



**Gloucestershire Publication**

**Waste Core Strategy**

**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

**December 2010**

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This document is an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the Gloucestershire Publication Waste Core Strategy (WCS) December 2010. It should be read in conjunction with the publication WCS which is available to view at the following locations and on request:

- Online at [www.goucestershire.gov.uk/wcs](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/wcs)
- Gloucestershire County Council Offices, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester
- All Gloucestershire District Council Offices (Cheltenham Borough, Cotswold District, Forest of Dean District, Gloucester City, Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough).
- All Gloucestershire Libraries (<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/>)

### What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)?

1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Development Documents (LDDs) such as the Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (WCS) to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. One of the fundamental aims of sustainable development is social progress that recognises the needs of everyone. Inclusion and sustainable development are therefore inextricably linked.

1.3 EqIA is a way of examining whether a new or existing function, policy or procedure differentially affects any person or group of persons. It enables the potential and actual effects of a policy to be examined, and improvements or changes introduced, to ensure fairness and encourage diversity.

1.4 Conducting EqIAs during the plan preparation process helps to ensure that policies do not discriminate unlawfully. EqIAs assist in clarifying any particular needs and help to identify and remove any barriers. They also help identify what is working well.

1.5 EqIAs consist of two main parts; initial screening and subsequently, if an adverse/negative impact is identified, a full impact assessment.

- 1.6 Stage 1 – Initial Screening must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full EqIA. Key questions to ask at Stage 1 are; what are you looking to achieve, who will benefit, does the activity have the potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community, does the activity make a positive contribution?
- 1.7 If there is potential for negative impact/discrimination a full Stage 2 EqIA is needed.
- 1.8 Stage 2 – Full Impact Assessment provides an opportunity to assess the evidence for a possible negative impact. It ensures that research and consultation with the equality target groups has been carried out and leads to an improvement or action plan aiming to minimise the negative impact and, where possible, maximise any positive impacts. The action plan should include actions that will remove or alleviate the potential for the activity to unlawfully discriminate or impact less favourably on one or more communities.
- 1.9 This document is a Stage 1 Initial Screening assessment only. Importantly, the results show that a Stage 2 assessment is not needed.

## **2. Stage 1 – Initial Screening**

- 2.1 This section of the EqIA considers the following:
  - Aims and objectives of the WCS publication
  - Who will benefit from the WCS publication
  - What outcomes are expected from the WCS publication
  - The proposed programme of engagement for the publication stage
  - Whether the WCS publication could affect a particular group in either a negative or positive way; and
  - Whether any potential negative impacts have been identified

## Aims and objectives

- 2.2 The WCS aims to explain how the County Council and its partners will address the issue of planning for waste management in Gloucestershire in the period 2012 to 2027.
- 2.3 The publication WCS is based on five strategic objectives. These are:

**Strategic Objective 1 – Waste Reduction** - *To raise awareness of waste issues amongst Gloucestershire residents and businesses in order to generate collective responsibility for waste, ensure it is seen as a potential resource and to reduce the amount of waste produced, with zero-growth achieved across all waste streams by 2020.*

**Strategic Objective 2 – Re-use, Recycling and Composting** - *To make the best use of Gloucestershire's waste by ensuring that residents and businesses re-use as much of their waste as possible and that if waste cannot be re-used, it can easily be recycled or composted to achieve the following:*

- *At least 60% household waste recycled/composted by 2020 with an aspiration for 70%.*
- *By 2012, through inert recycling and recovery to reduce the amount of C&D waste currently going to licensed landfill by 50%.*

**Strategic Objective 3 – Other Recovery (including energy recovery)** - *To recover the maximum amount of value including energy from any waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted through the provision of the following:*

- *Around 150,000<sup>1</sup> tonnes/year residual waste recovery capacity for municipal waste by 2027.*
- *Recovery facilities with the capacity to divert 143,000 – 193,000 tonnes/year of C&I waste from landfill.*

**Strategic Objective 4 – Waste Disposal** - *To recognise the continuing role of landfill for the disposal of certain residual and hazardous wastes whilst reducing our reliance on landfill as the primary method of waste management in Gloucestershire.*

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<sup>1</sup> This is an approximate requirement based on the latest available waste flow forecast produced by the Waste Disposal Authority and is based on achieving a 60% recycling rate by 2020.

