 Executive, 8th June		Agenda Item No. 10
Title	Response to Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy – Emerging Spatial Options Consultation	
For further information about this report please contact	Gary Stephens, Group Leader of Policy, Projects and 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	N.A.	
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)	Yes
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No, not necessary

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	09/05/11	Chris Elliot & Bill Hunt
Head of Service	09/05/11	Paul Pinkney
CMT	10/05/11	
Section 151 Officer	09/05/11	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	09/05/11	Mike Snow
Finance	09/05/11	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder(s)	N.A.	
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N.A.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council is in the process of preparing its Waste Core Strategy (WCS). They have invited comments on the emerging spatial options. This report informs the Executive of its draft content, and considers the Council's response.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Executive notes the Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy - Emerging Spatial Options Consultation and approves the comments set out in **paragraphs 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.9, 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 when adopted to guide their determination of planning applications for waste facilities. It is therefore important Executive notes and informs the ongoing 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 The consultation on the 'Emerging Spatial Options' is seeking views on the following vision for waste management planning:

'By the end of the plan period, the amount of waste generated and sent to landfill will be minimised, by increasing recycling and composting and ensuring that sustainable waste management practices are delivered in accordance with the priorities identified in the waste hierarchy.'

When looking to deliver additional waste management capacity, communication with industry, landowners and local communities will be of importance. There will be a wide range of facilities which are able to serve the key settlements within Warwickshire as well as the rural areas.

All appropriate measures will be taken to protect and conserve the rural characteristics of Warwickshire as well as safeguard existing communities and human health and seek opportunities to develop economic prosperity for future generations.'

- 3.3 **In general terms, the vision is in accordance with the Warwick District SCS which aims to minimise environmental impacts, and protect the built and natural environment. However, the first sentence of the second paragraph and the third paragraph are more akin to policy statements or objectives, than being part of a vision and may be better incorporated as key objectives. Furthermore, the third paragraph if retained should be amended to also include reference to protecting and conserving the 'urban' characteristics of Warwickshire which are equally important. It is also queried why there is no reference to how waste management planning might be used to address inequalities that**

exist by geography within the County which is part of the County-wide SCS Vision.

3.4 Views are also sought on 8 draft key objectives as follows:

'1, To help deliver sustainable development by using waste as a resource by moving it up the waste hierarchy in accordance with European, national and regional guidance, by looking to landfill disposal as a last option, but one that must be adequately catered for.

2, To enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet an identified need.

3, To conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment and avoid, mitigate and compensate potential adverse effects associated with the provision of facilities.

4, To take all appropriate precautionary measures to avoid or minimise the impact of waste activities on climate change such as minimising waste in future development and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

5, To have regard for the most sustainable means of transportation of waste in locating facilities.

6, To have regard for the concerns and interests of local communities.

7, To prevent "inappropriate development" in the green belt as defined in national guidance set out in Planning Policy Statement 10 - Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (PPS10).

8, To 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 installations.'

3.5 **These objectives are considered to be in accordance with the aims of the SCS. In addition to the comments in paragraph 3.3, it is queried why there is no objective in relation to using the waste development framework to address inequalities that exist by geography within the County. It is also queried whether no's 5 and 6 are actually objectives, or guiding principles or policies for the WCS. The draft WCS will need to show clearly how these objectives are to be achieved through policies and/or actions of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.**

3.6 The consultation document identifies a number of key issues which had been identified previously. These include municipal waste management practices, waste management treatment and disposal options, waste management location options, scale of waste management facilities, utilisation of existing sites, protection of environmental resources, and transport infrastructure.

3.7 **These are still considered appropriate issues to address. However, it is queried whether the potential for waste management to be used to address the causes of climate change, i.e. through waste to energy, is an issue that should be considered. The policy approach towards such facilities associated with major new developments should be considered through this process. Another issue is the need to review**

all existing publicly owned waste management facilities as to their future use having regard to changing land use patterns, changing waste management requirements and demands, the remaining lifespan of the facility, and whether or not they remain 'fit for purpose'. In light of the budgetary pressures on local authorities, another related issue to consider is how facilities required in the future may be funded, and in particular whether criteria for prioritising between potential new facilities is required.

