

Warwick District Council
Local Plan Examination

Response to Inspector's Matters and Issues

Matter 13 – Other Policies

Waste

Policy W1 – Waste Core Strategy

Policy W2 – New Waste Disposal Facilities

Issue

Whether other policies are justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

October 2016

Policy W1 Waste Core Strategy

1. What is the basis for the policy? What is it seeking to achieve?

- a) The policy seeks to ensure that whilst not repeating the policies within the Waste Core Strategy which is produced by Warwickshire County Council as the waste authority, a waste management plan accompanies planning applications for any development of one house or commercial unit or more. Specifically such a plan will be expected to demonstrate where space is allocated to store recycling facilities. This is to encourage recycling of materials in line with the Warwick Waste Partnership's policy on recycling and to prevent the occurrence of receptacles for recycling being kept on house/business frontages which presents an unsightly street scene.
- b) Warwick District Council doesn't have a specific recycling target itself, but is part of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership (made up of Warwickshire County Council and neighbouring district/borough councils in Warwickshire) which has an aspirational recycling/composting target of 65% by 2020 and a target of reducing residual waste (domestic refuse) to 311kg per household per year also by 2020.
- c) The policy is required in addition to the County Council's Core Strategy as it makes provision for those occasions where development is not accordance with that strategy as 'material considerations indicate otherwise'. This allows the Council to deal with such occurrences. It is restricted to recycling facilities as this is what is required by the Waste Core Strategy.
- d) Additionally, the policy assists in delivery of the Government requirement that 'from January 2015, local authorities will need to collect waste paper, metal plastic or glass by way of separate collection' (UK Waste Regulations, 2015) . In order to meet this requirement, separate storage facilities for recycling are necessary.

2. How does the policy relate to the evidence base?

- a) Warwickshire County Council as the waste authority publish the Waste Core Strategy (2013) and Warwickshire Waste Partnership Waste Management Statistics (latest 2012/13) which provide the background information on which to base these Local Plan policies

3. Is the policy sufficiently clear? Will it provide sufficient guidance for decision making?

- a) The policy is clear in that it outlines what is expected of developers when submitting planning applications for the requisite number of units. It allows the decision maker to take each site and assess it on its merits in terms of waste management

4. How will the policy be implemented? Is this clear?

- a) The policy will be implemented when a planning application is made for one or more dwelling or commercial unit. This is specifically detailed in the policy and therefore clear.

5. How does the policy relate to national policy? How is it consistent? Are there any inconsistencies?

- a) The NPPF does not contain specific waste policies as it was intended that national waste planning policy would be published as part of the 'National Waste Management Plan for England'. This document was very much based on the former Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10). It outlines the need for waste planning authorities to work together and to identify the local waste plans sites and areas for new or enhanced facilities and is working at a far more strategic level than the Local Plan. There are therefore no policies that specifically outline what is expected of developers of sites when looking at submitting planning applications. It is the District Council working with the County Council who have agreed this at a local level. There are therefore no inconsistencies with national policy.

6. In overall terms is the policy justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

- a) There is a lack at national level of policy which can be adopted more locally and at a detailed level. This represents an opportunity for the local waste authority and district council to deal with the topic through their own locally agreed policies. This justifies the inclusion of the policy.

. Policy W2 New Waste Disposal Facilities

1. What is the basis for the policy? What is it seeking to achieve?

- a) *The Waste Core Strategy for Warwickshire, states in its vision that, 'By the end of the plan period in 2028, Warwickshire will have delivered equivalent self sufficiency in its waste management capacity, having met its identified treatment gap and enabled the development of a range of sustainable waste facilities in the most sustainable locations. Development will have been focused within and around the main primary centres of waste arisings of the major towns of Warwick, Leamington, Nuneaton, Bedworth, Kenilworth, Stratford and Rugby and in the most sustainable secondary locations of Atherstone, Coleshill and Southam. Cross boundary waste management links, especially those with the sub-region, will continue to be recognised.'*
- b) The County Council has indicated that it currently has no need for extended or a new waste facility in this district. Should the need arise however, this policy ensures that the District Council will co-operate with the County Council in finding a suitable, sustainable location for such a facility to serve an area which the County Council as waste authority sees fit to service. It commits the District Council in this regard.

