

Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy
Focused Changes
Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report
Update

June 2011

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (WCS) was formally published in December 2010. In accordance with legislative requirements, the WCS was supported by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report prepared by independent consultants.
- 1.2 The purpose of the SA report was to predict the potential sustainability effects of the WCS vision, strategic objectives and core policies using a series of SA objectives such as health and well-being, biodiversity and landscape.
- 1.3 The SA report showed that whilst the WCS is generally expected to have positive sustainability impacts, some potential negative effects were identified in relation to biodiversity and the potential for areas of habitat within or adjacent to waste sites to be lost as a result of development.
- 1.4 In response to the publication WCS, a total of 48 individuals and organisations submitted just over 200 separate comments.
- 1.5 Whilst it is the Council's view that none of these comments raise fundamental issues of soundness or legal compliance, it has been decided that it would be beneficial to publish a revised version of the WCS incorporating a number of 'focused changes' with representations on the changes invited over a period of 6-weeks.
- 1.6 The publication of 'focused changes' is recommended by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) www.pas.gov.uk in cases where local authorities consider that some post-publication amendments would be useful but more extensive changes are not needed.
- 1.7 In light of the focused changes that are being proposed to the WCS, it is considered appropriate to revisit and update the findings of the original SA report.
- 1.8 Table 1 overleaf considers all of the focused changes that have been made to the WCS including the spatial vision, strategic objective and core policies and considers whether the focused changes affect the original SA 'scoring'. For completeness we have also considered the focused changes made to the supporting text of the WCS and whether these impact on any of the original SA scoring.
- 1.9 Because under Focused Change 13, Policy WCS2 has effectively been split into three new policies, a further, more detailed assessment of the implications of this change is set out in the schedules attached at Appendix 1.

Table 1 – Assessment of Focused Changes and Implications for Original SA Scoring

Focused Change/s Affecting the Vision	
Focused Change/s:	FC10
Impact on SA	This focused change involves minor alteration to the wording of the vision. The vision now includes reference to the 'zero-growth' aspiration applying to all waste streams. It has also been amended to emphasise that the strategic allocations are intended to deal with both municipal waste and commercial waste. The vision also now more strongly emphasises the importance of providing enough waste management capacity to meet Gloucestershire's needs. The most applicable SA Objective is 20, which was originally scored ++. FC10 is not considered to affect the overall SA scoring.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.
Focused Change/s Affecting the Strategic Objectives	
Focused Change/s:	FC11
Impact on SA	A minor focused change has been made to Strategic Objective 2 which now clarifies that the aspiration for 70% recycling/composting is to be achieved by the year 2030. This has arisen through the Council's review of its residual waste project. The nature of the proposed focused change is such that it does not affect the original SA scoring.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting Contextual Information in Sections 2 and 3 (including supporting text for the Spatial Vision and/or Strategic Objectives)	
Focused Change/s:	FC1, FC2, FC3, FC4, FC5, FC6, FC7, FC8, FC9
Impact on SA	Whilst the wording of the spatial vision and strategic objectives were assessed and scored in the SA report, the supporting text contained in Sections 2 and 3 of the publication WCS was not. Focused Changes 1-9 which all relate to the supporting text in Sections 2 and 3 will therefore not impact upon the original SA scores. It should be noted in any case that these focused changes are all minor in nature and are intended either to correct factual errors or to provide improved clarification. They do not introduce new subject material.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.
Focused Change/s Affecting WCS1: Waste Reduction	
Focused Change/s:	FC12 (Policy)
Impact on SA	FC12 is a minor change to Policy WCS1 which emphasises that in addition to working with the District Councils and other public and private sector organisations, the County Council will also work with local communities in relation to waste reduction and awareness. The most relevant SA objective is Objective 2 which relates to educating the public and maximising community participation. However, this objective has already been given a score of ++ when the policy was originally assessed and cannot be increased further. FC12 does not affect any of the other SA scores either.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS2: Recycling and Composting

Focused Change/s:	FC13 (Policy)
Impact on SA	In the publication WCS, Core Policy WCS2 addressed three separate issues; recycling and composting, anaerobic digestion and bulking and transfer. A number of respondents argued that the policy was too complex and should be split into separate policies. Having reviewed the situation, it is acknowledged that the policy is complex and would benefit from being split into three new policies; recycling and composting, anaerobic digestion (AD) and bulking and transfer. In light of this focused change it is necessary to re-assess the original scoring for Policy WCS2 and to undertake a SA assessment of the new core policies identified as Policy WCS3a and WCS13a. This has been carried out and the revised/new SA assessments are attached at Appendix 1. Whilst some minor amendments have been made to the justification in the scoring for Policy WCS2 no amendments have been made to the actual scores which remain unchanged.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS3: Inert Waste Recycling and Recovery

