Municipal Waste: This is sometimes referred to as Municipal Solid Waste or MSW for short. This includes household waste and any other wastes collected by a Waste Collection Authority, or its agents, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste, commercial or industrial waste and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials. It includes waste deposited at HWRC /CA sites. It is the responsibility of the Waste Disposal Authority to manage the municipal waste arising within their area.

Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS): This is a strategy from municipal waste only on how National recycling, composting, energy recovery and diversion from landfill targets for your household waste will be met. The County Council and City Council and the eight Staffordshire Borough and District Councils have worked in partnership to agree a MWMS which sets out an overall vision for sustainable waste management in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to 2020 and beyond and contains three overarching principles: to increase household recycling - delivering a combined household recycling and composting target of 55% (equivalent to 50% of all municipal solid waste); to recover benefit from all remaining municipal solid waste - sending approximately 50% if all MSW for recovery; and, to achieve the target of zero municipal waste to landfill - minimising municipal waste to landfill through increased recycling followed by maximum recovery of all remaining residual waste, thus placing landfill as the last and final option The link between the MWMS and Waste Core Strategy is that the MWMS indicates what additional waste facilities/capacity are required to manage municipal waste and the Waste Core Strategy needs to plan for how, where and when these will be delivered.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs): These are places where wildlife comes first. They were established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research. This does not mean they are "no-go areas" for people. It means that we must be careful not to damage the wildlife of these fragile places. A Local Nature Reserve or LNR is a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. LNRs offer special opportunities to enjoy, study or learn about wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally.

National Planning Policy Framework: The Framework will replace the current suite of national Planning Policy Statements, Planning Policy Guidance notes and some Circulars with a single, streamlined document. Views on the content and format of the draft framework are being sought during a 12 week public consultation until 17 October 2011. Note that Planning Policy Statement 10 'Planning for Sustainable Waste Management' will be revised and annexed to the National Waste Management Plan for England. Until that Plan is finalised, the Statement will remain in force. However, local authorities preparing waste plans should have regard to policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Open-Windrow Composting: Composting of green waste in the open air. Material is piled into large heaps or "windrows" which are then periodically turned to allow the material to break down naturally. The main end-product is compost which can be used for horticultural purposes or on farms.

Organic Treatment: The treatment of organic waste such as food and green waste. Indicative waste management facilities include Open-Windrow Composting; In-Vessel Composting; Anaerobic Digestion; and Biomass.

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: The Act updates elements of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act . The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduces:

- A statutory system for regional planning
- A new system for local planning; reforms to the development control and compulsory purchase and compensation systems; and,
- Removes crown immunity from planning controls.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning policy guidance notes and their replacements, Planning Policy Statements, are prepared by the government after public consultation, to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on planning policies.

Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10): Planning for Sustainable Waste Management, which sets out the Government's national policies on waste management planning.

Pollution: Any consideration of the quality of land, air, water, soils, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general amenity. Pollution can arise from a range of emissions, including smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam and odour.

Pre-treatment: Although originally focused on methods of waste disposal, legislation now covers the storage, treatment and transport of waste. Since 30th October 2007, there has been a requirement to pre-treat all non-hazardous waste before sending it to landfill to help to reduce the volume sent.

Previously developed land (PDL): Land, often referred to as brownfield land, which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. The definition includes defence buildings, but excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision has been made through development control procedures; land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time (to the extent that it can be reasonably be considered as part of the natural surroundings); and, land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments, which, although it may feature paths, pavillions and other buildings, has not been previously developed. (New definition of PDL from PPS3 Annex B).

Priority habitats and species: The England Biodiversity List under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 provides details of all Species and Habitats of Principal Importance.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI): The PFI is one of a range of government policies designed to increase private sector involvement in the provision of public services. The PFI is a form of public private partnership (PPP) that marries a public procurement programme, where the public sector purchases capital items from the private sector, to an extension of contracting-out, where public services are contracted from the private sector.

Pyrolosis: An advanced thermal treatment technology for waste. Involves heating of waste in anaerobic conditions (i.e. In the absence of oxygen) to produce a gas called "syngas", which can be further processed to produce energy. Similar process to gasification (see above) but involves heating at lower temperatures. Pyrolosis is not yet a proven technology for managing waste.

Ramsar Sites: Sites designated under the European Ramsar Convention to protect wetlands that are of international importance, particularly as waterfowl habitats.

