Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Foreword

We all consume resources and generate waste. The amount of waste being produced has, historically, been of little concern. Recent decades have however witnessed enormous changes in lifestyle and this, combined with technological advances, has been reflected in the dramatic increase in the amount and types of waste that we produce. Our treatment of waste has, however, largely remained unchanged with most of our rubbish simply being buried. This is a waste of resources and cannot continue.

Legislative targets for the recycling and recovery of value from waste, together with increasing disposal costs, require a new approach to the management of waste within Cheshire. The challenge ahead is to reduce the volume of waste being generated and to ensure that maximum value is extracted from waste before its disposal. Waste must be managed in a sustainable manner which causes minimal damage to the environment.

A new approach to managing waste is needed and this will require a different and more extensive distribution of waste management facilities. The purpose of the Replacement Waste Local Plan is to provide guidance to the public and the waste industry about sites that may be suitable ‘in principle’ for waste management uses and to provide the policy framework against which planning applications for waste management development will be assessed.

The Replacement Waste Local Plan is a statutory local plan which is required to cover all the land use planning aspects of waste management in Cheshire. The Plan has been prepared during a period of dramatic change in both waste legislation and waste management technology. It must be recognised that a range of facilities will be required in order to manage waste in a sustainable manner and the Plan therefore adopts a flexible approach towards providing a range of waste management facilities throughout Cheshire.

Councillor Andrew Needham
Executive Member for Environment, Economy, Rural Affairs and Waste,
Cheshire County Council
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Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

1.1 Everyone produces waste and it is essential that this waste is handled, treated and disposed of in a way that is sensitive to the environment and economical for the local community and business. Waste represents a potential resource from which materials, energy and value can be recovered.

1.2 Within Cheshire there is currently a very high dependence on the landfilling of waste with over one million tonnes of waste being landfilled in 2002. The amount of waste being generated must be reduced. This particularly applies to municipal waste, which is currently increasing nationally by an average rate of 3% per year. There must also be greater emphasis on the re-use and recycling of waste. This will require a network of waste management facilities for the re-processing of waste. The landfilling of waste must, in the future, only be considered as a last resort.

1.3 This document avoids the use of technical terms wherever possible although this is sometimes unavoidable and a glossary of technical terms has therefore been provided.

Purpose of the Replacement Waste Local Plan

1.4 This Replacement Waste Local Plan attempts to achieve a more sustainable approach to waste management within Cheshire. The Plan aims to fulfil this purpose in two ways:

a) by establishing policies against which planning applications for the development of waste management facilities will be assessed.

b) by identifying sites which are considered suitable ‘in principle’ for a waste management use in order to enable the development of an adequate network of waste management facilities.

In this way the Plan can achieve a balance between ensuring adequate provision of the necessary waste management facilities, and protecting the environment of Cheshire and the quality of life of its communities.

Statutory Framework

1.5 Cheshire County Council is the ‘Waste Planning Authority’ responsible for the preparation of planning policies for waste management, and for determining applications for the development of waste treatment and disposal facilities within the County. The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991) requires the Waste Planning Authority to prepare a Waste Local Plan to guide, encourage and control facilities for the management of waste.

1.6 This document is the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan and covers the period 2007-2017.
1.7 The former Cheshire Waste Disposal Local Plan was adopted in 1987 for the period up to 1996. In September 1997 a consultation draft of the Replacement Waste Local Plan was produced, outlining a strategy and policies for the period up to 2007. The consultation process revealed public concern over the development of an ‘Area of Search’ technique for future landfill sites and the Plan was not progressed. The current document is more site specific and identifies sites considered suitable ‘in principle’ for the development of waste management facilities. A planning application and planning permission are still required in order to develop any of these facilities.

Plan Area

1.8 The Plan area covers the administrative area of Cheshire County Council which includes the district councils of Chester City, Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Macclesfield, and Vale Royal. References in this Plan to ‘Cheshire’ refer to the administrative boundary of Cheshire County Council (not the geographic County area). This does not include the areas covered by the unitary authorities of Halton and Warrington and the Peak District National Park.

Roles and Responsibilities

1.9 The County Council has a statutory duty to consult with a variety of specialist advisors during plan making and the determination of planning applications. In addition, the County Council will also seek to maximise its opportunities for partnership working to assist the communication of the Plan’s Aim and Objectives. The purpose would be to achieve effective dialogue that responds to the issues raised.

1.10 Everyone in Cheshire has a part to play in achieving a more sustainable system of waste management. However, local authorities and the Environment Agency have specific responsibilities for waste management and these are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Roles and responsibilities for waste management in Cheshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Main Waste Management Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire County Council (as Waste Planning Authority)</td>
<td>• Prepares strategic waste policies as part of the Structure Plan;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prepares the Cheshire Waste Local Plan;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Determines planning applications for waste management development;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Monitors and enforces planning controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire County Council (as Waste Disposal Authority)</td>
<td>• Lets contracts for the management of municipal waste collected by District Councils in their role as Waste Collection Authorities (see below);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provides facilities for the management and recycling of bulky household waste;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Manages closed landfill sites previously operated by the Council;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prepares a joint municipal waste strategy in conjunction with the Waste Collection Authorities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Main Waste Management Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Waste Collection Authorities:              | • Collect household waste from households, and some commercial premises, and transport it to waste management facilities;  
| Chester City Council                        | • Prepare recycling plans;                                                                             |
| Congleton Borough Council                   | • Provide recycling facilities.                                                                         |
| Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council            |                                                                                                        |
| Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council     |                                                                                                        |
| Macclesfield Borough Council                |                                                                                                        |
| Vale Royal Borough Council                  |                                                                                                        |
| Environment Agency                          | • Regulates the management of waste from production to disposal through licensing and other regulatory controls;     |
|                                             | • Collects and publishes waste data;                                                                     |
|                                             | • Provides advice on planning applications as a statutory consultee.                                     |
| Sewerage Undertaker                         | • Regulates any discharge to public sewers.                                                             |
| North West Regional Assembly                | • Provides a regional waste management strategy;                                                        |
|                                             | • Provides regional policies on waste.                                                                  |
| Industry and Commerce                       | • Have a ‘duty of care’ to ensure responsible management of the waste their businesses generate;        |
|                                             | • Are required to recover a proportion of the packaging waste they produce or handle.                   |
| Householders/Public                         | • No statutory responsibilities, but as waste producers they are increasingly being asked to reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled. |

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.11 Policies and allocations in this Plan seek to adhere to the following guiding principles of sustainable development:
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society respecting environmental limitations and in doing so:
- achieve a stable economy
- promote good governance and
- make decisions based on sound science.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) demonstrates how well the Plan reflects the objectives of sustainable development. The Plan was subject to a sustainability appraisal. Where the sustainability appraisal and its public consultation process demonstrated the Plan could be improved, modifications were made during the production of the Plan.
1.12 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) identifies the likely environmental effects of a plan. An SEA was carried out on the Plan and the SEA Non-Technical Summary is Appendix 5 of this document.

1.13 It should be noted that the SEA assesses the overall “strategic” impacts of the Plan, rather than the impacts associated with a specific development. Specific developments will have their impacts assessed when planning applications are submitted for determination.

1.14 The possible need for Appropriate Assessment was considered during the plan-making process. An Appropriate Assessment is required where the Plan is likely to have a significant effect on “European Sites” designated under the EC Birds Directive 1979 and EC Habitats Directive 1992. The Plan’s potential to impact on those sites was considered when policies were written and potential allocations identified. A further appraisal was carried out by the Plan’s SEA and the results recorded in the SEA’s Environmental and Supplemental Environmental Reports. No potential significant effects of these policies or potential allocations on European Sites were identified, alone or in combination, and therefore, Appropriate Assessment was not required for the Plan. However, individual planning applications that come forward under the Plan’s policies and allocations will be subject to Appropriate Assessment if they are likely to have a significant effect, alone or in combination, on a European site.

Aims and Objectives of the Replacement Waste Local Plan

1.15 The overall aim of this Replacement Waste Local Plan is:

To provide a land-use planning policy framework for sustainable waste management in Cheshire, having regard to the waste hierarchy, the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility, regional self-sufficiency and the guiding principles of sustainable development.

To achieve the Plan’s aim, and to provide the framework for developing its policies, the following key objectives have been set:

A to provide a primary means of reconciling conflicts between the need for development and the need to protect and enhance both the environment and quality of life, by identifying the need, nature, scale and (where appropriate) location of waste management sites, and promote the shift to more sustainable waste management practice;

B to identify planning policy criteria with which to assess waste development proposals, and ensure effective planning control and the appropriate location and distribution of waste management facilities;

C to protect primary resources and make the best use of the waste generated in Cheshire by promoting (in order of priority) increased re-use, recycling and composting, and energy recovery to reduce the quantity of waste being disposed to landfill;
INTRODUCTION

D to enable the development of the facilities necessary to manage and dispose of waste in Cheshire in suitable locations and at the time they are required;

E to reduce the need for landfill and landraise by identifying sites considered suitable ‘in principle’ for the development of facilities for the recycling and recovery of resources and energy from waste;

F to provide the people of Cheshire, the waste management industry and all interested parties with guidance as to the potential future location of waste management facilities;

G to avoid locating waste management facilities where they would have unacceptable adverse impacts (including cumulative impact) on the environment; to seek mitigation measures to offset unavoidable adverse environmental impacts and to secure opportunities for environmental enhancements where appropriate;

H to minimise the environmental impacts of transporting waste in accordance with the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility and the adoption of more sustainable methods for the movement of waste;

I to implement the guiding principles of sustainable development.

(Please note that no sequential order is implied.)

Core Strategy

1.16 The following core strategy sets out how the Waste Planning Authority intends to achieve the aim and key objectives of the Replacement Waste Local Plan and address the future waste management requirements of Cheshire. The strategy will be implemented through the Policies of this Plan, which it has informed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing to Key Objective</th>
<th>Land Use Strategy Component</th>
<th>Implementing Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A D E I</td>
<td>i. To identify sites considered acceptable ‘in principle’ for waste management facilities which, when combined with existing facilities, will provide an integrated network that makes adequate provision for waste arising within Cheshire.</td>
<td>4. 5. 6. 7. 9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A H I</td>
<td>ii. To locate waste management facilities in appropriate locations close to the main sources of waste arisings in order to minimise the transportation of waste.</td>
<td>27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A C D I</td>
<td>iii. To support waste management options higher up the waste hierarchy to promote increased diversion of waste away from landfill and by phasing the release of additional landfill void capacity to avoid over provision.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F I</td>
<td>iv. To exclude locations of recognised international and national importance from consideration as possible areas or future waste management uses.</td>
<td>16. 17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F G I</td>
<td>v. To optimise the use of appropriate previously used or developed land or buildings, appropriate industrial/employment areas and existing waste management sites as Preferred Sites for future waste management uses.</td>
<td>4. 5. 9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A B F I</td>
<td>vi. To identify appropriate development control criteria against which proposed waste management uses must be assessed.</td>
<td>1 to 36.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Procedure to Adoption

1.17 In spring 2004 the County Council published the First Deposit Draft Local Plan for consultation. The Council considered the many comments received at that time and made a number of changes to the Plan. The resulting “Re-deposit Draft” Plan was the subject of a second round of public consultation in late 2005. The subsequent Local Plan Inquiry heard objections to the Plan and the Planning Inspector produced a report of the Inquiry. Changes detailed within the report had to be made to the Plan for it to be adopted by the County Council. This Plan incorporates those changes and is now the adopted Waste Local Plan for Cheshire.
Chapter 2

The Context for the Plan

2.1 This chapter describes the policy context within which the Plan is being developed, including some of the targets which apply to the management of waste generated in Cheshire.

2.2 The key objectives and policies within this Replacement Waste Local Plan have been significantly influenced by a range of European, national, regional and local policies and guidance.

European Framework

2.3 The European Union produces Directives to carry forward its commitment to the formulation of policy, at the heart of which lies the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development should ensure a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. A widely used International definition is:

‘Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. (The Brundtland Report)

An important part of achieving this concept will be the sustainable use of our resources and any waste created. This has been a fundamental guiding principle in the preparation of this Replacement Waste Local Plan. The increased consumption of goods and services, population and employment growth and a larger number of smaller households have led to increases in the amount of waste being produced within Cheshire. The use and ultimate exhaustion of a finite supply of energy and raw materials is unsustainable and efforts must be taken to reduce the amount of waste being produced and to increase the rate of recycling and the recovery of value from waste. Changes in the way we think about and manage waste and resources are fundamental to achieving more sustainable development. The application of the principles of sustainable development, together with recent changes in legislation and taxation policy will have significant consequences for the way in which we manage our waste in the future.

2.4 The EC Landfill Directive was adopted by the UK Government in April 1999 and will have a significant impact on the methods used to manage and dispose of waste within Cheshire. The main objectives of the Directive are to ensure high and consistent standards of landfill practice across the European Union, to stimulate the recycling and recovery of waste, and to reduce emissions of methane. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that can be formed by the decomposition of biodegradable waste in landfill sites. The Directive therefore sets targets for a staged reduction in the amount of biodegradable municipal waste being sent to landfill:

- By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995
- By 2013 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 50% of that produced in 1995
- By 2020 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 35% of that produced in 1995
This will mean that we cannot continue to rely on landfill as the principal means of waste disposal as we have done in the past.

The Directive has ended the practice of co-disposing of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes and requires landfill sites to be classified in terms of the waste that they can accept: hazardous, non-hazardous or inert wastes.

**National Framework**

2.5 At the national level a range of guidance has governed the preparation and content of the Replacement Waste Local Plan. This includes:

• The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future
• The National Waste Strategy 2000 (England and Wales)
• Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG’s) and Planning Policy Statements (PPS’s).

**Securing the Future**

2.6 Government’s strategy for sustainable development, Securing the Future (2005), not only includes the guiding principles listed in Chapter 1, it also sets out priority areas for immediate action across the UK:

• Sustainable consumption and production;
• Climate change and energy;
• Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and
• Sustainable communities.

The strategy sets out the overall objective of Government policy on waste, which is to protect both human health and the environment. Human health is protected by effective regulation (that includes the policies of this Plan) and the use of appropriate technologies. The environment is protected by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. By managing waste sustainably, the Government aims to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste.

**Waste Strategy 2000**

2.7 The objectives of European policy are incorporated into the national waste strategy ‘Waste Strategy 2000’, which sets out the Government’s vision for managing waste in a more sustainable way. The review of the waste strategy began in 2005.

**Waste Hierarchy**

2.8 The waste hierarchy emphasises that the balance in provision between the different waste management facilities should reflect the key objective of reducing the amount of waste that society creates and making the best use of waste, thereby reducing the amount requiring eventual
disposal. These objectives form a hierarchical approach and greater weight should be attributed to those waste management methods that lie at the top of the hierarchy:

- Reduction;
- Re-use;
- Recycling and Composting;
- Energy Recovery;
- Landfill.

2.9 PPS10 advises that key planning objectives include enabling waste to be managed and disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate facilities, in order to minimise the environmental impacts which arise from the transportation of waste.

**Targets**

2.10 The National Waste Strategy introduces national targets for the recycling, composting and recovery of municipal waste. The aim of these targets is to help to ensure that the requirements of the Landfill Directive are met. The national recycling/composting and recovery targets are to:

- Recycle or compost 25% of household waste by 2005; 30% by 2010 and 33% by 2015;
- Recover value from at least 40% of municipal waste by 2005; 45% by 2010 and 67% by 2015.

The National Waste Strategy has also set the target of reducing the amount of commercial and industrial waste sent to landfill in 2005 to 85% of that landfilled in 1998.

2.11 The County Council and the District Councils also have statutory targets for recycling and composting municipal waste, introduced under powers set out in the Local Government Act 1999 and introduced through the Best Value framework on 1st April 2000.

**National Planning Policy Guidance**

2.12 Detailed Government planning policy regarding waste planning contained within Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005) highlights the planning system’s important role in delivering Government objectives for sustainable waste management. The PPS sets out key planning objectives for waste management and gives guidance on preparing development plan documents and determining planning applications. In preparing this Replacement Waste Local Plan, the County Council has also had regard to previous advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 10 (PPG10) which gave advice on preparing Waste Local Plans.

**Regional Framework**

2.13 Regional Planning Guidance for the North West (RPG 13) was issued in 2003 and sets out a strategy to manage the future distribution of land-use activities within the North West. It has a key role to play in co-ordinating waste management throughout the Region.
2.14 It should be noted that, under recent changes to the planning system, the approved version RPG13 is now known as the Regional Spatial Strategy and will be referred to as RSS throughout the rest of this document. The RSS is currently under review.

2.15 The importance of the RSS is reflected in PPS10 which advises that sites should be allocated in local development documents to reflect the pattern of waste management facilities set out in the RSS, in accordance with the broad locations identified in the RSS. Sites and areas to support the apportionment set in the RSS should be allocated. Local development documents should be able to demonstrate how capacity equivalent to at least 10 years of the annual rates set out in the RSS could be provided.

Local Framework

2.16 Once adopted the Replacement Waste Local Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan, which comprises of the following documents:
- Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS)
- Replacement Structure Plan “Cheshire 2016 Structure Plan Alteration” adopted in December 2005
- The Replacement Minerals Local Plan (1999)
- District-wide Local Plans prepared by Borough Councils

Cheshire Household Waste Management Strategy

2.17 Cheshire County Council has worked in partnership with the Borough Councils in the county to prepare the Cheshire Household Waste Management Strategy. The Strategy was produced following consultation with Cheshire residents and proposes measures to encourage the reduction of waste; maximise levels of recycling and composting; and to review the need for alternative treatment facilities. Implementation of the Strategy requires the development of additional waste management facilities, and the role of the Replacement Waste Local Plan is to identify suitable sites for such facilities and provide a planning policy framework against which proposals can be assessed.

Cheshire Community Strategy

2.18 The Cheshire Community Strategy sets out actions which, among other things, seek to reduce the amounts of waste being produced and landfilled. It also seeks to increase re-use, recycling and composting, and to minimise the environmental and health impacts of waste management. This Plan will play a part in achieving these actions.
Chapter 3

The Need For Waste Management Facilities In Cheshire

Introduction

3.1 The need assessment was carried out to provide a robust statistical base for the Replacement Waste Local Plan. Its results are reported in Appendix 1. The need assessment looked at:

- The nature and extent of waste currently managed in the County;
- The remaining capacity at the existing waste management facilities;
- The likely future waste arisings in the Plan area; and
- The requirement for treatment and disposal capacity within Cheshire.

The Facilities We Need

3.2 PPS10 advises that waste planning authorities should allocate sites to support the pattern of waste management facilities set out in the RSS in accordance with the broad locations identified in the RSS; and allocate sites and areas suitable for new and enhanced waste management facilities to support the apportionment in the RSS. The RSS is not yet approved and so the indicative information in it is not firm. Future local development documents for waste management in Cheshire must have regard to the approved RSS and the strategy for waste management it contains.

3.3 This Plan’s policies and allocations are designed to provide the range of facilities that will meet the need identified.

3.4 We are in a transitionary period where new waste management practices and technologies are being developed. As a result, it is not possible to predict exactly how many sites will be needed. However, a range of facilities will be required to drive waste up the waste hierarchy. A number of sites have been identified where the development of technologies which seek to reduce the reliance on landfill and maximise the recycling and recovery of value from the waste generated.