Focused Change/s:	FC14 (Policy)
Impact on SA	A minor change has been made to Policy WCS3 to ensure that development proposals are supported by a Transport Assessment (TA) as well as a Travel Plan. This will help to ensure the transport implications of a proposed development are more fully ascertained with mitigating measures identified and implemented as necessary. The most relevant SA objectives are 19 and 22 which relate to reducing the impacts of lorry traffic and reducing contributions to climate change. These were originally scored + and ++ respectively. Although it is considered that FC14 is likely to help ensure the impacts of lorry traffic are more fully considered and where possible mitigated e.g. through sensitive lorry routing, it is not likely that this will be of great enough magnitude to affect the original SA scoring.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS4: Other Recovery (including strategic allocations)	
Focused Change/s:	<p>FC39, FC40, (Appendix 5 - General Development Criteria for all sites)</p> <p>FC41, FC42, FC43 (Appendix 5 - Strategic Site Schedules)</p> <p>FC15, FC16, FC17, FC18, FC19, FC20 (Supporting Text)</p> <p>FC21 (Policy)</p>
Impact on SA	<p>Core Policy WCS4 includes four strategic site allocations. The general development criteria attached at Appendix 5 relate to the allocations and the focused changes that have been made to these development criteria need to be considered accordingly. Five focused changes have been made to Appendix 5 including the insertion of reference to unstable land, proximity to the rail network, details of local heritage assets, revisions to groundwater information and clarification over the planning permissions in place at Wingmoor Farm (West). None of these changes are considered to affect the original SA scoring either for Policy WCS4 or the individual site allocations.</p> <p>Focused Changes 15 to 20 relate to the supporting text to Policy WCS4 and are minor in nature generally intended to provide improved clarity. They do not therefore affect the original SA scoring for Policy WCS4.</p> <p>Core Policy WCS4 has been amended slightly through FC21. This change simply introduces more flexibility allowing for waste proposals to come forward on all forms of employment land, not just B2 general industrial. The change is not considered to have any impact on the original SA scoring for Policy WCS4.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS5: Waste Water	
Focused Change/s:	FC22 & FC23 (Supporting Text) FC24 (Policy)
Impact on SA	<p>Focused Changes 22 and 23 are minor changes to the supporting text to Core Policy WCS5. FC22 includes reference to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and FC23 clarifies that planning permission is not always required for the spreading of sewage sludge to agricultural land. The minor nature of these changes means they do not affect the original SA scoring of Core Policy WCS5.</p> <p>FC24 is a minor change to Core Policy WCS5 to insert reference to the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It does not affect the original SA score.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.
Focused Change/s Affecting WCS6: Hazardous Waste	
Focused Change/s:	FC25 & FC26 (Supporting Text) FC27 (Policy)
Impact on SA	<p>Focused Changes FC25 and FC26 are minor changes to the supporting text. They simply clarify that landfill capacity could last to the end of the plan period or beyond depending on future landfill diversion and that if planning permission is refused at Wingmoor Farm (East) the WCS may need to be reviewed earlier than originally anticipated. They do not affect the original SA scoring of Core Policy WCS6.</p> <p>Focused Change FC27 introduces an additional criteria to Core Policy WCS6 which seeks to ensure that any hazardous waste proposal should seek to manage the hazardous waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible and as close to source as possible. The focused change is most relevant to SA Objectives 1, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Although there has been an overall improvement to the policy, the focused change is not considered great enough to have affected the original SA scoring for these objectives.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS7: Cumulative Impacts

Focused Change/s:	FC28 (Policy)
Impact on SA	Core Policy WCS7 sets out the Council's approach towards the consideration of cumulative impact (i.e. the gradual impacts of permitting a number of waste management proposals in a particular location over a period of time). A minor change is proposed to the policy to strengthen it, to ensure that the scale of the proposed development is taken into account and to include specific reference to accessibility and transport considerations being considered. Whilst the proposed focused change is considered to improve the policy it is not considered to affect the original SA scoring.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS8: Safeguarding Sites

