



## **Waste Core Strategy**

## **Technical Evidence Paper Position Statement**

**December 2010**

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## 1. Introduction

The evidence base that has been developed to support the Waste Core Strategy (WCS) contains twenty six papers which have been written since September 2007. A number of these papers have been jointly produced and form part of the evidence base for the Minerals Core Strategy (MCS). Due to the time period since some of the evidence papers have been written and recent changes in the national political structure some of the information contained within the papers has become out of date. This position statement briefly outlines the major changes to these evidence papers since their initial production. All of the evidence papers can be found at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=18014> .

## 2. Current position

### 2.1 Policy changes

2.1.1 A majority of the evidence papers refer to and include policies from the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). On the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government informed Local Authorities that RSSs were revoked under Section 79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act (2009). This would have meant that all reference to the draft South West RSS where it occurred in the evidence papers would not be relevant, and its policies would not form part of the basis for the WCS. The revocation of RSSs also related to any mention of them within Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning, however the other details within PPS12 still formed planning policy. This revocation has been taken to the High Court by Cala Homes. The decision of November 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 stated that Section 79 [6] of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 could not be used to revoke RSSs in their entirety. However advice from the Chief Planning Officer at Communities and Local Government to Local Planning Authorities indicated the Localism Bill will include a clause which ensures that the revocation of the RSSs takes place. Earlier correspondence from The Chief Planning Officer at Communities and Local Government provided advice on bringing forward development plans and determining planning applications. It included Waste Planning Authorities being told to continue with their development plans and to ensure they provide enough land for the sustainable management of waste (not for disposal)

2.1.2 Prior to last years Site Options consultation we produced an evidence paper titled 'WCS P Urban Growth Areas and Waste Management'. This paper detailed the implications of policies within the draft South West RSS on waste management for Gloucestershire with particular focus on urban extensions. The commentary above (para 2.1.1) details the current status of RSSs. Once the Localism Bill is brought forward it is likely that policies for the production of RSSs will be formally revoked at some stage. As the evidence paper was based mainly on the draft South West RSS it has less relevance to the production of the WCS and therefore forms less of an important part of the evidence base.

2.1.3 Throughout the evidence base a number of Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) have been referred to. Some of these have undergone recent consultation. In March 2010 PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment replaced PPG15: Planning for the Historic Environment and PPG16: Planning and Archaeology. Alongside this there was the publication of PPS25: Development and Flood Risk. In June 2010 consultation finished on amending the supplement to PPS1: Planning and Climate which would consolidate the existing supplement and PPS22: Renewable Energy. At the same time consultation also finished on a PPS entitled Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment which was a review and consolidation of PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas and PPG20: Coastal Planning. Due to the recent change in the national government, the status of the documents consulted upon is unclear.

## 2.2 Strategic Sites

2.2.1 The majority of the evidence papers were written prior to the publication of the WCS Preferred Options in 2008 and therefore state that the WCS will not be a site specific document. "This is no longer the case due to a number of representations received in response to the WCS Preferred Options consultation indicating the need to prioritise work on the WCS and the need to identify specific strategic sites for the treatment of residual waste to ensure the diversion of waste away from landfill. Work was then undertaken to find potential sites within Gloucestershire that would be suitable in planning terms for the location of a strategic waste management facility/facilities. This therefore resulted in the Site Options Consultation in October and November 2009 which included ten potential strategic sites that could be used for the treatment of residual waste and three smaller sites which could be used for supporting infrastructure. A number of the sites which were included within this consultation will be included within the final WCS as suitable sites for the treatment of Municipal Solid Waste. All of the consultation documents for each stage in the production of the WCS and officer responses to consultee comments can be found at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wcs](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wcs)

## 2.3 District Update

2.3.1 All of the six district councils within the county are in the process of producing their Core Strategies, but are all at different stages. It is considered that it is likely that the dates for publication and submission will be delayed due to the changes in



national government and the abolition of the RSS. The current dates for adoption of their Core Strategies are published on each district website are as follows:

**TABLE 1: District adoption dates**

District	Estimated adoption date
Joint Core Strategy (Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council)	December 2011
Forest of Dean District Council	Summer 2011
Stroud District Council	September 2011
Cotswold District Council	2012

## **2.4 Progress towards the WCS**

2.4.1 Through the evidence papers a number of references are made to the timeline for production of the WCS. These dates have changed due to the requirement for the WCS to include sites that could be used for the treatment of residual waste (as discussed in paragraph 2.2.1).

2.4.2 The process so far towards publishing the WCS has included:

- Issues and Options Consultation July to September 2006.
- Preferred Options January to March 2008
- Site Options Consultation October to November 2009

2.4.3 Details of these dates and those that will follow can be found within the fourth revision of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) which was adopted August 2010 and is available at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mwds](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mwds)

## **2.5 Waste data paper (WCS A)**

2.5.1 The original waste data paper was produced in September 2007. Therefore the data included within the paper had now become out of date. As this information forms a crucial part of the Waste Core Strategy this evidence paper has been fully updated to include the most recent data on waste figures (as of August 2010). There are a number of occurrences where the figures from the initial data paper

are quoted through the other evidence papers; where this is the case the figures will have to be cross checked with the new Waste Data Paper (November 2010).