3.5 Although the exact number and type of waste management facilities are still unknown the need assessment provides an indication of the annual capacity requirements of the range of facilities which may come forward for the management of non hazardous waste during the Plan period. Table 3 below estimates the total capacity requirements to manage Cheshire’s waste. This is derived from Table A15 in Appendix 1. The indicative capacity for composting, recycling, MBT for Municipal Solid Waste and energy recovery is the rounded 2015 figure from Table A15 in Appendix 1. The indicative landfill requirement is an average of the estimated landfill requirement from 2006-2015 inclusive shown in Table A15 in Appendix 1.
Table 3: Indicative Annual Capacity Requirements for the Management of Non-Hazardous Waste in Cheshire During the Plan Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Composting</th>
<th>Recycling</th>
<th>MBT (for Municipal Solid Waste only)</th>
<th>Energy Recovery</th>
<th>Landfill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicative Capacity</td>
<td>149,000</td>
<td>647,000</td>
<td>264,000</td>
<td>387,000</td>
<td>609,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative no. of facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6 Although it is not possible to predict exactly how many sites will be needed for composting, recycling, treatment and energy recovery the North West Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB) report (July 2001) provides an indication of the typical annual capacity of different waste management facilities as follows:

- Recycling facility: 50,000 tonnes annually
- Compost facility: 20,000 tonnes annually
- Energy Recovery facility: 200,000 tonnes annually

3.7 The Plan seeks to identify sites for a range of ‘built’ facilities and landfill sites. Built facilities are key to the implementation of sustainable waste management, by providing the recycling and recovery capacity to move waste management up the waste hierarchy. Plan allocations for built facilities need to consider population densities, associated waste arisings and markets.

3.8 Despite recycling and recovery, there will still be an element of residual waste that will require final disposal. Cheshire currently relies upon the Gowy landfill in the west and Danes Moss and Maw Green landfills in the east of the county for the disposal of non-hazardous wastes. However, the current permissions do not provide for capacity beyond 2012. Given the increased emphasis on waste minimisation and recycling, only two or three new major landfill facilities for non-hazardous waste will be required in Cheshire over the Plan period. In order to ensure the requirement of the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility the County can be divided into two distinct catchment areas for waste, with one non-hazardous landfill site in the west of the County and one or two in the east.

3.9 Operating two landfills in the east of the County would reduce the length of vehicle movements to and from the sites and therefore comply with the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility. However, it could create an oversupply of landfill capacity. Therefore, if two sites are operational in the east of the County, restrictions will be required to prevent a situation of oversupply.

3.10 We also need hazardous waste capacity. Existing facilities will provide much of this capacity during the Plan period. The existing facilities include the Cleanaway high temperature incinerator at Ellesmere Port and the Minosus containment facility in Winsford Rock Salt Mine.
Summary

3.11 Cheshire requires a significant number of new waste management facilities to recycle and recover value from our rubbish. Landfill sites will also be required, but they are expected to deal with a diminishing proportion of the wastes produced. Therefore, the Replacement Waste Local Plan will seek to provide suitable potential sites throughout Cheshire.
Chapter 4

Site Search, Assessment and Selection

4.1 This chapter describes how the Waste Planning Authority identified, assessed and selected the preferred sites for waste management facilities in this Plan. The proposals map in Appendix 3 and the associated inset maps in Appendix 4 detail the Plan’s allocations.

Introduction

4.2 The Waste Local Plan allocates a range of sites to meet the need identified by Chapter 3 and Appendix 1. The resulting network of facilities should enable the establishment of sustainable management practices in Cheshire during the plan period. Allocations have been identified by a methodical procedure informed by Government guidance, land use planning criteria, environmental and amenity considerations.

How Decisions Were Made

4.3 Preferred sites for built development and landfill/landraise were chosen after a three stage site selection process that included site search, site assessment and then finally, site selection.

4.4 The resulting allocations provide a degree of certainty to both the public and the waste management industry on where future development may occur.

Site Search

4.5 The County Council engaged independent consultants to carry out the site search exercise. They scoped the County to identify potential sites for built waste management facilities and landfill/landraise. The search was guided by a set of criteria (see Appendix 2) that were based upon Government Guidance in PPG10.

4.6 In conjunction with this study, the waste management industry was invited to make representations regarding sites they felt were suitable for future waste disposal sites.

Site Assessment

4.7 The list of potential sites was then assessed by the County Council through site visits, internal consultation and discussions with the district authorities. This provided a comprehensive assessment of all sites highlighted during the site search. The methodical approach and evidence gathered during the site search and assessment are described by the County Council's summary report on the site selection process.
4.8 The assessment process considered the following site specific issues to identify the site’s suitability for a range of potential uses:

A Local Plan/Planning Context Issues

The sites were considered against the Local Plans prepared by district planning authorities to determine what the sites were allocated for. An assessment was made as to whether the sites were occupied by existing buildings/premises, or whether the allocation was a new industrial plot allocated in the District Local Plan. The allocation of adjoining land uses in the district Local Plan was also examined to assess whether any proposed use would be compatible with existing or proposed adjoining uses. An assessment was also made of whether the size of the site identified was sufficient to accommodate the potential uses. The planning history of the site and adjoining area was also examined as this may suggest that the proposed use can be satisfactorily accommodated without undue impact.

B Residential and General Amenity Issues

Consideration was given to whether the site is close to residential properties or other sensitive uses which could be adversely affected by the proposals (i.e. through noise, dust, odour, gulls/vermin, visual impact or heavy vehicles). The impact of the proposals on the general character of the area was assessed, for example through increasing the volume of HGV traffic or noise levels in an otherwise quiet rural area.

C Access and Highway Issues

The status and suitability of the links to the primary road network were considered together with the capability of the local highway network to satisfactorily accommodate the type and volume of traffic likely to be generated by the proposed development. Issues considered included highway alignment, width and gradient and the provision of access onto the public highway in terms of visibility and safety. The proximity of private residential properties or other sensitive uses to the site access or the approach route from the primary road network was considered, together with the impact on the amenities of such properties.

D Environmental and Landscape Issues

Assessments were made as to whether the sites are affected by or in close proximity to any sites designated for ecological, archaeological, landscape or other environmental interests. Sites were assessed to determine if they would be capable of being adequately screened, or whether the site (or any required screening) would represent an unacceptable visual intrusion as viewed from surrounding areas or nearby properties. Possible adverse impact on agriculture was considered.

E Technical Issues

Other considerations included whether the site was on a major aquifer, or within a floodplain, and whether there were any other technical issues which could be identified which may limit operations within the site.
4.9 The potential uses of all the sites identified by the site selection process were recorded during site assessment.

**Site Selection**

4.10 The decision on whether or not a site was included within the Plan was made during the final stage of the site selection process. The decision was based on the evidence gathered during the site search and site assessment stages, together with the answers to the following questions:

- What were the main factors in favour of the site (i.e. good location in relation to waste sources, distance from residential property and other sensitive land uses; proximity to major road network; ability to be screened effectively etc)?
- Could any obvious factors be identified which may limit the development of the site (i.e. poor access, floodplain etc)?
- What were the main impacts associated with development of the site and could these be satisfactorily mitigated?

4.11 Where a site was not considered suitable (or available) for a waste management use, it was not included within the plan and the reason for its omission recorded.

4.12 Appendix 3 contains the Proposals Map, which indicates the countywide distribution and location of the allocated sites. Inset maps containing site boundaries and details (including potential uses) are contained in Appendix 4.

4.13 The final list of preferred sites includes those that are considered to have the greatest potential to provide a network of waste management sites during the plan period. It is not intended that all of the sites identified are developed, or that all of the uses listed are necessarily required. The aim is to provide a degree of flexibility while ensuring that sufficient sites are available to provide the network of waste management facilities that Cheshire will require.

4.14 It is hoped the Plan’s allocations provide opportunities for the co-location of waste management facilities where this assists the aims and objectives of the Plan.
Policies for Waste Management

5.1 This chapter provides guidance to developers and the public about the principles that will need to be reflected in applications for the development of waste management facilities and sets out the policies against which such applications will be considered.

5.2 The policies contained within the Replacement Waste Local Plan should always be read in conjunction with one another and the reasoned justification. The policies should also be read in the context of other relevant policies and supporting text from other documents in the Development Plan for Cheshire.
Sustainable Waste Management

The need to achieve a more sustainable approach to waste management is a fundamental aim of this Plan. Sustainable waste management should aim to reduce the consumption and inefficient use of primary resources, reduce the distance that waste is transported, maximise the use of rail or water as a means of moving waste, protect existing assets and optimise the use of previously used land or buildings. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that their planning proposal is a sustainable form of waste management. If the application complies with this policy, it will contribute to the network of facilities that are needed to manage Cheshire’s waste.

When making land use planning decisions on waste management activity, the waste planning authority takes into account the relevant policies and proposals of the “development plan”.

POLICY 1

SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

An application for waste management development will not be permitted unless it demonstrates that the proposal will maximise opportunities for waste to be managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy of reduction, re-use, recycling and composting and using waste as a source of energy. An application must also demonstrate how the development would:

a) contribute to an integrated network of waste management facilities;
b) satisfy the objective of enabling waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations;
c) maximise opportunities for transporting waste by rail or water;
d) protect environmental, economic, social and community assets; and
e) optimise the use of previously developed or used land or buildings.

Need

Nearly all waste management development has some adverse environmental effect, and in such cases it is reasonable to require that a need be demonstrated which outweighs such harm. The Plan reflects regional, national and European guidance and aspiration in seeking a reduction in the landfilling of waste and the provision of a network of integrated facilities for the recycling and recovery of waste in accordance with regional self sufficiency and the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility.

It is therefore important that the correct balance is made between waste generation, the provision of a range of waste management facilities and the environmental impacts of these facilities. This balance will be struck with reference to other policies and proposals in the development plan.
POLICY 2

THE NEED FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

The Waste Planning Authority will consider the planning objections and planning benefits of all applications for waste management facilities. Where the material planning objections outweigh the benefits need will be considered and if there is no overriding need for the development the planning application will not be permitted.

Phasing of sites

An oversupply of landfill/landraise or thermal treatment capacity may act as a disincentive to recycling and other forms of more sustainable waste management. A local surplus of capacity, which exceeds that required to meet local needs also has the potential to generate unsustainable movements of waste contrary to the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility. In considering all applications for additional capacity for landfill/landraise or thermal treatment the Waste Planning Authority will need to be satisfied that the proposal will not undermine the sustainable approach to waste management within this Plan. Within the policy, “existing phased void space” means any outstanding cells within landfill sites which have planning permission for waste disposal. Furthermore, the reference to “capacity” means the maximum throughput of thermal treatment plants with planning permission.

POLICY 3

PHASING OF SITES FOR LANDFILL/LANDRAISE AND/OR THERMAL TREATMENT

An application for a new landfill/landraise site or thermal treatment facility, or an extension of void space or capacity at an existing facility must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Waste Planning Authority that the existing phased void space or capacity is inadequate to meet the waste management needs as described by the waste management strategy of the Regional Spatial Strategy confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Preferred Sites

The ‘Preferred Sites’ are identified on the Proposals Map. The potential uses of these sites have been broadly defined. Some of the technologies involved are still evolving and for this reason the Plan avoids being prescriptive in terms of the type of waste management facility that may be developed at a particular site. More sites have been included than may actually be required in
order to provide flexibility and choice; and not all of the potential uses listed against each site would necessarily be brought forward for development.

Development on all sites will be subject to obtaining planning permission, and proposals will be considered against the policies in this Plan.

POLICY 4

PREFERRED SITES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

An application for a waste management facility (other than landfill/landraise) on an identified preferred site will be permitted subject to the application being for a use specified on the relevant proposals inset map and its compliance with the other policies of this Plan. If an application is made for a use other than those specified on the relevant proposals inset map, permission will only be granted subject to compliance with the other policies of the Plan.

Other sites for Waste Management Facilities

The Plan has identified sites that are considered suitable ‘in principle’ for the development of waste management facilities.

It is considered that these sites will provide an adequate choice of facilities to manage the types and quantities of waste that will arise in Cheshire during the Plan period. However it is important to provide flexibility for technological and legislative changes and policy 5 provides for additional sites to be considered where the identified sites are unsuitable, unavailable or less acceptable than the alternative site proposed. In such cases, applicants will need to demonstrate how their site meets the sequential approach to meeting development needs as set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Development on all sites will be subject to obtaining planning permission, and proposals will be considered against the policies in this Plan.
POLICY 5

OTHER SITES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Applications for built waste management facilities, including extensions to existing facilities and open air waste management facilities (other than open windrow composting or wastewater treatment works), on sites not shown on the proposals map or for uses not identified on the relevant inset map will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:

i) the preferred sites are either no longer available or are less suitable for the proposed development; or

ii) the proposal would meet a requirement not provided for by the preferred sites; and

iii) the proposed sites are located according to the sequential approach to meeting development needs within the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Built waste management facilities on a national/regional scale or a sub regional strategic basis

The Plan seeks to provide an adequate choice of sites for the development of waste management facilities to manage the types and quantities of waste that will arise in Cheshire during the Plan period. When planning applications are made for built waste management facilities on a national/regional scale or a sub regional strategic basis, the level of need and spatial advice set out in Regional Spatial Strategy will be considered, together with the degree to which the proposal accords with the strategies and plans of other Waste Planning Authorities within the North West Region.

POLICY 6

BUILT WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES OF A NATIONAL/REGIONAL SCALE

In considering applications for built waste management facilities of a national/regional scale, or strategic nature, the Waste Planning Authority shall take the following factors into account:

i) the contribution that such a facility will make to meeting the treatment and recovery requirements set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy;

ii) the scale of the proposal having regard to the benefits of co-location;

iii) the degree to which the proposal accords with the sequential approach to land use;

iv) that the site is accessible by a range of modes of transport; and

v) that the site has, or is capable of being provided with, the necessary infrastructure.
Sites for Open Air Windrow Composting Facilities

The Plan has identified sites for open air windrow composting. It is recognised however that a network of open air composting sites will be required throughout Cheshire and the most appropriate location will depend on the scale and nature of the development proposed. Policy 7 therefore provides for additional sites to be considered where the identified sites are unsuitable, unavailable or less acceptable than the alternative site proposed.

Open air windrow composting schemes are not expected to require the use of either new or existing buildings. Also, due to the development being similar to other rural industries the siting of such facilities in the countryside may be considered acceptable. This will normally only be acceptable on agricultural or forestry land. Where a facility on agricultural or forestry land applies the composted waste within that holding, the compost should be both suitable as a product and benefit the quality of the land.

Development on all sites will be subject to obtaining planning permission, and proposals will be considered against the policies in this Plan.

POLICY 7

SITES FOR OPEN AIR WINDROW COMPOSTING FACILITIES

Applications for open air windrow composting facilities on sites not shown on the proposals map will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:

i) the preferred sites are either no longer available or are less suitable for the proposed development; or

ii) the proposal would meet a requirement not provided for by the preferred sites; and the proposed sites are located within (in order of preference):

a) previously used or developed land or buildings; or

b) existing or proposed industrial or employment areas; or

c) landfill sites provided that the life of the proposed development would not extend beyond the operational life of the landfill site (subject to Policy 31); or

d) agricultural land and forestry.
Wastewater Treatment Works

The most appropriate site for a wastewater treatment works may often be in the countryside, well away from other development, providing that it is well sited and landscaped. However it may also be possible to satisfy the need by refurbishing or extending existing facilities. Extensions to existing facilities should be avoided where it is possible to accommodate the development within the confines of the existing facility.

The Waste Planning Authority is not aware of any requirements for new wastewater treatment works during the Plan period, except allocation DP6 of the Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review. Consequently there is no need to identify additional land for such facilities in the Plan. Should proposals come forward they will be assessed against this policy and other relevant Development Plan policies.

POLICY 8

WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS

An application for a new wastewater treatment works will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed development cannot be accommodated within the capacity of existing wastewater treatment works or as an upgrade or extension to an existing wastewater treatment works.

An application to extend an existing wastewater treatment works will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposed development cannot be accommodated within the existing site boundary.

Preferred Sites for Non-Hazardous Landfill/Landraise

Although the Plan envisages substantial increases in the recycling and recovery of waste throughout the Plan period (in accordance with legislative targets), additional landfill capacity will still be required. The Plan has identified a number of ‘Preferred Sites’ which are considered suitable ‘in principle’ for the development of non-hazardous waste disposal landfill sites. Additional work will be required to prove the precise area which may be acceptable for a landfill/landraise facility and the exact area required for site access, infrastructure and landscaping, which is not known at this stage.

Development on all sites will be subject to obtaining planning permission and proposals will be considered against other relevant policies in the Plan.
POLICY 9

PREFERRED SITES FOR NON-HAZARDOUS LANDFILL/ LANDRAISE SITES

An application for a landfill/landraise site for non-hazardous wastes will be permitted within a “Preferred Site” allocated for landfill/landraise on the Proposals Map, subject to compliance with other relevant policies of the Plan.

Minimising Waste During Construction and Development

The National Waste Strategy and PPS10 highlight the importance of considering the generation of waste during construction and development. The types of waste generated by new development, and an applicant’s ability to demonstrate that the waste produced will be dealt with in an environmentally acceptable and sustainable manner are legitimate planning considerations.

POLICY 10

MINIMISING WASTE DURING CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

In considering planning applications for the significant development proposals listed a) to d) below, the applicant will be required to submit, as part of the application, a waste audit. The audit should include the following information:

- the type and volume of waste that the development will generate; and
- the steps to be taken to ensure that the maximum amount of waste arising from the site development process is incorporated within the new development; and
- the steps to be taken to reuse and recycle the waste that cannot be incorporated within the new development.

This policy applies to the following developments:

a) Residential developments of 50 or more dwellings.

b) Development of shopping centres or facilities where the floorspace of existing and new development amounts to 2500m² or more.

c) Development of business, industrial, distribution or storage uses involving a net increase in floorspace of 5000m² or more.

d) Significant transport, leisure, recreation, tourist or community facilities.

continued…
The way in which the waste arisings identified in the waste audit are to be dealt with will be assessed to ensure compliance with the principles of sustainable waste management, including driving waste up the waste hierarchy, disposing of waste at the nearest (or in one of the nearest) appropriate installation(s) and supporting the taking of responsibility by individuals, communities and organisations for their own waste.

**Development and Waste Recycling**

The County Council is keen to encourage the recycling and collection of recyclable materials. The County Council wishes people to be able to source separate their waste wherever possible. This starts by providing sufficient space within homes to do this. However, it should also be possible for people to separate recyclables in the places they visit. This policy requires developers to design the provision of source separation into new and extended developments.

It is considered that the provision of Bring Systems within developments, which are likely to attract significant numbers of people, will make it easier for the public to have access to such recycling facilities. The County Council therefore seeks developers to incorporate such facilities within major developments.

By enabling source separation in homes and businesses, together with opportunities for source separation in public areas e.g. by providing a container for paper or drink cans, the County Council seeks to maximise both participation in and the effectiveness of recycling.

**POLICY 11**

**DEVELOPMENT AND WASTE RECYCLING**

Policy 11A

Proposals for a development which falls within the categories listed a) to c) below will be required to provide facilities for the source separation and/or storage of different types of waste generated by that development.

This policy applies to the following developments:

a) Any new dwelling.

b) Development of any new retail, business, industrial, distribution, storage uses, transport, leisure, recreation, tourist or community facilities (including extensions)

c) Any other new developments that have a need to store waste prior to collection.
Policy 11B

Proposals for significant developments which fall within the categories listed i) to iv) below will be required to provide Bring Systems or demonstrate that there is already an adequate provision of Bring Systems within the locality.

This policy applies to the following new and extended developments:

i) Development of shopping centres or facilities where the floorspace of existing and new development amounts to 5000m$^2$ or more.

ii) Significant transport, leisure, recreation, tourist or community facilities.

iii) Any other developments which frequently attract a significant number of people (e.g. community or shopping schemes).

iv) Public car parking facilities of 100 car parking spaces or more.

Impact of Development Proposals

Waste management facilities have the potential to have an impact, both positively and negatively on the setting, character and environment of individual properties and settlements, and the amenity and quality of life of people who live, work and visit nearby.

