Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Waste Core Strategy
Preferred Options
Sustainability Appraisal Report

Non – Technical Summary

January 2008

Gloucestershire Minerals & Waste Development Framework

If you do not wish to read the full SA Report on the Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options this Non-Technical Summary should provide you with all the information you need in brief…

◘ The Background

Under new planning laws that came into force in 2004, Gloucestershire's Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan are being replaced by the Gloucestershire Minerals and Waste Development Framework. This will contain a range of documents containing policies relating to minerals and waste development in the County. Work on these documents will continue over a 10 year period. The South West Regional Spatial Strategy is due to be adopted in 2008 and the Minerals and Waste Development Framework is required to be in general conformity with it.

◘ Sustainable Development

The UK Government is committed to Sustainable Development. It's aim is to "enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations." (Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy – 2005).

◘ More Sustainable Plans

It is a statutory requirement for plans within the Minerals and Waste Development Framework to undergo a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) whereby potential social, economic and environmental impacts of plans are identified and carefully considered. The SA should inform and influence the development of plans early in the process with the aim of making them more sustainable. SA as a process incorporates the rigorous requirements of European law, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which ensures that certain plans and programmes are scrutinised for their potential environmental impact.

◘ The Initial Stages of the SA

The initial stages of SA involve gathering evidence and building a framework against which relevant plans within the suite of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework can be tested. Gloucestershire County Council has completed these initial stages with the publication of a Context Report and a Scoping Report (plus updates) which should be read in conjunction with this report. They are available at the following web address: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11577 These reports will be further updated early in 2008.

◘ The Waste Core Strategy Issues & Options

Documents presenting Issues and Options (including an SA Report and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report) went out to public consultation over an eight week period between the weeks of the 17th July and the 15th September 2006. The following 12 key issues were presented, with a number of options under each issue:

◆ **W1.** Setting an appropriate spatial vision and objectives for the WCS;
◆ **W2.** Determining the time period over which the WCS operates;
◆ **W3.** Implementing the waste hierarchy – reducing the amount of all types of waste we produce, but where waste does arise to increase recycling and divert it from landfill;
◆ **W4.** Adopting a strategy for making appropriate provision for waste management facilities;
◆ **W5.** Setting out a spatial strategy – selecting criteria to use for identifying suitable sites for waste management operations;

◆ **W6.** Implementing the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Gloucestershire's household waste;
◆ **W7.** Determining what factors should be used in assessing the cumulative impact on local communities;
◆ **W8.** Making an appropriate contribution to local, regional and national hazardous waste management requirements;
◆ **W9.** The appropriateness of proposals for new waste management facilities in the Green Belt;
◆ **W10.** Policies for dealing with proposals for new waste management facilities in other nationally designated areas;
◆ **W11.** The SA Report;
◆ **W12.** Any other key issues.

The consultation responses on Issues and Options and further stakeholder engagement fed into the development of the Preferred Options.

◘ *The Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options (an outline of the content and main objectives)*

The Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper contains the following sections:

◆ **Section 1:** A general introduction.
◆ **Section 2:** 'This is Gloucestershire' - a spatial portrait of the County.
◆ **Section 3:** The Vision & Strategic Objectives.
◆ **Section 4:** Waste reduction (Strategic Objective A).
◆ **Section 5:** Re-use, recycling & composting (Strategic Objective B).
◆ **Section 6:** Locational Strategy (Strategic Objectives C, D & E).
◆ **Section 7:** Monitoring / Implementation.
Annex A: Glossary.
Annex B: Regional Targets for Gloucestershire.

The 'Vision' is as follows:

"By 2026 Gloucestershire will be a clean, green and a safe place in which to live, work and visit. It will be a County whose inhabitants proactively minimise waste production to achieve zero growth by 2020 and where opportunities for re-using and recycling waste are maximised."

This will be delivered through a sustainable waste management system that: raises public awareness about waste minimisation; views waste as a resource; provides everyone with localised access to recycling facilities; supports markets for recyclable materials; and delivers a network of sites that enable maximum diversion of waste from landfill.

Sufficient waste management facilities will be provided to enable all households in Gloucestershire to recycle and compost at least 70% of their rubbish by April 2010, with an 80% participation rate by 2020.

Gloucestershire's communities, key landscape / environmental assets and land liable to flooding will be safeguarded from the adverse impacts from waste management activities. Major waste facilities will be located in the central area of Gloucestershire proximate to the main urban areas along the M5 corridor. Smaller supporting facilities will be dispersed around the County.

The Strategic objectives are as follows:

A. *To influence Gloucestershire's residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce, through raising awareness of waste issues. And then subsequently to encourage them to view any waste they do generate as a resource for which they must take communal responsibility.*

B. *To make the best use of Gloucestershire's waste by encouraging competitive markets for goods made from recycled materials and obtaining a benefit (value) from left over (residual) waste materials.*

C. *To preserve and enhance the quality of Gloucestershire's environment and to avoid undesirable environmental effects, including risks to human health and unacceptable impacts on designated landscapes / nature conservation sites.*

D. *To reduce the environmental impacts of transporting waste by managing the majority of Gloucestershire's waste within a reasonable distance from its source of arising, and to encourage the use of sustainable means of transporting waste.*

E. *To co-locate similar or related facilities on existing waste sites or previously developed sites in preference to undesignated green-field locations (where appropriate) and to safeguard such land from development that may prevent this use.*

◘ The current state of the environment and how it might be affected without the plan being in place

Gloucestershire is an attractive rural county, with a high quality environment. The Royal Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lie to the west, the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Cotswold Water Park to the east, and the Stroud valley to the south of the County. Running down the middle is the Severn Vale, containing Gloucester and Cheltenham, which are divided by Green Belt land as well as the M5 motorway. The County has a rich natural and historic heritage, which needs to be protected, but which is increasingly under pressure from various forms of development. Every year in Gloucestershire around 1.2 million tonnes of controlled waste is managed and levels of waste produced and managed in the County have been increasing in recent years with the majority of it still going to landfill. The main waste streams are:

- Municipal Solid Waste
- Commercial and Industrial Waste
- Construction and Demolition Waste
- Hazardous Waste

A key issue for the County is the treatment of the residual waste element of Municipal waste (i.e. 'black bin' waste left over after recycling and composting) This issue is being addressed through the Council's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) but the Waste Core Strategy has close links with it, in terms of planning for locations for the facilities needed. Without a robust strategy for the future management of waste, this situation is unlikely to improve with resulting negative social, economic and environmental repercussions.