**Strategic Objective 5 – Minimising Impact** - *To ensure the environmental and social impacts of waste management particularly climate change and risks to human health are minimised by; managing waste close to where it arises, promoting the use of sustainable transport, avoiding current and potential flood risk areas, safeguarding existing and proposed waste sites, promoting high quality sustainable design, protecting national and local areas of landscape and nature conservation importance, and prioritising the co-location of similar or related facilities on existing waste sites or previously developed sites in preference to greenfield locations where appropriate and where the cumulative impact is not unacceptable to the host location.*

### **Who will benefit?**

- 2.4 The WCS is about finding the most sustainable way of managing Gloucestershire's waste. It deals with all waste streams.
- 2.5 We all generate waste and we all pay for it to be dealt with. At present most waste in Gloucestershire is disposed of through landfill. This cannot continue for environmental and financial reasons. Landfill is bad for the environment and if the Council continues to dispose of waste in this way it is likely to be fined. These fines may be passed onto the taxpayer.
- 2.6 Finding an alternative, more sustainable way of dealing with our waste will benefit everybody. Developing policies which allocate sites or provide the criteria against which proposals can come forward is therefore a key issue.

### **What outcomes are expected?**

- 2.7 The overall outcome of the WCS will be a sustainable planning framework for waste management in Gloucestershire in the period 2012-2027.
- 2.8 This can be summarised through the 'spatial vision' set out in the publication WCS which is as follows:

*'By 2027 Gloucestershire is a clean, green, healthy and safe place in which to live, work and visit. Residents and businesses are fully aware of the economic and environmental importance of waste management, including its impact on climate change and proactively minimise their waste production to achieve 'zero-growth' by 2020.*

*Opportunities for re-using, recycling and composting waste are maximised across all waste streams. Effective joint working through the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP) has led to a more consistent and co-ordinated approach towards*

*municipal waste collection across the county with everyone able to recycle and compost a broad range of materials easily and conveniently. At least 60% of household waste is recycled and composted by 2020.*

*The 'residual' waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted is seen as a valuable resource and is managed through a number of 'strategic' waste recovery sites (>50,000 tonnes/year) located in the central area of the county, proximate to the main urban areas along the M5 corridor including Gloucester and Cheltenham.*

*Strategic sites will be located so as to maximise the potential use of heat and power and give priority to the re-use of previously developed land and buildings.*

*'Local' facilities (<50,000 tonnes/year) including supporting infrastructure such as waste transfer and bulking are dispersed more widely around the county including those more distant rural areas such as the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds.*

*These strategic, local and existing waste facilities form an integrated sustainable waste management system for Gloucestershire.*

*Gloucestershire's communities, key landscape/environmental assets and land liable to current and future potential flood risk, are safeguarded from the adverse impacts of waste management activities.*

*The continuing role of landfill is recognised but increasingly seen as a last resort'.*

## **Proposed Programme of Engagement**

- 2.9 The WCS has been subjected to extensive consultation in line with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. This consultation included 'issues and options' in 2006 'preferred options' in 2008 and 'site options' in 2009.
- 2.10 These three earlier consultation stages have informed the development of the publication WCS which now includes a spatial vision and strategic objectives as set out above as well as 14 core policies covering various topics.

2.11 The publication WCS will be made available for representations to be made over an 8-week period. This will include the following:

- All documents made available online at [www.goucestershire.gov.uk/wcs](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/wcs);
- All documents made available at District Council Offices and all Gloucestershire libraries;
- Extensive mail-out to various consultees held on in-house database, including members of the public, statutory stakeholders, community groups, the waste industry etc; and
- Businesses and residents within 250m of the four proposed site allocations will be notified in writing.

### **Impacts on Particular Groups**

2.12 Table 1 overleaf considers the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies of the publication WCS and assesses whether each would have a discernible impact on a particular group within each of the different equality strands e.g. age, gender, disability etc.

2.13 The assessment shows that none of the vision, objectives and core policies would have a negative impact on any particular group. For this reason it is considered that there is no need to undertake a full Stage 2 Impact Assessment.