Any planning application for either the development and operation of a waste management facility or to alter or amend an existing facility, must therefore be accompanied by an evaluation of the potential short, medium, long term and cumulative impacts of the proposal on both the site and its surroundings. The evaluation must demonstrate that any impacts have been considered when preparing the application.

The Waste Planning Authority will seek mitigation for unacceptable impacts and where appropriate this will be secured by attaching planning conditions to planning permissions or by the use of planning obligations.

There are often concerns at the potential for waste management facilities to affect human health. However, Government research has demonstrated that there is little risk to human health from well-run and regulated waste management facilities. This policy enables the risk to human health (however small it may be), to be considered when the planning application is processed.

The evaluation of impacts required by this policy to accompany all planning applications to develop a new waste management facility, or alter or amend an existing one, is in addition to any Environmental Impact Assessment which is required under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (“the EIA Regulations”).
POLICY 12

IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

An application to develop a waste management facility, or to alter or amend an existing facility, must be accompanied by an evaluation of the proposed development and its likely direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. Where unacceptable impacts are identified the measures proposed to avoid, reduce or remedy these should be provided at the application stage. The planning application should also set out, where appropriate, the arrangements for the management and monitoring of the waste management facility.

For evaluation and mitigation purposes the application should address any relevant environmental issues, including:
- existing and proposed neighbouring land uses;
- residential amenity;
- recreational resources;
- air quality;
- noise levels;
- odour;
- dust levels;
- human health;
- litter and fly tipping;
- birds and vermin;
- landscape and visual impact;
- groundwater resources;
- water quality;
- surface water drainage infrastructure;
- flood plains;
- natural environment;
- historic environment;
- agricultural land and soil quality;
- ground stability;
- highway management and safety;
- alternative methods of transportation;
- tree preservation orders;
- hydrogeological, hydrological and soil permeability characteristics;
- illumination levels;
- hours of working and statutory utilities.

When issuing planning permissions the Waste Planning Authority will, where appropriate, use planning conditions and/or planning obligations to secure implementation and compliance in respect of the above matters.
If the Waste Planning Authority consider that the proposed development would have any unacceptable impacts, or the proposal is accompanied by insufficient information on potential impacts the application will not be permitted.

**Areas of Special County Value**

Cheshire is a rural county of which approximately 12% has been designated as Areas of Special County Value (ASCV), for landscape and heritage. The areas are considered to be of particular importance because of their character or the features they contain. The local plans for each district contain detailed designation boundaries for the ASCV. The boundaries are reproduced schematically in the Cheshire 2016 Structure Plan Alteration.

**POLICY 13**

**AREAS OF SPECIAL COUNTY VALUE**

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where it would have an unacceptable impact upon an Area of Special County Value. In Areas of Special County Value enhancement of the environment will be sought whenever possible.

**Landscape**

All waste management activities create some visual impact and can be intrusive if they are not carefully managed. The degree of impact is dependent upon the size and nature of the operation, its location within the landscape and the nature of the local landscape. The Waste Planning Authority will encourage the use of the natural landform and landscape features to help screen developments as far as practical and will seek to minimise the impact of waste management operations on the landscape and landscape features which are of value. The Waste Planning Authority will also encourage landscape or restoration planting which enhances the landscape or character of an area.

**POLICY 14**

**LANDSCAPE**

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where, during its operational life and, where applicable, upon restoration, it would have an unacceptable impact on the landscape and (or) townscape and where the restoration would not make a positive contribution to the landscape.
Green Belt

The purposes of including land within the Green Belt are set out in national government guidance (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 ‘Green Belts’ – PPG2). The fundamental aim of Green Belts is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. Government guidance in PPG2 states that inappropriate development should only be permitted in very special circumstances which must be demonstrated by the applicant.

However, PPS10 indicates that the locational needs of some types of waste management facilities, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of sustainable waste management, are material considerations that should be given significant weight when determining planning applications. It is the applicant’s responsibility to demonstrate whether such material considerations amount to the very special circumstances necessary to overcome the policy presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt and any harm caused.

**POLICY 15**

**GREEN BELT**

Within the Green Belt, planning permission will not be given for inappropriate development, except in very special circumstances. The management of waste in the Green Belt is inappropriate development unless it maintains the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt.

Historic Environment

The historic environment comprises diverse features, ranging in importance from local to national level. They include listed buildings and conservation areas; archaeological remains; historic battlefields and historic parks and gardens. Chester City Centre is a designated Area of Archaeological Importance.

Planning Authorities are required to have regard to the effect that any development will have on a listed building and its setting, and must pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of designated Conservation Areas. The Waste Planning Authority will assess the extent that proposed development impacts on the integrity and landscape setting of historic parks and gardens and battlefields.

Sites and features of regional and local importance for the historic environment include those contained within the register of Local Sites of Archaeological Interest. As well as archaeological remains this register includes locally important non listed buildings; locally important parks and gardens. All known historic environment sites and features (designated and un-designated) are included in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (formerly known as the County Sites and Monuments Record). As well as archaeological remains, this record includes non-listed buildings, parks and gardens, battlefields and historic landscapes.
Archaeological remains are a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Not all archaeological remains meriting preservation will necessarily be scheduled. Physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains will be secured wherever possible and in all cases of development affecting sites of national importance. In sites of local and regional importance, in situ preservation will be the first preference but where this is not justified, taking into account the need for the development and the importance of the archaeology, mitigation should be through excavation and recording of the remains and publication of the results.

Not all historic environment sites, monuments, buildings and landscapes are recognised or fully understood, whilst the existence of others is only suspected. Often there is insufficient information to enable the significance of such features and the likely impact of the proposed development to be assessed. In such cases it will be necessary to carry out an assessment or field evaluation in order to assess their historic significance. This should be submitted as part of the planning application to enable the significance of the feature and the potential impact of the proposed development to be taken into account in determining the application. This will allow for a range of potential mitigation measures and/or, if appropriate, compensation measures to be considered. Mitigation in this context is defined as “measures taken to reduce unacceptable impacts to acceptable levels”. Compensation in this context is defined as “measures taken to compensate for residual effects that cannot be mitigated”. Early consultation between the developer and the Waste Planning Authority will be encouraged. In some instances an historic site, monument or building may form part of a wider historic landscape and this will be taken into account when assessing its significance.

POLICY 16

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

i) An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where it would have an unacceptable impact on any of the following historic environment features or their settings:
   • Scheduled monuments and other nationally important archaeological remains
   • An Area of Archaeological Importance
   • Listed Buildings
   • Conservation Areas
   • Registered Historic Battlefields
   • Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

ii) Development that may have an unacceptable impact on any other site or feature of importance for the historic environment will not be permitted where the application fails to demonstrate that the need and justification for the development outweighs the importance of that site or feature.

continued…
iii) Where a proposal for the development of a waste management facility is known or suspected by the Waste Planning Authority to affect an area, site or feature of historic interest the Waste Planning Authority will require an historic environment assessment of the impact of the development to be prepared prior to, and submitted with, a planning application. Appropriate measures should be put in place for the mitigation and compensation of any unacceptable impacts, to ensure that there is no net loss of environmental value.

iv) In assessing applications to develop waste management facilities which have the potential to impact on historic environment resources, the Waste Planning Authority will consider:
   • The site or feature’s contribution to the wider historic landscape;
   • The site or feature’s contribution to local character;
   • The positive contribution the development would make to the conservation and management of the area’s historic environment.

Natural Environment

The natural environment of Cheshire is wide and varied, with a diversity from internationally important meres, mosses and estuaries to individual trees, hedgerows and ponds that are significant in a local context. The County contains Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas (SPA’s), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC’s), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s), and National Nature Reserves (NNR’s), all of which have statutory protection. Other non-statutory designations include Sites of Biological Importance (SBI’s) and Regionally Important Geomorphological/Geological sites (RIGG’s). SBI’s are classified in a hierarchy of designations from Grade A which are considered to be of county value, Grade B of district value and Grade C of more than local value for nature conservation.

The development of waste management facilities may threaten valuable natural environment features which because of their antiquity, complexity, rarity and vulnerability cannot be replaced. In cases where a European site is potentially subject to significant effects, an Appropriate Assessment to meet the requirements of the EC Birds Directive 1979 and EC Habitats Directive 1992 may be needed for individual development proposals. The potential need for an Appropriate Assessment is not affected by this Plan’s policy framework and will be considered on a case by case basis. If such an assessment is undertaken it would be for the Waste Planning Authority, in consultation with Natural England, to ascertain that the proposal would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. If it is found that the proposal would adversely affect integrity, or if the effects are uncertain, then planning permission should not be granted unless the requirements of the Habitats Regulations can be met.

Nature conservation should be seen as an integral part of land use management and as such full consideration will be given to nature conservation when determining development proposals. Developments should conserve and enhance features of nature conservation importance, and where habitats or features are to be unavoidably lost, the creation of new or enhanced habitats should be forthcoming. The County Council has identified a strategic ecological network
for Cheshire to provide environmental, social and economic benefits through the creation of an integrated network of existing and new areas for nature. The Waste Planning Authority will therefore look towards the minimisation of the impact of waste management operations on the natural heritage of the County together with any necessary mitigation and/or compensation measures, along with a positive contribution to habitat development on restoration where appropriate, to ensure that there is no ‘net loss’ and that such sites make a positive contribution to the ecology of the area.

Policy 17

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

i) An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where it would have an unacceptable direct or indirect impact on:
   • an internationally or nationally important site for nature conservation, including Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas for Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves
   • habitats of nationally rare or priority species
   • other sites or features that are irreplaceable in terms of their rarity, vulnerability, antiquity or complexity.

The Waste Planning Authority seeks to protect and conserve in situ such internationally or nationally important sites for nature conservation.

Where, in exceptional circumstances, there is no alternative to a proposed development and because of other overriding public interest considerations that outweigh the impacts on the site or feature appropriate measures of mitigation and compensation will be required to ensure there is no overall net loss of environmental value. Such measures may include the creation of appropriate new features, on or off site.

ii) Development that may have an unacceptable direct or indirect impact on sites and features of regional and local importance for nature conservation, including Local Nature Reserves, non-statutory nature reserves, Sites of Biological Importance, Regionally Important Geomorphological/Geological Sites, and habitats of regionally rare or priority species, will not be permitted where the application fails to demonstrate that the need and justification for the development outweigh the harm to the biodiversity and geological conservation interests of the site or feature, and that any such potential unacceptable impacts can be mitigated against and compensated for to ensure there is no net loss of environmental value.

iii) Where a proposal for the development of a waste management facility is known or suspected by the Waste Planning Authority to affect an area, site or feature of natural environment interest, the Waste Planning Authority will require a natural environment assessment of the impact of the development to be prepared prior to, and submitted with, a planning application. Appropriate measures should be put in place for the mitigation and continued…
compensation of any unacceptable impacts, to ensure that there is no net loss of environmental value.

iv) In assessing applications to develop waste management facilities, the Waste Planning Authority will consider the development’s potential contribution to:
   • the local network of sites and features of natural environment interest
   • local distinctiveness
   • the conservation and management of the area’s natural environment resources.

**Water Resource Protection and Flood Risk**

Water is a vital resource, not only for maintaining life but also as part of the industrial and commercial activity of the County. In addition to the surface supplies to the area, water for industrial use and potable supply is abstracted via springs, wells and boreholes from groundwater contained in aquifers, or water bearing rock. It is therefore essential that the quality of groundwater is protected from pollution and that resources are maintained.

All facilities for managing inert and non-inert waste have the potential to pollute ground and surface waters, either directly as liquid waste, or indirectly through the formation of leachate or contaminated surface water run-off. Development of waste management facilities within floodplains, in particular landfill and landraising facilities, can increase the risk of pollution and also the risk of flooding. The Waste Planning Authority has an important role to play in preventing the development of any waste management facilities that would lead to the unacceptable pollution of any surface or underground body of water, whether used for supply purposes or not; have an unacceptably detrimental impact on the ecological value or flow or any water body; or cause unacceptable flooding to the site of the development and/or nearby surface or underground waters, land and buildings.

The Waste Planning Authority will consult the Environment Agency on planning applications to develop waste management facilities, and will take its views and comments into account.

**POLICY 18**

**WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION AND FLOOD RISK**

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where:

i) there would be an unacceptable impact on groundwater quality, resources or supply and/or surface water quality or flow which could not be overcome by mitigation measures; or

ii) it would result in the unacceptable culverting of an existing watercourse or have an

continued...
unacceptable detrimental impact on the ecological value of a water feature; or

iii) there would be an unacceptable risk from flooding affecting the site of the development; or

iv) the proposal would create an unacceptable risk of flooding elsewhere, particularly where the development involves the raising of ground levels, unless appropriate measures to mitigate the flood risk and safely manage any residual risks are provided.

Agricultural Land Quality

Development of any waste management facility on agricultural land should seek to use poorer quality land i.e. grades 3b, 4 and 5 in preference to that of higher quality land, except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations (e.g. biodiversity; the quality and character of the landscape; its amenity value or heritage interest; accessibility to infrastructure, workforce and markets; maintaining viable communities; and the protection of natural resources, including soil quality). If any undeveloped agricultural land needs to be developed, any adverse affects should be minimised. Where planning applications affect agricultural land the application should provide details about the impact of the development on the agricultural land.

The disposal of inert material by landfilling can be used to restore former mineral workings or to improve low grade agricultural land. It can also form an integral part of major road construction projects. The disposal of inert material does not require the engineering of a containment site as there are no issues of landfill gas or leachate production.

The disposal of non-inert waste by landfilling will require engineering to ensure that slopes are sufficient to allow surface water run-off and will also require extensive gas and leachate collection and control systems which can impair agricultural land management, making it difficult to attain high grade agricultural land upon restoration.

POLICY 19

AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY

An application to develop a waste management facility which affects the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a) will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that other sustainability considerations outweigh the need to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land.

continued…
Where permission is granted for a waste management facility on the best and most versatile agricultural land, it will be expected that:

i) the site can be restored to a condition equivalent as near as possible to the original quality of the agricultural land by the end of the aftercare period; or

ii) in instances where amenity, forestry or nature conservation after-use are proposed the methods used in restoration and aftercare, including restoration contours, would allow the land to regain its capability to be farmed to its agricultural quality in the longer term.

Public Rights of Way

The development of a waste management facility may require a public right of way to be diverted or closed, either permanently or temporarily. It is important that there is no net loss to the public rights of way network.

Where public rights of way are within, abut or are adjacent to an operational site, these facilities must be appropriately safeguarded to limit disruption, to prevent damage and to ensure the safe passage of users. Similarly a proposed alternative route may not be acceptable in terms of its accessibility or character. The restoration of a waste management facility, particularly a landfill site, may offer the opportunity to create new footpaths or improve existing ones by additional fencing or signage.

POLICY 20

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted unless during the operational life of the proposal and on restoration, it would satisfy all of the following criteria:-

i) it would not have an unacceptable impact on public rights of way;

ii) it would not lead to a ‘net loss’ of the public rights of way network;

iii) the restoration would, where appropriate, make a positive contribution to the public rights of way network.
Jodrell Bank

The Lovell Radio Telescope at Jodrell Bank is of international importance for radio astronomy. The radio telescope is safeguarded in planning terms by a ‘consultation zone’ within which development is restricted to ensure that the sensitive electronic and mechanical equipment is not disturbed. This protection is defined in the Town and Country Planning (Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope) Direction 1973. The degree of potential interference will vary with the scale and type of development proposed. It is therefore important that each application is individually assessed. The Waste Planning Authority will seek the views of the University of Manchester on proposals falling within the Jodrell Bank Consultation Zone and will take their views into account when determining planning applications.

**POLICY 21**

**JODRELL BANK**

Within the Jodrell Bank Consultation Zone, an application to develop a waste management facility will be subject to consultation with the University of Manchester. The planning application will not be permitted if the efficiency of the Radio Telescope would be impaired.

Aircraft Safety

There is a concern, identified in PPS10, PPG13 and Circular 1/03, that development proposals within certain distances of aerodromes can cause hazards to aircraft. Hazards relevant to this Plan include tall chimneys and the potential that birds attracted to facilities intended for the handling, compaction, treatment or landfilling of household or commercial wastes may cause birdstrike damage to aircraft. The Waste Planning Authority will consult the relevant aviation safeguarding authority in respect of this matter.

**POLICY 22**

**AIRCRAFT SAFETY**

An application to develop a waste management facility or to extend or alter an existing facility within a safeguarded aerodrome zone will not be permitted where the development constitutes an unacceptable risk to aircraft safety.

Noise

Noise can emanate from many sources and its characteristics differ with the nature and scale of the waste management operation. Noise from plant, vehicles and machinery operating on, or travelling to and from a waste management site can affect the amenity of people who live, work...
and visit the area and its impact will be a major consideration when determining planning applications. In assessing an application to develop a waste management facility the Waste Planning Authority will refer to national advice in PPG24 and PPS10 and the Cheshire Planning Noise Guidelines which aim to:-

- provide advice to developers on the information that will be expected to accompany a planning application;
- indicate how applications will be assessed for noise;
- indicate the types of control normally applied; and
- give advice on how monitoring of noise should be carried out.

### POLICY 23

**NOISE**

An application to develop a waste management facility will be assessed against current national guidance and the Cheshire Planning Noise Guidelines. A proposal will not be permitted where it would give rise to unacceptable levels of noise pollution. Where planning permission to develop a waste management facility is granted, the following methods will, when appropriate, be used to control noise emissions from the site:

i) Setting noise limits with reference to the existing background noise level during the daytime and, where appropriate, also at night-time as measured at appropriate noise sensitive locations;

ii) Controlling the hours of operation;

iii) Requiring the implementation of noise mitigation measures, such as the use of acoustic mounds and screening; the phasing of operations and the appropriate location of plant, machinery and haul routes;

iv) Requiring the use of best practice with regard to vehicle and plant silencing and maintenance;

v) Limiting the length of time for the removal of overburden, and other engineering works.

### Air Pollution: Air Emissions including Dust

Dust can arise from a number of sources. The impact of air and dust emissions can be experienced in the vicinity of the waste management facility and further afield depending on the intensity and direction of the prevailing wind. In order to protect the amenity of local residents and other users of adjacent land, it is important that an assessment is made of the potential for air and dust emissions or releases from the proposed waste management process and/or the external areas of the site to impact on nearby land users, and that an indication is given of the procedures...
to be adopted for controlling or mitigating any unacceptable impact resulting from any identified air or dust emission or release, and of the proposals for monitoring the impacts at sensitive locations. Measures can be taken to ameliorate dust, these measures include the surfacing of internal haul roads and phased working and restoration. Such measures can be imposed through planning conditions.

In assessing whether or not the proposed facility would have an unacceptable impact, where there are existing activities which already cause air and dust pollution the impact of the existing and proposed air emissions including dust should be considered together as a combined impact.

Under Part 1 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, District Environmental Health Officers are granted powers to limit dust emissions, and to register and monitor air pollution covering temporary and mobile aggregate recycling plants.

### POLICY 24

**AIR POLLUTION: AIR EMMISSIONS INCLUDING DUST**

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where the impact of dust from the proposed facility would have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby residents or the occupiers or users of other nearby buildings or land. The following measures will, where appropriate, be required to control dust emissions from the site:

i) Provide surfacing and maintenance of internal haul roads;

ii) Regular sweeping and spraying of hard surfaced areas;

iii) Provision and use of a water bowser or other similar machinery on site to damp down haul roads, stockpiles, processing equipment and other operational areas;

iv) Provision and use of wheel cleaning facilities;

v) Sheeting of vehicles bringing waste to, and, where applicable, taking material from the site;

vi) Provide for seeding of screen mounds;

vii) Monitoring of air and dust emissions at sensitive locations.
Litter

Litter can arise from a number of sources at various stages within different types of waste treatment or disposal. Points of risk occur when waste is being transferred into or out of vehicles, handled within or outside bulking stations or treatment plants, stored inside or outside buildings or when undergoing mechanical or biological treatment. In addition, in landfill/landraise operations there is a risk of litter being blown off the disposal area as well as escaping from vehicles or any handling areas. The impact of litter can be experienced close to the boundaries of the waste management site, on the adjacent public highway network and further afield.

