



Waste

Topic Paper No 5 – Summary

Introduction

The planning system should encourage the sustainable management of waste and facilitate the provision of appropriate facilities to prevent/re-use, prepare for re-use, recycle, recover and where necessary, safely dispose of waste.

Waste management facilities are an important component of the economy and provide employment opportunities directly and indirectly.

Context

Flintshire is an urban authority with strategic employment sites well located to serve local and wider markets of North Wales and North West England. Flintshire currently has a range of waste management infrastructure across the County including facilities operated by, or on behalf of the Council, and those which are operated on a commercial basis.

Flintshire County Council is a Waste Collection and Disposal Authority and therefore has a significant role to play in managing municipal wastes. As part of its duty to manage municipal waste, Flintshire has entered into partnerships with other North Wales Authorities to procure solutions to manage municipal food and residual wastes which may have land use implications for Flintshire.

Waste arisings have changed significantly over the past decade as a result of changing policy at the European Union and national level which seek to reduce the production of waste at source and aim to drive the management of waste up the waste hierarchy, focusing on waste reduction,

re-use, recycling and recovery, and moving away from reliance on disposal.

Flintshire has a large number of closed landfill sites. Development on such sites can bring with it associated risks due to the release of gas, leachate and issues relating to stability.

The role of the Plan

A key objective for the plan will be to ensure that appropriate provision is made for waste management which is in line with other aspects of the Plan and which helps facilitate the management of waste up the waste hierarchy, in line with national policy.

The Plan will need to ensure that waste management needs are catered for at all levels where necessary, which may include site specific, local, regional and national. Uncertainties regarding waste arisings will need to be recognised and mechanisms included which enable the Plan to respond to changing circumstances.

The Plan has a role to play in helping to reduce the production of waste and to encourage the recycling of waste through appropriate design at all stages of a development including construction, operation and in some cases decommissioning.

There are inevitably overlaps between this topic and other topics that will be covered by the Plan such as the economy and employment, renewable energy and minerals. Sustainable development shall be at the core of them all.

Key Waste Plans and Strategies

- Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
- Landfill Directive 99/31/EC
- National Waste Strategy: Towards Zero Waste (2010)
- Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan (July 2012)
- Planning Policy Wales (Edition 6, February 2014) (Welsh Government)
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21 Waste (Welsh Gov. Feb 2014)
- Flintshire Waste Management Strategy 2009-2025 (November 2009)

Issues to be addressed by the Plan

- Contribute towards the delivery of an adequate network of waste disposal installations and of installations for the recovery of mixed municipal waste, taking into account the principles of self-sufficiency and proximity.
- Ensure any spatial needs within Flintshire of local authority procurement programmes are met.
- Ensure municipal waste management land use needs are met.
- Identify those employment sites which can accommodate waste management facilities.
- Ensure the land use requirements for waste uses which cannot be suitably located on employment sites are met;
- Ensure site specific needs of non-waste development are met through adequate space and facilities for recycling / composting.
- Encourage the reduction of waste through design.
- Ensure the inclusion of criteria-based policies to deal with unallocated sites and help respond to unexpected change and demand;
- Clarify farm diversification with respect to waste management activities;
- Reduce conflict between waste bad neighbour uses and sensitive development.

- Identify any opportunities for co-location of facilities with the development of heat networks.
- Ensure risks posed by active or former landfill sites are minimised by directing sensitive development away from inappropriate sites.

Potential Land Use Policies / Proposals

UDP waste policies contained 6 policies and proposals under the term 'waste'. Some of these policies contain criteria which are either contained within national policy and guidance or which apply to a range of different land uses, not just specifically waste.

Following an assessment of the UDP policies it is proposed that the key policies and proposals are broadly along the lines of:

- Allocating individual sites for waste proposals where necessary and clarifying which 'Principal Employment Areas' (PEAs) where waste management activities will generally be acceptable, including the suitability of re-use activities within uses allocated for retail.
- Identify areas and/or locations where opportunities for co-location of energy generating facilities and high energy users or opportunities for heat networks may exist.
- Providing guidance on the location of waste development outside allocations and PEAs, i.e. outside development boundaries and/or on brownfield sites.
- Providing guidance on small scale farm diversification proposals.
- Require non-waste development to seek to minimise waste and make provision for waste at all stages of the development.
- Identify buffers, within which there will be a presumption against sensitive development, around landfill and other facility types where necessary.