Recycling credits: were introduced so that the waste collection authorities (WCAs) which bear most of the cost of carrying out recycling, should get the saving in disposal costs for the diverted material. Under the recycling credits regulations, Staffordshire County Council (as the Waste Disposal Authority WDA) has a duty to pay recycling

credits to WCAs in its area when the WCA diverts waste from the household waste stream for recycling. Stoke-on-Trent city council as a unitary authority acts as both a WCA and WDA.

Regional Employment Land Survey (RELS): The Regional Employment Land Survey is a survey of employment land available in the West Midlands Region that is normally carried out annually. It provides detailed information on all scheduled sites of 0.4 hectares and above and summarises availability. The site size relates to the whole development (gross developable area). A site is scheduled if it is committed for B1(b), B1(c), B2 and B8 employment/industrial use through the planning process (i.e. allocated in a Development Plan, has planning permission, a committee resolution or appeal decision. The RELS database is used to monitor the industrial/employment land portfolio in the region.

Regional Strategy (RS) / Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): A strategy for how a region should look in 15 to 20 years time and possibly longer. The regional strategy identifies the scale and distribution of new housing in the region, indicates areas for regeneration, expansion or sub-regional planning and specifies priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals and waste treatment and disposal. Regional strategies are prepared by Regional Planning Bodies. The review of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which forms part of what is now known as the Regional Strategy, has been abandoned. The Phase 2 review of the RSS related to waste policies and was at an advanced stage, having been through an examination and been reported on by a Panel of Inspectors, the report of which was published in September 2009. Consultation on the Phase 3 review commenced in June 2009. In the summer of 2010, the new Coalition Government announced its intention to abolish regional strategies and reaffirmed this in the Localism Bill which was published on 13 December 2010 and which became the Localism Act on 15 November 2011. The Government has advised Local Planning Authorities to have regard to its intention to abolish regional strategies as a material consideration when making planning decisions. The Localism Act will abolish Regional Strategies, once an Environmental Impact Assessment into their proposed removal is complete. Therefore, although limited weight can be put on the Regional Strategy or the Phase 2 and 3 revisions, the background evidence may be regarded as a material consideration where relevant and provided that it remains the best available data. The background evidence produced in 2007 to support the Phase 2 review of the regional waste policies estimated the amount of non-landfill capacity required in the region to manage Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I waste) in the period between 2010/11 and 2025/26. The figures were used to identify the 'treatment capacity gap' for each Waste Planning Authority area. Since then background evidence gathering work carried out to support the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy has updated this earlier evidence.

Renewable and low-carbon energy: Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water,

the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass. Low-carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Saved policies/plan: Policies within the existing Waste Local Plan and Structure Plan that are saved for a time period during replacement production of Local Development Documents.

Secretary of State: The lead Minister for all policies relating to Town and Country Planning, having powers of intervention on Development Plans and Planning Casework under certain circumstances.

Sensitive receptors: The Environment Agency defines sensitive receptors as being: primarily people in dwellings, hospitals, schools and similar premises, but can include people frequenting open spaces, for example, parkland. The person in control of the installation would not normally be considered to be a sensitive receptor. Persons who live in close proximity in tied housing may be sensitive receptors (consider the families of the farm workers). If such properties are rented to people who do not work on the farm, the tenants are likely to be sensitive receptors, even if they rent with the knowledge that there is an odour source nearby, or recognise that odour is a feature of the rural environment. In any particular situation however, the interpretation of the courts will be the decisive factor.

Settlements of Significant Development (SSD): SSDs are urban areas defined in the draft West Midlands Regional Strategy. They include Stafford and Burton Upon Trent.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): A specifically defined area which protects ecological or geological features.

Site Specific Allocations and Policies: Where land is allocated for mineral or waste development, this should be made in a site allocation development plan document, or area action plan.

Site Waste Management Plans: All construction projects valued at £300,000 or more must have a Site Waste management Plan. It is produced at the very beginning of a project so that the designer can consider ways that waste can be reduced and site-gained materials can be reused or recycled as part of the project. The Plan is a live document and should be updated throughout the project.

Soundness: A term referring to the justification of a Development Plan Document (DPD). To be sound the document must meet 3 tests: be justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Policy tests are set out in PPS12 under 3 headings: Procedural; conformity; and coherence, consistency and effectiveness.

Spatial Planning: Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function. This will include policies which can impact on land use, for example, by influencing

the demands on or needs for development, but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting of planning permission and may be delivered through other means (PPS12).

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): are areas of land and sea that are considered important for threatened European habitats and species and which have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They make up part of the Natura 2000 network of sites. This network of sites is designed to conserve rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats, wild animals and plants, both on land and at sea, and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs): are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the 'Birds Directive 1979' which provides enhanced protection given by the Site of Special Scientific Interest status all Special Protection Areas also hold.

