

**Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy
Development Plan Document:
Publication Document Consultation (Regulation 27)
Response Form**

Guidance notes

The representations on the Waste Core Strategy, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment documents will be considered alongside the submitted Waste Core Strategy documents, which will be examined by a Planning Inspector. The purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Waste Core Strategy complies

These guidance notes are intended to help you fill in the representation form.

Part A: Your details

All respondents must provide their personal details in question 1 as it is not possible for representations to be considered anonymously.

These are the issues that you should consider if you wish to make comments or objections which relate to matters of legal compliance.

Please use question 3 to identify whether you think the Waste Core Strategy is 'sound' and use question 4 to identify which test of soundness your representation relates to. If you are seeking to make representations on the content of the submitted Waste Core Strategy it is likely that your comments or objections will relate to the 'soundness' of the Strategy.

To be sound the Waste Core Strategy should be:

1. **Justified:** This means that the Waste Core Strategy should:

- Be founded on a robust and credible evidence base. The evidence base should contain two elements:
 - *Participation:* Evidence of the views of the local community and others who have a stake in the future of the area
 - *Research/fact finding:* Evidence that the choices made in the Waste Core Strategy are backed up by the background facts.Evidence gathered should be proportionate to the job undertaken by the Waste Core Strategy, relevant to Worcestershire and as up-to-date as practical having regard to what may have changed since the evidence was collected.
- Consider reasonable alternatives in developing the most appropriate strategy. These alternatives should be realistic and subject to sustainability appraisal.

2. **Effective:** This means that the Waste Core Strategy should be:

- Deliverable: showing how the vision and objectives and strategy for the area will be delivered and by whom and when. It should
 - be based on sound infrastructure delivery planning
 - have no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery
 - state who is intended to implement different elements of the strategy, with partners signed up to it where relevant
 - be coherent with the core strategies prepared by neighbouring authorities.
- Flexible: the Waste Core Strategy should look over a long time frame of 15 years or more, but should be able to show contingencies for handling uncertainty, and what would trigger their use.
- Able to be monitored: The Waste Core Strategy must have clear arrangements for monitoring and reporting the results to the public and civic leaders. The Waste Core Strategy should contain clear targets or measurable outcomes as the basis on which contingency plans within the strategy would be triggered if the strategy starts to fail.

Any measures which the Council has included to make sure that targets are met should be clearly linked to an Annual Monitoring Report. This report must be produced each year by all local authorities and will show whether the Waste Core Strategy needs amendment.

3. **Consistent with national policy:** Where there is inconsistency with national policy, Councils must provide clear and convincing reasoning to justify their approach.

You may feel the Waste Core Strategy should include a policy or policies which would be different to national or regional policy to some degree in order to meet a clearly identified and fully justified local need, but they have not done so. In this instance it will be important for you to say in your representations what the local circumstances are which justify a different policy approach to that in national or regional policy and support your assertion with evidence.

If you think the Waste Core Strategy is not legally compliant and