Measures can be taken to prevent litter escape through vehicle sheeting; the covering and enclosing of handling, storage and treatment areas; compaction of waste deposited in the active cell; covering of the working face overnight and on days when no work is taking place; and physical barriers along the site boundaries. Such measures can be imposed through planning conditions, where appropriate.

POLICY 25: LITTER

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where litter from the proposed facility would have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby residents or the occupiers or users of other nearby buildings or land.

Applications should be accompanied by an assessment of the potential for litter generation and proposed measures for the control or mitigation of any identified source of escape of litter.

Air Pollution: Odour

Waste management operations involving biodegradable or some chemical wastes can cause odour problems. Bad odour can be produced from a variety of sources; the decomposition of municipal and some commercial wastes, during waste water and sewage sludge treatment, storage build-up/over-long retention of waste in reception areas prior to thermal or other types of treatment through the release of landfill gas to the atmosphere or from the production of leachate. Where operations may give rise to the generation or emission of odours it is important that these are assessed and mitigated where possible to protect the amenity of local residents.

POLICY 26

AIR POLLUTION: ODOUR

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where odour from within the site would have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby residents or the occupiers or users of other nearby buildings or land.
Sustainable Transportation of Waste and Waste Derived Materials

All wastes require transporting from place of production to place of treatment or final disposal. The majority of waste in Cheshire is currently transported via the highway network with the exception of some liquid wastes which are transported via pipelines for disposal to lagoons or down boreholes.

The transportation of waste and materials arising out of resource recovery or required for any treatment process by road can have a significant impact in terms of vehicle emissions, noise, vibration, congestion, dust and hazard. Government guidance seeks to minimise the distance that waste is transported on the road network through enabling waste to be disposed of at the nearest (or in one of the nearest) appropriate installations and supporting the taking of responsibility by individuals, communities and organisations for their own waste. Where this is not possible priority should be given to the development of strategies for transportation to and from waste management proposals. All waste planning applications should demonstrate that opportunities to move waste material and waste derived products by alternatives to road transport have been explored. Cheshire’s waterway and railway networks enable waste to be moved in the most sustainable ways. Transportation strategies should reference the local transport plan process to establish efficient and sustainable means of waste transportation. However, whilst the use of alternatives to road transport will be an important component of future transportation strategies, the essential role of the highway network in supporting Cheshire’s economy must not be overlooked.

POLICY 27

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION OF WASTE AND WASTE DERIVED MATERIALS

An application to develop a waste management facility will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the proposed facility will utilise rail, waterway or pipeline transport as an alternative to road transport unless it is shown that such alternative forms of transport have been investigated but would not be practicable, economically feasible or more sustainable than sole use of the highway network. In all cases, and subject to the suitability of the proposed route, the distance for transporting waste and materials which have been recovered or are required for a treatment process and the number of vehicle journeys made on the highway network should be minimised.

Highways

In cases where road transport is the only practicable transport option, the suitability of the highway network to accommodate the type and number of vehicles and the impact on local communities and the local environment will be carefully assessed. It may be necessary to require highway improvements, such as junction widening, the provision of passing bays, or the
formation of acceleration and deceleration lanes. Such improvements can be secured by entering into a planning obligation with the operator. Site traffic may be required to use a specific route to minimise impact. This can be achieved by constructing the site access so that vehicles can only enter or leave the site in a specific direction.

Highway safety is paramount and the site access should be constructed and surfaced in such a way as to prevent mud and debris from being deposited on the highway and causing a potential nuisance. This may require the provision of wheel-cleaning facilities.

**POLICY 28**

**HIGHWAYS**

An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the following criteria can be satisfied:

i) the level and type of traffic generated would not exceed the capacity of the local road network;

ii) the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on amenity or road safety;

iii) access arrangements are adequate for the nature, volume and movement of traffic generated by the proposal;

iv) there are adequate arrangements and provision for on-site vehicle manoeuvring, parking and loading/unloading areas and no unacceptable impacts upon existing highway conditions would arise;

v) any unacceptable impacts that would arise from the proposal can be satisfactorily mitigated by routeing controls or other highway improvements;

vi) any highway alterations would not have an unacceptable impact on the landscape and/or townscape.

**Hours of Operation**

The operating hours of any proposed waste management facility will be given careful consideration by the Waste Planning Authority. The times when traffic and waste management activities occur in the more sensitive early morning and early evening hours, are important and the Waste Planning Authority will impose planning conditions to ensure appropriate hours of operation. In exceptional circumstances, certain types of waste management facilities require longer working hours. These facilities will typically be enclosed "industrial" type facilities.
In such cases applicants would need to demonstrate the exceptional circumstances pertaining to their application and the mitigation methods to be used to minimise any impacts arising from longer working hours. In addition in some circumstances it may be necessary to allow waste collected from Household Waste and Recycling Centres to be deposited at sites on bank holidays and during weekends, including Sundays, because Household Waste and Recycling Centres are particularly busy at these times. In such cases the hours during which this waste can be received at the sites will be limited by condition.

POLICY 29

_HOURS OF OPERATION_

When determining planning applications for the development of waste management facilities (excluding Household Waste and Recycling Centres) consideration will be given to the proposed hours of operation. The normally permitted hours of operation will be between:

- 07.30 to 18.00 Mondays to Fridays
- 07.30 to 13.00 Saturdays

Working will not be permitted at any time on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Where it is considered that the normally permitted hours of operations would have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring land uses, revisions to the normal working hours to give a later start time, earlier finish or different hours for Saturdays will be necessary.

The waste management facility may be permitted to open solely for the receipt of waste from Household Waste and Recycling Centres between the hours of:

- 13.00 to 17.00 Saturdays
- 08.00 to 17.00 Sundays and Bank or Public Holidays

In exceptional circumstances, longer working hours may be permitted, provided there are no consequent unacceptable impacts. These may require restrictions on heavy goods vehicle movements and/or other activities associated with the hours normally permitted.

**Hours of Operation for Household Waste and Recycling Centres**

The hours of operation for Household Waste and Recycling Centres are not fixed throughout the year but vary seasonally according to demand. This demand is greatest during the summer period, reduced during the spring and autumn periods and least during the winter. The hours of operation will generally reflect seasonal daylight hours.
POLICY 30

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRES

When determining planning applications for the development of Household Waste and Recycling Centres the following hours of operation will normally be permitted:-

08.00 to 16.00 November to March
08.00 to 18.00 September, October and April, and
08.00 to 20.00 May to August.

Normally Household Waste and Recycling Centres will be permitted to operate seven days a week throughout the year.

Where it is considered that the normally permitted hours of operation would have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring land uses, revisions to the normal hours of operation to give a later start time, earlier finish, different hours during certain seasons or different weekend hours will be necessary.

Ancillary Development at a Landfill/Landraise Site and/or Open Windrow Composting Site

Ancillary development at non-built waste management facilities such as landfill/landraise sites and primary open windrow composting facilities potentially comprising leachate treatment facilities, landfill gas flare stacks, electricity generating compounds, secondary aggregate recycling, composting and office facilities all have impacts over and above that of the waste management operation. Whilst the location of this ancillary development within the facility is generally determined by operational requirements there is a need to mitigate any adverse visual and amenity impacts and to ensure that the ancillary development is acceptable. Where the ancillary development is required beyond the life of the waste management operation and site restoration, such as leachate treatment or electricity generating compounds, this will need to be taken into account when the application is considered.
Reclamation

In order to ensure that the best use of the land is achieved and that the development is sustainable, it is important that adequate information is provided at the application stage to ensure that, where applicable, sites are reclaimed following the cessation of waste management activities. This is especially important for landfill/landraise sites. The restoration of waste management sites may involve the removal of buildings, skips, machinery, hardstandings and waste stockpiles and include provisions for habitat creation and landscape enhancement.

Where applicable, reclamation proposals will also need to include an aftercare scheme to ensure the land is reclaimed to a satisfactory standard and schemes for amenity planting and nature conservation become well established. Legislation allows a Waste Planning Authority to impose aftercare conditions covering a five year period or through planning obligations covering other agreed time periods. Where necessary, the Waste Planning Authority will impose such planning conditions and seek obligations to be entered into to ensure adequate provision is made for the restoration and aftercare of waste facilities. Planning obligations may include the deposit of a financial bond or other form of financial agreement, unilateral undertakings and any other form of legally binding agreement.

POLICY 32

RECLAMATION

An application to develop a waste management facility, other than permanent built development, will not be permitted unless reclamation proposals demonstrate that:

i) the site will be satisfactorily restored following completion of waste management operations (including replacement of topsoil and subsoil) to bring the site to a suitable condition for the identified after-use; and, in the case of landfill sites;

ii) the reclamation proposals include an acceptable aftercare scheme covering an agreed timescale following restoration; and

iii) the proposals provide for progressive reclamation, unless it can be shown that this will adversely affect the standard of reclamation achieved.

When planning permission is granted for a waste management facility, the Waste Planning Authority will use planning conditions and where appropriate, seek planning obligations to ensure adequate provision is made for the restoration and aftercare of waste facilities.
**Monitoring/Liaison**

The Waste Planning Authority will undertake regular monitoring of all waste management facilities during their operation and aftercare periods to ensure that operations are being undertaken in accordance with the planning permission.

All waste management operations have the potential to impact on surrounding communities. The operators of some existing large scale facilities have organised regular liaison committees. These provide a formal means of discussion between representatives of the Company, the Waste Planning Authority, the local community and elected representatives and act as a forum for discussing site operations, forthcoming planning applications and local issues relevant to the site. The success of these liaison committees means that applicants will be required to set up such committees and meetings, where the Waste Planning Authority considers it appropriate. Their success however depends upon the full and active co-operation of the industry, which will be encouraged.

**POLICY 33**

**LIAISON COMMITTEES**

The Waste Planning Authority will require, where appropriate, the formation and organisation of regular site liaison committees.

**Energy Recovery from Waste**

Capturing the energy value of waste which cannot be recycled or composted cannot be discounted as part of an integrated approach to sustainable waste management. This position is consistent with national guidance which emphasises the need to maximise recycling or composting prior to considering energy recovery from waste as an option. There are a number of energy recovery processes, including gasification, pyrolysis and incineration. However, this policy should not be applied to small scale autoclaves unless energy recovery technologies are both available and economically viable.

A key objective of the Plan is to facilitate the maximum recovery of waste materials and to reduce the quantity of waste which is subsequently sent for disposal at landfill. The Plan also seeks to recover energy wherever possible.

Energy recovery technologies generate heat and this heat may be used to generate electricity. The electricity can be exported to the national grid and the heat can be used by the local industry or housing. Favourable consideration will be given to proposals which capture both heat and power. All waste to energy recovery facilities must make provision for recycling and composting and the recycling or other management of all residues to ensure that the maximum amount of material is recovered for a particular waste stream.
Renewable energy projects have wider environmental benefits that will be important considerations in the determination of thermal treatment facilities and mixed waste landfill sites.

The recovery of energy from waste has traditionally involved incineration. Incineration technology has progressed significantly although in recent years alternative forms of energy recovery technology have been proposed in the UK, based on gasification and pyrolysis processes. These technologies have the potential to offer much smaller scale facilities than normal incinerators, with opportunities to recover additional materials for recycling.

Energy recovery is also sought from landfill sites receiving biodegradable wastes. However, wherever possible, energy should be recovered from activities further up the waste hierarchy where there is greater potential for more efficient forms of energy recovery.

POLICY 34

ENERGY RECOVERY

Policy 34A

An application to develop a thermal treatment facility for the management of wastes will not be permitted unless:

1) it makes provision for energy recovery.

2) it uses a waste stream that has already been subject to source separation of recyclate and/or treatment and recovery of recyclables prior to thermal treatment.

Policy 34B

A planning application for a mixed waste landfill will not be permitted unless provision is made for energy recovery from landfill gas, except where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Waste Planning Authority, that energy recovery would not be practicable at that facility.
Underground Hazardous Waste Storage / Containment

Cheshire produces most of the salt in Britain. The extraction of rock salt has resulted in large underground voids which may be suitable for the storage or containment of a variety of hazardous waste types.

POLICY 35

UNDERGROUND HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE / CONTAINMENT

An application to develop an underground hazardous waste storage or containment facility will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated that this would be the most sustainable option and the methods and technologies used would be the most appropriate, that ground stability would not be affected and that mineral reserves, which are both workable and economically viable, would not be sterilised.

Design

The Waste Planning Authority will promote well designed waste management facilities to ensure all new developments, or alterations or amendments to existing facilities will be integrated into the landscape and/or townscape. Any planning application must therefore demonstrate how the design, siting and external appearance of the development proposals complement and where possible, enhance the landscape and/or townscape.

However, design is not just the external appearance of a waste management facility. In providing a facility that seeks to enhance its surrounding environment, effective design can also both maximise its functionality and reduce the impacts associated with its use.

Waste management facilities and activities are often perceived to be dirty, noisy and undesirable activities. High quality design of facilities, be it a Household Waste and Recycling Centre, a waste transfer station, or even the bottle bank within a bring facility will do much to address public concerns and acceptance of these facilities.

POLICY 36

DESIGN

An application to develop a waste management facility shall demonstrate that the proposal is well designed. Design must address its integration into the landscape and/or townscape, its functionality and the minimisation of impacts. An application to develop a waste management facility will not be permitted where the design of the proposed development will have an unacceptable impact upon landscape and/or townscape.
Chapter 6

Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Introduction

6.1 This chapter describes how the Plan will be implemented and sets out arrangements for monitoring and review.

6.2 The implementation, monitoring and review of the Replacement Waste Local Plan and its policies is an essential element of the Plan process, serving to ensure that the Plan continues to make an effective contribution to achieving a more sustainable approach to waste management in Cheshire. A number of performance indicators have been identified in order to monitor progress in implementing the Plan’s objectives and policies.

Implementation

6.3 It is a requirement that Local Plans indicate how their policies and proposals will be implemented and by which agency. This Replacement Waste Local Plan will be implemented through the development control process by Cheshire County Council in its role as Waste Planning Authority. The Plan’s policies will be used in making decisions in respect of waste management proposals, subject to compliance with other parts of the Development Plan and the implications of any other material considerations. The development, use and reclamation of sites will be carried out by the waste management industry, subject to planning controls set out in the planning conditions which accompany the planning permission.

6.4 The policy requirements for waste audits and the provision of waste management infrastructure in new development will be implemented by the district and county councils in their roles as Local Planning Authorities.

Monitoring

6.5 In seeking to make adequate provision for waste management facilities within the Plan area and address Government targets for waste recycling and recovery the Waste Planning Authority have had to make a number of assumptions when forecasting the need for future waste management facilities and the availability of existing capacity. These assumptions are based upon the most current and accurate information available to the Waste Planning Authority. The Waste Planning Authority will regularly monitor information about the quantity of waste and its management methods.

6.6 A number of indicators have been identified to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan’s policies and any related changes or trends in waste management. Where appropriate, specific targets have been set for each indicator to help measure performance. The indicators and targets are specified in Table 4.
6.7 Annual monitoring reports will be prepared based on the indicators and targets shown in Table 4 based on information collected by the Environment Agency or Waste Planning Authority. Annual reports will also identify any areas requiring review, together with timescales for any related action. If corrective action on the implementation of the Plan is required the Waste Planning Authority will seek to ensure that, through liaison with the appropriate authorities, suitable action is taken to maintain the momentum and effectiveness of policy implementation.

Table 4: Plan monitoring indicators and targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target (where appropriate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Number of advertised departures from the Replacement Waste Local Plan as a total of permissions granted</td>
<td>Less than 5% in lifetime of the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Change in the stock of waste management facilities in Cheshire</td>
<td>Over 20 new facilities in the lifetime of the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Capacity of new waste management capacity by type</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Percentage change in Municipal Solid Waste arisings</td>
<td>Less than 3% growth per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Percentage change in Commercial and Industrial Waste arisings</td>
<td>Less than 2% growth per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste recycled/composted</td>
<td>To recycle or compost 25% of household waste by 2005; 30% by 2010; 33% by 2015 (Waste Strategy 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste Recovered</td>
<td>To recover value from at least (including recycling and composting) 40% of municipal waste by 2005; 45% by 2010; 45% by 2010; 67% by 2015 (Waste Strategy 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Target (where appropriate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Total amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going to landfill</td>
<td>To reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill to 75% of the level produced in 1995 by 2010; to 50% of the level produced in 1995 by 2013 and to 35% of the level produced in 1995 by 2020. (EU Landfill Directive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Total amount of Commercial and Industrial Waste going to landfill</td>
<td>By 2005 reduce the amount of Commercial and Industrial Waste sent to landfill to 85% of that landfilled in 1998 (no more than 307,000 per annum in Cheshire) (Waste Strategy 2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Percentage of Commercial and Industrial Waste recycled</td>
<td>Of the total amount of Commercial and Industrial Waste diverted from landfill annually, 60% should be recycled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Percentage of Commercial and Industrial Waste composted</td>
<td>Of the total amount of Commercial and Industrial Waste diverted from landfill annually, 10% should be composted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Percentage of Commercial and Industrial Waste recovered</td>
<td>Of the total amount of Commercial and Industrial Waste diverted from landfill annually, 40% should be recovered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Number of approved waste management applications which recover value from waste as a % of planning applications received</td>
<td>More than 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Number of hectares of agricultural land grades 1, 2 and 3a permanently lost as a result of waste development</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.8 The Plan’s Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment reports include indicators that enable the Plan’s environmental performance and sustainability to be monitored.

**Policy Liaison**

6.9 The Waste Planning Authority will work with Local Planning Authorities in Cheshire, neighbouring Waste Planning Authorities and the North West Regional Technical Advisory Body over matters of common concern relating to waste planning. In particular the Waste Planning Authority will seek to ensure that the policies of other planning documents do not conflict or prejudice the implementation of policies in this Plan. The Waste Planning Authority will seek to ensure that, wherever possible, adequate provision is made in the Waste Local Plans prepared by neighbouring authorities to reduce the movements of waste which would be contrary to the proximity principle.

**Review of the Plan**

6.10 Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the plan will be saved for 3 years from adoption. The plan will then be replaced by a new Waste Development Framework. The annual monitoring of the adopted Replacement Waste Local Plan will be an important part of the supporting evidence in the preparation of this document.
Appendix 1

Need Assessment

Introduction

A.1.1 This appendix:
• details how much waste is currently managed each year in Cheshire;
• explains the current methods used to manage this waste;
• estimates the likely future waste arisings in the Plan area;
• assesses the likely impacts of Government targets anticipated over the period 2006-2016; and
• estimates the future waste management requirements envisaged over the Plan period and beyond.

Information on waste

A1.2 To provide a robust statistical base for the Replacement Waste Local Plan the County Council has undertaken a study to examine:
• the nature and extent of waste currently managed in the County;
• the remaining capacity at the existing waste management facilities;
• the likely future waste arisings in the Plan area; and
• the requirement for treatment and disposal capacity within Cheshire.

In preparing this information the County Council has relied on information from the:
• Environment Agency’s Strategic Waste Management Assessment 2000 (SWMA) (2000) and Strategic Waste Management Information 2002-03 (SWMI) (published 2005) for the North West Region,
• Annual statistics for household waste arisings collected by the Waste Disposal and Waste Collection Authorities.

The need assessment of the Plan is supported by a separate technical supporting document titled “Assessment of Potential Requirements for future waste Management Facilities in Cheshire” (2003) prepared for the County Council by consultants.