◘ The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected

Everyone in the County produces waste and it is to everyone's benefit that issues surrounding waste are properly planned and managed. The options which are presented in the Preferred Options paper will potentially affect the whole of Gloucestershire and possibly surrounding counties. It is unlikely that large waste management facilities will be located in environmentally sensitive and protected areas. One of the main locational considerations is locating facilities reasonably close to where the waste is produced, so as to reduce the distance that it travels. This should help to reduce vehicle emissions that pollute the air and contribute to climate change.

◘ Existing Environmental problems in Gloucestershire

There are a number of existing environmental problems in Gloucestershire including:

- increasing levels of traffic congestion and associated pollution;
- the increased potential for flooding (as seen in the Summer 2007 flood events) and other climate change related impacts;
- rising levels of waste being produced;
- the decline in certain bird species; and
- some incidents of serious pollution.

The detail on these issues, including their relationship to areas of particular environmental importance and sensitivity, is available in the SA Context and Scoping Reports (see the most updated versions).

◘ Ways in which the environment is already protected

Gloucestershire contains a wide range of natural and man-made environmental assets, which are considered to be of international, national or local importance, and protected accordingly. For example:

■ Nature Conservation Assets:

The County has 6 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) covering 5,907 hectares and 2 Special Protection Areas (SPA) covering 4660 hectares. SPAs are also designated as Ramsar sites, which are wetlands of international importance under the 1971 Ramsar Agreement). These International sites are protected by law under a European Directive called the Habitats Directive.

■ Landscape Assets: Gloucestershire has 3 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty covering about 51% of the County.
■ The Historic Environment:
There are over 400 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the County.

The environmental protection measures (at all levels) which are relevant to the WCS are included in detail in the SA Context and Scoping Reports which are due to be further updated early in 2008.

■ *The likely significant effects on the environment*

The purpose of the WCS is to provide a framework for sustainable waste management in Gloucestershire over the next ten years. It contains objectives based on government guidance and principles of sustainability which will form the basis for preparing policies and a framework for identifying sites for waste management facilities. Ideally waste should be prevented and minimised, but the waste that is produced by society needs to be effectively managed. There is no doubt that waste management facilities can and do have significant effects on the environment. For instance landfill sites produce leachates and methane gas that need to be carefully managed and controlled. Energy from waste facilities produce some emissions and toxic ash residues. Many other waste management facilities such as waste transfer stations, scrap yards, recycling centres and composting facilities have associated heavy lorry traffic which is detrimental to the environment and to local communities. Through a policy framework, the WCS will aim to mitigate against and reduce harmful effects and, provide a sound framework for further work to identify sites that are most appropriate for the effective and sustainable management of waste.

The following table is a brief summary of the negative effects envisaged through the SA of the Waste Core Strategy Preferred options:

Option	Potential negative impact
WPO3A, WPO3B, WPO3C: Minimising Waste options	Potentially negative impacts in terms of mineral site restoration and the availability of material
WPO4A: A criteria based approach on a case by case basis for strategic / local composting facilities	Negative impacts in terms of safeguarding suitable sites for waste management
WPO4D: Area of Search approach - strategic and local composting and recycling facilities	Negative impacts in terms of safeguarding suitable sites for waste management
WPO12A: A specific AONB policy based on a combination of the proposed Issues & Options policy and stakeholder recommendations	Potentially negative impacts on the provision of employment opportunities related to the provision of facilities in rural areas, particularly in AONBs
WPO12B: Following national policy in PPS7 but referring to key relevant sections of specific AONB management plans	Potentially negative impacts on the provision of employment opportunities related to the provision of facilities in rural areas, particularly in AONBs

Full details of the test of the options are available in Appendix 5 of the full SA Report. A summary of the options is provided here in this Non-Technical Summary under 'Reasons for selecting the options and alternatives….'

■ *Measures to prevent or reduce adverse effects on the environment*

Various mitigation measures are outlined within the policies outlined. Stakeholders have the opportunity through the Preferred Options consultation, as they did on the Issues & Options consultation to assess the appropriateness of these measures. The SA report that will accompany the WCS at Submission will outline mitigation measures in greater detail. However at this stage some generic mitigation measures may potentially include:

■ Mitigation through appropriate and sensitive design measures or landscaping which may enable waste management facilities to function with less visual impact and less detrimental impact of amenity;

■ The co-location of facilities helping to minimise the number of areas where new impacts will be introduced;

■ The possible use of in-vessel or tunnel composting technology in order to limit odour and dust problems particularly for urban facilities, should these come forward;

■ The effective pre-treatment and management of wastes in storage leading to the prevention of contamination by dust, leachate, and run-off of materials such as nitrates from biodegradable and agricultural wastes in store;

■ The effective use of planning conditions imposing appropriate design and operational controls on new facilities;

■ The continued screening and scoping of proposals to assess the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment;

■ Making the best use of existing waste management infrastructure with current permissions to reduce the number of areas affected by new impacts.

■ *Reasons for selecting the options and alternatives & any problems encountered*

The Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation represented an early attempt to present ideas about the way in which waste is managed, and should be managed in Gloucestershire. On March 22nd 2006 a forum event was hosted jointly by the Waste Planning Authority and the Waste Disposal Authority in which broad strategic options for future waste management in Gloucestershire were considered. The outcomes of the forum were collated by *Entec* (the consultants facilitating the event) and views and ideas were incorporated, for example changes were made to the vision and to the key objectives. In terms of internal County Council input, there has been significant input from the Waste Management Unit in terms of options and data relating to municipal waste management.

The Preferred Options detailed below have built upon the Issues and Options consultation. A further waste forum was held in Gloucester on the 30th October 2007 to discuss key options and a large amount of evidence gathering and technical work has been undertaken in producing the main strategic options. A series of Technical Evidence Papers has been produced highlighting the level of joint working and evidence gathering that has been undertaken since the end of the Issues and Options consultation in September 2006. These Evidence Papers detail how and why these options have been chosen. See also Appendix 2 of the main SA Report which highlights the links between the options considered at Issues and Options stage and the Preferred Options.

The following are the Preferred Options including a sustainability summary resulting from the various tests of the options.

OPTION WPO1: ***By 2026 Gloucestershire will be a clean, green, healthy and a safe place in which to live, work and visit. It will be a County whose inhabitants proactively minimise waste production to achieve zero growth by 2020 and where opportunities for re-using and recycling waste are maximised:***

This will be delivered through a sustainable waste management system that: raises public awareness about waste minimisation; views waste as a resource; provides everyone with localised access to recycling facilities; supports markets for recyclable materials; and delivers a network of sites that enable maximum diversion of waste from landfill.

