



MINERALS & WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Waste Core Strategy Submission

Final Sustainability Appraisal Report

December 2009



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Chapter 1: Summary and Outcomes

Non-technical Summary

- 1.1 This report is the fifth stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process of the Waste Core Strategy (comprising the Spatial Strategy, Core Policies and the Strategic Sites), and follows on from the Scoping Report published in October 2007 and Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options (Part I) Sustainability Appraisal Report published in July 2008, Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options (Part II) Strategic Sites Sustainability Appraisal published in December 2008 and Waste Core Strategy (Final Consultation) document published in July 2009 and accompanying SA Report.
- 1.2 SA incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive is a requirement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA of Suffolk County Council's Waste Core Strategy Submission document assesses its significant environmental, social and economic effects. The SA should inform and influence the development of plans early in the process with the aim of making them more sustainable. This document will form part of the Minerals & Waste Development Framework - a suite of documents which sets out the Council's approach to determining planning applications for minerals and waste management development.
- 1.3 This report is the SA Report for Suffolk County Council's Waste Core Strategy Submission document. It is issued along with the Submission document for public participation and it presents information on the likely effects of the plan. The process of appraisal has been carried out in accordance with Office of the Deputy Prime Minister guidance, namely – *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents – November 2005*.
- 1.4 The Waste Core strategy will provide the framework for sustainable waste management, and will contain a spatial vision for managing waste in Suffolk over the next 10-15 years and covers different types of controlled waste: Municipal Solid Waste; Commercial and Industrial Waste; Inert and Hazardous Wastes.
- 1.5 The Submission document contains objectives which forms the basis for preparing policies and a framework for identifying sites for waste management facilities. The SA compatibility matrix analysis of these against SA objectives indicates no major conflicts (see Appendix 2).The following is a list of the Submission Options followed by sustainability summary of these options against the SA objectives. The full SA appraisal of options is presented in Appendix 4.

Policy WCS1: The Spatial Waste Management Strategy for Suffolk

Preference will be given to proposals for waste management facilities in accordance with the Key Diagram where individual sites are well related to the Suffolk Lorry Route Network, centres of population and sources of waste and do not have adverse impacts upon features of environmental importance or endanger human health.

SA Appraisal:

The policy's effect is largely neutral (based on the sustainability appraisal results), although there are positive impacts relating to maintaining/improving biodiversity and geodiversity, minimising effects of HGV traffic on the environment and promoting economic sustainability. Making appropriate provision through identifying sites in a DPD can provide a degree of certainty for developers and communities who will contribute to sustainable investment and economic growth in the County. Adhering to the apportionment identified in the East of England Plan ensures that enough capacity is made available throughout the life of this plan.

Policy WCS2: Management of Sub-regional Apportionment (thousand tonnes)

Provision will be made to manage those volumes of Municipal Solid Waste, Commercial & Industrial Waste and London Waste identified in the East of England Plan as being apportioned to Suffolk during the plan period. This apportionment may be subject to change as a result of revision of regional guidance. The latest adopted sub-regional apportionment will be applied in calculating the provision to be made for waste management facilities. Until a revised apportionment is adopted to cover the period until 2026 the figures set out below will be used.

Proposals for new waste management development or an extension of existing waste development will only be permitted where there is a demonstrated need in compliance with Table 6. When considering the need for such facilities the County Council will take into account the capacity of existing recycling, composting, recovery and disposal facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application.

Permission may be granted for waste development involving importation of waste from outside the Plan area where this is demonstrated to maximise recycling, composting and recovery of waste materials and be the most sustainable option, taking into account regional self sufficiency and the Regional Spatial Strategy, proximity to point of waste arising and the waste hierarchy.

	2010/11	2015/16	2020/21	2025/26
Municipal Solid Waste	501	519	538	538
Commercial & Industrial	1,149	1,320	1,538	1,538
London Waste	220	107	106	106

SA Appraisal:

This policy has neutral effect overall, but scored positively against objective 14 (To minimise the impacts arising from the provision of waste facilities developments on where people live) and objective 15 (To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County).