2. How does the policy relate to the evidence base?

- a) Warwickshire County Council as the waste authority publishes the Waste Core Strategy (2013) and Warwickshire Waste Partnership Waste Management Statistics (latest 2012/13)

which provide the background information on which to base these Local Plan policies.

- b) The Waste Core Strategy identified the most suitable areas for the processing and/or disposal of waste.

3. Is the policy sufficiently clear? Will it provide sufficient guidance for decision making?

- a) The policy clearly sets out its commitment to providing either extended facilities on an existing site or to finding a site for a new facility within or close to the edge of the main towns, as specified in the Waste Core Strategy.
- b) It provides guidance for decision making by stating the areas to be considered; i.e. on an existing site or in the case of a new facility, on previously developed land or industrial site within or close to the edge of the three main towns of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth.
- c) This is specific enough to guide the decision maker whilst still allowing flexibility with regard to the exact siting to ensure the most sustainable, suitable and deliverable location with minimum disruption to existing adjacent land uses

4. How will the policy be implemented? Is this clear?

- a) The policy will only be implemented if the waste authority identifies a need for extended or new facilities. In that situation, the policy makes it clear what the criteria are for deciding where those facilities should be

5. How does the policy relate to national policy? How is it consistent? Are there any inconsistencies?

- a) The national policy in the 'Waste Management Plan for England', Dec 2013, states that *'Under the national policy approach waste planning authorities should identify in their local waste plans sites and areas suitable of new or enhanced facilities for the waste management needs of their area.'* In implementing this policy the Government acknowledges the *'importance of close co-operation between waste planning authorities'*.
- b) In terms of location, the national policy (National Planning Policy for Waste, 2014) states that *'in deciding which sites and areas to identify for such facilities, waste planning authorities should assess their suitability against the criteria set out in the policy'*. Planning Practice Guidance suggests the issues that are likely to influence the choice of suitable sites (para.037 ref ID:28-037-20141016). The County Council has outlined in the Waste Core Strategy where these locations are locally and this is why they are included in the Local Plan policy as a committed approach. The policy is therefore consistent with national and local policies.

6. In overall terms is the policy justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

- a) The policy is justified in that it deals specifically with needs within the local area at district level. It is consistent with both national policy in the 'Waste Management Plan for England' and the Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy

In addition:

7. Is it appropriate to include Policies W1 and W2 given that the Council is not the Waste Authority and there is a separate Waste Core Strategy? Is it unduly onerous to require a waste management plan for one dwelling or one commercial unit?

- a) The Waste Core Strategy is not detailed to a district level. This allows for the requirement of a Waste Management Plan to address district level concerns with regard to the provision of storage facilities for recycling in new developments and as such, represents a need for a specific Local Plan level policy. The policy is required in addition to the County Council's Core Strategy as it makes provision for those occasions where development is not accordance with that strategy as 'material considerations indicate otherwise'.
- b) Although it would seem to be onerous to ask for a Waste Management Plan for developments of one dwelling or one commercial unit or more, this ensures that any recycling needs are met before they become an issue once the unit is occupied. The purpose of a Waste Management Plan is to minimise the amount of waste produced due to activities resultant of a project, for the benefit of the environment and to maximise cost savings. It ensures that suitable storage provision is made for any development likely to have resultant recycling needs and that storage is not therefore 'on street'. This is particularly important in Conservation Areas and town centres where the lack of such a facility could result in unsightly and occasionally dangerous locating of on street receptacles.
- c) The information likely to be required in a Waste Management Plan for new developments includes:
- the number and size of rubbish and recycling bins to be provided, and the amount of space left to accommodate/access them
 - the maximum distances the bins will be stored from homes or collection points
 - the sort of access that will be allowed for rubbish collection trucks, and for people living or working in the new buildings to get to the bins
 - alternative types of waste management systems, including food waste disposers, which could help to reduce the amount of waste that is put out for collection.