Sufficient waste management facilities will be provided to enable all households in Gloucestershire to recycle and compost at least 70% of their rubbish by April 2010, with an 80% participation rate by 2020.

Gloucestershire's communities, key landscape / environmental assets and land liable to flooding will be safeguarded from the adverse impacts from waste management activities. Major waste facilities will be located in the central area of Gloucestershire proximate to the main urban areas along the M5 corridor. Smaller supporting facilities will be dispersed around the County.

Sustainability summary:
The vision is a very well balanced and comprehensive statement of how Gloucestershire should look in 2026. It is aspirational in terms of seeking to achieve zero waste growth by 2020. It recognises local distinctiveness such as the County's acclaimed landscape assets, but it also in accordance with the national waste strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy. The vision scores very well in terms of the SA Objectives; the only SA objectives that do not have a positive or major positive score are the neutral scores on objectives that are predominantly minerals related. It is positive and proactive; setting broad targets and encouraging communities to take more responsibility for the waste they produce. It is not unrealistic or undeliverable.

Evidence:
The vision has developed through stakeholder consultation e.g. the public waste forum in March 2006 and comments through the Issues and Options consultation. The vision also draws on a number of key strategies such as: The Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan, the WCS Issues and Options paper, the Draft Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy for Gloucestershire. Further details are available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-B 'Spatial Portrait and Vision'.

OPTION WPO2: 5 Strategic objectives:

A. *To influence Gloucestershire's residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce, through raising awareness of waste issues. And then subsequently to encourage them to view any waste they do generate as a resource for which they must take communal responsibility.*

B. *To make the best use of Gloucestershire's waste by encouraging competitive markets for goods made from recycled materials and obtaining a benefit (value) from left over (residual) waste materials.*

C. *To preserve and enhance the quality of Gloucestershire's environment and to avoid undesirable environmental effects, including risks to human health and unacceptable impacts on designated landscapes / nature conservation sites.*

D. *To reduce the environmental impacts of transporting waste by managing the majority of Gloucestershire's waste within a reasonable distance from its source of arising, and to encourage the use of sustainable means of transporting waste.*

E. *To co-locate similar or related facilities on existing waste sites or previously developed sites in preference to undesignated green-field locations (where appropriate) and to safeguard such land from development that may prevent this use.*

Sustainability summary:

Against the 15 SA Objectives none of the plan's strategic objectives produce negative results. However there are a number of neutral or uncertain scores and these could potentially be negative in some circumstances, but the majority of scores are major positive or positive. Neutral scores are given against all the strategic objectives for Objective 6 'To conserve minerals resources from inappropriate development whilst providing for the supply of aggregates and other minerals sufficient for the needs of society' and for most of the strategic objectives in terms of the test against Objective 2 **'**To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities, or future mineral development from other proposed development.'

Evidence:
Further details are available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-B 'Spatial Portrait and Vision'.

OPTION WPO3A: An option that effectively rolls forward WLP Policy 36 with a few word changes to strengthen the policy:

Proposals for major development requiring planning permission must include a scheme for sustainable management of the waste generated by the development during construction and during subsequent occupation. The scheme will include measures to:

i. Minimise, re-use and recycle waste; and
ii. Minimise the use of construction materials; and
iii. Minimise the pollution potential of unavoidable waste; and
iv. Dispose of waste that cannot satisfactorily be re-used/recycled in an environmentally acceptable manner.

The WPA will proactively pursue initiatives to reduce waste generation in Gloucestershire.

Sustainability summary:
Clearly it a very positive option, as might be expected due to the fact that it is directly addressing on of the most significant and serious environmental issues that faces Gloucestershire and many other local authorities. Positive or major positive scores are recorded against 11 of the 15 SA Objectives. There are negative scores in terms of SA Objective 13 – the restoration of minerals sites, due to the fact that minimising e.g. C&D waste in particular could logically result in a lack of soils and other inert material that is currently used in quarry restoration – be that for hard rock quarries or sand and gravel pits that are not 'wet restored'. It is a complex issue. Because C&D waste is often crushed and screened and used on site it may not enter the waste stream and so figures for tonnes arising may be difficult to gauge accurately. However broadly despite this issue this policy is hugely valuable and important for sustainable waste management in the County.

Evidence:
Evidence and further details are contained in the WCS itself (Section 4) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'.

OPTION WPO3B: This approach is led by the principles of waste minimisation and as such provides a flexible approach to waste minimisation:

All development requiring planning permission shall abide by the principles of waste minimisation. This includes development that produces hazardous waste as a by-product of its processes.

Development exceeding the Government's 'major development' threshold will be required to submit a statement alongside the application setting out how waste arising during the demolition, construction and occupation (including operational processes) of the development is to be minimised and managed. The statement should also demonstrate how the developer has incorporated recycling provision into the occupational life of the development.*

*[*for residential development the term 'recycling' also refers to home composting activities – either individual or communal]*

Sustainability summary:
This options is scored identically to WPO3A although comments against each objective differ reflecting the slightly different approach to waste minimisation. Broadly very positive option, addressing a key environmental problem in the County. For further comments see the Sustainability Summary for WPO3A.

Evidence:
Evidence and further details are contained in the WCS itself (Section 4) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'.

OPTION WPO3C: This approach is more rigid than the first two policy options in that it states exactly what the applicant/developer needs to provide in support of their proposals:

Planning applications for major development shall be accompanied by a statement setting out how waste generated during construction/ demolition and subsequent occupation of the development is to be managed. The statement shall include:

- *Evidence that the scheme's design has incorporated reasonable steps to eliminate waste and that sustainable construction techniques have been considered.*
- *A commitment to use materials comprised of recycled content.*
- *The tonnage of waste materials likely to arise, set out by material type (e.g. wood, brick/concrete, soils, plastics etc).*
- *A method for auditing construction and demolition waste including how waste materials arising during demolition and construction will be segregated and re-used on-site wherever possible, or, where this is not possible, re-used off-site.*
- *Evidence that hazardous waste arisings have been minimised, and where unavoidable suitable provision been made for handling on-site.*
- *Demonstration that waste collection authority advice has been obtained on recycling box / residual bin requirements and that there is adequate access for waste collection vehicles and their operatives.*
- *Where appropriate developers will be expected to contribute towards managing the waste likely to be generated from their proposal.*

Sustainability summary:
Broadly this option is very positive and it addresses a serious environmental problem that many (if not all local authorities) are faced with. The proposed policy is detailed and prescriptive, requiring developers to supply a lot of information about their proposals including tonnages. Generally the scores for this option are very similar to Option WPO3A & WPO3B but in the medium to longer term there may be issues with a lack of flexibility. Waste is a rapidly moving field and an overly prescriptive policy approach may soon become out of date or priorities may change. There may be problems with implementation as it is potentially placing the responsibility on District Development Control and Waste Collection Authorities who may already be stretched in terms of resources and the sheer volume of considerations that need to be looked at when developers submit planning applications for various development projects.