Policy WCS3: Provision for the Recycling and Composting of Waste

The County Council will plan for a quantity of waste recycling and composting of at least 1,476,300 tonnes per annum, in compliance with Table 6. Relevant planning applications will be determined by reference to the appropriate criteria based policies. When considering the need for such facilities the County Council will take into account the capacity of existing recycling and composting facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application.

SA Appraisal:

This policy has mainly neutral effect on the environmental SA objectives. It scored positively against SA objectives 11 (To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy) and 12 (To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment). Also it could potentially have positive effects long term, on objective 13 (To maintain/improve health of the population overall) and 14 (To minimise the impacts arising from the provision of waste facilities developments on where people live) after mitigation measures and further environmental improvements take place.

Policy WCS4: Proposed sites for Strategic Residual Waste Treatment Facilities

The County Council will plan for a quantity of Residual Waste Treatment capacity of up to 599,700 tonnes of waste per annum, in compliance with Table 6. Favourable consideration will be given to proposals for Strategic Residual Waste Treatment Facilities (annual capacity of 100,000 tonnes or more) within the following locations:

- a) Specific Site 29, Suffolk County Council Highways Depot, Lodge Lane, Great Blakenham;
- b) Area of Search Site 2, Former Sugar Refinery, Sproughton Road, Sproughton;
- c) Area of Search Site 27, Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye and Yaxley, and;
- d) Area of Search Site 28, Masons Quarry, Great Blakenham.

When considering the need for such facilities the County Council will take into account the capacity of existing recycling, composting and recovery facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application.

The treatment of waste that could practicably be recycled or composted will not be acceptable. Conditions will be placed on planning permissions to ensure that only residual source-separated or pre-sorted waste is treated. Facilities that burn waste must provide for the recovery of energy and the use of combined heat and power will be encouraged.

SA Appraisal:

This policy should have neutral effects on most of the environmental SA objectives, providing that the waste management facilities are designed and operated properly. There are potentially positive effects on SA objectives 11 (To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy) as policy wording suggests potential for energy production and 12 (To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment) as new facilities will provide new opportunities for employment. Also this option scored positively against objective 15 (To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County) due to distribution of sufficient waste management facilities in close proximity to the sources of waste.

Policy WCS5: Specific sites for Non-hazardous Landfill

The County Council will plan for a quantity of Non-Hazardous Landfill capacity of up to 1,114,766 tonnes, in compliance with Table 6. Favourable consideration will be given to the following proposals for Non-Hazardous Landfill:

- a) extension of time and broadening of accepted waste categories to include Municipal Solid Waste residues at Site W7, Layham Landfill Site, Layham;
- b) establishment of new Non-hazardous Landfill at Site 67, Thorington;
- c) extension to existing Non-hazardous Landfill at Site W17, Foxhall Landfill Site, Foxhall, and;
- d) re-contouring of existing Non-hazardous Landfill at Site W11, Masons Landfill Site, Great Blakenham.

When considering the need for such facilities the County Council will take into account the capacity of existing recycling, composting, recovery and landfill facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application.

The landfilling of waste that could practicably be recycled, composted or recovered will not be acceptable. Conditions will be placed on planning permissions to ensure that only residual source-separated or pre-sorted waste is landfilled.

Proposals for landfill gas energy recovery will be required.

SA Appraisal:

This option has mainly neutral effects, providing that appropriate controls and mitigation measures are applied.

Policy WCS6: Safeguarding of waste management sites

The Waste Planning Authority will seek to safeguard existing sites and sites proposed for the re-use, recycling and composting, transfer, treatment, recovery or disposal of waste as shown in Appendix 1 of the Waste Core Strategy and on the Proposals and Inset Maps and will object to development proposals that would prevent or prejudice the use such sites for those purposes unless suitable alternative provision is made.

The Waste Planning Authority will seek to safeguard Areas of Search identified in policy WCS4 and shown on the Proposal and Inset Maps and will object to development proposals that would prevent or prejudice the potential for a strategic residual waste treatment facility. This safeguarding is not intended to preclude other forms of development within the Area of Search which do not prejudice or would not be prejudiced by a strategic residual waste treatment facility.

Development proposals in close proximity to existing sites, Specific Sites or Areas of Search should demonstrate that they would not prejudice or be prejudiced by a waste management facility. The safeguarding policy will also apply to any site where planning permission has already been granted.