## **2.6 Residual Waste Contract**

2.6.1 Within a number of the evidence papers there is reference to the residual waste contract. Since some of the evidence papers have been produced there has been considerable progress with the residual waste contract. The most recent milestone was in December 2009 when the County Council invited four bidders to submit detailed solutions. These are currently being assessed by the Waste Disposal Authority. Further details on the progress of the contract and the subsequent stages can be found in the MWDS available at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/MWDS> or at [www.recycleforgloucestershire.com](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com).

## **2.7 Wingmoor Farm East – Grundons**

2.7.1 A number of references are made through the evidence papers as to the end date of Wingmoor Farm East landfill being in 2009. A planning application was submitted to the County Council during 2009 to extend the lifespan of the landfill (non-hazardous and hazardous) for another 20 years. This planning application is still under consideration by the County Council.

## **2.8 Transport**

2.8.1 The joint evidence paper on Transport (WCS – MCS – 1 Transport) details the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2. The County Council is currently in the process of producing LTP3 which will be adopted in April 2011 until 2026. The aim of LTP3 will be 'providing a safe and sustainable transport network within Gloucestershire'. It has four main objectives:

- A greener, healthier Gloucestershire
- Sustainable Economic Growth
- A safer secure transport system
- Good access to services

2.8.2 Each of the 106 potential sites initially assessed as suitable for a strategic waste management facility underwent a basic transport assessment. This detailed

access to the strategic network, sustainable transport options, employee accessibility, other transport issues and a recommendation.

## **2.9 Flooding**

2.9.1 A joint evidence paper (WCS – MCS 3 Flooding & Hydrological Issues 2008) had been produced on flooding. During the site selection process for strategic sites additional work was conducted on flooding. This took the form of assessing each site's flooding history. The information from this process was then included within the site profiles. This additional work supports the information included within the evidence paper.

## **2.10 Biodiversity**

2.10.1 A joint evidence paper (WCS – MCS 5 Biodiversity 2008) had been produced on biodiversity issues. As part of the Site Options Consultation October 2009 the Waste Planning Authority published Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Report for Waste Core Strategy October 2009. This additional work supports the information included within the evidence paper.

## **2.11 Monitoring**

2.11.1 WCS – MCS 7 Implementation and Monitoring details the monitoring process that the core strategies will undergo. The WCS includes a section that details how the policies within it will be monitored.

2.11.2 The most recent Annual Monitoring Report 2009-2010 will be submitted to GOSW at the end of 2010. The process for submitting these reports will likely change in the future.

## **2.12 Proposals Map**

2.12.1 The proposals map will be updated to include the strategic waste sites allocated within the WCS when the strategy is published. The current proposals map can be found at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=10580> There has been an update statement produced which details the changes to the proposals map.



## Appendix 1 - Evidence Papers

### Waste Core Strategy Evidence Papers

- WCS A – Waste Data – September 2007
- WCS A – Waste Data (Update) – November 2010
- WCS B - Spatial Portrait & Vision - January 2008
- WCS C - Broad Locational Analysis - January 2008
- WCS D – Implementing the Waste Hierarchy (including waste minimisation) – January 2008
- WCS E – Hazardous Waste – January 2008
- WCS F – Making Provision for Waste Management Facilities – January 2008
- WCS G – Waste Facility Types – January 2008
- WCS H – Sewage Treatment Facilities – January 2008
- WCS I – Waste Facilities in the Green Belt – January 2008
- WCS J – Waste Industry Involvement – January 2008
- WCS K – Joint working with the Waste Disposal Authority – November 2007
- WCS L – Cumulative Impact – September 2007
- WCS M – Environmental Acceptability – January 2008
- WCS N – Site Selection – September 2009
- WCS O – Call for Sites – October 2009
- WCS P – Urban Growth Areas and Waste Management – October 2009

### Joint Evidence Papers

- WCS – MCS – 1 – Transport – January 2008
- WCS – MCS – 2 – Links with Districts and Neighbouring Authorities – November 2007
- WCS – MCS – 3 – Flooding and Hydrological Issues – January 2008
- WCS – MCS – 4 – Landscape and AONB – January 2008
- WCS – MCS – 5 – Biodiversity – January 2008
- WCS – MCS – 6 – Archaeology and the Historic Environment – July 2009
- WCS – MCS – 7 – Implementation and Monitoring – January 2008
- WCS – MCS – 8 – Glossary – January 2008
- WCS – MCS – 9 – Proposals Map – January 2008 plus Update Statement November 2010
- WCS – MCS – 10 – Climate Change – October 2009

 **recycle** for Gloucestershire



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