Evidence:
Evidence and further details are contained in the WCS itself (Section 4) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'.

OPTION WPO4A: A criteria based approach on a case-by-case basis (strategic & local composting/recycling facilities):

Proposals for recycling and composting facilities will be approved subject to meeting the following criteria:

i. The impact on neighbouring land uses is acceptable (proposals for composting must be at least 250m from sensitive land-uses unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated it can operate in closer proximity).

ii. The highway access is suitable for the proposed vehicle movements.

iii. They contribute towards providing a sustainable waste management system for Gloucestershire.

Sustainability summary:
The option is broadly positive. It maybe that a criteria based approach may be more effective than a sites approach for smaller local facilities in terms of getting what is required 'on the ground' to increase recycling rates and to meet targets. As the scoring indicates, major positive effects are likely in terms of reducing waste to landfill and in terms of reducing climate change impacts. Less energy is needed in the recycling process than that used producing new products from virgin material. Glass is a good example. Potentially negative effects are anticipated in the longer term in terms of the safeguarding of sites. Clearly this policy approach is moving away from allocating small local sites.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' (including information on recycling composting targets & capacity gaps etc) and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'.

OPTION WPO4B: Criteria for site identification in a DPD (strategic & local composting/recycling facilities):

Sites for composting and recycling in Gloucestershire will be identified in a site specific development plan document. Physical and environmental constraints, including the impact on neighbouring land uses, will be a key consideration.

The following search criteria will be used as the basis for selecting sites with priority being given to:

i. Previously developed land and redundant rural buildings, including farm diversification opportunities.

ii. Co-location with complementary or similar existing operations.

iii. Sites within or on the edge of towns.

iv. Sites in the central Severn Vale that can serve a wide market area.

Sustainability summary:
In terms of the scoring against the SA Objectives, this option performs better than WPO4A. There are major positive scores against 7 of the 15 SA Objectives. The sites approach seems to be so positive because it provides certainty and, due to the rigorous process of identifying sites, many amenity and environmental concerns are addressed at an early stage. The site would not be allocated if a decision maker or an Inspector had serious concerns as to its appropriateness in landuse terms and its broad sustainability credentials.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' (including information on recycling composting targets & capacity gaps etc) and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'. See also Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis' in terms of where sites in a future DPD may be appropriately located.

OPTION WPO4C: A combination approach (requires two policies, one for local scale and another for strategic composting/recycling facilities):

Strategic Site Policy
Sites for strategic composting and recycling facilities in Gloucestershire will be identified in a site specific development plan document. Physical and environmental constraints, including the impact on neighbouring land uses, will be a key consideration. The following search criteria will be used as the basis for selecting sites with priority being given to:

i. *Previously-developed land and redundant rural buildings, including farm diversification opportunities.*
ii. *Co-location with complementary or similar existing operations.*
iii. *Sites within or on the edge of towns.*
iv. *Sites in the central Severn Vale that can serve a wide market area.*

Local Site Policy
Proposals for local recycling and composting facilities will be approved subject to meeting the following criteria:

i. *The impact on neighbouring land uses is acceptable (proposals for composting must be at least 250m from sensitive land-uses).*
ii. *The highway access is suitable for the proposed vehicle movements.*
iii. *They contribute towards providing a sustainable waste management system for Gloucestershire.*

Sustainability summary:
Of all the WPO4 options this scores the highest in terms of the test against the SA Objectives. This combination approach provides certainty for larger strategic facilities for composting and recycling as well as the required flexibility for smaller local facilities. There are no negative scores and major positive scores against 12 of the 15 SA Objectives. From an SA standpoint this is the favoured option.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' (including information on recycling composting targets & capacity gaps etc) and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'. See also Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis' in terms of where strategic sites may be appropriately located when allocated in a waste sites DPD.

OPTION WPO4D: An Area of Search approach (strategic & local composting/recycling facilities):

Areas of search for locating composting and recycling facilities in Gloucestershire will be identified in a site specific development plan document. Strategic physical and environmental constraints will be a key consideration. The following search criteria will be used as the basis for selecting sites with priority being given to:

i. *Areas with little or no current provision for composting recycling.*
ii. *Areas with large waste arisings.*
iii. *Sites on the edge of towns.*
iv. *Sites in the central Severn vale that can serve a wide market area.*

Sustainability summary:
The area of search approach for strategic and local composting and recycling facilities is broadly positive in terms of the test against the SA Objectives. However it does not have the certainty of a sites based approach. Negative scores are given against SA Objective 2 – Safeguarding sites, as the option clearly does not facilitate this. There are also some potential concerns about employment issues for rural communities and in terms of the diversification of the rural economy. It depend on the areas of search that are identified, but clearly rural areas may be the most appropriate places for certain composting operations, particularly given that standoff distances may have to be adhered to.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data' (including information on recycling composting targets & capacity gaps etc) and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'. See also Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis' in terms of where areas of search may be identified in a future waste sites DPD.

OPTION WPO5A: A policy encouraging the development of a resource economy:

The waste planning authority will encourage development of a 'resource economy'. Proposals for the development of markets for recycled materials, in particular, initiatives to assist small to medium sized businesses to re-use/recycle their discarded materials will be supported by the WPA.

Sustainability summary:
The option addresses an issue which is often raised by stakeholders who are keen to see increased recycling. It is an area in which traditional land use planning has had difficulty influencing. In terms of the scores of this option against the SA Objectives, it is generally very positive, with no negative scores and major positive scores against a number of objectives. It is particularly strong in terms of the economic development objectives; less so in terms of the environmental protection objectives although the results are neutral rather than negative. It may be that environmental benefits may be more marked than this broad SA anticipates.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'.