Waste types

A1.3 The Replacement Waste Local Plan is principally concerned with Controlled Waste which comprises:
• Municipal Solid Waste (including household)
• Commercial and Industrial (including hazardous)
• Inert/Construction and Demolition
• Sewage sludge.
A1.4 The Landfill Directive divides waste types into three distinct categories with landfill sites being classified in terms of the type of waste that they can accept:
- Inert – Construction & Demolition waste
- Non-hazardous – Municipal Solid Waste and Commercial & Industrial waste
- Hazardous waste.

The Landfill Directive has also resulted in an end to the co-disposal of wastes. Since July 2004 the common UK practice of the co-disposal of untreated hazardous and non-hazardous waste has ceased.

Current Waste Management in Cheshire

A1.5 Tables A1(i) and A1(ii) below show the types and amount of waste generated in Cheshire and the amount of this waste that was subsequently deposited at landfill sites in Cheshire in 1998-99 and 2002-03 respectively. The remaining waste is managed by other techniques such as recycling, composting, landspreading or incineration.

Table A1(i) Waste Generated within Cheshire and Waste Deposited at Landfill Sites within Cheshire (1998-99)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>Waste Generated (tonnes)</th>
<th>Waste Landfilled (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Solid Waste</td>
<td>388,000</td>
<td>347,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial &amp; Industrial</td>
<td>1,360,000</td>
<td>361,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inert/Construction &amp; Demolition</td>
<td>750,000(^{1})</td>
<td>96,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous (formerly Special)</td>
<td>111,523</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,609,523</td>
<td>854,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: North West Strategic Waste Management Assessment 2000, Environment Agency.

\(^{1}\) This figure is based on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Survey of Arisings and Use of Construction & Demolition Waste in England and Wales (2001) estimate that the amount of landfilled construction and demolition waste represents 12.8% of the total generated.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>Waste Generated (tonnes)</th>
<th>Waste Landfilled (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Solid Waste</td>
<td>448,251</td>
<td>369,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial &amp; Industrial</td>
<td>958,000</td>
<td>479,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inert/Construction &amp; Demolition</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous</td>
<td>55,126</td>
<td>16,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,461,377</td>
<td>864,705</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Strategic Waste Management Information 2002-2003, Environment Agency

\(^{2}\) The figure for Inert/Construction & Demolition Waste in the SWMI 2002-2003 is for the North West only. In 2002-03 11,110,000 tonnes of Inert/Construction & Demolition Waste was produced in the North West.
NEED ASSESSMENT

A1.6 Table A2(i) and A2(ii) show the tonnes of waste deposited at landfill sites in Cheshire in 2000-01 and 2003-04. These figures are based on the waste return figures provided by the waste management facilities.

Table A2(i) Inputs to Landfill Sites within Cheshire 2000-01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>Waste Landfilled (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Solid Waste</td>
<td>341,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial &amp; Industrial</td>
<td>280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inert/Construction &amp; Demolition</td>
<td>415,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous (formerly Special)</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,156,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Assessment of Potential Requirements for Future Waste Management Facilities in Cheshire, 2003, Appendix 2

Table A2(ii) Inputs to Landfill Sites within Cheshire 2003-04

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIC (Household and Commercial &amp; Industrial)(tonnes)</th>
<th>Inert/Construction &amp; Demolition (tonnes)</th>
<th>Special (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inert Only</td>
<td>7,095</td>
<td>237,438</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Inert</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>882,478</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-disposal</td>
<td>690,783</td>
<td>110,768</td>
<td>14,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted-user</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>699,540</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,230,684</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,817</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Table 9c 2nd Waste Management Monitoring Report, North West RTAB, March 2006

INERT WASTE

Construction and Demolition Waste

A1.7 The amount of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste generated within Cheshire is difficult to calculate accurately as such material is often re-used within a development site as a low grade aggregate or within screening or amenity mounds. Inert waste such as hardcore is often used to create access roads on landfill sites while soils are used for daily cover or restoration at such sites. The use of inert waste in the construction of some facilities, such as golf courses, may be exempt from the waste management licensing regime, and these sites may also be exempt from the landfill tax. Such sites can often accommodate large quantities of such material. There is a gap in the data available at the sub regional and local level for C&D waste. In the absence of data for the amount of C&D waste generated within Cheshire and managed through these various routes the proportions have been estimated using percentages for the North West. These proportions are provided in a survey of construction and demolition arisings produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Survey of Arisings and Use of Construction and Demolition Waste in England and Wales 2001, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, October 2002). This data shows
that, of the total estimated construction and demolition waste arisings, 12.8% was landfilled, 8.3% was reused on landfill sites, 48.4% of the total consisted of recycled aggregates and soil and 30.4% was inert materials used at exempt sites. Therefore, if the known amount of landfilled construction and demolition waste (415,000t) for 2000-01 constitutes 12.8% of the total construction and demolition waste it is estimated that approximately 3.2 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste was managed in Cheshire in 2000-01. Table A3 below provides a summary of the estimated tonnages of construction and demolition waste being managed by the methods referred to.

### Table A3: Construction & Demolition Waste Management in Cheshire 2000-01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction &amp; Demolition Waste 2000/01 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Landfilled</th>
<th>Recycled</th>
<th>Reused on Landfill Sites</th>
<th>Recovered on Exempt Sites</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>415,000</td>
<td>1,569,215</td>
<td>269,102</td>
<td>985,625</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,238,942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Assessment of Potential Requirements for Future Waste Management Facilities in Cheshire, 2003, paragraph 2.13

### NON HAZARDOUS WASTE

#### Municipal Solid Waste

A1.8 Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) constitutes approximately 30% of the ‘controlled waste’ (excluding sewage sludge) that is currently landfilled every year in Cheshire. Table A4 shows in greater detail the amount of MSW arisings each year between 1998 and 2006 and its management.

### Table A4: Municipal Solid Waste Arisings & Management in Cheshire 1998-2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Collected</td>
<td>216,089</td>
<td>236,612</td>
<td>235,218</td>
<td>236,179</td>
<td>237,714</td>
<td>221,759</td>
<td>203,052</td>
<td>181,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-collected Trade</td>
<td>18,664</td>
<td>14,442</td>
<td>18,842</td>
<td>17,075</td>
<td>16,786</td>
<td>18,523</td>
<td>11,526</td>
<td>14,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street sweepings &amp; Fly Tipping</td>
<td>14,816</td>
<td>11,404</td>
<td>11,439</td>
<td>9,653</td>
<td>8,649</td>
<td>12,156</td>
<td>16,331</td>
<td>17,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HWRC waste to landfill</td>
<td>95,454</td>
<td>97,417</td>
<td>94,028</td>
<td>100,669</td>
<td>106,215</td>
<td>100,947</td>
<td>97,881</td>
<td>83,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total MSW disposal</td>
<td>345,023</td>
<td>359,855</td>
<td>359,527</td>
<td>363,576</td>
<td>369,364</td>
<td>353,385</td>
<td>328,790</td>
<td>296,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WCA Recycling</td>
<td>16,643</td>
<td>13,338</td>
<td>19,433</td>
<td>21,928</td>
<td>24,902</td>
<td>29,272</td>
<td>35,231</td>
<td>44,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA Composting</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>12,481</td>
<td>20,915</td>
<td>33,158</td>
<td>42,606</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table continued over…
A1.9 From the information contained in Table A4 above it can be seen that, in the period 2005-06, 296,620 tonnes of MSW, or approximately 70% of the total MSW arising within Cheshire was disposed of in landfill and approximately 30% (134,332 tonnes) of the remainder was recycled or composted.

### Commercial and Industrial Waste

A1.10 Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste includes waste arising from premises used for industry, trade, business and recreation and is largely regarded as non-hazardous waste. Figures on C&I waste are published by the Environment Agency. This includes information contained in the North West SWMA 2000 and the SWMI 2002-03. Both data sets are based upon national surveys of businesses. However, given the differences in the data collection and reporting categories used no direct comparison is possible between the two data sets on C&I waste. Tables A5(i) and A5(ii) indicate the amounts of C&I waste produced within Cheshire in 1998-99 and 2002-03 respectively. Tables A6(i) and A6(ii) indicate the waste management methods used for C&I waste in 1998-99 and 2002-03 respectively.

A1.11 During the preparation of the 2nd North West RTAB Waste Management Monitoring Report (published March 2006) the need for better quality data for C&I waste arisings and management methods was identified. Whilst the 2002-03 C&I waste survey achieved a precision of +/- 5% at a 90 percent confidence level for total C&I waste, the survey is a best estimate from a range. There is a need for better information on C&I at the sub regional and local level so that the level of information available to planning authorities is improved to provide a more robust evidence base on C&I waste. However, the information on C&I waste contained in the SWMI 2002-03 is the best available information on this waste stream and has been used for planning purposes in this Plan.
Table A5(i): Commercial and Industrial Waste Management in Cheshire (1998-99)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inert/Construction &amp; demolition</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper &amp; card</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General industrial &amp; commercial</td>
<td>382,000</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other general &amp; biodegradable</td>
<td>298,000</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metals &amp; scrap equipment</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminated general</td>
<td>143,000</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral waste &amp; residues</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical &amp; other</td>
<td>235,000</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,360,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: North West Strategic Waste Management Assessment 2000, Environment Agency (Table 2.4)

Table A5(ii): Commercial and Industrial Waste Management in Cheshire (2002-03)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food etc</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles/wood/paper/publishing</td>
<td>112,000</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical/non-metallic minerals</td>
<td>235,000</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal manufacture</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery &amp; equipment (other manufacturing)</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power &amp; Utilities</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Industry</strong></td>
<td><strong>544,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>56.8%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail &amp; wholesale</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sector</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>194,000</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total commerce</strong></td>
<td><strong>414,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>43.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total all sectors</strong></td>
<td><strong>958,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Strategic Waste Management Information 2002-2003, Environment Agency
Table A6(i): Commercial and Industrial Waste Management in Cheshire (1998-99)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management method</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landfill disposal</td>
<td>458,000</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land spreading</td>
<td>297,000</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-used</td>
<td>196,000</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled</td>
<td>203,000</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermal</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrecorded(^4)</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,360,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: North West Strategic Waste Management Assessment 2000, Environment Agency, (table 2.5)

\(^4\)The SWMA suggests that more than 90% of this material went to landfill.

Table A6(ii): Commercial and Industrial Waste Management in Cheshire (2002-03)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Method</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Disposal</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>228,005</td>
<td>479,000</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Recovery</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reused/Recycled</td>
<td>178,000</td>
<td>139,000</td>
<td>317,000</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermal</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment &amp; Transfer</td>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>109,000</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsampled</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>544,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>414,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>958,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Strategic Waste Management Information 2002-2003, Environment Agency

\(^5\)The figures in the original SWMI table add up 543,000 tonnes and not 544,000.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

A1.12 Hazardous waste includes any waste that presents an intrinsic risk to human health and the environment. Hazardous wastes not only include substances that are usually recognised as being dangerous (such as asbestos), but can also include wastes such as engine oils, paints and solvents. Although a small element of the overall waste arising in Cheshire hazardous waste is a significant element of these.

A1.13 Information from the SWMI 2002-03 on hazardous waste indicates that in 2003 Cheshire handled 77,606 tonnes of hazardous waste which included 12,078 tonnes (16%) produced within the County. Cheshire has one of only three hazardous waste incinerators in England and Wales. The incinerator has an annual capacity of 60,000 tonnes of liquid and solid hazardous waste. The SWMI 2002-03 estimated that 73% of the total Hazardous Waste managed within Cheshire in 2003 was disposed of by incineration. Cheshire also has a deep storage facility in Winsford Rock Salt Mine that will take up to 2 million cubic metres of certain categories of waste over a 20 year period.
A1.14 While the amount of hazardous waste produced in Cheshire is broadly consistent with the amount of hazardous waste managed within the County the SWMI 2002-03 indicates that only 16% of the hazardous waste produced in Cheshire was retained, for treatment or disposal, within the County. The remaining 43,047 was exported out of the County for management and 65,528 tonnes was imported into the County for management. It is recognised that there is considerable movement of hazardous waste between Cheshire and other Authorities both within and beyond the north-west region. This reflects the specialisation in waste management facilities within the region.

EXISTING FACILITIES & CAPACITY

A1.15 There are a variety of existing licensed waste management facilities in Cheshire. The type, number and location of existing waste management facilities in Cheshire in 2003 are indicated in Table A7 and in Diagrams A and B.

Table A7(i): Waste management facilities in Cheshire (2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of waste management facility</th>
<th>No. of facilities in Cheshire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lagoons &amp; boreholes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Transfer Stations</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Waste &amp; Recycling Centres</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Recovery Facilities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Recovery Sites</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composting facility</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incinerator</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill sites</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A1.16 The landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste principally takes place at three landfill sites within Cheshire at the Gowy in Chester; Danes Moss in Macclesfield and Maw Green in Crewe and Nantwich. These sites are shown on Diagram C which also shows the approximate current catchment areas for these sites in terms of municipal waste. These approximate catchment areas have been derived from figures provided by the Waste Collection Authorities to the Waste Disposal Authority on where the waste collected was subsequently deposited. These figures for 2005-6 are shown in Table A8 below.
Table A8: Kerbside Collection and Household Waste Recycling Centre Waste to Landfill by District 2005-2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Gowy (tonnes)</th>
<th>Maw Green (tonnes)</th>
<th>Danes Moss (tonnes)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>45,819</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congleton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30,718</td>
<td>14,405</td>
<td>45,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crewe &amp; Nantwich</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>52,436</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>52,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston</td>
<td>36,836</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macclesfield</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>68,262</td>
<td>68,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vale Royal</td>
<td>21,214</td>
<td>26,993</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>48,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>103,868</strong></td>
<td><strong>110,570</strong></td>
<td><strong>82,879</strong></td>
<td><strong>297,317</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Provided by the Waste Management Service, Cheshire County Council to Environmental Planning Service for planning information purposes, September 2006

A1.17 In addition to the three major landfills there are other landfill sites. Eardswick Hall, in Crewe and Nantwich and Minosus in Vale Royal both take hazardous wastes. Endon Quarry in Macclesfield is a small site with limited remaining capacity taking inert waste only. In addition there are also three restricted user sites Frodsham Marshes Lagoons in Vale Royal, Kemira in Ellesmere Port and Action Bridge Dredging Tip, Vale Royal. Sandy Lane in Macclesfield has now closed with no remaining capacity. Hough Mill is currently under active restoration below the permitted remaining waste capacity.

A1.18 There is currently no comprehensive data on the imports and exports of waste into and out of Cheshire. The origin and destination of waste is not a mandatory field on the waste returns forms submitted by licensed operators to the Environment Agency. However, it is expected that the DEFRA waste data strategy will result in an improved data set on the imports and exports of waste between sub regions although this may be some time in the future.

FUTURE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN CHESHIRE

INERT WASTE

Construction and Demolition waste

A1.19 Preferred Sites for the recovery of inert waste, principally Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste, as engineering and construction materials are identified on the proposals map and the individual Site Profiles in Appendix 4. C&D waste has traditionally been disposed of at landfill sites, either as daily cover, engineering or restoration material, or at sites licensed specifically for these materials. However changes in the waste management licensing regulations, the introduction of the Landfill Tax and the Aggregates Tax have had a significant impact on the management of this waste. An increasing proportion of this waste is being processed and re-used on development sites, being deposited at sites exempt from the waste management licensing regime or being treated in screening and crushing plants prior to re-use as an aggregate, fill or soil. Recycled construction and demolition waste has the potential to be used as a substitute for primary aggregates, thereby reducing the demand for primary aggregates and the amount of land required for quarrying.
A1.20 While the sustainable management of waste in Cheshire will involve an increase in the recycling of inert waste there will also be a requirement for landfill capacity to dispose of residual construction and demolition wastes. Sites for the final disposal of inert waste have not been identified within this Plan because these sites normally involve relatively small quantities of material being deposited over a short duration. Such operations are often associated with localised agricultural improvement or are dedicated to a specific engineering or construction project. The Plan therefore contains detailed policies against which such applications will be assessed.

NON HAZARDOUS WASTE

Municipal Solid Waste

A1.21 The future management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Cheshire is influenced by European, national, regional and local targets, referred to in Chapter 2, to drive waste management up the waste hierarchy by focusing on the reduction and re-use of the waste produced, recovering value from the waste which remains and looking to disposal as the last option for the management of waste.

A1.22 The European Union Landfill Directive set three successive targets limiting the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) that can be landfilled. These targets are set at certain key years and are given as a proportion of the BMW produced in 1995. The EU Landfill Directive targets are:

- By 2010 to reduce BMW landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995
- By 2013 to reduce BMW landfilled to 50% of that produced in 1995
- By 2020 to reduce BMW landfilled to 35% of that produced in 1995

The Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 seeks to help the UK meet its European obligations under the EU Landfill Directive to reduce the amount of BMW disposed to landfill and provides the legal framework for the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. This sets a landfill allowance for each waste disposal authority for the amount of BMW that can be landfilled in each scheme year (1 April-31 March). The allowances for Cheshire are set out in Table A9 below. It also includes an estimate of the total amount of MSW that can be landfilled as result of the LATS allowance. This figure has been based on the assumption that the LATS allowance is 68% of the total MSW and the estimated MSW that can be landfilled is the LATS figure plus the 32% non BMW content of the total MSW. However, in practice it is anticipated that the BMW content of total MSW will be less than 68%, although this is highly dependent on the materials collected and their biodegradability. In 2005-06 the biodegradable content of the residual waste was 67% (Waste Management Service, 2006). Table A9 provides an indication of the decreased reliance that should be given to the landfilling of MSW within Cheshire and an estimate of the amounts of MSW that can be landfilled in line with LATS allowances and to meet the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive. However, as regards the management of MSW there is a need to drive waste up the hierarchy and reduce the reliance on landfill.
Table A9: Cheshire County Council LATS targets for the Plan period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>LATS Allowance (tonnes)</th>
<th>Estimated Amount that can be landfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>233,204</td>
<td>342,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>222,306</td>
<td>326,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>207,776</td>
<td>305,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>189,613</td>
<td>278,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>167,818</td>
<td>246,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>149,138</td>
<td>219,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>130,458</td>
<td>191,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>111,779</td>
<td>164,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>106,984</td>
<td>157,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>106,984</td>
<td>150,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>97,394</td>
<td>143,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Source: DEFRA 2005. It has been assumed for the purposes of the Plan that the LATS allowance is 68% of the Total MSW
7 The estimated MSW that can be landfilled is the LATS figure plus the 32% non BMW content of the Total MSW

A1.23 In 2000 Government published the Waste Strategy 2000 which set targets for the management of MSW with a focus on recovering value, recycling and composting rates. These targets are:
- To recycle or compost 25% of household waste by 2005; 30% by 2010 and 33% by 2015;
- To recover value from at least 40% of municipal waste by 2005; 45% by 2010 and 67% by 2015.

In July 2005 the Government published ‘Changes to the Waste Management Decision Making Principles in Waste Strategy 2000’ relating to waste planning and management decisions. However, this did not result in changes to the targets set out above.

A1.24 The Regional Waste Strategy for the North West was published in September 2004. It sets targets for reducing the growth in MSW and the following composting/recycling targets for MSW:
- Recycle/Compost 25% of household waste by 2005
- Recycle/Compost 35% of household waste by 2010
- Recycle/Compost 45% of household waste by 2015
- Recycle/Compost 55% of household waste by 2020

The targets within the strategy in respect of recovering value from MSW are in line with those promoted in Waste Strategy 2000.

A1.25 In 2004 the Cheshire Waste Partnership carried out a major public consultation on the need for energy from waste in line with the Cheshire Household Waste Management Strategy. As a result of the outcome of the consultation the Partnership has agreed that future waste treatment should seek to:
- Reduce waste growth to a maximum of 1% growth;
- Increase recycling to 40% by 2009/10 and 50% by 2020;
- Use an MBT process to treat Cheshire’s residual waste and produce a refuse derived fuel; and
NEED ASSESSMENT

- Dispose of the fuel either at an existing third party outlet or a purpose built thermal treatment plant.