Focused Change/s:	FC29 (Policy)
Impact on SA	<p>Core Policy WCS8 sets out the Council's approach in relation to the safeguarding of sites for waste management purposes. In response to a representation received at publication, a focused change has been made to the policy to clarify that the policy applies to temporary waste management operations as well as permanent ones.</p> <p>Such is the minor nature of the change to Policy WCS8 it is considered to have no impact on the original SA scoring.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS9: Flood Risk	
Focused Change/s:	FC30 (Policy)
Impact on SA	<p>Core Policy WCS9 relates to flood risk and sets out the Council's approach towards development within or affecting a flood risk area. Focused Change 30 is a minor change to the policy to clarify that there are other types of development classed as 'less vulnerable' not just sewage treatment works and that subject to the exception test, development classed as 'essential infrastructure' may come forward in Flood Zone 3b. The policy has also been amended to refer to all sources of flooding.</p> <p>The most relevant SA objective is 14 which seeks to prevent flooding and was originally scored ++. It is not considered that the focused change affects the original SA scoring for this objective.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.
Focused Change/s Affecting WCS10: Green Belt	
Focused Change/s:	FC31 (Policy)
Impact on SA	<p>Core Policy WCS10 sets out the Council's approach towards development in the Green Belt. A minor focused change is proposed to delete the cross-reference made in the policy to Policy WCS13 – Design.</p> <p>FC31 is most applicable to SA Objective 9, which was originally scored ++ and it is not considered that the focused change is significant enough to affect the original SA scoring for this objective.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.
Focused Change/s Affecting WCS11: AONBs	
Focused Change/s:	FC32 (Supporting Text)
Impact on SA	FC32 is a minor change that has been made to Paragraph 4.223 to clarify that the potential impact of development is a consideration for all landscapes, not just national designations such as AONB. FC32 does not however have any impact on the original SA scoring for Core Policy WCS11.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS12: Nature Conservation (Biodiversity & Geodiversity)	
Focused Change/s:	<p>FC33 (Supporting Text)</p> <p>FC34 (Policy)</p>
Impact on SA	<p>FC33 is a change to paragraph 4.233 to insert reference to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 which introduced a duty on all public bodies to consider biodiversity in exercising their functions. It does not affect the original SA scoring.</p> <p>FC34 is a change to Core Policy WCS12 to strengthen the policy. The revised policy now requires all development proposals to assess their impact on the natural environment and to make a contribution to local nature conservation targets to ensure net gain for biodiversity. Furthermore development must be able to be mitigated <i>and</i> be of benefit that outweighs any potential impact.</p> <p>The most relevant SA objectives to FC34 are Objectives 8, 10, 12, 16 and 22. The strengthening of the policy through FC34 is considered to slightly improve the original SA scoring Objective 8, which relates to the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Core Policy WCS12 originally scored ++/-?</p> <p>It is considered that FC34 will remove the potential negative aspect by ensuring that there will be an overall gain for net biodiversity. There does however remain a slight element of uncertainty because it could still be possible to permit developments, which have some impact on biodiversity.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	The score for SA objective 8 is changed from ++/-? to ++?
Focused Change/s Affecting WCS13: Design	
Focused Change/s:	Core Policy WCS13 sets out the Council's approach towards the design of new waste-related development. No focused changes have been proposed to the policy.
Impact on SA	As no focused change is proposed the original SA scoring remains unchanged.
Change to SA Score(s)	As no focused change is proposed the original SA scoring remains unchanged.

Focused Change/s Affecting WCS14: Sustainable Transport	
Focused Change/s:	FC35, FC36 (Supporting Text) FC37 (Policy)
Impact on SA	<p>FC35 is a minor amendment to explain that where there could be an impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) a Transport Assessment (TA) may be required regardless of Department of Transport thresholds.</p> <p>FC36 simply states that discussions in relation to Travel Plans may involve the Council <i>and</i> the Highways Agency.</p> <p>FC35 and FC36 are not considered significant enough to affect the original SA scoring for Core Policy WCS14.</p> <p>FC37 is a minor amendment to Core Policy WCS14 to state that in determining whether a Transport Assessment (TA) will be required, regard will be had to the location of the proposed development as well as Department of Transport thresholds.</p> <p>Focused change 37 is not considered to affect the original SA scoring for Policy WCS14.</p>
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.
Any Other Focused Change/s not highlighted above	
Focused Change/s:	FC38
Impact on SA	FC38 is a minor change to Appendix 2 of the WCS to include reference to the aims and objectives of the AONB management plans and how these have been taken into account in preparing the WCS. With the exception of the strategic site schedules, the WCS appendices were not addressed in the original SA report. FC38 does not therefore affect the original SA scoring.
Change to SA Score(s)	No Change.