OPTION WPO5B: A policy encouraging the development of a resource economy, working in partnership with other organisations:

In encouraging the development of a 'resource economy' the waste planning authority will work in partnership with other organisations (for example Gloucestershire First, the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership, the Waste Disposal Authority, the Gloucestershire Environment Partnership) to promote the development of markets for recycled and recovered materials and products.

Sustainability summary:
Broadly similar scores as for Option 5A. This option is likely to have major positive impacts particularly in the medium to long term as markets develop and as partnerships develop to encourage their formation. Organisations such as *Gloucestershire First* will be key may be key progress in this area and it is likely that there will have to be increasing levels of coordination and effective working between the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership and other business interests.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy'. See also Technical Evidence Paper WCS-J 'Waste Industry Involvement' for comments about the formation of markets for recyclables.

OPTION WPO6A: A general 'recovery' policy (i.e. not process-specific) that applies county-wide. For example rolling forward the existing WLP Policy 15 taking into account the National Waste Strategy:

Proposals for the development of residual waste facilities will be permitted in appropriate locations where it can be demonstrated that:

- *the facility would be part of a sustainable waste management system; and*
- *in demonstrating sustainablity the facility will not manage waste that could reasonably be recycled or composted; and*
- *it would realise energy recovery and disposal routes for residues would be satisfactory; and*
- *the facility would meet the relevant policies and criteria of the development plan.*

Sustainability summary:
This is a broad, non process specific option. In general, given the criteria within the policy seeking to demonstrate sustainability and 'be part of a sustainable waste management system' it is positive. Many of the scores against the SA Objectives are neutral. Effectively this means that the option is not clearly related to the objective or that while there may be some negative impacts for some communities, other communities (or Gloucestershire as a whole) will benefit. Major positive scores are given in terms of the objectives to reduce waste to landfill and reduce contributions to climate change – related to energy from waste potential and also reducing methane emissions from landfill. The comments against SA objective are important: 'Potentially negative effects may be identified in any assessment of sites and / or technologies'.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) in the recovery section and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy', Technical Evidence Paper WCS-F 'Making Provision for Waste Management Facilities' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO6B: The addition of a paragraph to the end of Option WPO6a to address specific MSW requirements from the JMWMS Residual Action Plan:

Proposals for the development of residual waste facilities will be permitted in appropriate locations where it can be demonstrated that:

- *the facility would be part of a sustainable waste management system; and*
- *in demonstrating sustainablity the facility will not manage waste that could reasonably be recycled or composted; and it would realise energy recovery and disposal routes for residues would be satisfactory; and*
- *the facility would meet the relevant policies and criteria of the development plan.*

Proposals for the development of _____ (INSERT PREFERRED TECHNOLOGY AS STATED IN RESIDUAL ACTION PLAN) to manage municipal solid waste will be permitted in appropriate locations provided it accords with the above criteria.

Sustainability summary:
The SA scores are identical to Option WPO6A. This SA is not focused on assessing a particular technology. It assesses strategic options, in this case an option containing a number of criteria. It is not an option which considers sites. Gloucestershire County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) will eventually have a preferred technology or preferred technologies for residual waste and this is detailed in their Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) Residual Action Plan. An SEA and technical work has been conducted of this plan to date (as outlined in the Preferred Options and Evidence papers), and these should be should be referred to for specific impacts. This Core Strategy SA is not conducted at a level of depth or analysis to either contradict or confirm the results of the WDA's technical work and their SEA.
The JMWMS SEA does state on page: xv that 'None of the treatment technologies will result in no environmental issues, with each having potentially negative impacts against a number of the SEA criteria – in particular land contamination and landscape, air pollution and energy issues, water resources and nuisance. However, the extent to which these impact upon Gloucestershire and beyond can be mitigated to a large extent (although not totally) through the use of advanced abatement technologies, careful monitoring and appropriate site management.'

Evidence:
Further evidence and information is detailed in the JMWMS Residual Action Plan and SEA, Appendix 8 of this report, the WCS itself (Section 5) in the recovery section and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy', Technical Evidence Paper WCS-F 'Making Provision for Waste Management Facilities' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO6C: Site Specific Approach – strategic sites will be allocated in a Waste Site Allocations DPD based on the following criteria:

Strategic sites for waste treatment facilities will be allocated in a site specific development plan document. Such facilities will be located in accordance the broad locational approach identified in the Waste Core Strategy, and accord with the following criteria:

a) industrial estates and employment land (allocated or permitted for B2 uses);

b) previously developed land;

c) existing waste management facilities and mineral sites.

Planning applications for local residual waste treatment facilities will be determined using the three criteria set out above.

Physical and environmental constraints, including the impact on neighbouring land uses, will be key considerations for both local and strategic sites.

Sustainability summary:
This is an option which is testing the approach of allocating strategic sites for the management of residual waste. Any facility in any location may have the potential to pollute, facilities are thus highly regulated through planning and the through licensing and regulation by the Environment Agency. What the options presented in the WCS are trying to achieve is an improvement on the current situation, and the scoring is given in this context. Clearly other assessments at site level and even at EIA level will produce their own results. Allocating a strategic site in a Waste Site Allocations document is likely to provide a degree of certainty and the site's sustainability will be rigorously tested. The scores relates to the broad principle of allocating sites – not the sites themselves. Positive or major positive effects are envisaged in terms of 11 of the 15 SA Objectives. There are uncertainties in terms of lorry impacts, conserving mineral resources and employment issues.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) in the recovery section and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy', Technical Evidence Paper WCS-F 'Making Provision for Waste Management Facilities' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO6D: Broad Locational Approach:

Strategic sites for accommodating waste treatment facilities should be situated within the broad locational area identified in the Waste Core Strategy. Within that area facilities are directed towards:

a) *industrial estates and employment land (allocated or permitted for B2 uses);*

b) *previously developed land;*

c) *existing waste management facilities and mineral sites.*

Planning applications for local residual waste treatment facilities will be determined using the three criteria set out above.

Physical and environmental constraints, including the impact on neighbouring land uses, will be key considerations for both local and strategic sites.

Sustainability summary:
In the assessment of this option there are broadly positive effects in terms of a number of the SA Objectives, but there is less certainty than the allocated sites approach (WPO6C). There are no 'major positive' effects anticipated and there are uncertainties over SA Objectives 6, 7 & 12 – conservation of the County's mineral resources, employment issues (related to diversification) and lorry impacts.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 5) in the recovery section and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-D 'Implementing the Waste Hierarchy' and . Technical Evidence Paper WCS-F 'Making Provision for Waste Management Facilities' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO7A: A Broad Search Area:

A broad search area based on the full 16km Regional Policy W2 (using the search criteria outlined for Options WPO7b-d). Under this approach, strategic sites that are remote from arisings could be appropriate if they are able to demonstrate sustainable transport linkages.

