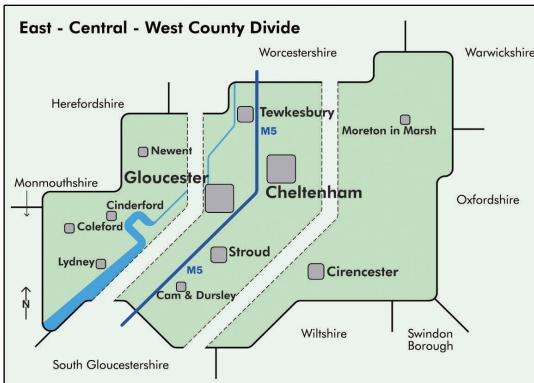
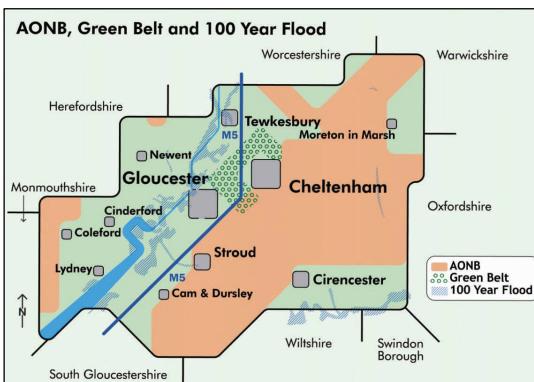


## WASTE CORE STRATEGY Issues & Options Consultation Update (continued...)

Additionally, the County can be divided into three areas to reflect its different characteristics: the Cotswolds; the central Severn Vale; and the Forest of Dean. This is illustrated on the diagram below:



A further diagram illustrates where particular designations occur, which may restrict the identification of broad locations.



By the end of the year we will need to put forward realistic alternatives for where future strategic waste development is most appropriately located. The WCS Preferred Options document will be made available for public consultation. Your thoughts on these options will form an important part of finalising that process.

### ► 3. Making an appropriate contribution to hazardous waste management requirements

Hazardous waste management is a key issue in Gloucestershire. Businesses currently use waste contractors who import and export the waste across the County boundary.

## WASTE CORE STRATEGY Issues & Options Consultation Update (continued...)

The County needs to make an appropriate contribution to hazardous waste management but stakeholders (who responded to the Issues & Options consultation) made clear that this needs to be done in an environmentally acceptable way. This reflects the regional guidance, but there was some debate as to what 'environmentally acceptable' meant in this context. The WCS will need to set out a policy that clarifies this position. Stakeholders views on this, or any other waste issue, are welcomed.

### Update on SA

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Reports have been produced for both Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Issues & Options Papers. These reports, and the consultation responses to them, will help to inform the development of the Preferred Options. More SA reports will follow throughout the process, so take your chance to get involved. Response reports detailing comments made on the SA of Issues & Options Papers are available at:

- Waste:  
<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=13349>
- Minerals:  
<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14094>

### Update on AA

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required for plans that may potentially have significant effects on 'European sites'. These are sites which are protected by law for their exceptional importance in terms of rare, endangered, or vulnerable natural habitats and species. An AA Baseline Report detailing the sites in and near to Gloucestershire has been produced and can be viewed at:  
<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11577>

Further AA Reports will be produced at each plan stage.

### Update on the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)

The JMWMS was out for consultation until the 22nd January 2007. A number of debates, stakeholder workshops and events were organised. Further consultations are planned on both the JMWMS and the Residual Waste Procurement Strategy element. The outcomes of these consultations will have significant implications for the Waste Core Strategy. Full details are available at:  
<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=76>

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# Minerals & Waste Newsletter No.6

April 2007



This is our sixth Minerals & Waste newsletter. It contains information on:

- Key issues & progress on the Minerals & Waste Core Strategies
- Sustainability Appraisal & other environmental protection work
- Changes to the Development Scheme & Saved Policies
- The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy
- Joint-working / partnership working initiatives and meetings.

## Update on progress on the Minerals & Waste Core Strategies

### “Headlines...”

#### ■ Changes made to timetable for plans...

A second revision of Gloucestershire's Minerals & Waste Development Scheme has been produced. This means that the consultation on the Preferred Options for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies are now programmed to start in January 2008. Work on other Minerals & Waste DPDs (such as the Development Control Policies DPD and the Site Allocation DPDs) is due to commence early in 2009.

#### ■ More joint-working...

Following advice from Government Office for the South West (GOSW) the Minerals & Waste Planning Policy Team have been actively engaged in meeting with Districts Authorities and a number of other key stakeholders in order to ensure that our evidence base is robust and up-to-date and that plans that are in progress are appropriately 'spatial' and 'joined up'.