SA Appraisal:

The SA results revealed that this policy scored neutrally on the majority of the SA objectives. It scored positively on objective 14 (To minimise the impacts arising from the provision of waste facilities developments on where people live) and objective 15 (To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County). It is also likely to have positive effects on objective 12 (To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment).

Policy WCS7: General considerations relevant to all waste management facilities

In general waste management development will be acceptable so long as the proposals adequately address, where appropriate, the following:

- a) Potential for adverse impact upon the integrity of Natura 2000 sites;
- b) Potential flood risk;
- c) Proposed vehicle movements and access;
- d) Potential impact upon landscape;
- e) Potential impact upon biodiversity;
- f) Potential impact upon archaeological or cultural heritage;
- g) Requirements of PPG13 including the use of rail freight shipping;
- h) Compatibility with neighbouring landuse;
- i) Potential impact upon agricultural land;
- j) Potential impact from noise and vibration;
- k) Potential impact upon air quality including odour;
- l) Potential visual impact;
- m) Potential impact upon the local water environment;
- n) Land instability;
- o) Site management issues including litter, vermin and birds.

SA Appraisal:

This policy scored positively on most of the environmental SA objectives. New developments have potential to maximise the efficient use of water. This policy also has positive effects on minimising the impacts arising from the provision of waste facilities developments on where people live.

Policy WCS8: Approval of sites for disposal of inert waste by landfilling or landraise

Additional voidspace or areas of landraise for the deposit of inert waste will be acceptable where:

- a) There is an identified need for inert waste to be disposed of in this manner. When considering the need for the disposal of inert waste by landfill or landraise the County Council will take into account the capacity of existing inert waste recycling and landfill facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application;
- b) There is no acceptable alternative form of waste management that can be made available to meet the need. The landfilling of inert waste that could practicably be recycled will not be acceptable. Conditions will be placed on planning permissions to ensure that only pre-sorted wastes are landfilled;
- c) The proposals comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

This option scored neutrally overall providing that appropriate controls and mitigation measures are applied. It has positive effects on SA objective 12 (To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment). Additional Landfill sites can provide additional employment.

Policy WCS9: Approval of sites for disposal of non-hazardous waste by landfilling or landraise.

Additional voidspace or areas of landraise not specifically identified in the Waste Core Strategy for the deposit of non-hazardous wastes will be approved where:

- a) There is an identified need for waste apportioned to Suffolk by the East of England Plan to be disposed of in this manner, with reference to Table 6. When considering the need for such facilities the County Council will take into account the capacity of existing recycling, composting, recovery and landfill facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application or are identified within the Waste Core Strategy, and;
- b) No acceptable alternative form of waste management can be made available to meet the need. The landfilling of waste that could practicably be recycled, composted or recovered will not be acceptable. Conditions will be placed on planning permissions to ensure that only residual source-separated or pre-sorted waste is landfilled, and;
- c) The site meets the specific criteria set out in Appendix 4 and Policy WCS7.

Proposals for landfill gas energy recovery will be required.

SA Appraisal:

This option scored neutrally overall providing that appropriate controls and mitigation measures are applied. It has positive effects on SA objective 12 (To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment). Additional Landfill sites can provide additional employment.

Policy WCS10: General Waste Management Facilities

General waste management facilities (other than strategic residual waste management facilities and landfill sites) are considered, in principle, unless otherwise stated, to be suitable for location within the following areas:

- a) Land in existing waste management use;
- b) Land in existing General Industrial use (B2 Use Class) or in existing Storage or Distribution use (B8 Use Class) (excluding open air composting);
- c) Land allocated for B2 and B8 purposes in a Local Plan or Development Plan Document (excluding open air composting);
- d) Redundant Agricultural and Forestry Buildings;
- e) Agricultural and Forestry Land (open air composting only);
- f) Brownfield land (excluding open air composting);
- g) Unallocated Former Airfields (open air composting only);
- h) Waste Water Treatment Facilities (enclosed composting and anaerobic digestion only);
- i) Current and former mineral workings (open air composting and construction, demolition and excavation waste recycling only).

