

Sustainability Appraisal of the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy: Post-Adoption Statement

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Worcestershire County Council

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For and on behalf of Environmental Resources Management	
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Date:	20 August 2012

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1 OVERVIEW

1.1 THE WORCESTERSHIRE WASTE CORE STRATEGY

The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy (WCS) provides the planning policy framework by which Worcestershire County Council (WCC) will fulfill its statutory duty as waste planning authority. Strategic objectives set out the broad aims of the WCS, and detailed policies set out the means by which those objectives will be achieved.

The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy was adopted by WCC in November 2012.

1.2 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, WCC is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Local Development Documents (LDD) including those prepared for waste management. The SA must also satisfy the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) arising from Worcestershire's obligations under the European Directive on SEA and the implementing Regulations in England and Wales.

The overall purpose of the SA is to evaluate the likely implications for sustainable development in Worcestershire of the WCS and reasonable alternatives to it. The WCS and its alternatives were appraised to determine the potential to give rise to significant effects, in order to enable the identification of a preferred option in the light of knowledge of the potential impacts of the WCS on relevant sustainable development policy objectives. The aim is to inform the plan-making process to enable the WCS to take account of the ways in which waste management might affect the economy, environment and communities of Worcestershire.

The findings and recommendations reached through the SA at various stages

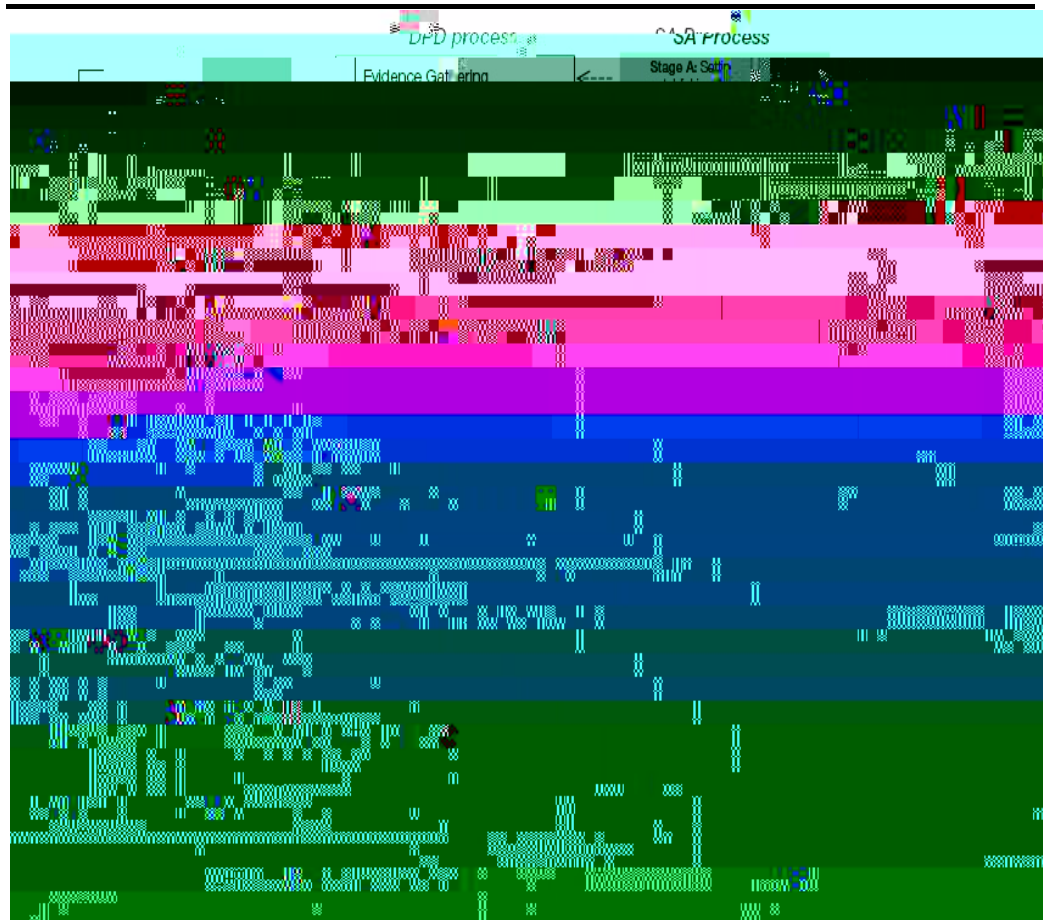
line with government guidance, it also provides information on how monitoring will be carried out during implementation of the WCS.

2 HOW THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL HAS INFLUENCED THE WASTE CORE STRATEGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The SA must be an integral part of producing the plan or strategy being appraised. As such, it follows five stages that are designed to link into the plan development process, outlined in Figure 2.1

Figure 2.1 SA Stages



Source: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, November 2005

The sections below describe in detail the process by which the SA has influenced the development of the WCS. They describe where the SA has had a specific influence on the WCS and how the recommendations of the SA were taken into account in the development of the WCS. The specific amendments to the text of the WCS that have resulted from the SA process are listed in Section 2.3

2.2 THE PROCESS

2.2.1 Scoping

The first step in the SA work was a scoping stage to identify the sustainability context for waste management and planning in Worcestershire. This stage of the SA was undertaken by WCC in-house.