**Table 1****Publication Waste Core Strategy - Consideration of Potential Equality Impact**

<b>Spatial Vision</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Implementation of the spatial vision will have a positive impact on each of the different equality strands. For example, everyone will benefit from Gloucestershire being a cleaner, greener, healthier and safer place to live, work and visit. Similarly, everyone will benefit from increased opportunities for waste re-use, recycling and composting as well as the protection of local communities, key landscape and environmental assets and liable to flood.						
<b>Strategic Objective 1</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive

Commentary	Strategic Objective 1 will have a positive impact across all equality strands. For example raising awareness of waste issues amongst all Gloucestershire residents and reducing the amount of waste produced. These benefits will apply to all groups regardless of age, disability, gender etc.						
<b>Strategic Objective 2</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Strategic Objective 2 will have a positive impact across all equality strands. All groups will for example benefit from the re-use of waste and improved opportunities for recycling and composting.						
<b>Strategic Objective 3</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Strategic Objective 3 will have a positive impact across all equality strands. All groups will benefit from the provision of additional waste						

	recovery capacity and the environmental and financial benefits associated with the diversion of waste from landfill.						
<b>Strategic Objective 4</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Strategic Objective 4 will have a positive impact across all equality strands. All groups will for example enjoy the environmental and financial benefits of diverting waste from landfill.						
<b>Strategic Objective 5</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Strategic Objective 5 will have a positive impact across all equality strands. All groups will for example benefit from the protection of human health, the avoidance of flood risk areas and the promotion of high quality sustainable design.						

<b>Core Policy WCS1 – Waste Reduction</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS1 seeks to ensure that the waste associated with the construction and ongoing occupation of new development is minimised as far as possible. This will have a positive impact across all equality strands. All groups will for example enjoy the environmental and financial benefits of having less waste to manage. With specific regard to age, the policy seeks to ensure that young people in particular are made aware of the importance of waste reduction through educational sessions in local schools and colleges.						
<b>Core Policy WCS2 – Recycling and Composting/Anaerobic Digestion (including bulking and transfer)</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS2 seeks to achieve at least 60% household recycling and composting by 2020 through the provision of new or expanded facilities for recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion and bulking and transfer. The policy sets out the criteria against which such proposals will be considered. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups including for example a reduction in the amount of residual waste that must be managed which in itself will have environmental and financial						

	benefits. Whilst there will be a potential impact on any person or organisation living or located near a proposed waste facility, this will not be specific to any particular group under the different equality strands.						
<b>Core Policy WCS3 – Inert Waste Recycling and Recovery</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS3 sets out the criteria against which proposals for inert waste recycling and recovery will be considered. The provision of such facilities will help to divert around 85,000 tonnes per year of inert waste from landfill. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups including for example the diversion of waste from landfill. Whilst there will be a potential impact on any person or organisation living or located near a proposed inert waste recycling and recovery facility this will not be specific to any particular group under the different equality strands.						
<b>Core Policy WCS4 – Other Recovery (including energy recovery)</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive

Commentary	<p>Core Policy WCS4 deals with the residual waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted. It identifies four sites suitable for waste recovery and sets out the criteria against which speculative proposals will be considered. The provision of waste recovery facilities will help to divert municipal and commercial waste, the majority of which is currently sent to landfill. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups including in particular the diversion of waste from landfill. Whilst there will be a potential impact on any person or organisation living or located near a proposed waste recovery facility this will not be specific to any particular group under the different equality strands.</p>						
<b>Core Policy WCS5 – Waste Water</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	<p>Core Policy WCS5 deals with the provision of waste water infrastructure. The policy provides the criteria against which proposals for new or expanded waste water treatment facilities will be considered. Particular support will be given to any appropriate proposals that involve the development and utilisation of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) in order to provide heat and/or power. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups including the provision of adequate waste water infrastructure to cope with future growth. Whilst there will be a potential impact on any person or organisation living or located near a proposed new or expanded waste water treatment facility this will not be specific to any particular group under the different equality strands.</p>						

Core Policy WCS6 – Hazardous Waste							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS6 deals with proposals for the recycling and recovery of hazardous waste. Such proposals will be considered having regard to the issue of environmental acceptability. The provision of recycling and recovery facilities will help to reduce Gloucestershire's reliance on landfill for disposing of hazardous waste. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular the diversion of hazardous waste from landfill. Whilst there will be a potential impact on any person or organisation living or located near a proposed hazardous waste recycling/recovery facility, this will not be specific to any particular group under the different equality strands.						
Core Policy WCS7 – Cumulative Impact							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive

Commentary	Core Policy WCS7 deals with the issue of cumulative impact, seeking to ensure that proposals for new or expanded waste management do not have an unacceptable cumulative impact on the host community. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular protection of amenity for those living or working near waste management facilities. Whilst there will be a potential impact on any person or organisation living or located near a waste facility, this will not be specific to any particular group under the different equality strands.						
<b>Core Policy WCS8 – Safeguarding Sites for Waste Management</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS8 aims to safeguard existing and proposed waste management facilities. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular by ensuring that there is an adequate range of waste management provision available within the county. There will be no discernible impact on any particular group.						