Proposals must also comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7. When considering the need for such facilities the County Council will take into account, where applicable, if there is an identified need for waste apportioned to Suffolk by the East of England Plan to be disposed of in this manner, with reference to Table 6. as well as the capacity of existing recycling, composting, recovery and disposal facilities and proposed facilities that have planning permission or are the subject of a current planning application.

SA Appraisal:

According to the SA results this policy scored mainly neutrally against environmental SA objectives. It will attract significant inward investment in waste management facilities therefore there will be positive effects on SA objective 15 (To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County).

This policy also has positive effects on objective 12 (To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment) as it would provide new opportunities for employment.

Policy WCS11: Residual Waste Treatment facilities with a capacity of less than 100,000 tonnes annual throughput

Residual Waste Treatment facilities with a capacity of less than 100,000 tonnes annual throughput will be acceptable where the proposed facility is on land:

- a) Within the uses set out in Policy WCS 10, and;
- b) The site meets the specific criteria set out in Appendix 3 and Policy WCS7.

The treatment of waste that could practicably be recycled or composted will not be acceptable. Conditions will be placed on planning permissions to ensure that only residual source-separated or pre-sorted waste is treated. Facilities that burn waste must provide for the recovery of energy and the use of combined heat and power will be encouraged.

SA Appraisal:

The results of the SA suggest that this policy scored neutrally on all environmental SA objectives, providing that RWT facilities are sustainably designed and operated correctly. There are positive effects on SA objective 11 (*to move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*) as this policy encourages energy recovery and also potentially will provide some construction, operation and maintenance opportunities. There is a positive effect on objective 15 (*To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County*) as sufficient waste management facilities in close proximity to centres of population should prove to be beneficial.

Policy WCS12: Waste Transfer Stations, Materials Recycling Facilities, End of Life vehicle Facilities and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Recovery Facilities

Waste Transfer Stations, Material Recycling Facilities, End of Life Vehicle Facilities and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Recovery Facilities will be acceptable within purpose designed or suitably adapted facilities on land within the uses identified within Policy WCS10.

Proposals for such facilities at landfill sites will be considered acceptable on a temporary basis whilst landfilling and restoration activity is taking place on site. Any temporary planning permissions will be linked to the time limits relating to the landfill activities on site.

The proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

The SA results revealed that this option scored mainly neutrally against environmental SA objectives if site was managed in accordance with planning permission. There are positive effects on objective 10 (*To minimise contributions to global warming*) due to increased local management of waste that would potentially reduce lorry movements. This policy will also contribute to the movement of treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy as products made from or uses for waste material may be found. It will also attract significant inward investment in waste management facilities and will allow for synergies with existing transport infrastructure.

Policy WCS13: Household Waste Recycling Centres

Household Waste Recycling Centres will be acceptable within purpose designed or suitably adapted facilities on land within the land uses identified within Policy WCS10.

Proposals for such facilities at landfill sites will be considered acceptable on a temporary basis whilst landfilling and restoration activity is taking place on site. Any temporary planning permissions will be linked to the time limits relating to the landfill activities on site

Where it can be demonstrated that no suitable sites consistent with Policy WCS10 are available within the area to be served by the Household Waste Recycling Centre, Household Waste Recycling Centres will be acceptable on other sites provided these are consistent with Policy WCS7 and are accessible to the public.

SA Appraisal:

According to the SA this policy has neutral effects on environmental objectives overall. This policy has a positive effect on objective 10 (*To minimise contributions to global warming*) as increased local management of waste potentially reduces lorry movements. This policy also directly promotes objective 11 (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*) and has positive effects on objective 12 (*To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment*) as it would provide new opportunities for employment.

Policy WCS14: Enclosed Composting Facilities

Enclosed composting facilities will be acceptable on land within the uses identified within Policy WCS10

Proposals for enclosed composting will not be approved unless they are accompanied by a site-specific risk assessment which shows that the bioaerosol levels can be maintained at appropriate levels at dwelling or workspaces within 250m of a facility. Appropriate schemes for the management of odours and dust will also be required.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

The results of the SA suggests that this policy has neutral effects on environmental objectives overall if enclosed composting facilities are to be constructed and operated properly. The wording of the policy aims that these facilities should at least maintain air quality so is likely to have a positive effect on objective 1 (*To maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)*). This policy has a positive effect on objective 10 (*To minimise contributions to global warming*) as increased local management of waste potentially reduces lorry movements. This policy also directly promotes objective 11 (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*) and has positive effects on objective 12 (*To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment*) as it would provide new opportunities for employment.