Appendix 1 – SA Appraisal of Core Policies WCS2, WCS3a and WCS13a

Table 1: Appraisal of Policy WCS2 – Recycling and Composting (any changes to the original scores and justification are shown as "tracked changes")

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS2: Recycling and Composting		
1. To promote sustainable development and sustainable communities and improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in Gloucestershire as well as visitors to the County.	+	The policy specifies that proposals for the development of waste management facilities must be located appropriately to avoid adverse impacts on housing and other sensitive receptors, indicating that a positive impact on this objective is likely due to the potential for impacts such as noise and odour to have a detrimental impact on public health when waste facilities are inappropriately located.
2. To educate the public about waste issues and to maximise community participation and access to waste services and facilities in Gloucestershire.	+?	The policy gives support to development of additional recycling and composting facilities, as well as the development of markets for recycled materials, in particular initiatives to assist small to medium-sized businesses to re-use/recycle their discarded waste materials, and should help to increase levels of community participation in recycling and waste management, therefore having a positive impact on this objective.
3. To safeguard the amenity of local communities from the adverse impacts of waste development.	+	The policy specifies that proposals for the development of waste management facilities must be located appropriately to avoid adverse impacts on housing and other sensitive receptors; therefore a positive impact on amenity is expected.
4. To promote sustainable economic development in Gloucestershire giving opportunities to people from all social and ethnic backgrounds.	+?	The fact that proposals will be supported where they would be co-located with operations of a similar or complementary nature means that complementary activities to waste management may be encouraged; therefore potentially having a positive impact on sustainable economic development in Gloucestershire.
5. To manage waste in an economically sustainable way through means that represent good value for tax payers in Gloucestershire.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.
6. To provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the County, promoting diversification in the economy.	+	The support given through the policy for the development of recycling, composting, bulking and transfer facilities as well as other businesses that process recyclates and re-use waste, is likely to make the creation of new employment opportunities from such developments more likely. In addition, the policy states that particular support will be given to developments which will enable employees to make use of sustainable modes of transport, which should have further positive effects.
7. To ensure that waste sites do not compromise the safety of commercial or military aerodromes .	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective as the precise location, scale and design of waste facilities, which will determine the potential for adverse impacts on aircraft, will be determined at the planning application stage and through other policies such as WCS4.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS2: Recycling and Composting		
8. To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity in Gloucestershire.	+/-?	The likely effects of the policy on biodiversity will depend on the specific location of the waste sites to be developed, which is not determined by this policy. However, the policy gives particular support to facilities for recycling, composting, bulking and transfer facilities that are located in previously developed buildings, including redundant farm buildings. Buildings such as disused barns can be important biodiversity sites, harbouring species such as bats which may be disturbed by development. However, the policy also particularly supports proposals for developments in existing urban areas, which are less likely to infringe on designated nature conservation sites. Overall, the potential effects are mixed and uncertain, being largely dependent on the specific location of waste sites, which will be determined in part through policy WCS4 and also at the planning application stage.
9. To protect, conserve and enhance the landscape in Gloucestershire.	+?	Again, the impacts of waste facilities to be developed under this policy will be largely dependent on their specific location in relation to areas of landscape sensitivity. However, the preference for proposals that are within or in close proximity to urban areas indicates that an adverse impact on the landscape is less likely, as facilities would be more able to be incorporated into the existing surroundings. In addition, policy WCS11, which relates to proposals for waste developments within AONBs, will help to mitigate any potentially adverse landscape impacts from waste facilities on the two AONBs within Gloucestershire.
10. To ensure that waste sites have the potential for adequate screening and/or innovative design to be incorporated.	+?	The fact that the policy gives preference to proposals for waste facilities that are located within the existing urban area may mean that opportunities for screening of waste sites are better. However, the precise location and individual design of waste facilities will have more of an influence on the potential for screening, which is not determined by this policy but will be influenced by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
11. To protect conserve and enhance Gloucestershire's material, cultural and recreational assets .	0	The policy will not have a direct impact on this objective; instead it will be determined by the location of recycling/composting facilities in relation to assets such as public rights of way which may be affected by their development, which will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
12. To protect conserve and enhance geodiversity in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of waste facilities on geodiversity will depend on the specific location of sites in relation to geodiversity assets, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
13. To protect conserve and enhance townscapes and Gloucestershire's architectural and archaeological heritage .	+?	The policy favours the development of composting and recycling facilities in or near to existing urban areas, indicating that there may be good opportunities for enhancing the overall appearance of the townscape by implementing innovative and high quality designs. The impacts on archaeological heritage and architecture will depend largely on the location of any facilities to be developed in relation to such assets, and on their specific design and appearance, which are not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS2: Recycling and Composting		
14. To prevent flooding , in particular preventing inappropriate development in the floodplain and to ensure that waste development does not compromise sustainable sources of water supply.	0	The impact of the policy on flood risk will depend largely on the precise location of recycling and composting facilities in relation to areas of higher flood risk and on the design of the development, for example whether SuDS are incorporated, all of which are not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
15. To prevent pollution and to apply the precautionary principle in consultation with waste regulation authorities.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for recycling/composting facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, or within the central 'Zone C' where the proposal is of a strategic scale, which is likely to reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on reducing air pollution within Gloucestershire as a result of a reduction in the distances required for lorries travelling to transport waste. Similarly, the risk of water pollution may be reduced by decreasing the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing levels of recycling.
16. To protect and enhance soil/land quality in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of the policy on flood-risk soil and land quality will depend largely on the precise location of recycling and composting facilities in relation to areas of high soil quality, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
17. To protect and enhance air quality in Gloucestershire.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for recycling/composting facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, which is likely to reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on air quality within Gloucestershire as a result of reduced emissions from lorries transporting waste.
18. To protect and enhance water quality in Gloucestershire.	+	Reducing the volume of waste that goes to landfill by increasing the proportion that is recycled may have a positive impact on water quality in Gloucestershire by reducing the risk that landfill can pose to water quality.
19. To reduce the adverse impacts of lorry traffic on the environment and communities through means such as: a) reducing the need to travel b) promoting more sustainable means of transport e.g. by rail or water c) sensitive lorry routing d) the use of sustainable alternative fuels e) promoting the management of waste in one of the nearest appropriate installations.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for recycling/composting facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, which should reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on reducing the distances that lorries are required to travel within Gloucestershire for transporting waste.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS2: Recycling and Composting		
20. To reduce waste to landfill and in dealing with all waste streams to actively promote the waste hierarchy (i.e. Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Dispose) to achieve the sustainable management	++	The overriding purpose of the policy is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing the proportion that is recycled; therefore a significant positive impact on this objective is expected.
21. To reduce the global use of primary materials and minimise net energy balance requirements.	++	Increasing the volume of waste that is recycled should help to reduce the use of primary materials, provided that the loop is closed and the use of recycled materials replaces the use of primary materials.
22. To reduce contributions to and to adapt to Climate Change .	++	Locating recycling/composting facilities in or near to urban areas should help to reduce emissions from transport as waste will be required to travel shorter distances via lorry between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, recycling an increasing proportion of the waste generated in Gloucestershire should have a significant positive impact in terms of reducing emissions from waste incineration and landfill gas.
Original SA Objective 1: To promote sustainable development and sustainable communities in Gloucestershire in particular giving people the opportunity to live in an affordable and sustainably designed and constructed home.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.
Original SA Objective 2: To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities or future mineral development from other proposed development.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.