A1.26 The projected growth of MSW in Cheshire during the Plan period has been based upon a 1.5% growth in arisings to 2010 and 1% growth from 2011 onwards. This assumes that there will be a gradual decline on the growth rate of MSW as a result of waste minimisation and recycling schemes. This is considered to be a realistic estimate of the future growth in MSW arisings and is line with the Cheshire Waste Partnership target to reduce waste growth to a maximum of 1%.

Table A10. Estimated Projected growth of Municipal Solid Waste arisings in Cheshire during the Plan Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% increase in MSW</th>
<th>Estimated Total Amount of MSW (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td>430,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>437,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>444,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>451,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>457,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>464,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>469,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>474,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>478,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>483,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>488,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A1.27 Table A11 provides an estimate of the levels of recycling and composting of MSW during the Plan period. The recycling targets used for the Plan period have been chosen to reflect the Cheshire Waste Partnership aim to increase recycling to 40% by 2010 and 50% by 2020. It also shows the estimated amount of residual MSW requiring management following the source separation in kerbside recycling schemes and at Household Waste Recycling Centres of the materials which can be recycled and composted direct from the household level.
Table A11. Estimated Projected growth of Municipal Solid Waste arisings in Cheshire during the Plan Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MSW Arisings</th>
<th>Recycling Target</th>
<th>Diversion - Recycling &amp; Composting</th>
<th>Residual MSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>430,952⁸</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>129,286⁹</td>
<td>301,666¹⁰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>437,000</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>139,840</td>
<td>297,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>444,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>150,960</td>
<td>293,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>451,000</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>162,360</td>
<td>288,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>457,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>182,800</td>
<td>274,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>464,000</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>190,240</td>
<td>273,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>469,000</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>196,980</td>
<td>272,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>474,000</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>203,820</td>
<td>270,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>478,000</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>210,320</td>
<td>267,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>483,000</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>217,350</td>
<td>265,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>488,000</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>224,480</td>
<td>263,520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁸ The 2005 figure is the unaudited 2005-06 figure for Total MSW figure for Cheshire provided by the Waste Management Service, July 2006.
⁹, ¹⁰ For 2005-06 the diversion figure and the residual waste figures do not include the 12232 tonnes of rubble from Household Waste Recycling Centres. Rubble is not included in BVPI recycling targets. For 2006-07 onwards no detailed assessment has been made of the rubble content of the total MSW arisings as the impact of the re-introduced trade waste ban at Household Waste Recycling Centres in 2006-07 is not known.

A1.28 Table A12 provides an indication of management of MSW in line with the approach of the Cheshire Waste Partnership, as discussed in A1.24. It has the following assumptions built in:

- Of the MSW diverted to meet recycling targets 70% is recycled and 30% is composted.
- The estimated amount of MSW waste sent to a MBT is the Total amount of residual MSW.
- An average figure of 54% of the MSW sent to MBT is thermally treated. This is an average percentage of the high and low percentage rates of MBT to Energy from Waste as set out in Appendix 1 of Juniper Consulting’s Addendum to their Review of the Need for Energy for Waste prepared for the Waste Management Service of Cheshire County Council in 2004.

It does not include indicative landfill capacities as it seeks to demonstrate the need for composting, recycling & treatment and energy recovery to support the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy and reduce the reliance on landfill. This approach has been adopted to avoid undue precision within Table A12.
Table A12: Estimated Management of MSW in line with agreed approach of Cheshire Waste Partnership (Tonnes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated MSW to Recycling</th>
<th>Estimated MSW to Composting</th>
<th>Estimated MSW to MBT</th>
<th>Estimated MSW to Energy Recovery¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>90,500</td>
<td>38,786</td>
<td>301,666</td>
<td>162,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>97,888</td>
<td>41,952</td>
<td>297,160</td>
<td>160,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>105,672</td>
<td>45,288</td>
<td>293,040</td>
<td>158,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>113,652</td>
<td>48,708</td>
<td>288,640</td>
<td>155,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>127,960</td>
<td>54,840</td>
<td>274,200</td>
<td>148,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>133,168</td>
<td>57,072</td>
<td>273,760</td>
<td>147,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>137,886</td>
<td>59,094</td>
<td>272,020</td>
<td>146,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>142,674</td>
<td>61,146</td>
<td>270,180</td>
<td>145,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>147,224</td>
<td>63,096</td>
<td>267,680</td>
<td>144,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>152,145</td>
<td>65,205</td>
<td>265,650</td>
<td>143,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>157,136</td>
<td>67,344</td>
<td>263,520</td>
<td>142,301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ This has not explicitly included an allowance for the H2O content lost during the process which can reduce the mass by 20%. For example a biodry MBT process which processes mixed waste on average includes 20% loss as H2O, 5% recyclate, 35% non combustible material and 40% RDF.

Commercial and Industrial Waste

A1.29 Waste Strategy 2000, sets the following target for Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste:
• By 2005 to reduce the amount of industrial and commercial waste sent to landfill to 85% of that landfilled in 1998.
Table A6(i) indicates that 458,000 tonnes of C&I waste was landfilled in 1998-99. Therefore the amount of C&I waste that can be landfilled is 390,000 tonnes (85% of 458,000).

A1.30 Predicting the growth of C&I waste is difficult, although at a national level such growth is often linked to Gross Domestic Product. Generally, increased C&I activity tends to increase waste arisings. However, a range of factors, including European and National waste policy and increased waste disposal costs, all have an impact on waste generation. In order to estimate the amount of C&I waste that will require diversion from landfill in the future it is necessary to forecast the likely increase in future waste arisings. The predicted rate of increase, together with the resultant tonnages are shown in Table A13 below. A baseline figure of 958,000 tonnes has been used for the projection, which is the rounded 2002-03 figure for C&I waste from the Environment Agency’s SWMI 2002-03. It is predicted that the rate of annual increase in waste arisings will gradually diminish as a result of legislative and financial measures which encourage greater waste minimisation and recycling.

A1.31 In order to achieve the diversion from landfill for C&I waste a combination of waste management methods will be required. It has been assumed that waste requiring diversion will be managed by recycling (60%), composting (10%) and energy recovery (30%). Table A14 shows the resultant tonnages to be managed by these various waste management techniques throughout the Plan period.
Table A13: Estimated Projected Growth of Commercial & Industrial Waste Arisings in Cheshire (Tonnes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Increase in Commercial &amp; Industrial Waste Arisings</th>
<th>Total Amount of Commercial &amp; Industrial Waste</th>
<th>Total amount of Commercial &amp; Industrial Waste that may be Landfilled</th>
<th>Subsequent amount of Commercial &amp; Industrial Waste Requiring Diversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>958,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>568,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>980,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>590,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1,003,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>613,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1,025,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>635,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1,046,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>656,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1,067,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>677,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1,087,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>697,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1,107,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>717,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1,126,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>736,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1,144,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>754,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1,161,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>771,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1,177,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>787,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1,192,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>802,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1,207,000</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>817,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Assessment of Potential Requirements for Future Waste management Facilities in Cheshire, Table 2.3 & paragraph 2.17, Strategic Waste Management Information, Environment Agency 2002-03

Table A14: Estimated Management of C&I Waste requiring diversion from landfill in Cheshire during Plan Period (Tonnes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subsequent amount of Commercial &amp; Industrial Waste Requiring Diversion</th>
<th>Estimated Recycling (60%)</th>
<th>Estimated Composting (10%)</th>
<th>Estimated Energy Recovery (30%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>656,000</td>
<td>393,600</td>
<td>65,600</td>
<td>196,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>677,000</td>
<td>406,200</td>
<td>67,700</td>
<td>203,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>697,000</td>
<td>418,200</td>
<td>69,700</td>
<td>209,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>717,000</td>
<td>430,200</td>
<td>71,700</td>
<td>215,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>736,000</td>
<td>441,600</td>
<td>73,600</td>
<td>220,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>754,000</td>
<td>452,400</td>
<td>75,400</td>
<td>226,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>771,000</td>
<td>462,600</td>
<td>77,100</td>
<td>231,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>787,000</td>
<td>472,200</td>
<td>78,700</td>
<td>236,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>802,000</td>
<td>481,200</td>
<td>80,200</td>
<td>240,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>817,000</td>
<td>490,200</td>
<td>81,700</td>
<td>245,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facilities required for the management and disposal of non-hazardous waste

A1.32 The Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan seeks to facilitate the delivery of a sustainable waste management system for Cheshire’s waste. Currently the majority of residual MSW and C&I waste in Cheshire is sent to landfill sites for disposal. However, in order to meet the various landfill diversion targets, and as disposal costs rise, alternative forms of treatment will be required to manage this residual waste. These treatment technologies may include Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), Anaerobic Digestion, Pyrolysis, Gasification, Incineration or other emerging technologies. While these technologies may increase the recycling or recovery of waste within Cheshire there will still be a need to landfill residue material from the treatment facility. The type and quantity of residue requiring landfilling will clearly depend on the volume and type of residual waste being treated. The exact type and number of residual waste treatment facilities likely to be developed within Cheshire is not known at this time. However, the Replacement Waste Local Plan identifies a number of sites where the development of technologies (which seek to reduce the reliance on landfill and maximise the recycling and recovery of value from the waste generated) is considered to be acceptable ‘in principle’, subject to the submission of a detailed planning application. This provides a degree of flexibility while ensuring that an adequate network of sites is available throughout Cheshire.

A1.33 Although the exact number and type of waste management facilities needed is not known Table A15 is indicative of the annual capacity requirements needed for the management of all non-hazardous waste in Cheshire (MSW and C&I). It has been compiled using information from Tables A11, A12, A13 and A14. It includes:

- An estimate of the total amount of non hazardous waste during the plan period using the estimated total amount of MSW and C&I waste set out in Table A11 and A13.
- An estimate of the total recycling, composting and energy recovery capacity for the management of MSW and C&I as set out in Tables A12 and A14.
- An estimate of the MBT capacity required for the management of MSW only as set out in Table A12 if all residual MSW was sent to intermediate treatment.
- An estimate of landfill capacity taking into account the LATS targets as set out in Table A9 and a maximum of 390,000 tonnes per annum for C&I waste as set out in Table A13.
Table A15: Indicative Annual Capacity Requirements for the Management of Non-hazardous Waste in Cheshire during the Plan Period (Tonnes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total amount of non hazardous waste</th>
<th>Indicative Recycling Capacity</th>
<th>Indicative Composting Capacity</th>
<th>Indicative MBT Capacity for MSW</th>
<th>Indicative Energy Recovery Capacity</th>
<th>Indicative Landfill Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>148,3000</td>
<td>491,488</td>
<td>107,552</td>
<td>297,160</td>
<td>357,266</td>
<td>716,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>151,1000</td>
<td>511,872</td>
<td>112,988</td>
<td>293,040</td>
<td>361,342</td>
<td>695,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>153,8000</td>
<td>531,852</td>
<td>118,408</td>
<td>288,640</td>
<td>364,966</td>
<td>668,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>156,4000</td>
<td>558,160</td>
<td>126,540</td>
<td>274,200</td>
<td>363,168</td>
<td>636,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>159,0000</td>
<td>574,768</td>
<td>130,672</td>
<td>273,760</td>
<td>368,630</td>
<td>609,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>161,3000</td>
<td>590,286</td>
<td>134,494</td>
<td>272,020</td>
<td>373,091</td>
<td>581,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>163,5000</td>
<td>605,274</td>
<td>138,246</td>
<td>270,180</td>
<td>377,197</td>
<td>554,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>165,5000</td>
<td>619,424</td>
<td>141,796</td>
<td>267,680</td>
<td>380,647</td>
<td>547,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>167,5000</td>
<td>633,345</td>
<td>145,405</td>
<td>265,650</td>
<td>384,051</td>
<td>540,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>169,5000</td>
<td>647,336</td>
<td>149,044</td>
<td>263,520</td>
<td>387,401</td>
<td>533,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 It is recognised that MSW energy recovery capacity may need to be developed to meet statutory targets and/or the objectives of Cheshire’s Municipal Waste Management Strategy that look beyond the life of this Plan.

Landfill Capacity for Non Hazardous Waste

A1.34 It must be accepted that, even following recycling and recovery, there will often be residual wastes which require disposal. There will also be wastes for which recycling or recovery is not sustainable, environmentally or financially, and which also require disposal. The landfilling of waste will therefore continue to have a role in waste management within Cheshire.

A1.35 While waste management in Cheshire currently relies upon three major landfill facilities for non-hazardous waste (see Diagram C) it is considered that, given the increasing emphasis on waste minimisation and recycling, and the Government commitment to reducing reliance on landfilling, two or three major landfill facilities for non-hazardous waste will be required in Cheshire over the Plan period. In order to meet the requirements of the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility the County can effectively be divided into two distinct east and west catchment areas for waste, with a landfill site for non-hazardous waste serving each half of Cheshire. These catchment areas are shown in Diagram D.

A1.36 Waste generated within the western half of Cheshire will continue to be deposited at the Gowy Landfill Site, near Chester, for the duration of the Plan period. Planning permission has been granted to extend the life of the facility to 2012 for the deposit of waste. The recontouring of the northern part of the Gowy Landfill Site would provide the western half of Cheshire with sufficient disposal capacity for non-hazardous waste for the Plan period. Table A16 below shows the life expectancy of the Gowy Landfill Site. The life expectancy is largely dependant on two factors, the rate of waste input and the input density. Table A16 demonstrates the impact that these two factors can have on the life of the Gowy Landfill Site.
Table A16: Gowy Landfill Site –Indicative Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Capacity (m³)</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1t/m³</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1.12t/m³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>293,000 tpy *</td>
<td>293,000 tpy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>354,000 tpy</td>
<td>354,000 tpy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,406,000 (recontouring)</td>
<td>Mar 2015</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 Based on the actual waste inputs in 2003
14 Based on the actual waste inputs in 2002
15 In 2005-06 waste inputs to Gowy landfill were 275,000 tonnes at 0.91t/ m³. The total capacity in December 2005 was 1,878,000 m³. These figures do not significantly change the lifespan of the landfill.

A1.37 Waste from the eastern part of Cheshire will continue to be deposited at the Danes Moss Landfill Site, near Macclesfield and the Maw Green Landfill Site near Crewe. Planning permission has been granted to re-profile the southern slope of Danes Moss Landfill Site and to extend its operational life until December 2009. However, there are currently outstanding issues in relation to IPPC permit from the Environment Agency which are awaiting resolution. Maw Green Landfill Site has permission for the landfilling of waste until January 2011. The life expectancy of these sites is dependent on the rate of waste input and the input density. Tables A17 and A18 below demonstrate the impact that these factors can have on the life expectancy of these sites.

Diagram D - Future Potential Landfill/Landraise Sites for Municipal Waste in Cheshire and Approximate Catchment Areas.
Table A17: Danes Moss Landfill Site – Remaining Landfill Capacity\(^{18}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Capacity (m(^3))</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1t/m(^3)</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1.12t/m(^3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>160,000(^{16}) tonnes per year input</td>
<td>185,000(^{17}) tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>685,000 (existing capacity) (Sept 2002)</td>
<td>Jan 2007</td>
<td>May 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288,000 (recontouring)</td>
<td>Oct 2008</td>
<td>Dec 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>160,000 tonnes per year input</td>
<td>185,000 tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 2007</td>
<td>Nov 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{16}\) Based on the actual waste inputs in 1998 & 2000
\(^{17}\) Based on the actual waste inputs in 2001 & 2002
\(^{18}\) In 2005-06 waste inputs to Maw Green landfill were 160,000 tonnes at 0.91t/ m\(^3\). The total capacity in December 2005 was 512,500m\(^3\) which includes the vertical extension. These figures do not significantly change the lifespan of the landfill.

Table A18 Maw Green Landfill Site – Remaining Landfill Capacity\(^{21}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Capacity (m(^3))</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1t/m(^3)</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1.12t/m(^3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250,000 tonnes per year input(^{19})</td>
<td>350,000 tonnes per year input(^{20})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,250,000 (existing capacity) (Sept 2002)</td>
<td>Sep 2011</td>
<td>Feb 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400,000 (vertical extension)</td>
<td>Nov 2012</td>
<td>Dec 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250,000 tonnes per year input</td>
<td>350,000 tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>Nov 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 2014</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{19}\) Based on the actual waste inputs in 1998
\(^{20}\) Based on the actual waste inputs in 2002
\(^{21}\) In 2005-06 waste inputs to Maw Green landfill were 278,000 tonnes at 0.91t/ m\(^3\). The total capacity in December 2005 was 1,917,000m3 which includes the extra void space provided by a deepening of the excavation, which is referenced as the ‘vertical extension’ in Table A18. These figures do not significantly change the lifespan of the landfill.

A1.38 A replacement landfill site will be required prior to the closure of Maw Green Landfill Site. Two possible sites have been identified, the Kinderton Lodge site near Middlewich and the Clayhanger Hall Farm site near Crewe. Either only one of these sites is required during the Plan period, or if two are operational in the East of the County, restrictions on the source of wastes accepted at the sites will be required to prevent a situation of oversupply. An oversupply of landfill capacity in Cheshire would draw wastes in from outside the County and act against the management and disposal of waste at the nearest appropriate facility.
Table A19: Kinderton Lodge – Proposed Landfill Capacity & Life Expectancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Capacity (m³)</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1t/m³</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1.12t/m³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>210,000 tonnes per year input</td>
<td>210,000 tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250,000 tonnes per year input</td>
<td>250,000 tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,300,000</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table A20: Clayhanger Hall Farm Proposed Landfill Capacity & Life Expectancy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Capacity (m³)</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1t/m³</th>
<th>Duration at input density of 1.12t/m³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>210,000 tonnes per year input</td>
<td>210,000 tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250,000 tonnes per year input</td>
<td>250,000 tonnes per year input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,200,000</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HAZARDOUS WASTE

A1.39 The Cleanaway high temperature incinerator at Ellesmere Port has capacity to deal with 60,000 tonnes of liquid and solid hazardous waste annually and the deep storage facility at the Winsford Rock Salt Mine will continue to play an important role in the management of hazardous waste in Cheshire.

Summary

A1.40 It is clear that a range of different waste management facilities will be required for the recycling and recovery of waste within Cheshire throughout the Plan period and that landfill sites, while dealing with a diminishing proportion of waste, will continue to be required. It is also clear that many of the proposed facilities are not required at the outset of the Plan period but will be required in a phased manner as existing facilities become exhausted or national targets or financial pressures place increasing constraints on the landfilling of waste. The Plan therefore contains detailed policies against which planning applications for the development of waste management facilities will be considered. The transportation of waste can itself have environmental impacts and it is therefore important that a network of waste management facilities is provided. It is a key objective of the Replacement Waste Local Plan to identify sites for these facilities throughout Cheshire. There are however parts of Cheshire where it has not been possible for the Waste Planning Authority to identify sites considered suitable, in principle, for the development of waste management facilities. Work is continuing, for example, to ensure that adequate provision is made for a network of household waste and recycling centres across Cheshire. The Plan therefore contains detailed policies against which planning applications for the development of waste management facilities will be considered.
Appendix 2

Site Selection Criteria

Built Waste Management Facilities
Sites with the following attributes were identified as being potentially suitable for the siting or development of a built waste management facility:

- Vacant and undeveloped sites larger than 0.6 hectares;
- Land allocated for employment and industrial uses in adopted/draft Local Plans;
- Unallocated sites with existing industrial uses;
- Established industrial estates and areas;
- Major developed sites outside urban settlements;
- Contaminated land sites;
- Derelict land sites;
- Existing waste management sites;
- Existing wastewater treatment works;
- Brownfield sites including disused airfields, disused railway sidings/facilities, disused harbour/wharf facilities and disused power stations; and
- Land adjacent to railways/navigable waterways.