Standard Rules Permits: Standard Rules Permits can be viewed on the Environment Agency website at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/118404.Aspx. Operators unable to meet the conditions set out within a Standard Rules Permit would need to apply for a Bespoke Permit. In doing so they would have to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency that they had procedures in place in their risk assessment and management system to mitigate any risk on the surrounding environment. Permit applications would be assessed on a case by case basis, and the Environment Agency would refuse to issue the permit if proposed pollution control measures were inadequate.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI): This sets out the standards by which the planning authority will involve the community in the preparation, alteration and review of local development documents.

Statutory: Required by law (statute), usually through an Act of Parliament.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): An environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use, which complies with the EU Directive 2001/42/EC.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA): The purpose of an SFRA is to identify the extent of all flood zones within the plan area, and the impact of any future development. It is therefore a study to assess the risk to an area or site from flooding, now and in the future, and to assess the impact that any changes or development on the site or area will have on flood risk to the site and elsewhere. It may also identify, particularly at more local levels, how to manage those changes to ensure that flood risk is not increased.

Sui Generis: Refer to Use Class Order below.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): A sustainability appraisal (SA) considers the likely impacts that a plan or policy will have on the sustainability of an area. It also explores ways of promoting any positive impacts, and managing and monitoring potentially negative impacts the plan or policy may have on sustainable development objectives. The process of Sustainability Appraisal is similar to Strategic Environmental Assessment but is broader in context, examining the effects of plans and policies on a range of social, economic and environmental factors.

Sustainable development: A widely used definition drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (The Report of the Brundtland Commission, Our Common Future, 1987).

Sustainable drainage systems: Alternatives to the traditional ways of managing runoff from buildings and hardstandings. They are designed to improve the rate and manner of absorption by water of hard and soft surfaces, in order to reduce the total amount, flow and rate of surface water that runs directly to rivers through stormwater systems. Sustainable Drainage Systems cover the whole range of sustainable approaches to surface drainage management including: source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage; infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, that can include individual soakaways and communal facilities; filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns; filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed; and basins and ponds to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding.

Sustainable transport modes: Any means of transport with low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, green or low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Use class order: The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987. Note that the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) (England) Order 2010 amends the 1987 Order. The Use Class Order specifies classes of use of buildings or other land for the purposes of section 55(2) (f) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Section 55(2)(f) provides that a change of use is not to be taken as development where the former use and the new use are both within the same class as specified in an order. Changes of use which are not to be taken as development do not require planning permission. Class B2 is General Industrial 'Use for the carrying on of an industrial process other than one falling within classes B1, or B3 to B7'. Class B8 is Storage or Distribution 'Use for storage or as a distribution centre'. Note that Class B1 is Business, Class B3 is Special Industrial Group A, Class B4 is Special Industrial Group B, Class B5 is Special Industrial Group C, Class B6

is Special Industrial Group D, Class B7 is Special Industrial Group E. Certain uses do not fall within any use class and are considered 'sui generis'. Such uses include waste management facilities.

Veteran tree: A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife.

Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs): A council with a statutory duty to collect waste from households and small businesses in their area i.e. your local district or borough council. They may also operate household waste recycling centres (see above) where the public can take waste which is too difficult or bulky to collect. All unitary authorities (including Stoke-on-Trent City Council) are waste collection authorities.

Waste Disposal Authority (WDA): A council with a statutory duty to manage the municipal waste arising in their area, which is collected from households and small businesses or deposited at household waste recycling centres/ civic amenity sites i.e. Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council. All unitary authorities are waste disposal authorities as well as waste collection authorities.

Waste Planning Authority (WPA): This is the authority responsible for planning for waste management facilities in the area. They have to prepare Local Development Framework policies on waste and deal with planning applications for waste management developments. In two tier authorities it falls to the County Council to provide the waste policy framework i.e. Staffordshire County Council. All unitary authorities (including Stoke-on-Trent City Council) are waste planning authorities.

Waste Transfer Station (WTS): A holding or storage facility for solid waste materials, where it can be kept temporarily pending onward transportation to a different facility for treatment, recovery or disposal to landfill. Waste material can be transferred from small vehicles to large trucks for efficient transport to treatment or disposal sites. Most transfer facilities also hire out skips to collect waste from customers who wish to dispose of waste. They may also sort wastes by type and bulk them up, and recover potentially useable and saleable materials such as metals.

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city of stoke on trent

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