#### ■ Representation reports produced...

Summary 'Representation reports' containing information on consultees responses to the Core Strategies Issues & Options Papers are available on our website at the following addresses:

- Waste: <http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=13349>
- Minerals: <http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14094>

## More headline issues...

### ■ Evidence Reports in the pipeline...

Plans must be developed on the basis of a robust and up-to-date evidence base. We are currently working on a number of 'Evidence Reports' for both Core Strategies which will eventually be available on our website. This is part of the process of ensuring that when the plans are tested at Independent Examination they are found to be 'sound'.

### ■ Saved Policies...

The Minerals & Waste Local Plans have been automatically saved for a period of at least 3 years from 2004. However, beyond 2007 only some of their policies and proposals may be saved for a longer period - by Secretary of State decision. The County Council has submitted a schedule of policies it wishes to *further* save and in September 2007 it will be informed by Government of the decision.

## MINERALS CORE STRATEGY Issues & Options Consultation Update



The MCS Issues and Options (I&O) consultation took place over an 8-week period between the weeks of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 and the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006. (Note: representations were, and still are, welcomed after the closing date). This newsletter provides a very brief snapshot of the key issues to come out of the consultation, and what will be important in terms of the Preferred Options. A more comprehensive Response Report can be viewed on the Minerals Core Strategy page of our website.

### Key Issues to be addressed at the Preferred Options stage

#### ► 1. Making provision for aggregates

Aggregates in Gloucestershire include deposits of sand & gravel and limestone used as a crushed rock. They are the most significant minerals extracted in the County in terms of production and land take. Consequently, one of the key responsibilities for the MCS is to make provision for aggregates in order to meet the local requirements of regional guidelines, as set out in the emerging South West RSS. In seeking to achieving this, the following questions must be answered:

- How much aggregate provision should be identified for the future?
- How should resources be allocated?
- Which strategic locations should be considered for future working?

## MINERALS CORE STRATEGY Issues & Options Consultation Update (continued...)

Stakeholders debated a number of these provision question during the I&O consultation. Overwhelming support was given to a review of potential constraints on future working and environmental capacity when looking at provision requirements for Gloucestershire. Particular attention was also paid to the possible limitations on maintaining longer-term working of crushed rock within the Forest of Dean and the need for a more joined-up approach (with the neighbouring authorities of Wiltshire & Swindon) for future sand & gravel from within the Upper Thames Valley.

#### ► 2. Minerals Transport



The MCS should encourage more sustainable minerals transport and should look to safeguard existing rail and water-based facilities for future use in transporting minerals other than by road. During the I&O consultation, stakeholders very much supported this approach, where possible.

#### ► 3. Safeguarding Minerals

The safeguarding of known mineral resources has become a priority of national minerals policy. The MCS must carefully consider how it can best safeguard the County's mineral resources from being sterilised. Designating Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Minerals Consultation Areas (MCAs) is seen as an effective method of achieving this. However, stakeholders during the I&O consultation were mixed in their views on safeguarding, with some preferring a less specific approach.

#### ► 4. Building Stones in Gloucestershire



Building stones play a vital role in the County's rich built heritage. They are needed in the repair and maintenance of historic buildings, walls and monuments. However, much of the County's key resources lie within important, designated landscapes such as the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Consequently, a balance needs to struck through the MCS, between supporting continued supplies of building stone and the protection of the environment. During the I&O consultation, stakeholders broadly supported the provision of local building stone supplies for use in local buildings. However, they strongly objected to the importation and exportation of building stones to and from Gloucestershire.

## WASTE CORE STRATEGY

### Issues & Options Consultation Update

The WCS Issues and Options (I&O) consultation took place over an 8-week period between the weeks of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006. (Note: representations were, and still are, welcomed after the closing date). In total 43 stakeholders responded and we are adding to this evidence through involvement in the Great Gloucester Debate on waste issues, which you may be aware of through articles on local radio and in local newspapers. Additionally we have been engaged in ongoing discussions with a variety of stakeholders on what the WCS should contain.

### Key Issues to be addressed at the Preferred Options stage

The three key issues are based on making sure we have enough facilities, of the right type and in the best broad locations to manage waste in Gloucestershire.

#### ► 1. Making provision / meeting the capacity gap - residual waste

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) sets targets for managing municipal solid waste (MSW – mostly made up of household waste), commercial & industrial waste (C&I), and construction and demolition waste (C&D). In Gloucestershire we currently do not have enough facilities to meet these targets. Of particular significance is the 'capacity gap' for treatment facilities to handle the 'black bag' element of MSW. There is also a considerable 'gap' in facilities for diverting C&I waste from landfill.

#### ► 2. Strategic locations

Government guidance requires core strategies to identify broad locations for key waste management facilities. Two important documents that will guide this work are the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy and the recently adopted Waste Local Plan. Regional policy requires us to look to the main urban areas for locations either within, on the edge of, or within 16km. The diagram below illustrates this for Gloucester and Cheltenham.