Sites constrained by the following features were excluded from consideration:

- Green Belt;
- Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land;
- Area of Special County Value (landscape);
- Conservation Areas;
- Sites of international importance for nature conservation eg Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's);
- Ancient Woodlands;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings;
- Flood risk areas;
- Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS);
- Historic Parks and Gardens;
- Allocated employment/industrial sites that are designated for B1 use only; and
- Sites further than 2km from the primary route network.

Landfill/Landraise Sites
Sites constrained by the following features were excluded from consideration as possible landfill/landraise sites:

- Green Belt;
- Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land;
- Area of Special County Value (landscape);
- Conservation Areas;
- Sites of international importance for nature conservation eg Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's);
- Ancient Woodlands;

continued....
SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings;
- Flood risk areas;
- Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGGS);
- Historic Parks and Gardens;
- Allocated employment/industrial sites that are designated for B1 use only;
- Sites further than 2km from the primary route network;
- Pipeline corridors;
- Groundwater protection zones/aquifers; and
- Urban areas/village settlements (with a buffer zone of 250m around them).
Strategic Environmental Assessment Revised Non Technical Summary

Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Report: Revised Non-Technical Summary (including coverage of Sites WM7, WM9, WM11 and WMR28) (Sites WM8, WM9, WM11 and WM23 in the Final Plan)

Jacobs Babtie August 2006

Please note this Non-Technical Summary refers to policy and map numbering in the Re-deposit Plan. The corresponding policy and map numbering of the Final Plan has been inserted into the text for cross referencing purposes.

Introduction

1 All major new planning documents, including Cheshire’s Replacement Waste Local Plan, are required by law to be subject to the process of Strategic Environmental Assessment, or ‘SEA’. SEA assesses the likely environmental effects of a Plan against a range of environmental issues. The aim of this process is to make sure that the Plan provides for a high level of protection of the environment, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development. The results of this assessment have to be published in the form of an ‘Environmental Report’.

2 The Environmental Report on the Re-deposit Cheshire Waste Local Plan was published in October 2005, with Supplements in May 2006 to cover additional site WMR28 (site WM23 in the Final Plan), and in August 2006 to cover the three proposed landfill/landraise sites (sites WM7, WM9 and WM11)(sites WM8, WM9 and WM11 in the Final Plan). The October 2005 report explains more of the background to SEA, and the processes that it involves. This non-technical summary concentrates above all on summarising the main findings and conclusions of the Environmental Report and its two Supplements. But first, it is necessary to say a little about the way the SEA was carried out.

The approach to the SEA

3 The SEA has been undertaken for the County Council by Jacobs Babtie, an independent firm of consultants. The approach adopted aimed to follow as far as possible the latest government guidance on SEA, and to meet the objectives of EU and national policy on this subject. However, there was one important area in which the approach differed from that in government guidance - although not from the requirements of EU and national policy.

4 Ideally, SEA is a process that proceeds in parallel with the preparation of the Local Plan. In this way there can be a constant interaction between the two exercises, with the Council’s options
or proposals for the Plan being subjected to SEA as they arise, and the results of that SEA feeding back into developing the Plan further. By this means, the Plan’s approach to environmental protection is constantly being revised and strengthened as the Plan is produced, so that the final Plan is as far as possible wholly consistent with the objectives for protecting the environment.

5 In the case of the Replacement Cheshire WLP, the SEA has been undertaken in only a single stage (albeit in three parts, covered by the main report and the two Supplements respectively), towards the latter end of the plan-making process. So the level of integration between the two processes of plan-making and SEA has not been as great as the government guidance encourages.

6 However, an exercise called ‘Sustainability Appraisal’, which is in many ways similar to SEA, was carried out when the First Deposit Draft version of the new Waste Local Plan was published in 2004. The conclusions and recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal were used by the County Council when preparing the Re-deposit Draft version. So in many respects the Re-deposit Draft has benefited from the interactive approach described in paragraph 4. In practice, SEA may be seen as a component part of the overall Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan.

The content and conclusions of the SEA

7 The Environmental Report contains a series of chapters, each of which deals with one particular aspect of the SEA process. The first two chapters are introductory, describing the background to and context of the SEA process. The other chapters deal with detailed issues as follows. (Please note that Chapter references in this section are to the October 2005 version of the Environmental Report, unless stated.)

Relevant plans and programmes, and baseline conditions

8 Chapter 3 of the Report identifies the guidance and policy documents – European, national, and more local in origin – that have a particular bearing on the development of a Waste Local Plan for Cheshire, and explains their general relationship with the new Plan. These documents include other development plan documents (the Regional Spatial strategy, the Cheshire Structure Plan, and other Local Plans prepared by the County or District Councils), as well as a range of policy and guidance from other sources. They provide the foundation for the assessments in later parts of the Report, by helping the identification of the SEA’s objectives (dealt with in Chapter 5) and in assessing whether or not the Plan’s policies provide for the comprehensive protection of the environment (considered in detail in Chapter 7).

9 The Re-deposit Draft is in general conformity with the principal policy documents that should inform the preparation of the Plan. Changes made since the First Deposit Draft have generally helped to bring the Plan even more closely into line with relevant ‘higher order’ documents. It is noted that efforts have been made in preparing the Re-deposit Draft to reflect the important changes to national policy for waste that were introduced in July 2005 when a new ‘PPS10’ on Planning for sustainable waste management was issued, and related changes were made to the national waste strategy. Given the timing of the publication of these changes, it is understandable that some of the details of them - regarding for example the deletion from the new national policy of all references to BPEO and the proximity principle, and the specific identification of health
impacts as a consideration at the planning application stage - do not appear to be fully reflected in the text of the Re-deposit Draft as it currently stands. To address this, the Environmental Report suggests that the County Council should review the text of the Plan (and especially Chapter 2 and relevant policies in Chapter 5) to ensure that they are satisfied that it is fully consistent with the details of latest national guidance.

Chapter 3 of the Environmental Report also describes existing ‘baseline conditions’ for the environmental topics that an SEA must cover. These topics are:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna
- Population
- Human health
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage, and
- Landscape.

Problems and opportunities

Using the baseline information, Chapter 4 of the Report identifies a range of problems and opportunities facing Cheshire, which need to be taken into account in the development of the new Waste Local Plan.

Among the problems identified are the following:

- There is an increasing amount of waste being created in Cheshire (as everywhere else in the country).
- A high proportion of this waste is currently being disposed of by landfilling, which is not the most sustainable way of handling waste.
- There is significant public concern about both the environmental and the health impacts of waste management.
- Cheshire includes many areas valued or designated because of their environmental importance, and these require particular protection against any harmful effects of waste development.
- Dealing with waste involves carrying considerable quantities of waste from its place of origin to its place of treatment or disposal, which can contribute to traffic congestion and affect the quality of people’s lives.

Among the opportunities are these:

- The introduction of new technologies now means that there is a wide range of options available for managing waste, in addition to the traditional method of landfilling.
In particular, encouragement is being given at European, national and more local level to
minimising the amount of waste needing treatment, both by minimising the amount of waste
that is created, and by maximising the re-use or recycling of materials that would otherwise
be regarded as waste.

Recent legislation has set new, high, standards for the control of pollution resulting from
waste treatment – this can ensure that new methods are adopted which will not have
harmful environmental effects.

The development of new waste management facilities can provide an opportunity to assist
the regeneration of previously-used land.

The restoration of sites formerly used for waste disposal (landfill sites) can be used to
create attractive new landscapes and wildlife habitats, or to provide new facilities of public
benefit (such as improved public access).

**SEA objectives**

14 Using a range of sources, including the findings of Chapters 3 and 4, Chapter 5 identifies
a series of objectives for the SEA, for use in the later assessment of the Plan. These objectives
were prepared in conjunction with the four statutory 'environmental consultees' who are required
to be involved in the early stages of the SEA process, namely the Environment Agency, English
Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency. The objectives agreed for use in the SEA
are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA</th>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEA1</td>
<td>To protect and enhance natural habitats and wildlife, and important geological features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA2</td>
<td>To protect the living conditions and amenities of local residents from adverse effects of waste development, including noise, vibration, dust, odour and traffic impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA3</td>
<td>To protect community safety and well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA4</td>
<td>To avoid adverse cumulative environmental impacts of waste management and associated development on local communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA5</td>
<td>To protect agricultural resources and the best and most versatile agricultural land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA6</td>
<td>To guard against increased risk of flooding, and achieve an overall reduction in flood risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA7</td>
<td>To protect and enhance water resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA8</td>
<td>To protect and enhance air quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA9</td>
<td>To help minimise the impact of waste development on climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA10</td>
<td>To reduce the consumption and wasteful use of primary resources, and encourage the development of alternatives to primary resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA11</td>
<td>To minimise the requirement for energy use, promote energy efficiency, and increase the use of energy from renewable sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA12</td>
<td>To secure the sustainable management of waste, minimise its production, and increase re-use, recycling and recovery rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA13</td>
<td>To reduce the need to travel and to reduce journey lengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA14</td>
<td>To encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment of options

15 Chapter 6 of the Environmental Report assesses the benefits that are obtained by having a detailed Replacement Waste Local Plan in place. It does this by considering whether the SEA objectives would be better met by adopting an alternative approach. Two alternatives to a Waste Local Plan were assessed:

- A ‘do nothing’ option, which means not having a Local Plan at all and relying purely on national and regional policy guidance; or
- A ‘business as usual’ option, which means continuing as at present using the policies of the existing Cheshire Structure Plan and the Waste Disposal Local Plan

16 The outcome of these two options is compared with the option of having a completely new Waste Local Plan. The conclusion reached is that neither of these two options would provide an adequate basis for assessing local issues at the planning application stage, and they could be less flexible in allowing Cheshire to respond to future changes in government policy and to technological changes in waste management. A flexible new Replacement Local Plan would not have these drawbacks.

Policy assessment

17 Chapter 7 assesses the environmental effects of the Plan by seeing to what extent two of its key elements – its policies and its site-specific proposals – would enable the SEA objectives to be achieved. Where the assessment has indicated that a policy or proposal could lead to consequences that would conflict with one or more of these objectives, the Report considers what steps, if any, might be taken to avoid this conflict.

18 Overall, the policies of the Plan have been assessed as contributing well to the achievement of the SEA objectives. Of the 34 policies in the Re-deposit version of the Plan, only seven have been identified as potentially giving rise to conflicts with one or more of the objectives. These seven policies, and the recommended approaches to addressing the concerns identified, are as follows:

- Policy 10 (Development and waste recycling) (Policy 11 in the Final Plan): The general thrust of this policy is wholly in accordance with aims of environmental protection and wider sustainability objectives. However, it has to be recognised that, by their nature and location, waste recycling facilities provided in association with new development can become locations for anti-social behaviour. This would conflict with objective SEA3 regarding the protection of community safety and well-being. To minimise this possibility, it is suggested that a reference to ‘designing out crime’ should be added to the list of development control issues in Policy 12 of the Plan. This will ensure that this aspect is fully taken into account by
the planning authority when considering any applications for development of this type.

- Policy 11 (Impact of development proposals) (Policy 12 in the Final Plan): The policy does not expressly include a provision regarding the impact of waste development on adjoining non-residential land-uses. Although some of these impacts may be implicitly addressed within the policy, it is considered that the express addition of this issue to the policy would ensure that these impacts are considered for their own sake.

- Policy 14 (Green Belts) (Policy 15 in the Final Plan): This policy gives rise to a number of impacts that potentially conflict with the SEA objectives. These include:
  - Potential adverse impacts of waste development on living conditions and landscape/townscape in locations outside the Green Belt, because restrictions on development in Green Belts means that waste development may be steered to locations beyond, or inside, the Green Belt. These impacts would conflict with objectives SEA2 and 16.
  - Potential adverse impacts on objectives regarding minimising resource consumption, energy use and journey lengths (SEA10, 11 and 13 respectively), and on the objective regarding a sustainable approach to waste management (SEA 12). In all cases this is because the restriction on development in the Green Belt means that waste may have to be carried over longer distances to its place of treatment or disposal than would be the case if the Green Belt policy did not apply. However, these impacts are all the unavoidable consequences of having Green Belt policy in the first place – they are not shortcomings in the Waste Local Plan itself. It is therefore concluded that no mitigation or changes to the Plan’s policies would be appropriate to address them.

- Policy 20 (Agricultural Land Quality) (Policy 19 in the Final Plan): The statement that “it will be expected that sites [on high-quality farmland] can be restored to a condition as near as possible to the original quality” is considered to set too low a standard. To ensure that such restoration does indeed take place, it is suggested that the word “can” should be replaced by “will”.

- Policy 29 (Hours of Operation - General) (Policy 29 in the Final Plan): The proviso in the policy allowing longer hours of operation in exceptional circumstances could in theory weaken the policy’s intention of limiting hours of working in order to minimise environmental impacts on local residents and communities. However, any concerns arising on this front should be addressed by sensitive application of Policy 11 (Policy 12 in the Final Plan) at the development control stage. No further changes are therefore needed to the Plan to address this point.

- Policy 30 (Hours of Operation for Household Waste Recycling Centres) (Policy 30 in the Final Plan): The fact that these sites cannot be open 24 hours a day inevitably creates a risk of fly-tipping by people arriving at the sites after they have closed for the day. This would conflict with objective SEA3 regarding the protection of community safety and well-being. But as issues regarding litter and fly-tipping are expressly identified in Policy 11 (Policy 12 in the Final Plan) as matters for consideration at the planning application stage, it is concluded that the Plan already goes as far as it can, in policy terms, to address these possible adverse impacts. So no further changes to the Plan are needed on this subject.

- Policy 32 (Reclamation) (Policy 32 in the Final Plan): Like the others, this policy generally scored well in the assessment, but there were certain areas where possible conflicts with the SEA objectives were identified:
- The Reasoned Justification to the policy (the supporting text printed alongside the policy) is not clear about the need to make provision for after-uses at the initial planning application stage. This is considered to create a possible conflict with the objectives regarding the protection of agriculture (SEA 5) and of primary resources (SEA10: in this case, ‘land’ is the primary resource in question), and with objective SEA17 regarding effective and sympathetic after-uses. It is suggested that these concerns could be addressed by a relatively minor addition to the wording of the present text of the Plan.

- The text of the policy is considered to inhibit the achievement of objective SEA17 regarding effective and sympathetic restoration, because the only requirement of the policy is that sites be reclaimed “satisfactorily”. It is suggested that a higher standard of restoration should be required in the policy. Again, this could be addressed by a minor rewording of the policy.

In most other cases, the policy assessment has shown that the policies would have a positive or neutral effect on achieving each of the SEA objectives. In several instances, the success of the policy in delivering these objectives will depend on the way it is implemented at the planning application stage. But the Plan as written will allow a positive impact to be achieved at that stage, and so it is regarded as being satisfactory in terms of the objectives concerned.

Site assessment

The assessment of the Plan’s site-specific proposals, as reported in the October 2005 Environmental Report and its two Supplements, has looked only at whether the identification of any of the proposed Preferred Sites gives rise to immediate conflict with the SEA objectives, or is likely to do so. The SEA cannot consider the effects of specific development schemes at each site. Detailed assessment of the effects of individual schemes is a matter for the development control stage, when those impacts may have to be described and assessed through the detailed process of Environmental Impact Assessment. The role of the SEA is just to identify in general terms if there is a likelihood, or a possibility, of waste development at each of the Preferred Sites having harmful effects on identified environmental interests.

The assessment has been based on information supplied by the County Council about each site. In some cases, the amount of information available about some sites was more comprehensive than for other sites. No visits have been made to any of the sites as part of the assessment.

Based on the available information, the great majority of the Preferred Sites received positive or neutral scores in the assessment, or else received scores which mean that the successful delivery of a particular SEA objective will depend on the way in which the policy is applied at the time of a planning application.

The following areas of possible conflict with the SEA objectives were identified:

1. Potential conflict with objective SEA1 (protection of natural habitats, etc): Site WM18 (WM17 in the Final Plan) was identified as lying close to an environmental priority area, and WM27 (WM22 in the Final Plan) adjoins a site of biological importance.
• Potential conflict with objective SEA2 (protection of living conditions and residential amenity): Sites WM 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 and WMR28 (WM 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 23 in the Final Plan) were all identified as lying close to residential development, and hence development here could potentially have harmful effects on living conditions.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA4 (avoiding adverse cumulative impacts): Sites WM 6, 13 and 17 (WM 7, 13 and 16 in the Final Plan) were identified as subject to possible concerns regarding cumulative impacts because of the presence of waste management development on or close to the site already. In addition, the potential for such impacts was noted at sites WM 1, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18 and 27 (WM 1, 3, 4, 6, 15, 17 and 22 in the Final Plan); whether such impacts would actually occur will depend on the nature of existing uses on or near the sites, or the condition of the land.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA5 (protection of agricultural land and resources): Sites WM7 and WM11 (WM 8 and WM11 in the Final Plan) were identified as being currently in agricultural use.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA6 (risk of flooding): Sites WM 4B, 7, 9, 11, 12A, 16, 19, 26A, 26B and 27 (WM 5, 8, 9, 11, 12A, 15, 21 and 22 in the Final Plan) were identified as lying partially within, or close to, a flood-risk area.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA9 (minimising impacts on climate change): The three proposed landfill/landraise sites (WM 7, 9 and 11) (WM 8, 9 and 11 in the Final Plan) were identified as having the potential for the release of greenhouse gases.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA12 (securing sustainable waste management): Three sites are identified for landfill/landraise (WM 7, 9 and 11) (WM 8, 9 and 11 in the Final Plan), which is acknowledged to be the least sustainable method of waste treatment.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA14 (use of sustainable transport modes): Sites WM 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 26 and WMR28 (WM 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21 and 23 in the Final Plan) all lie adjacent or close to a railway or waterway, and the use of road transport to serve these sites might represent a ‘missed opportunity’ in achieving this objective.

• Potential conflict with objective SEA16 (protection of landscape): Because they all include areas of open land, sites WM 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20 and 23 (WM 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 18 in the Final Plan) were all identified as giving rise to potential conflict with this objective; while the possibility of conflict at sites WM 25 and 26 (WM 20 and 21 in the Final Plan) was also noted, because these sites lie in the Mersey Community Forest area.

24 In all cases, on the basis of the information available and at the general level of assessment appropriate to an SEA, the issues identified were not judged to represent insuperable objections to the inclusion of the site in the Plan. Mitigation of the impacts referred to in respect of objectives SEA 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 16 will therefore rely on the sensitive application of the Plan’s environmental protection policies at the development control stage. It is stressed that these conclusions are reached without prejudice to the view that might be taken by the Council and others of more detailed arguments regarding individual sites which may be put forward at later stages of the preparation of the Plan, or at the time of subsequent planning applications.

25 In respect of objective SEA12, although it is the least sustainable method of waste treatment, landfill/landraise is an inevitable component of waste management. At the very least,
there will always remain some untreatable residues from other waste management processes which can only be disposed of by landfill or landraise. It is suggested that a rapid shift to alternative methods of waste treatment should be encouraged, in order to minimise the amount of landfilling in the county; and that the geographical extent of permissions for landfilling within the unconsented Preferred Areas should be restricted so that the existence of these sites does not act as a disincentive to a shift to more sustainable treatment methods.

26 With regard to the concerns in terms of SEA14, it is suggested that the Council should consider in more detail if any of the sites concerned offers a realistic opportunity for transport by rail or waterway rather than by road. If so, or if the position for any particular site is unclear, it is suggested that the potential for the use of these alternative means of transport should be expressly mentioned in the Plan, in an effort to maximise the opportunities for use of these modes as sought by objective SEA14.