Policy WCS15: Open Air Composting

Open air composting facilities will be acceptable on land within the uses identified within Policy WCS10.

At landfill sites, open air composting proposals that will extend the life of landfill operations will be acceptable if the continued operations do not:

- a) Result in unacceptable environmental damage, or;
- b) Perpetuate recycling activity poorly related in relation to sources of waste, or;
- c) Lead to unreasonable delay in restoration.

Proposals for open air composting will not be approved unless they are accompanied by a site-specific risk assessment based on clear independent evidence which shows that the bio-aerosol levels can be maintained, throughout the life of the operations, at appropriate levels at dwellings or workspaces within 250m of a facility.

Appropriate schemes for the management of odours and dust will also be required.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

Overall a suitably managed development would score mainly neutrally overall. If properly designed, sited and operated open air composting facilities should have no negative effects on environmental SA objectives. This policy minimises contributions to global warming by diverting waste from landfill. There will be opportunities for new businesses and new facilities will create jobs.

Policy WCS16: Anaerobic Digestion

Anaerobic digestion facilities will be acceptable on land:

- a) Within the uses identified within Policy WCS10; or
- b) Integrated with Waste Water Treatment Plants.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

This policy has positive effects on objective 1 (*to maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)*) and objective 8 (*To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment*) as on site management of waste potentially reduces lorry movements. This policy will have very positive effects on objectives 10 (*To minimise contributions to global warming*) and 11 (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*). It will also provide new opportunities for employment and contribute to the promotion of sustainable investment and economic growth in the County.

Policy WCS17: Proposals for recycling or transfer of inert and construction, demolition and excavation waste

Proposals for recycling or transfer of inert and construction, demolition and excavation waste will be acceptable on land within the uses identified within Policy WCS10.

At mineral sites, planning permission will be limited to the life of the mineral operation.

At landfill sites, proposals that will extend the life of landfill operations will only be acceptable if the continued operations do not;

- a) Result in unacceptable environmental damage, or
- b) Perpetuate recycling activity poorly related in relation to sources of waste; or;
- c) Lead to unreasonable delay in restoration.

On land suitable for General Industrial or Storage & Distribution uses, activities shall take place within purpose-designed facilities.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

The SA results shows that this option scored mainly neutrally against environmental SA objectives, although has a positive effects on objective 1 (*To maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)*) as network of facilities would reduce waste being landfilled. This policy also encourages recycling, reuse and recovery and reduces waste to landfill so will have a positive effect on objective 10 (*To minimise contributions to global warming*). Very good positive effects are apparent for objective 11 (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*) and objective 12 (*To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment*), as network of waste management facilities would provide significant employment opportunities.

Policy WCS18: Waste Water Treatment Plants

New or extended Waste Water Treatment facilities will be acceptable where such proposals aim to improve the quality of discharged water or reduce the environmental impact of operation. The developer will be required to demonstrate that the proposal can be located without giving rise to unacceptable environmental impacts.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

This policy has very positive effects on objective 2 (*To maintain or improve water quality*) as it directly promotes it. It also has positive effects on objective 6 (*To maximise the efficient use of water*). It is likely to bring forward new jobs and promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County.

Policy WCS19: Treatment, storage and disposal of Low and Very Low Level radioactive waste at Sizewell nuclear power stations

Facilities for the treatment, storage or disposal of LLW or VLLW generated at Sizewell nuclear power stations will be acceptable within the Nuclear Licensed Areas at Sizewell where:

- a) This is consistent with the national strategy for managing Low Level and Very Low Level radioactive wastes and discharges and/or the decommissioning plans for the Sizewell stations, and;
- b) The outcome of economic and environmental assessments justify it being dealt with on site, and;
- c) Facilities are located and designed in order to minimise adverse impacts on the environment;

Only Low Level or Very Low Level radioactive waste generated at Sizewell shall be treated, stored or disposed of in such facilities.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

This policy has positive effects on objective 1 (*to maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)*) and objective 8 (*To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment*) as on site management of waste potentially reduces lorry movements.