Sustainability summary:
This option is not time specific and so has only been scored in one column. Broadly positive effects anticipated in terms of sustainable development as long as sustainable transport linkages can be demonstrated. This option is difficult to score as it is not focused on a particular technology and the 16km radius around the main urban areas includes practically the whole of Gloucestershire, only excluding the far north west of the County. The other WPO6 options are also difficult due to the fact that more detailed criteria/constraints need to be developed. No negative effects are highlighted against the SA Objectives but there are a number of 'uncertain' scores.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS itself (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO7B: Urban Locations & Zone C:

Use urban locations and the area labelled Zone C as the broad locational area in which strategic waste management facilities should be sited.

Sustainability summary:
This option is not time specific and so has only been scored in one column. Broadly positive effects likely. Zone C avoids the floodplain and the Cotswold AONB and is near to major sources of waste arising – Gloucester and Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. Major positive effects are given against SA Objective 8 – the conservation of the natural environment, Objective 10 – preventing flooding, Objective 12 – reducing lorry impacts and Objective 15 – reducing climate change impacts.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO7C: Urban Locations & Zones C2, C3 and C4:

Use urban locations and areas labelled C2, C3 and C4 as the broad locational area in which strategic waste management facilities should be sited.

Sustainability summary:
This option is not time specific and so has only been scored in one column. This option is scored identically to Option WPO7B as at this broad level of assessment Zone C will not be *substantially* different from C2, C3 & C4.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO7D: Area C4

Use area C4 as the broad locational area for strategic waste management facilities. If land is not forthcoming then the fall-back position is to search in areas C2 and C3 and then the wider Zone C.

Sustainability summary:
This option is not time specific and so has only been scored in one column. This option is scored identically to Options WPO7B & C as at this broad level of assessment the differences between the zones are not marked.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-C 'Broad Locational Analysis'.

OPTION WPO8A: Environmental Acceptability – an option derived from Waste Local Plan policies 16 and 37:

Proposals for hazardous waste development at existing hazardous waste facilities in Gloucestershire must demonstrate 'environmental acceptability'. In order to do this the following criteria will need to be met:

There should be no significant adverse impact on the environment – on land, air or water that are not capable of stringent and successful mitigation measures. Where the effects are uncertain the precautionary principle should be invoked.

There should be no significant adverse impact (including any cumulative impacts), on the following that cannot be successfully controlled, mitigated or attenuated:

- *The quality of life, amenity and health of local residents and other land users;*
- *Any designated site for nature conservation;*
- *The countryside and the traditional landscape character of Gloucestershire;*
- *Access and the local highway network;*
- *The potential for successful land restoration.*

Sustainability summary:
The SA Objective 1 commentary for this option states that: 'Ideally hazardous waste should be minimized and this is encouraged in the WCS. Positive scores are given as the policy is seeking to manage the hazardous waste produced by society in an environmentally acceptable way'. The scoring reflects the fact that if the sites and processes are 'environmentally acceptable' then people's health and well-being and the natural environment should be protected. Clearly if sites are not environmentally acceptable they should not be operating and would not be granted a license by the Environment Agency. Major positive scores are given against SA Objective 11 – pollution prevention - as this is the specific aim of the policy and there is reference in it to the 'precautionary principle'.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-E 'Hazardous Waste', Technical Evidence Paper WCS-F 'Making Provision' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-L 'Environmental Acceptability'.

OPTION WPO8B: Environmental Acceptability – An option derived from stakeholder views through consultation with local community representatives:

Proposals for hazardous waste development at existing hazardous waste facilities in Gloucestershire must demonstrate 'environmental acceptability'. In order to do this the following criteria will need to be met:

There should be no significant adverse impact on the environment – on land, air or water that are not capable of stringent and successful mitigation measures. Cumulative impact should also be considered. Where the effects are uncertain the precautionary principle should be invoked.

Factors that should be included in an assessment of 'environmental acceptability include:

- The quality of life, amenity and health of local residents and other land users;

- Impacts on neighbouring land-uses (including the local road network) and the potential for the achievement of appropriate 'stand-off distances' between the facility and residential properties;

- The type and scale of the facility taking account of best available technologies (not involving excessive costs);

- The need for the facility, the way it sits with existing activities and the potential wider environmental implications of not managing the waste stream;

- Potential for successful land restoration issues.

Sustainability summary:
This option would appear to be more positive, more sustainable in the medium to long term than Option 8A due to stronger protection of amenity with the inclusion of appropriate standoff distances and taking account of best available technologies. Positive or major positive scores are given against 6 of the 15 SA Objectives. There are 7 scores of 'neutral'. Effectively this means that the option is not clearly related to the objective or that while there may be some negative impacts for some communities / environments, other communities (or Gloucestershire as a whole) will benefit.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-E 'Hazardous Waste', Technical Evidence Paper WCS-F 'Making Provision' and Technical Evidence Paper WCS-L 'Environmental Acceptability'.

OPTION WPO9A: A generic waste water infrastructure topic policy:

The development or expansion of water supply or waste water facilities will normally be permitted, either where needed to serve existing or proposed development in accordance with the provisions of the development plan, or in the interests of long term water supply and waste water management, provided that the need for such facilities outweigh any adverse land use or environmental impact and that any such adverse impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated.

Sustainability summary:
Broadly positive effects. Waste water infrastructure is an essential service for society helping to maintain sustainable communities and homes. Major positive impacts are likely in terms of SA Objective 3 as without waste water infrastructure serious public health issues would arise. There are a number of uncertain scores, in relation to flooding, transport issues and climate change.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-H 'Sewage Treatment Facilities'.

OPTION WPO9B: Defer policy to Development Control DPD:

Sustainability summary:
This option is scored identically to WPO9A. Similar comments apply. Waste water infrastructure is vital for society. The option is broadly positive but with a number of uncertainties.

Evidence:
Evidence and further information is detailed in the WCS (Section 6) and in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-H 'Sewage Treatment Facilities'.

OPTION WPO10A: Roll forward the existing Waste Local Plan Policy 7 into the WCS:

Existing sites in permanent waste management use (including sewage and water treatment works) and proposed sites for waste management use will be safeguarded by local planning authorities. The waste planning authority will normally oppose proposals for development within or in proximity to these sites where the proposed development would prevent or prejudice the use of the site for waste management development.

