

		Executive: 14th December 2011	Agenda Item No: 7
Title	Response to Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy – Preferred Option and Policies		
For further information about this report please contact	Lorna Coldicott (Senior Planner - Policy, Projects & Conservation)		
Wards of the District directly affected	All		
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No		
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	8 th June 2011 Executive, minute no. 9		
Background Papers	www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wastecorestrategy		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	N/A

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	21/11/11	Chris Elliott/Bill Hunt
Head of Service	09/09/11	Paul Pinkney
CMT	21/11/11	
Section 151 Officer	21/11/11	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	21/11/11	Andy Jones
Finance	21/11/11	Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)	21/11/11	Councillors J Hammon
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Discussions with Warwickshire County Council officers		
Final Decision?	No	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the meeting of Executive in June of this year, members considered and amended a response to the previous stage of the Waste Core Strategy – Emerging Spatial Options consultation. This latest consultation represents the next stage and has taken into account responses received at that previous stage to inform the preferred option and policies.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Executive notes the Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy – Preferred Option and Policies and approves the comments set out in paragraphs 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11 and 3.12 as the Council’s formal response.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy (WCS) is a Development Plan Document prepared by the County Council which when adopted will set out the Spatial Strategy, Vision, Objectives and Policies for managing waste in the County for a 15 year plan period up to 2027/2028. It will also provide the framework for implementation and monitoring and for waste development management. The County Council will use the WCS to guide their determination of planning applications for waste facilities. It is therefore important Executive notes and informs the continuing preparation of this document as it will shape the District’s future environment and potentially support the achievement of a number of the SCS objectives.
- 3.2 This Council’s response to the previous consultation on Emerging Spatial Options, was submitted to the County Council in June this year following the meeting of Executive on 8th of that month where the response was approved. Overall, the suggested amendments and additions which formed that response have largely been encapsulated in this latest document.
- 3.3 The ‘Option’ chosen by the County Council from the previous document as a result of public consultation is, Spatial Option 5. This is a ‘settlement hierarchy’ option based on areas of higher population and/or existing waste management capacity, utilising brownfield industrial land and existing facilities. In this district, priority would be given to sites within a 5km radius of Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth, or within 5km of the Coventry Major Urban Area which would also impact upon this district. The reasons for this choice are stated as:
- Facilities would be located close to areas of highest waste ‘arising’s’
 - Infrastructure already in place at existing waste facilities
 - Existing uses have been tested for acceptability
 - Primary settlements are served by principle transport routes
 - Scope for co-location of facilities
 - Comparatively high choice of sites to consider
- If making use of existing waste management facilities, the suitability of these sites should be reviewed.
- 3.4 A total of eight Core Strategy Policies (CS) are suggested in support. These policies deal in general terms with:

- CS1. Waste management capacity
- CS2. Spatial Waste Planning Strategy for Warwickshire
- CS3. Strategy for locating large scale waste sites
- CS4. Strategy for locating small scale waste sites
- CS5. Proposals for re-use, recycling, waste transfer/storage and composting
- CS6. Proposals for other types of recovery
- CS7. Landfill developments
- CS8. Safeguarding of waste management sites

The policies are in line with current central government policy and utilise the figures set out as a minimum by the RSS. It is stated however that the figures could be revised as the document progresses through its final stages to adoption as a result of the National Planning Policy Framework superseding the RSS.

- 3.5 It was queried in the response to the previous consultation why, in order that the aims of the SCS are met, there is no objective in relation to using the waste development framework to address inequalities that exist by geography in the county. This has still not been specifically addressed.
- 3.6 Core Strategy Policy 2 (CS2) states that preference will be given to proposals for waste management facilities where they do not have 'adverse impacts upon statutory designated features of natural or built environment and do not have a significant adverse impact upon communities'. There is no definition suggested as to what would constitute an 'adverse impact' or a 'significant adverse impact'. It would be helpful to give some idea as to what this may mean by reference to an example of the criteria that may be utilised in respect of either for clarity.
- 3.7 It should be noted that the District Councils do have an impact on the waste infrastructure required, as they determine waste collection policies, and vice versa. Once long term disposal contracts have been agreed, altering the local collection policy has a very significant financial impact.
- 3.8 To what degree will capacity of waste disposal facilities be considered, which may impact on transport networks with waste being imported from surrounding areas, if there is insufficient waste produced locally to make a facility viable?
- 3.9 It is suggested that in order to provide a complete set of policies for the Core Strategy, a policy could be incorporated that deals with uses of sites that become redundant or unsuitable for purpose during the life of the Strategy. There will be limitations on the uses to which such sites could be put and it would be useful to suggest how these could be approached and what may be acceptable. Likewise, allocated sites may prove not to be required. If this is the case, land could be released for other uses and monitoring should look at this as a possibility.
- 3.10 Whilst there are a number of references to climate change, these are all identified as negative effects or as factors which may reduce the impact on climate change rather than promoting a positive approach to negating or even improving the situation through new and advancing technologies and the

introduction of positive policies. Such policies would positively support the aims of the SCS.

- 3.11 Could smaller facilities be used on new residential sites for waste disposal/waste generation? Is there any consideration of new initiatives which could deal with on site disposal on a very local, small scale?
- 3.12 How does this strategy fit in with other sub regional strategies/waste disposal provision, and national waste disposal provision?
- 3.13 In addition to the Core Strategy Policies, a further eight Development Management Policies are proposed. These policies give specific guidance to those seeking planning permission for waste site development. A separate list details the information required in support of such an application.

4 POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – N/A

5 BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There are no additional budgetary implications resulting from the preparation of this response as this has been undertaken using existing staff resources.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 6.1 An alternative option would be to not respond to this consultation, however, this may be to the detriment of the future waste planning of the District. An alternative response could be submitted to the consultation, however, this may not achieve the objectives of the SCS.

7 BACKGROUND

- 7.1 In preparing for the consultation, the County Council has assessed current and future waste management for the four main waste streams; municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous waste, and considered how each waste stream is currently managed, as well as indication of how waste will need to be managed over the period of the plan. Additionally, in this latest consultation, the County Council has added its proposed policies, which will have an impact on any planning applications for the disposal of waste, associated repercussions for the environment of this district and the fulfilment of SCS objectives.