Table 2: Appraisal of Policy WCS3a – Anaerobic Digestion

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS3a: Anaerobic Digestion		
1. To promote sustainable development and sustainable communities and improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in Gloucestershire as well as visitors to the County.	+	The policy specifies that proposals for the development of anaerobic digestion facilities must be located appropriately to avoid adverse impacts on housing and other sensitive receptors, indicating that a positive impact on this objective is likely due to the potential for impacts such as noise and odour to have a detrimental impact on public health when waste facilities are inappropriately located. Furthermore, the policy gives particular support to proposals which incorporate Combined Heat and Power (CHP), which would have a positive impact on promoting sustainable development.
2. To educate the public about waste issues and to maximise community participation and access to waste services and facilities in Gloucestershire.	+?	The policy gives support to development of additional anaerobic digestion facilities as well as contributing towards providing a sustainable waste management system for Gloucestershire. This should help to increase levels of community participation in waste management, therefore having a positive impact on this objective.
3. To safeguard the amenity of local communities from the adverse impacts of waste development.	+	The policy specifies that proposals for the development of anaerobic digestion facilities must be located appropriately to avoid adverse impacts on housing and other sensitive receptors; therefore a positive impact on amenity is expected.
4. To promote sustainable economic development in Gloucestershire giving opportunities to people from all social and ethnic backgrounds.	+?	The fact that proposals will be supported where they would be co-located with operations of a similar or complementary nature means that complementary activities to waste management may be encouraged; therefore potentially having a positive impact on sustainable economic development in Gloucestershire.
5. To manage waste in an economically sustainable way through means that represent good value for tax payers in Gloucestershire.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.
6. To provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the County, promoting diversification in the economy.	+	The support given through the policy for the development of anaerobic digestion facilities is likely to make the creation of new employment opportunities from such developments more likely. In addition, the policy states that particular support will be given to developments which will enable employees to make use of sustainable modes of transport, which should have further positive effects.
7. To ensure that waste sites do not compromise the safety of commercial or military aerodromes .	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective as the precise location, scale and design of waste facilities, which will determine the potential for adverse impacts on aircraft, will be determined at the planning application stage and through other policies such as WCS4.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS3a: Anaerobic Digestion		
8. To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity in Gloucestershire.	+/-?	The likely effects of the policy on biodiversity will depend on the specific location of the sites to be developed, which is not determined by this policy. However, the policy gives particular support to facilities for facilities that are located in previously developed buildings, including redundant farm buildings. Buildings such as disused barns can be important biodiversity sites, harbouring species such as bats which may be disturbed by development. However, the policy also particularly supports proposals for developments in existing urban areas, which are less likely to infringe on designated nature conservation sites. Overall, the potential effects are mixed and uncertain, being largely dependent on the specific location of waste sites, which will be determined in part through policy WCS4 and also at the planning application stage.
9. To protect, conserve and enhance the landscape in Gloucestershire.	+?	Again, the impacts of facilities to be developed under this policy will be largely dependent on their specific location in relation to areas of landscape sensitivity. However, the preference for proposals that are within or in close proximity to urban areas indicates that an adverse impact on the landscape is less likely, as facilities would be more able to be incorporated into the existing surroundings. In addition, policy WCS11, which relates to proposals for waste developments within AONBs, will help to mitigate any potentially adverse landscape impacts from waste facilities on the two AONBs within Gloucestershire.
10. To ensure that waste sites have the potential for adequate screening and/or innovative design to be incorporated.	+?	The fact that the policy gives preference to proposals for waste facilities that are located within the existing urban area may mean that opportunities for screening of waste sites are better. However, the precise location and individual design of waste facilities will have more of an influence on the potential for screening, which is not determined by this policy but will be influenced by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
11. To protect conserve and enhance Gloucestershire's material, cultural and recreational assets .	0	The policy will not have a direct impact on this objective; instead it will be determined by the location of facilities in relation to assets such as public rights of way which may be affected by their development, which will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