Sustainability summary:
Broadly positive effects are likely given that if sites are not protected from encroachment or sterilisation by incompatible land-uses then the value of allocating sites in lessened. significantly. Obviously major positive scores against SA Objective 2 – safeguarding sites, against the rest of the objectives scores are positive or neutral.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-H 'Sewage Treatment Works' which considers wider safeguarding issues as well as issues related to sewage treatment.

OPTION WPO10B: Revise the Waste Local Plan Policy 7 to reflect the outcome of recent planning decisions and the notion of 'consultation areas':

Existing and allocated sites for waste management use will be safeguarded by local planning authorities, who must consult the waste planning authority where there is likely to be incompatibility between land-uses. Proposals that may either adversely affect, or be adversely affected by, waste management uses should not be permitted unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated by the applicant that there would be no conflict. The waste planning authority will oppose proposals for development that would prejudice the use of the site for waste management.*

*[*this includes sewage treatment works]*

Sustainability summary:
From the SA scoring, this option appears to be more positive and more sustainable than WPO10A. There is more detail in WPO10B and it is stronger in that the phrase 'will normally oppose' has been altered to 'will oppose'. There are no negative impacts highlighted and 12 of the 15 SA Objectives are positive or major positive.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-H 'Sewage Treatment Works' which considers wider safeguarding issues as well as issues related to sewage treatment.

OPTION WPO11A: Cumulative impacts could be included as part of the delivery mechanism for Strategic Objective 5:

To co-locate complementary facilities together, reflecting the concept of resource recovery parks, where the cumulative impact is not unacceptable on the host location.'

The following wording could be added to the end of the bullet point: *'…in terms of significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential.'*

Sustainability summary:
Considering cumulative impact is a requirement of PPS10. The option does not propose a specific policy; it adds wording to the delivery mechanism for WCS Strategic Objective 5. In terms of 'sustainable development' the option scores well (major positive scores against SA Objective 1). This is a result of the inclusion of the wording 'environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential' which covers the three broad components of sustainability. Nine scores of positive or major positive are recorded against the 15 SA Objectives. There are uncertainties over Objective 9 in terms of how material, cultural and recreational assets are potentially covered by 'impacts on environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential.'

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-L 'Cumulative Impact'.

OPTION WPO11B: A separate cumulative impact policy in the WCS:

As part of the process to identify suitable sites and areas for waste management for new or enhanced waste management facilities, the cumulative effects of previous and existing waste disposal facilities on the well-being of local communities will be considered alongside the potential benefits of co-locating complementary facilities together. For facilities that come forward on unallocated sites, a similar cumulative impact assessment will be required.

In terms of any significant cumulative impacts, careful consideration should be given to potential adverse impacts on:

- Environmental quality;
- Social cohesion and inclusion; and
- Economic potential.

Within these broad categories, the following impacts on local communities should be given particular attention, both in terms of any individual impact and in terms of any potential cumulative impacts:

- *Impact of noise*
- *Impact of smell*
- *Traffic impact**
- *Visual impact*
- *Impact of dust*
- *Health impacts*

**Traffic impacts should be afforded particular attention as they are diffuse by their nature and thus not contained on sites.*

Sustainability summary:
This option is more detailed than WPO11A; it proposes wording proposed by stakeholders at waste forums, meetings and through formal consultation. There are major positive or positive scores against 10 of the 15 SA Objectives. It is likely to be a better option than WPO11A in terms of Objective 5 – protecting amenity and Objective 11 – reducing traffic impacts. Traffic impacts are afforded particular attention within the policy due to their potential for widespread off site impacts on communities and local environments.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-L 'Cumulative Impact'.

OPTION WPO12A: Policy approach based on a combination of the proposed Issues & Options policy and stakeholder representations:

Proposals for waste development within or affecting the setting of areas of outstanding natural beauty will only be permitted where:

-There is a lack of alternative sites not affecting the AONB to serve the market need; and
-The impact on the special qualities of the AONB (including the landscape setting and recreational opportunities) can be successfully mitigated.
In the case of major development proposed in the AONB a proven national interest needs to be demonstrated. Approval will only be granted in exceptional circumstances following the most rigorous examination.

Sustainability summary:
The option is broadly positive and major positive effects are anticipated in terms of SA Objective 8 – the protection of the natural environment, landscape and biodiversity and SA Objective 9 – protecting material, cultural and recreational assets. Negative effects are recorded against Objective 7 – employment, as the policy could have the effects of restricting employment opportunities in rural areas of Gloucestershire. In terms of transport issues and potential mitigation measures, there are lorry management schemes proposed and operating in the Cotswolds AONB.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS-4 'Landscape & AONB'.

OPTION WPO12B: An option using national guidance on AONBs as set out in PPS7:

Sustainability summary:
Broadly positive effect anticipated. At this broad level of assessment the scoring for this option (following national guidance in PP7) is the same WPO12A.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS-4 'Landscape & AONB'.

OPTION WPO13A: Policy solely for national archaeological issues:

Proposals for waste management which would cause damage to or involve significant alteration to nationally important archaeological remains or their settings, whether scheduled or not, will not be permitted.

Sustainability summary:
Gloucestershire is rich in important archaeological remains and historic monuments. The effects of this option as tested against the SA Objectives are broadly positive or neutral. A large number of neutral scores are given due to the fact that the policy is a focused one. Major positive effects are likely (as expected) in terms of SA Objective 9 - To protect conserve and enhance Gloucestershire's material, cultural and recreational assets including its architectural and archaeological heritage.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS-6 'Archaeology '.

OPTION WPO13B: No specific policy in the WCS but text in the WCS to state that waste development proposals will be determined in accordance with national policy set out in PPG15 and PPG16 for national archaeological issues:

Sustainability summary:
This option advocates following national guidance in PPG15 and PPG16 rather than including a specific policy in the WCS. It is likely that archaeological issues will be fully considered in subsequent DPDs – to be produced, in particular the Waste Development Control Policies DPD. Clearly archaeology will also be an important consideration in terms of any sites assessment, as it is at the planning application stage. This option is scored identically to WPO13A. No negative impacts are envisaged through the SA scoring.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Joint Minerals & Waste Technical Evidence Paper WCS-MCS-6 'Archaeology '.