Policy WCS20: Treatment and storage of Intermediate Level radioactive waste and spent fuel generated at Sizewell nuclear power stations

Facilities for the treatment or storage of Intermediate Level radioactive waste and spent fuel generated at Sizewell will be acceptable only within the Nuclear Licensed areas where:

- a) This is consistent with the national strategy for managing Intermediate Level radioactive waste and spent fuel and discharges, and;
- b) The outcome of economic and environmental assessments justify it being dealt with on site, and;
- c) Facilities are located and designed in order to minimise adverse impacts on the environment.

Only Intermediate Level radioactive waste or spent fuel generated within a Nuclear Licensed area at Sizewell shall be treated or stored in such facilities. There shall be no disposal of Intermediate Level radioactive waste or Spent Fuel. Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

The results of the SA revealed that on site management of waste potentially reduces lorry movements hence scored positively on objectives 1 (*to maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)*) and objective 8 (*To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment*). This policy has neutral effects overall on environmental SA objectives as construction will take place within boundary of existing power station. It has positive effects on all social and economical SA objectives.

Policy WCS21: Transfer, storage, processing & treatment of hazardous waste

Facilities for the transfer, storage, processing and treatment (including incineration) of hazardous waste will be acceptable where they meet a demonstrable regional need of which a significant proportion arises from Suffolk, and are on land:

- a) In existing General Industrial use (B2), in Storage and Distribution use (B8) or identified for these uses in a Local Plan or Development Plan Document or;
- b) Integrated within an establishment producing much of the waste that will be dealt with.

Facilities for the transfer and short-term storage of hazardous waste will also be acceptable on existing waste management sites identified as having potential for non-hazardous waste transfer where hazardous waste will only represent a small proportion of waste managed on site.

Proposals shall comply with the general considerations set out in Policy WCS7.

SA Appraisal:

This policy has neutral effects mainly on environmental SA objectives providing that site is managed in accordance with planning permission. Overall a suitably managed development would score positively because of investment in hazardous waste facilities. This policy scores more positively in terms of transport related impacts because of the potential use of land identified as being suitable for non-hazardous waste transfer facilities, where the hazardous waste would only represent a small proportion of the waste managed at that site.

Policy WCS22: Sustainable construction and demolition

New development, including waste management facilities, should facilitate the efficient use of resources by addressing the principles of sustainable construction and demolition outlined in regional policy. Proposals for new development should incorporate the following:

- a) Construction and demolition methods that minimise waste generation and re-use/recycle materials, as far as practicable on site.
- b) Design principles and construction methods that minimise the use of primary aggregates and encourage the use of high quality building materials made from recycled and secondary sources.
- c) Design and layout principles that reduce the amount of waste produced and allow for the effective sorting, recycling and composting of waste where appropriate.

SA Appraisal:

The SA results suggest that this policy has very positive effects on the majority of the SA objectives long term as sustainable design of new waste management facilities would improve their performance in terms of reduction of waste produced, effective sorting, recycling and composting of waste. This option has also positive effect on SA objective 7 (*To minimise flood risk*) as sustainable design and layout of new waste management facilities will address the issues of flooding – minimise flood risk. Co-location of waste activities should provide additional employment opportunities, but with time the effect becomes uncertain due to the waste minimisation and consequently possible reduction of additional employment.

Policy WCS23: Climate Change mitigation and adaptation

New waste management facilities should through their construction and operation minimise their potential contribution to climate change through reducing carbon emissions, incorporate energy and water efficient design strategies and be adaptable to future climatic conditions. Proposals for new waste facilities should incorporate the following:

- a) Take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption, including maximising cooling and avoiding solar gain in the summer.
- b) Be planned so as to minimise carbon dioxide emissions, and support opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy supply.
- c) Give priority to the use of sustainable drainage systems, paying attention to the potential contribution to be gained to water harvesting from impermeable surfaces and encourage layouts that accommodate waste water recycling.
- d) Take account of potential changes in climate.
- e) Incorporate proposals for sustainable travel including travel plans where appropriate

SA Appraisal:

This policy overall has many positive effects as it directly promotes most of the environmental SA objectives. The purpose and the wording of the policy addresses the importance of landscapes, carbon dioxide emissions minimisation and the efficient use of water so consequently has positive effects on objectives 4, 6 and 10. Modern design of new facilities should maintain soil quality and support opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy supply. This policy should have generally positive effects on SA objective 14 (*To minimise the impacts arising from the provision of waste facilities developments on where people live*) and objective 15 (*To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County*). Overall policy has positive effects on 3 major SA objectives 8, 11 and 14.