12. To protect conserve and enhance geodiversity in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of waste facilities on geodiversity will depend on the specific location of sites in relation to geodiversity assets, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
13. To protect conserve and enhance townscapes and Gloucestershire's architectural and archaeological heritage .	+?	The policy favours the development of facilities in or near to existing urban areas, indicating that there may be good opportunities for enhancing the overall appearance of the townscape by implementing innovative and high quality designs. The impacts on archaeological heritage and architecture will depend largely on the location of any facilities to be developed in relation to such assets, and on their specific design and appearance, which are not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS3a: Anaerobic Digestion		
14. To prevent flooding , in particular preventing inappropriate development in the floodplain and to ensure that waste development does not compromise sustainable sources of water supply.	0	The impact of the policy on flood risk will depend largely on the precise location of facilities in relation to areas of higher flood risk and on the design of the development, for example whether SuDS are incorporated, all of which are not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
15. To prevent pollution and to apply the precautionary principle in consultation with waste regulation authorities.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, or within the central 'Zone C' where the proposal is of a strategic scale, which is likely to reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on reducing air pollution within Gloucestershire as a result of a reduction in the distances required for lorries travelling to transport waste. Similarly, the risk of water pollution may be reduced by decreasing the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing the proportion managed through AD.
16. To protect and enhance soil/land quality in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of the policy on soil and land quality will depend largely on the precise location of facilities in relation to areas of high soil quality, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
17. To protect and enhance air quality in Gloucestershire.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, which is likely to reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on air quality within Gloucestershire as a result of reduced emissions from lorries transporting waste.
18. To protect and enhance water quality in Gloucestershire.	+	Reducing the volume of waste that goes to landfill by increasing the proportion that is treated through AD may have a positive impact on water quality in Gloucestershire by reducing the risk that landfill can pose to water quality.
19. To reduce the adverse impacts of lorry traffic on the environment and communities through means such as: a) reducing the need to travel b) promoting more sustainable means of transport e.g. by rail or water c) sensitive lorry routing d) the use of sustainable alternative fuels e) promoting the management of waste in one of the nearest appropriate installations.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, which should reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on reducing the distances that lorries are required to travel within Gloucestershire for transporting waste.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS3a: Anaerobic Digestion		
20. To reduce waste to landfill and in dealing with all waste streams to actively promote the waste hierarchy (i.e. Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Dispose) to achieve the sustainable management	++	The overriding purpose of the policy is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing the proportion that is treated using anaerobic digestion; therefore a significant positive impact on this objective is expected.
21. To reduce the global use of primary materials and minimise net energy balance requirements.	++	Increasing the volume of waste that is treated using anaerobic digestion should help to reduce the use of primary materials and offers the potential to generate renewable energy in the form of biogas.
22. To reduce contributions to and to adapt to Climate Change .	++	Locating facilities in or near to urban areas should help to reduce emissions from transport as waste will be required to travel shorter distances via lorry between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, anaerobic digestion creates the potential to generate renewable energy from organic waste in the form of biogas. The policy specifically states that particular support will be given to proposals that incorporate Combined Heat and Power (CHP) where practicable. This would displace heat and power generated by fossil fuels and therefore further reduce contributions to climate change.
Original SA Objective 1: To promote sustainable development and sustainable communities in Gloucestershire in particular giving people the opportunity to live in an affordable and sustainably designed and constructed home.	+?	The policy gives particular support to proposals which incorporate Combined Heat and Power (CHP), which would have a positive impact on promoting sustainable development. However, the practicalities of implementing this aspect of the policy may be uncertain. It is also not stipulated as a requirement of all development.
Original SA Objective 2: To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities or future mineral development from other proposed development.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.