3.8 The consultation document then identifies 13 Policy Principles in response to each of the issues. For the most part, these reflect or repeat the draft key objectives identified above. Of particular note from this section is that with the recent decision not to proceed with the joint development of the Waste to Energy Plant in Coventry (known as Project Transform) with Coventry BC and Solihull BC there are no specific sites for waste management that can be identified at this stage. However, the County Council have put forward evidence to suggest that recent planning permissions should provide sufficient capacity to meet Warwickshire's future need for additional waste capacity (as identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy – Phase Two Revision). This position will need to be monitored through the life of the Core Strategy, and further capacity may be required.

3.9 **The policy principles are supported. In particular, Policy Principle 10 which seeks to safeguard the county's waste management capacity from non-waste developments through the District planning application process is supported given the importance of existing capacity in meeting future needs. Also, Policy Principle 12 is supported given the importance of protecting the local environment from adverse impacts of waste development.**

3.10 Finally, the consultation document seeks views on the following five spatial options for the future distribution of waste facilities across Warwickshire:

1, Develop new facilities County wide on industrial estates, brownfield industrial land and existing waste management facilities.

2, Develop new facilities County wide on existing waste management facilities.

3, Develop new facilities on industrial estates, brownfield industrial land and existing waste management facilities within the main settlements of over 6000 population within Warwickshire: Alcester, Atherstone, Bedworth, Bulkington, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Nuneaton, Polesworth and Dordon, Rugby, Southam, Stratford, Warwick and Wellesbourne.

4, Develop new facilities on industrial estates, brownfield industrial land and existing waste management facilities within, or in close proximity to the main settlements of over 6,000 population i.e. Alcester, Atherstone, Bedworth, Bulkington, Coleshill, Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Nuneaton, Polesworth and Dordon, Rugby, Southam, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Wellesbourne.

*5, A 'settlement hierarchy' option based on areas of higher population and/or existing waste management capacity
i.e. Develop facilities on industrial estates, brownfield industrial land and existing waste management facilities within the following locations:*

i. priority given to within and/or in close proximity to the 'primary' settlements of Nuneaton, Rugby, Leamington Spa, Bedworth, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon and Kenilworth; or within 5km of the Coventry Major Urban Area (MUA); or
ii. within and/or in close proximity to the 'secondary' settlements of Atherstone, Coleshill and Southam where it is demonstrated that the development provides significant transport, operational and environmental benefits; or
iii) sites outside primary and secondary settlements where specific types of waste development might be acceptable where there are no unacceptable adverse environmental effects.

3.11 It is a challenge to draft a single spatial strategy for new waste facilities given different types of facility will have differing locational requirements, for example a household waste facility will need to be near centres of population, whereas a hazardous landfill site may need to be remote but accessible to the main trunk road network. Therefore, proximity to centres of population as indicated in options 3, 4 and 5 may not always be relevant or the 'best option'. However, it is considered there are some guiding principles that can be adopted to inform a strategy based on a hybrid of the five options above:

- **Where new waste management facilities are required, the starting point should be to assess all existing sites for their suitability to accommodate the facility required (including through expansion) having regard to the following factors:**
 - **accessibility to the source of the waste (where relevant to the type of waste);**
 - **the capacity of the site and the existing infrastructure that serves it;**
 - **transport connections;**
 - **land availability;**
 - **environmental and amenity constraints, and the local communities acceptance/tolerance of the existing facility;**
 - **the site's long term future following review;**
- **Where no existing sites are suitable, new sites will be chosen for waste management facilities having regard to the following factors:**
 - **accessibility to the source of the waste (where relevant to the type of waste);**
 - **ability to reuse previously developed and/or contaminated land wherever possible;**
 - **ability to contribute towards addressing inequalities within the County;**
 - **ability to avoid causing harm to any European, national and locally designated sites of environmental or historical importance, including the West Midlands Green Belt; and,**
 - **ability to bring together nearby existing facilities onto one site.**

3.12 In addition to the above, the Council would like consideration given to the following points prior to the preparation of the draft WCS:

- **the achievement of the draft vision and many of the draft key objectives will not be achieved in isolation by the waste core strategy or the County Council, but will require the co-operation and participation of the Districts and Boroughs as waste collection**

authorities, including their contractors. This needs to be acknowledged in the draft WCS;

- **the draft WCS will need to reflect the National Waste Strategy to be published shortly;**
- **the draft WCS will need to reflect the strategies and aspirations of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership as set out in their current Business Plan; and,**
- **the vision and objectives within the draft WCS will need to have regard to the current budgetary pressures on local authorities.**

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Policy Framework – N/A

- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – The proposed response to the consultation will help to protect the environment of the District whilst meeting its needs for waste management facilities in accordance with the SCS which aims to minimise environmental impacts, and protect the built and natural environment.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