OPTION WPO14A: No specific policy in the WCS but text in the WCS to state that waste development in the Green Belt is to be in accordance with PPG2 & PPS10:

Sustainability summary:
Some of the County's key waste management sites (e.g. hazardous and non hazardous landfills, Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are located within the Gloucester / Cheltenham Green Belt. This option essentially follows government policy in PPG2 and PPS10. In the test against the SA Objectives the results are broadly positive / neutral. A neutral effect may indicate that effects may be negligible or unrelated or that some communities / environments may be affected whilst others (such as the wider community of Gloucestershire or 'the South West') may benefit. Positive scores are given in terms of broad sustainability, protection of health and well being, conserving and enhancing assets and the restoration of minerals sites. But potential unsustainable elements include the issue of transport and development being deflected beyond Green Belts.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-I 'Waste Facilities in the Green Belt'.

OPTION WPO14B: Revise WLP Policy 35 to reflect guidance in PPS10 in relation to waste management in Green Belts:

(Part A) Waste management in the Green Belt (not re-using an existing building)
Waste management development in the green belt (not re-using an existing building) will need to demonstrate a particular identified locational need to contribute to sustainable waste management in Gloucestershire. This would require rigorous justification against the following criteria:

It will only be permitted in very special circumstances where it does not conflict with the purposes of the green belt designation. For Gloucestershire, the following may constitute 'very special circumstances':

- The facility is of a type that can demonstrate particular locational needs by being:

a) Proximate to major sources of waste arisings; or

b) Directly linked to landfill or other waste management operations enabling significantly reductions in the amount of waste going to landfill.

The wider environmental and economic benefits of sustainable waste management in the green belt are also material considerations that should be given significant weight.

(Part B) The re-use of a building for waste management purposes in the Green Belt
The re-use of a building for waste management purposes in the green belt will be permitted provided:

a) It does not have a materially greater impact than the present use on the openness of the green belt and the purpose of including land in it;

b) The building is of permanent and substantial construction and is capable of conversion without major or complete reconstruction; and

c) The form, bulk and general design of the buildings is in keeping with its surroundings. Poor design will be rejected.

Sustainability summary:
This option is in the form of a detailed policy to be included in the WCS. The policy covers 'Waste management in the Green Belt not re-using an existing building' and 'The re-use of a building for waste management purposes in the Green Belt. The policy reflects the views of consultees / stakeholders, takes account of local circumstances and accords with Government policy in PPG2 and PPS10. In the test of the option against the SA Objectives, the results are broadly positive / neutral. As for WPO 14A, A neutral effect may indicate that effects may be negligible or unrelated or that some communities / environments may be affected whilst others (such as the wider community of Gloucestershire or 'the South West') may benefit. This option is scored very similarly to WPO14A, but it is more positive in terms of reflecting local circumstances and waste management need in Gloucestershire.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-I 'Waste Facilities in the Green Belt'.

OPTION WPO14C: A statement in the WCS requiring alterations to the defined green belt boundary, by means of appropriate 'inset' sites, to meet any specific identified need for waste management facility(s):

Sustainability summary:
This option is not a policy as such but is presented in the form of a statement. It is an option that may be pursued in conjunction with Options WPO14A and WPO14B. It closely follows requirements in PPS10 to recognize the particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities when defining Green Belt boundaries. In the test against the 15 SA Objectives the results were broadly positive or neutral (see WPO14A &B for comments on neutral scores). Clearly assessments for any sites work or any Green Belt review will address the issues that have been raised here at a broad strategic level in greater detail.

Evidence:
Further information and evidence on this option is available in Technical Evidence Paper WCS-I 'Waste Facilities in the Green Belt'.

OPTION WPO15A: This option follows the PPS9 approach for nationally designated sites (SSSIs) but is proposed to make users of the WCS explicitly aware of the approach that the WPA will take in assessing proposals that affect such designations:

For proposals affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest the precautionary principle will be followed. Planning permission will not be granted for waste development which would conflict with the conservation, management and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest unless the harmful aspects can be successfully mitigated. The benefits of the development need to clearly outweigh the impact it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and/or any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs.

Sustainability summary:
Against the test of the 15 SA Objectives Option WPO15A is broadly positive. There are major positive scores in terms of Objectives 8 - protect, conserve and enhance Gloucestershire's wildlife and natural environment and Objective 11 - preventing pollution. In terms of Objective 11, the score is 'major positive' due to the fact that the policy refers to the precautionary principle. There are a number of neutral / unrelated scores but this is because the policy has a very specific environmental / SSSI focus.

Evidence:
For further information / evidence see Joint Minerals & Waste Evidence Paper WCS-MCS-5 'Biodiversity'.

OPTION WPO15B: This option relies on national policy in PPS9:

Sustainability summary:
In terms of the test of this option against the SA Objectives the results are broadly positive. The scores and comments for this option are broadly the same as for WPO15A although the scores for Objective 11 are positive rather than major positive. Similar comments apply as for WPO15A.

Evidence:
For further information / evidence see Joint Minerals & Waste Evidence Paper WCS-MCS-5 'Biodiversity'.

Monitoring

Any proposed policies in the WCS need to be effectively monitored. The Minerals & Waste Planning Policy Team already produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which includes a number of monitoring objectives, indicators and targets related to minerals and waste development. Monitoring also need to be undertaken through the Sustainability Appraisal process. Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal states that it is not necessary to monitor everything, but that it should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage. This is with a view to identifying trends before damage is caused. In terms of the Gloucestershire's WCS SA process, a full schedule of monitoring measures proposed (focusing on significant effects) will be included in the final SA Report that will accompany the Waste Core Strategy Submission Document. However at this stage a range of monitoring proposals against each option is presented in the WCS SA document. The following is a selection of monitoring proposals included in the WCS SA Report:

- Percentage of total waste (or by type) going to landfill.
- Recycling & composting rates in the County, facility numbers and the performance of Household Recycling Centres.
- Average life expectancy in the County and the percentage of % of people describing their health as good.
- Percentage of SSSIs and other designations in a good or favourable condition.
- Number of planning consents in AONB by type.
- Number of 'Major' applications being submitted with a Waste Minimisation Statement (WMS).
- Recycling & composting rates in the County for various waste streams.
- Number of planning applications for facilities processing recyclable materials.
- Number of businesses / industries producing goods of recycled origin.
- Extent of Floodplain, AONB, SSSIs and other sensitive designations.
- Number of planning consents issued adversely affecting nature conservation designations.
- Number of planning consents issued adversely affecting historic environment designations.
- Number of planning consents issued contrary to advice of Environment Agency on grounds of flood risk or water quality.

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