Table 3: Appraisal of Policy WCS13a – Bulking and Transfer

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS13a: Bulking and Transfer		
1. To promote sustainable development and sustainable communities and improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in Gloucestershire as well as visitors to the County.	+	The policy specifies that proposals for the development of new and expanded bulking and transfer facilities must be located appropriately to avoid adverse impacts on nearby receptors, indicating that a positive impact on this objective is likely due to the potential for impacts such as noise and odour to have a detrimental impact on public health when waste facilities are inappropriately located.
2. To educate the public about waste issues and to maximise community participation and access to waste services and facilities in Gloucestershire.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.
3. To safeguard the amenity of local communities from the adverse impacts of waste development.	+	The policy specifies that proposals for the development of new and expanded bulking and transfer facilities must be located appropriately to avoid adverse impacts on housing and other sensitive receptors; therefore a positive impact on amenity is expected.
4. To promote sustainable economic development in Gloucestershire giving opportunities to people from all social and ethnic backgrounds.	+?	The fact that proposals will be supported where they would be co-located with operations of a similar or complementary nature means that complementary activities to waste management may be encouraged; therefore potentially having a positive impact on sustainable economic development in Gloucestershire.
5. To manage waste in an economically sustainable way through means that represent good value for tax payers in Gloucestershire.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.
6. To provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the County, promoting diversification in the economy.	+	The support given through the policy for the development of new and expanded bulking and transfer facilities is likely to make the creation of new employment opportunities from such developments more likely. In addition, the policy states that particular support will be given to developments which will enable employees to make use of sustainable modes of transport, which should have further positive effects.
7. To ensure that waste sites do not compromise the safety of commercial or military aerodromes .	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective as the precise location, scale and design of waste facilities, which will determine the potential for adverse impacts on aircraft, will be determined at the planning application stage and through other policies such as WCS4.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS13a: Bulking and Transfer		
8. To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity in Gloucestershire.	+/-?	The likely effects of the policy on biodiversity will depend on the specific location of the sites to be developed, which is not determined by this policy. However, the policy gives particular support to facilities for facilities that are located in previously developed buildings, including redundant farm buildings. Buildings such as disused barns can be important biodiversity sites, harbouring species such as bats which may be disturbed by development. However, the policy also particularly supports proposals for developments in existing urban areas, which are less likely to infringe on designated nature conservation sites. Overall, the potential effects are mixed and uncertain, being largely dependent on the specific location of waste sites, which will be determined in part through policy WCS4 and also at the planning application stage.
9. To protect, conserve and enhance the landscape in Gloucestershire.	+?	Again, the impacts of facilities to be developed under this policy will be largely dependent on their specific location in relation to areas of landscape sensitivity. However, the preference for proposals that are within or in close proximity to urban areas indicates that an adverse impact on the landscape is less likely, as facilities would be more able to be incorporated into the existing surroundings. In addition, policy WCS11, which relates to proposals for waste developments within AONBs, will help to mitigate any potentially adverse landscape impacts from waste facilities on the two AONBs within Gloucestershire.
10. To ensure that waste sites have the potential for adequate screening and/or innovative design to be incorporated.	+?	The fact that the policy gives preference to proposals for waste facilities that are located within the existing urban area may mean that opportunities for screening of waste sites are better. However, the precise location and individual design of waste facilities will have more of an influence on the potential for screening, which is not determined by this policy but will be influenced by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
11. To protect conserve and enhance Gloucestershire's material, cultural and recreational assets .	0	The policy will not have a direct impact on this objective; instead it will be determined by the location of facilities in relation to assets such as public rights of way which may be affected by their development, which will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
12. To protect conserve and enhance geodiversity in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of waste facilities on geodiversity will depend on the specific location of sites in relation to geodiversity assets, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