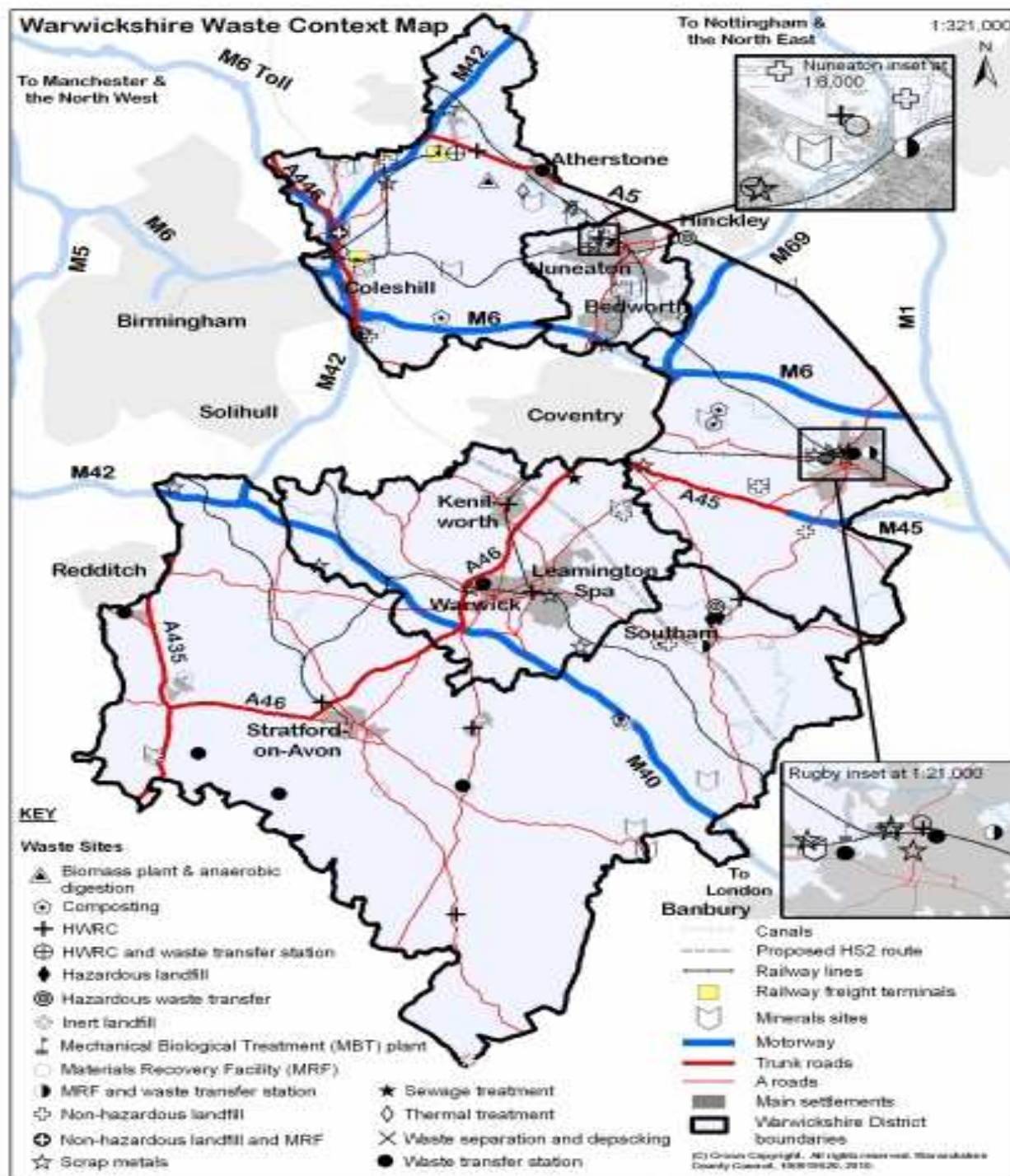
- 5.1 There are no additional budgetary implications resulting from the preparation of this response as this has been undertaken using existing staff resources.

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. Existing waste sites within the County are shown on the map overleaf for information:



7.2 Following the consultation, all of the comments will be collated and used to produce a report that will summarise the key findings of the consultation. These comments will then inform and influence the next stage of the WCS which will be a 'Preferred Option and Draft Policies' document, to be produced for consultation in August 2011.