Monitoring

27 The final chapter of the Environmental Report identifies a set of Indicators which can be used to test, over time, whether the Plan is achieving its environmental objectives. These indicators were derived through discussions with the environmental consultees (see paragraph 14).

28 Chapter 8 also includes an assessment of the data that is likely to be required, on a regular basis, to allow the achievement of the objectives to be measured. It identifies areas where data is not, or may not be, currently available.

29 The principal outcome of the Monitoring section of the SEA report should be for the County Council to set up the arrangements required for gathering the required data.

30 In some cases – particularly for the monitoring of the impacts of new waste activities at the Preferred Sites – detailed ‘baseline’ information is likely to be supplied by planning applicants as part of their planning applications. Arrangements for subsequent monitoring of the impacts of new facilities will be for decision case-by-case. It may be possible to secure, through the planning process, some continuing monitoring of these sites by the site operators.

Conclusions

31 The Re-deposit Draft version of the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan is considered generally to meet the principal objectives for environmental protection that have been identified for the SEA. If it is implemented carefully and sensitively, and if its effects are carefully monitored over time and action taken where appropriate to remedy any emerging discrepancies between the expected and the actual outcomes of the Plan, it has the potential to contribute significantly to the protection of the environment while still allowing for the necessary provision of waste facilities in Cheshire.
A relatively small number of items have been identified through the SEA process where minor changes to the Plan would enhance still further its contribution to environmental protection. These are brought together in the following table, which also includes other matters which the SEA has suggested call for further consideration by the County Council. It will be for the Council to decide how, if at all, it wishes to address these matters in the continuing work on the Plan.

### Issues for further consideration by the County Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ER para</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Suggested mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>para 3.5</td>
<td>The Plan generally</td>
<td>Compatibility with new version of PPS10 and revisions to Waste Strategy 2000</td>
<td>Review Plan to ensure the Council is satisfied regarding its consistency with PPS10 and WS2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7.2</td>
<td>Policy 10 (Policy 11 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>Potential for anti-social behaviour</td>
<td>Add ‘designing out crime’ to the list of development control issues in Policy 11 (Policy 12 in the Final Plan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7.2</td>
<td>Policy 11 (Policy 12 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>Impacts on adjoining or nearby non-residential land-uses</td>
<td>Add ‘impact on other adjoining and nearby land-uses’ after ‘residential amenity’ in the list of development control issues in Policy 11 (Policy 12 in the Final Plan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7.2</td>
<td>Policy 20 (Policy 19 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>Restoration standards</td>
<td>Amend “can” in Policy 20 (i) to read “will”. (Policy 19 in the Final Plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7.2</td>
<td>Policy 32 (Policy 32 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>After-uses</td>
<td>Add “to a suitable and beneficial after-use” after the word “reclaimed” in the first sentence of the policy’s Reasoned Justification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7.2</td>
<td>Policy 32 (Policy 32 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>Restoration standards</td>
<td>Amend the opening of item (i) of the policy to read “the site will be restored to a high standard [or ‘to the highest practicable standard’] following completion ... “.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ER para</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Suggested mitigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landfill/ Landraise Supplement, Table 2</td>
<td>Preferred Sites WM7, 9 and 11 (Sites WM8, 9 and 11 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>Minimising landfill/landraise activities, which are the least sustainable forms of waste treatment</td>
<td>Encourage a rapid shift to alternative methods of waste treatment; and to ensure that the availability of landfill sites does not act as a disincentive to this shift, consider restricting the geographical extent of permissions for landfill/landraise, only releasing new areas if it is clear that this will not prejudice a shift to more sustainable methods of treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.19</td>
<td>Preferred Sites WM 1-4, 12-13, 15-17, 21, 26 and WMR28 (Sites WM1-4, 12-13, 14-16, 19, 21 and 28 in the Final Plan)</td>
<td>Potential for use of rail or waterways</td>
<td>Consider whether there is realistic potential for any of these sites to be served by rail or waterway, and if so – or if the position is uncertain – encourage this through express provisions in the Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 8.2</td>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Availability of baseline data and continuing environmental data</td>
<td>Consider the ways in which the individual items of data referred to in Table 8.2 of the Environmental Report might be assembled, and instigate arrangements for collecting this data on a continuing basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GLOSSARY

A

Aftercare – An agreed programme of work designed to bring a restored mineral or waste disposal site to a satisfactory standard for agriculture, amenity or nature conservation uses. Normally imposed in the form of a planning condition to run for a period of 5 years following initial restoration. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, post closure conditions relating to pollution and monitoring may be attached to waste management licences for landfill sites.

After-use – The use to which a mineral or waste management site is put on completion of restoration: e.g. agriculture, forestry, recreation.

Aggregate – Sand, gravel, crushed rock and other bulk fill materials that are suitable for use in the construction industry as concrete or mortar, or for use as a constructional fill or railway ballast.

Aggregate Recycling Facility – A site where aggregate, including hardcore and soil, is stockpiled and mechanically screened and crushed as necessary and where contaminants, such as timber, glass and metal are removed.

Anaerobic digestion – A process where biodegradable material is broken down in the absence of oxygen in an enclosed container. It produces a mixture of carbon dioxide, methane and solids/liquids known as digestate which can be used for fertiliser or compost. The methane gas released by the process is normally burnt to generate heat and power.

Aquifer – A geological stratum or formation which contains exploitable resources of water and which is capable of either storing or transmitting water.

B

Best Available Technique (BAT) – The concept of Best Available Techniques is defined under the Pollution Prevention and Control regime. “Best” means the most effective techniques in achieving a high level of protection for the environment as a whole. “Available” means techniques developed on a scale which allows them to be used in the relevant industrial sector, under economically and technically viable conditions (thereby including balancing the costs of operation against the benefits to the environment). “Techniques” includes both technology and the way the installation is designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned.

Biodegradable – Capable of being broken down by plants and animals. In municipal waste the term generally refers to paper and card, food and garden waste and a proportion of other wastes such as textiles.
**Biodiversity** – The variety among living organisms from all sources including, amongst others, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

**Biological Mechanical Treatment (BMT)** – A similar process to Mechanical Biological Treatment except the biological treatment process precedes the mechanical treatment process. The process treats residual waste after recycling has taken place. Following bio-degradation there is potential for further separation of material by various mechanical processes and the residue is then landfilled or used as a refuse derived fuel.

**Bird Strike** – Damage to aircraft caused by birds.

**Bring System** – Recycling facilities, such as bottle banks, where members of the public can deposit materials for recycling.

**Brownfield Land** – See previously used land.

**Bund** – Mound of inert material, usually clay or soil, which is used as a visual and/or acoustic screen or barrier.

**Capping** – The final covering of a landfill with impervious material, usually compacted clay, in order to prevent water penetration that can lead to the production of leachate.

**Catchment Area** – The geographical area from which waste, or other products or services, are sent to a particular facility.

**Cell** – The compartment within a landfill site in which waste is deposited. The cell includes physical boundaries such as a low permeability base, a bund wall and low permeability cover.

**Clinical Waste** – Derived largely from hospitals, medical and other related practices and defined as blood, tissue and other bodily fluids and excretions from humans and animals; drugs and medical equipment; and any other waste which, unless rendered safe, may prove hazardous or infectious to persons coming into contact with it.

**Combined Heat and Power** – The combined production of heat (usually in the form of steam) and power (usually in the form of electricity).

**Commercial Waste** – Waste arising from premises which are used wholly or mainly for trade, business, sport, recreation or entertainment, excluding municipal and industrial waste.

**Composting** – A biological process which takes place in the presence of oxygen (aerobic) in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen wastes, are converted into a stable granular material.
Construction/Demolition Waste – Includes waste arising from the construction, repair, maintenance or demolition of buildings and structures.

Controlled Waste – Comprising of household, industrial, commercial, hazardous (special), clinical and sewage sludge which require a waste management licence for treatment, transfer and disposal. For a precise definition see the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994.

Cover – A layer of material deposited over waste in landfill sites. Cover is deposited at the end of each day to minimise odours, windblown litter and infestation by vermin.

Decomposition – The breakdown of matter into more simple forms through physical, chemical or microbiological action.


Disposal – The final stage of managing waste, preferably in a controlled and sustainable manner.

EC Directive – A European Community legal instruction, which is binding on all Member States, but must be implemented through legislation of national governments within a prescribed timescale.

Energy from Waste (EfW) – Includes a number of established and emerging technologies. Many wastes are combustible, with relatively high calorific values, this energy can be recovered through (for instance) gasification, pyrolysis, incineration with electricity generation or from the use of refuse derived fuel.

Environment Agency – Established in 1996, combining the functions of former local waste regulation authorities, the National Rivers Authority and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Pollution. Intended to promote a more integrated approach to waste management and consistency in waste regulation.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – The process whereby information about the environmental effects of a project is collected, assessed and taken into account in reaching a decision on whether the project should proceed.

Environmental Statement – A document setting out a comprehensive study and analysis of the likely impact of the proposals on all relevant aspects of the environment, the measures taken to mitigate adverse effects and any alternatives considered. The statement is prepared by or on behalf of the applicant for the development and is the result of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
**F**

**Flaring** – The burning of landfill gas without energy recovery to reduce atmospheric pollution. It is preferable to use the gas collected to produce electricity.

**Floodplain** – Land adjacent to watercourses, which may be subject to flooding.

**G**

**Gasification** – The thermal breakdown of organic material by heating waste in a low oxygen atmosphere to produce a gas. This is then used to produce heat/electricity. Similar to pyrolysis.

**Green Belt** – Areas of land defined in Structure Plans and District Local Plans that are rural in character and adjacent to urban areas, where permanent and strict planning controls apply in order to check the unrestricted sprawl of built up areas; safeguard the surrounding countryside from further encroachment; prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another; preserve the special character of historic towns and assist urban regeneration.

**Greenfield Site** – A site previously unaffected by built development.

**Greenhouse Gases** – Gases such as methane and carbon dioxide that are believed to contribute to global warming.

**Groundwater** – Water that has penetrated the earth from the surface via stratapores and fissures.

**H**

**Hazardous Waste** – Waste which by virtue of its composition, carries the risk of death, injury or impairment of health, to humans or animals, the pollution of waters, or could have an unacceptable environmental impact if improperly handled, treated or disposed of, as controlled by the EC Directives on Hazardous Waste and defined by the Special Waste Regulations 1996 (as amended).

**Household Waste** – As a major component of the municipal waste stream household waste includes waste from household collection rounds, bulky waste collection, hazardous household waste collection, garden waste collection, Household Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC) waste, and wastes collected through council recycling schemes.

**Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRC’s)** – Sites to which the public can bring domestic waste for free disposal. HWRC’s also accept bulky household and green waste. Where possible, the collected waste is recycled after sorting.

**Hydrogeology** – The study of the movement of water through its associated rock strata.
Incineration – The controlled burning of waste, either to reduce its volume or its toxicity. Energy recovery from incineration can be achieved by utilising the calorific value of paper, plastic, etc to produce heat or power.

Industrial Waste – Waste arising from any factory and from any premises occupied by an industry (excluding mines and quarries).

Inert Waste – Waste which, when deposited into a waste disposal site does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformations and which complies with the criteria set out in Annex III of the EC Directive on the Landfill of Waste.

Integrated Planning and Pollution Control (IPPC) – Designed to prevent, or reduce as far as possible, the pollution from a range of industrial and other installations, including some waste management facilities, by means of integrated permitting processes based on the application of best available techniques.

Integrated Waste Management – Involves a number of key elements, including recognising each step in the waste management process as part of a whole; involving all key players in the decision making process; and utilising a mixture of waste management options.

In-vessel Composting – The composting of biodegradable waste in an enclosed environment, ranging from enclosed halls to tunnels, reactors, vessels and containers.

Kerbside Collection – Any regular collection of waste or recyclable material from premises, including collections from commercial or industrial premises as well as from households.

Landfill – The deposit of waste onto and into land in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is prevented and, through restoration, to provide land which may be used for another purpose.

Landfill Gas – Mixture of gases (primarily methane and carbon dioxide) generated in landfill sites by the anaerobic decomposition of biodegradable waste.

Landfill Tax – A tax introduced in 1996 by HM Custom and Excise on waste deposited in licensed landfill sites, with the aim of encouraging more sustainable waste management methods.

Landraise – Where land is raised by the deposit of waste material above existing or original ground level in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is prevented and, through restoration, to provide land which may be used for another purpose.
Leachate – An aqueous solution formed by rainwater, groundwater or inherent moisture percolating through waste in landfill/landraise sites and dissolving out a range of organic and inorganic compounds.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) – The systematic identification and evaluation of all the environmental benefits and disbenefits that result, both directly and indirectly, from a product throughout its entire life from extraction of raw materials to its eventual disposal and assimilation into the environment. LCA helps to place the assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of these various options, and the development of appropriate and practical waste management policies, on a sound and objective basis.

M

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) – A site where recyclable waste, usually collected via kerbside collections or from Household Waste Recycling Centres, is mechanically or manually separated, baled and stored prior to reprocessing.

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) – A process which treats residual waste after recycling has taken place. Reusable materials and contaminants are separated from the waste stream by a variety of mechanical processes and the remaining residue is then treated biologically prior to landfiling or use as a refuse derived fuel.

Methane – A colourless, odourless gas formed during the anaerobic decomposition of putrescible waste. It is the major constituent of landfill gas.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) – Includes all wastes collected by the Waste Collection Authorities, or their agents.

Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Strategic framework for the management of municipal waste. In Cheshire, the County Council has worked in partnership with the six district councils to prepare the Cheshire Household Waste Management Strategy to guide the development of an integrated waste management system to collect, manage and dispose of municipal waste generated within Cheshire”.

N

Non-inert Waste – Organic Waste that decomposes after disposal to land. May include household, industrial, commercial and hazardous waste.

O

Open windrow composting – The composting of organic waste in external windrows which are not enclosed in any building, tunnel, reactor, vessel or other container.
**Planning Obligation** – Planning agreements or unilateral undertakings between a developer and a Local Planning Authority that are relevant to planning and directly related to the proposed development. The powers for these are usually provided by Section 106 (as amended) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG’s)** – Government policy statements on a variety of issues that can constitute a material consideration in determining planning applications.

**Planning Policy Statements (PPS’s)** – Government Policy Statements which are replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes with up to date guidance on a variety of planning issues that can constitute a material consideration in determining planning applications.

**Preferred Site** – An individual site or area where waste management uses are suitable in principle, subject to further work and detailed assessment to prove the suitability of a site (or area within a site) for a particular use at the planning application stage.

**Putrescible Waste** – Organic waste which, when deposited at a landfill site, will decompose and give rise to potentially polluting by-products in the form of liquids or gases.

**Pyrolysis** – The heating of waste in a closed environment (i.e. in the absence of oxygen) to produce a secondary fuel product.

**Ramsar** – A wetland site of Special Scientific Interest, which is designated by the Government under the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance.

**Recycling** – Involves the reprocessing of wastes, either into the same product or a different one that can be re-used.

**Reduction** – Reducing the amount of waste produced.

**Refuse Derived Fuel** – Residual waste treated to remove recyclable materials and maximise calorific value and normally compressed to make fuel pellets suitable for incineration or co-incineration as a replacement fossil fuel.

**Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)** – A broad development strategy for a region over a 15 to 20 year period, which forms part of the Development Plan for the area. As a result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) has been renamed as Regional Spatial Strategy and forms part of the Development Plan."

**Regional Technical Advisory Body** – Supports and advises on waste management options and strategies. Also develops regional targets and objectives for waste management.
Residual Waste – Unseparated/unsorted waste going to landfill or waste that remains after recycling and composting activities and which therefore still needs to be treated by other means or landfilled.

Re-use – The re-use of materials in their original form, without any processing other than cleaning.

RIGGS – Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites – Sites recognised for their geological or geomorphological importance.

Scheduled Monument (SM’s) – Nationally important archaeological remains that have special protection from development under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

Secondary Aggregates – Aggregates derived from by-products of the extractive industry, e.g. china clay waste, colliery spoil, blast furnace slag and pulverised fuel ash. They can also be derived from the recycling of construction and demolition wastes, e.g. crushed concrete.

Sewage Sludge – Is a putrescible, odorous by-product of the treatment of sewage at treatment works that may be produced in the form of liquid sludge or solids.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s) – Areas of high quality habitat (or geological features) of regional, national or international nature conservation importance, designated by English Nature.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) – A designation made under the Habitats Directive to ensure the restoration or maintenance of certain natural habitats and species some of which may be listed as ‘priority’ for protection.

Special Protection Area (SPA) – A designation made under the European Community Directive 79/409 on bird conservation (The Birds Directive), the aim of which is to conserve the best examples of the habitats of certain threatened species of bird, the most important of which are included as priority species.

Special Waste – Includes wastes that contain substances deemed to be dangerous to life as defined by the Special Waste Regulations 1996 and the Special Waste (Amendment) Regulations 1996, for example, asbestos.

Strategic Waste Management Assessment (SWMA) – Set of documents first published by the Environment Agency in 2000, which provides information about the quantities and management of waste in each region of England and Wales.

Strategic Waste Management Information (SWMI) – Information produced by the Environment Agency on the amounts and types of wastes produced and the methods used to manage it in England and Wales for the financial year 2002-3 or calendar year 2003.
Structure Plan – A broad land use strategy which establishes the main principles and priorities for future development, and forms part of the development plan.

Sustainable Development – Development that ensures a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come, and meets four objectives:
- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Sustainable Waste Management – Using material resources efficiently, to cut down on the amount of waste we produce. And where waste is generated, dealing with it in a way that actively contributes to the economic, social and environmental goals of sustainable development.

V

Vermin – Insects and small wild animals which can be attracted to landfill sites and can be a health hazard.

Void Space – Unused capacity at a landfill/landraise site.

W

Waste – Is the wide ranging term encompassing most unwanted materials and is defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Waste includes any scrap metal, effluent or unwanted surplus substance or article that requires to be disposed of because it is broken, worn out, contaminated or otherwise spoiled. Explosives and radioactive wastes are excluded.

Waste Collection Authority (WCA) – The District Councils carry out the function of waste collection. WCAs also have a duty to prepare and publicise waste recycling plans and strategies.

Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) – The County Council is responsible for the safe disposal of municipal waste arisings in the Cheshire area. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 required local authorities to transfer their waste disposal facilities to either a partly-owned arms length Local Authority Waste Disposal Company or directly into the private sector and to carry out their waste disposal responsibilities exclusively by means of letting contracts.

Waste Hierarchy – In accordance with the principles of sustainable waste management, the first priority is to reduce the proportion of waste, followed by re-use, then waste recovery (including materials recycling, composting and energy recovery). The Government have stated that they do not expect incineration with energy recovery to be considered before the opportunities for recycling and composting have been explored. Finally at the bottom of the hierarchy, comes waste disposal.
**Waste Local Plan (WLP)** – A statutory land-use plan forming, in conjunction with the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West, Structure Plan, Minerals Local Plan and District Local Plans, the Development Plan for Cheshire. The Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan is a transitional plan prepared under Schedule 8 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A Waste Local Plan is a plan containing waste policies, which are detailed policies in respect of development which involves the depositing of refuse or waste materials.

**Waste Management Facility** – Waste Management Facilities include materials recycling facilities, waste transfer stations, Household Waste Recycling Centres, recycling depots, composting sites, scrapyards and incinerators.

**Waste Minimisation** – Reducing the volume of waste that is produced. This is applicable to both the public and businesses.

**Waste Planning Authority (WPA)** – Cheshire County Council is the WPA for Cheshire. It is responsible for planning control of waste management facilities. They are also responsible for ensuring that there is an adequate planning framework to facilitate the establishment of appropriate waste management facilities, and to balance this provision with the need to protect the environment.

**Waste Transfer Station** – A waste management facility to which waste is delivered for separation or bulking up before being removed for recovery or disposal.

**Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)** – A facility for the treatment of sewage, waste water and effluent.