The scoping stage involved the collection of a wide range of baseline data covering economic, social and environmental issues in order to provide a picture of the current sustainability conditions in Worcestershire. In tandem with the baseline data collection and analysis, all relevant policies, plans and programmes were identified with a view to establishing the key sustainability issues for Worcestershire that could be affected by the WCS.

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The Emerging Preferred Options document was subject to SA, and the detailed results of the appraisal and key findings and recommendations were set out in an SA Report⁽¹⁾ to WCC.

2.2.4 First Draft Submission

The First Draft Submission WCS was developed during early and mid 2010. During its development the First Draft Submission was subject to an 'Interim SA' which was not intended to be a full SA but sought to update the findings of the SA of the Emerging Preferred Options in order to inform the development of the First Draft Submission. The Interim SA was undertaken in-house by WCC staff. An Interim SA Report⁽²⁾ was issued for public consultation alongside the First Draft Submission WCS from 28 September to 9 November 2010.

Following publication of the First Draft Submission and Interim SA, WCC commissioned ERM to undertake a full SA of the First Draft Submission WCS, with the aim of informing the development of the WCS Publication Document. The detailed results of the appraisal and key findings and recommendations were set out in an SA Report⁽³⁾ to WCC.

2.2.5 Submission WCS

The Submission WCS (termed the WCS Publication Document) was developed between November 2010 and February 2011. A first draft was produced in January 2011, which was subject to SA. The document proposed a vision and objectives for the WCS and set out a number of draft policies embodying the approach to development management and the locational strategy. Informal findings of this SA of the January draft were submitted to WCC in February 2011.

Following the January draft, a final version of the WCS Publication Document was produced in late February 2011. The full formal SA of the WCS Publication Document was carried out in early March 2011. The findings of this SA were set out in an SA Report⁽⁴⁾ to WCC.

2.2.6 Addendum to WCS Publication Document

Following the public consultation on the WCS Publication Document, a number of amendments are now proposed to the WCS Publication Document, as set out in the Addendum to the WCS Publication Document produced by WCC in September 2011. The document proposed a large number of amendments to address several issues which had been raised by consultees.

(1) Sustainability Appraisal of Emerging Preferred Options for the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, ERM, November 2009

(2) Waste Core Strategy First Draft Submission Report Interim Sustainability Appraisal, Worcestershire County Council, September 2010

(3) Sustainability Appraisal of the First Draft Submission of the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, ERM, November 2010

(4) Sustainability Appraisal of the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Submission Document, ERM, March 2011

- x Generation of combined heat and power (CHP) wherever practicable is required in supporting text to policy WCS5.
- x The WCS now commits to high recycling levels of C&D waste
- x The supporting text to policy WCS6 promotes restoration which takes account of recreational value.

2.3.3 Influence at First Draft Submission Stage

Some of the recommendations from the SA of the First Draft Submission WCS⁽¹⁾ were incorporated into the WCS Publication Document, as follows:

- x Higher targets for the recycling of municipal waste have been incorporated into the WCS.
- x The WCS now indicates the amount of capacity sought at different levels of the waste hierarchy for different waste streams.
- x Policies require developments to use alternatives to road transport where practicable.
- x The WCS now includes a mechanism whereby certain types of development are directed to upper levels of the geographic hierarchy.

2.3.4 Influence at Publication Document Stage

In response to the informal findings of the SA of a draft Submission WCS, the

- x the addition of supporting text to encourage reduction of the need to transport waste;
- x amendment to the supporting text referencing the role of transport in greenhouse gas emissions;
- x the inclusion of a reference in supporting text to onsite recycling of C&D waste;
- x requiring protection and enhancement of local characteristics in policy WCS12 rather than that they only be taken into account.

3 MEASURES AGREED CONCERNING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The SA Report made recommendations for monitoring the effects of implementing the WCS, in terms of issues to be covered in the monitoring, indicators to be monitored and potential sources of data. The purpose of the monitoring is to address both likely significant impacts and unforeseen effects of implementation of the WCS to enable WCC, or its partners in the implementation of the WCS such as

Recommended Monitoring Indicators	Included in AMR?
Quality of land converted to waste uses, annual no. of hectares of: x rural, urban or urban fringe; x previously developed or undeveloped; x green belt; x amenity value; x flood zones 2, 3a, 3b.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Permitted re-use, recycling, storage, sorting and transfer capacity at each level of the geographic hierarchy. x Permitted 'other recovery' and disposal (excluding landfill) capacity at each level of the geographic hierarchy. x Permissions for new waste management development on greenfield sites x Permissions for new waste management development in the green belt x Permissions for new waste management development take into account amenity considerations. x Permissions for waste management development granted Tdu7tednto acc/C2_05 6.5 /LBeu orlsB(h0-0 paclitias