Core Policy WCS9 – Flood Risk							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS9 seeks to ensure that all waste related development is located in areas that are at low risk of flooding. Only if no suitable sites are available in low risk areas will consideration be given to development within medium to high risk of flooding. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular by ensuring that new waste management facilities are not at risk of flooding and do not increase the likelihood or magnitude of flooding elsewhere.						
Core Policy WCS10 – Green Belt							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS10 seeks to protect the Gloucester – Cheltenham Green Belt and sets out the criteria against which proposals for waste management within the Green Belt will be considered. The policy also explains that the County Council will work in partnership with the						

	District Councils in preparing any revisions to the Green Belt boundary. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular by ensuring the protection of the Green Belt. Safeguarding this area will have positive benefits to all regardless of age, disability, gender etc.						
<b>Core Policy WCS11 – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS11 relates to development within or affecting the setting of an AONB. It establishes the criteria against which proposals for waste management within or affecting the setting of an AONB will be considered. The policy also explains that the County Council will work in partnership with AONB Conservation Boards and/or Joint Advisory Committees. The nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular by ensuring the protection of the AONBs which are enjoyed by all regardless of age, disability, gender etc.						

Core Policy WCS12 – Nature Conservation (Biodiversity & Geodiversity)							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS12 deals with the protection of sites of national and local nature conservation interest. It establishes the criteria against which waste management proposals affecting such areas will be considered. Contributions towards nature conservation targets will be sought as appropriate. The generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups, in particular by ensuring the protection of areas of nature conservation interest which may be enjoyed by all regardless of age, disability, gender etc.						
Core Policy WCS13 – Design							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS13 deals with the issue of design and aims to ensure that all waste related development achieves a high standard of design which must be clearly and robustly articulated through a Design and Access Statement. Poor quality design will be rejected. The						

	generic nature of the policy is such that it will have a positive impact across all groups by ensuring that any waste proposal coming forward is built to a high standard of design, thereby reducing any potential visual impact and reducing the chances of surface water flooding through the use of sustainable drainage. These benefits will apply to all regardless of age, disability, gender etc.						
<b>Core Policy WCS14 – Sustainable Transport</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender (including trans-gender)	Race including Gypsy and Traveller	Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation	Other Groups
Impact	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Commentary	Core Policy WCS14 deals with the issue of sustainable transport and encourages proposals for waste management that would utilise alternative modes of transport such as water and rail. The policy will help to reduce the current reliance which is placed on road transport in managing Gloucestershire's waste. This will in turn have a number of positive environmental impacts which will be of benefit to all regardless of age, disability, gender etc.						

### **3. Contribution to Community Cohesion**

- 3.1 Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. People all want to fulfil their potential and feel that they belong and contribute to their local area.
- 3.2 It is a term that has been given to describe how people who live and work in the same place get along. It is about looking at the common values that keep us all together.
- 3.3 The WCS has a role to play in contributing towards community cohesion. We all generate waste and we must all take responsibility for reducing the amount of waste that we produce. This will help to lessen the amount of waste that has to be disposed of or treated.
- 3.4 The 8-week period during which representations may be submitted on the publication WCS will help to ensure that everybody can have their say on the proposed planning strategy for Gloucestershire's waste in the period 2012 – 2027 and should therefore positively contribute towards community cohesion. Waste is an issue that affects everybody regardless of age, gender, religion etc.
- 3.5 There may also be specific community benefits arising from the implementation of the various policies and proposals within the WCS such as the establishment of community composting schemes or similar.

### **4. Potential Negative Impacts**

- 4.1 The assessment set out in Table 1 above demonstrates that the vision, objectives and core policies of the WCS will not have any negative impacts for any particular group.
- 4.2 For this reason there is no need to undertake a full Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment.

## 5. Summary

- 5.1 EqIAs are an important part of the planning and policy making process, the principle being to establish whether policies or proposals are likely to inadvertently discriminate against a particular group.
- 5.2 This assessment has demonstrated that the generic nature of the WCS and its subject matter and the fact that we all generate waste regardless of age, race, gender, disability etc. means that no particular group will be disadvantaged or discriminated against through the proposed vision, objectives and core policies rather there will be a range of beneficial impacts for all including in particular the environmental and financial benefits associated with the diversion of waste from landfill.

**For further information please contact:**

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**Find more online at:**

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/wcs>



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