13. To protect conserve and enhance townscapes and Gloucestershire's architectural and archaeological heritage .	+?	The policy favours the development of facilities in or near to existing urban areas, indicating that there may be good opportunities for enhancing the overall appearance of the townscape by implementing innovative and high quality designs. The impacts on archaeological heritage and architecture will depend largely on the location of any facilities to be developed in relation to such assets, and on their specific design and appearance, which are not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS13a: Bulking and Transfer		
14. To prevent flooding , in particular preventing inappropriate development in the floodplain and to ensure that waste development does not compromise sustainable sources of water supply.	0	The impact of the policy on flood risk will depend largely on the precise location of facilities in relation to areas of higher flood risk and on the design of the development, for example whether SuDS are incorporated, all of which are not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
15. To prevent pollution and to apply the precautionary principle in consultation with waste regulation authorities.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, or within the central 'Zone C' where the proposal is of a strategic scale, which is likely to reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on reducing air pollution within Gloucestershire as a result of a reduction in the distances required for lorries travelling to transport waste.
16. To protect and enhance soil/land quality in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of the policy on soil and land quality will depend largely on the precise location of facilities in relation to areas of high soil quality, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
17. To protect and enhance air quality in Gloucestershire.	+	The policy states that preference will be given to proposals for facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, which is likely to reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on air quality within Gloucestershire as a result of reduced emissions from lorries transporting waste.
18. To protect and enhance water quality in Gloucestershire.	0	The impact of the policy on water quality will depend largely on the precise location of facilities in relation to areas of high soil quality, which is not determined by this policy but will be determined by other Waste Core Strategy Policies such as WCS4, WCS13 and at the planning application stage.
19. To reduce the adverse impacts of lorry traffic on the environment and communities through means such as: a) reducing the need to travel b) promoting more sustainable means of transport e.g. by rail or water c) sensitive lorry routing d) the use of sustainable alternative fuels e) promoting the management of waste in one of the nearest appropriate installations.	++	The policy seeks to encourage the provision of bulking and transfer facilities in appropriate locations. Effective bulking and transfer has the potential to reduce the impacts of lorry traffic by allowing for smaller loads of waste to be bulked up into larger vehicles for onward transport to an appropriate waste management facility. This could help to reduce journey length. Furthermore, the policy states that preference will be given to proposals for facilities that are located within or close to an urban area, which should reduce the distance that waste needs to be transported between the place of origin and the treatment facility. In addition, the policy gives preference to proposals for sites that incorporate alternative modes of transport such as by water or rail. This is likely to have a positive impact on reducing the distances that lorries are required to travel within Gloucestershire for transporting waste.

SA Objective	SA Score	Justification
Policy WCS13a: Bulking and Transfer		
20. To reduce waste to landfill and in dealing with all waste streams to actively promote the waste hierarchy (i.e. Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Dispose) to achieve the sustainable management	++	The provision of bulking and transfer facilities helps to facilitate the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy; therefore a significant positive impact on this objective is expected.
21. To reduce the global use of primary materials and minimise net energy balance requirements.	++	Bulking and transfer can help to reduce trip length and will therefore have a positive impact in terms of the consumption of natural resources.
22. To reduce contributions to and to adapt to Climate Change .	++	Bulking and transfer will help to reduce journey length and will therefore have a positive impact on reducing contributions to climate change. Furthermore, locating facilities in or near to urban areas should help to reduce emissions from transport as waste will be required to travel shorter distances via lorry between the place of origin and the treatment facility.
Original SA Objective 1: To promote sustainable development and sustainable communities in Gloucestershire in particular giving people the opportunity to live in an affordable and sustainably designed and constructed home.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.
Original SA Objective 2: To safeguard sites suitable for the location of waste management facilities or future mineral development from other proposed development.	0	The policy is not considered likely to have a direct effect on this objective.