Policy WCS24: Design of waste management facilities

Waste management facilities will be considered favourably where they incorporate:

- a) Designs of an appropriate scale, density, massing, height and materials.
- b) Safe and convenient access for all potential users,
- c) Schemes for the retention of existing and provision of new landscape features,
- d) Measures which will protect, preserve and where practicable enhance the natural, historic and built environment.

SA Appraisal:

The SA results show that this policy could have positive effects on SA objective 3 (*To maintain/improve biodiversity and geodiversity*) as modern design of the facilities should maintain biodiversity. Policy scores highly on the SA objective 4 (*To maintain/improve the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes/townscapes*) due to the possible provision of new landscape features. It also has very positive effects on SA objectives 15 (*To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County*) and 16 (*To promote efficient movement patterns within the county (rail or water where possible)*). The wording of this policy directly reflects these SA objectives.

- 1.6 The Waste Core Strategy Submission document identifies the following 4 sites as suitable for the siting of Strategic Residual Waste Treatment Facilities (RWTF) and 4 sites for non-hazardous landfill. Strategic sites are defined as sites capable of handling more than 0.1 million tonnes of waste. It should be noted that the area for proposed RWTF is approximately 5 Ha.

List of Strategic Sites

Site	Name	Area
2	Former Sproughton Sugar Factory	34.4 Ha

SA Appraisal:

The site is close to areas which generate waste and would be part of a network of waste management facilities throughout the County which would encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy. It has a potential for large capital investment.

The SA results show that this site scored very positively against objectives **8** (*To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment*), objective **11** (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*) and objective 15 (*To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County*). The results also indicate that this site has a limited effect against objective 1 (*To maintain/improve air quality*). Site is well located to sources of waste and non landfill option would benefit the effects of climate change.

Site	Name	Area
27	Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye and Yaxley	81..35 ha

SA Appraisal:

The SA results revealed that site has positive effects on SA objective 3 (*To maintain/improve biodiversity and geodiversity*), objective 7 (*To minimise flood risk*) and objective 15 (*To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County*). Non landfill option would benefit the effects of climate change, but the site is less favourably located in relation to sources of waste. The biodiversity of the site has low ecological value, hence new development could offer new high value ecological areas. Site is not in an area susceptible to flooding. It has a potential to attract large capital investment.

Site	Name	Area
28	Masons Quarry, Great Blakenham	15.75 ha

SA Appraisal:

The SA results showed that this site has very positive effects on objectives **11** (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*), short term objective 12 (*To maximise opportunities for new/additional employment*) and objective 15 (*To promote sustainable investment and economic growth in the County*). The site is close to areas which generate waste and will be part of a network of waste management facilities which will encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy. It will also attract large capital investment and will provide job opportunities during the construction phase of the development. There is potential for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) to service proposed development nearby. Presence of Great Crested Newts is identified which would need to be adequately safeguarded.

The site is not susceptible to flooding and scored neutrally mainly against environmental SA objectives. It has positive effect on objective **8** (*To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment*). Site is very well located to maximise tonnes per mile.

Site	Name	Area
29	Suffolk County Council Highways Depot, Lodge Lane, Great Blakenham	3.8 ha

SA Appraisal:

The site is not susceptible to flooding and scored neutrally mainly against environmental SA objectives. It has very positive effect on objective **8** (*To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment*). Site is very well located to maximise tonnes per mile. This site is well located in relation to the Strategic Lorry Route Network, with access onto the A14 via the B1113.

It has positive effect on objective **11** (*To move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy*) and there is potential for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) to supply the proposed development nearby.

It is likely to attract large capital investment and create short term jobs.

Site	Name	Area
W7	Layham Landfill Site	23.19 ha

SA Appraisal:

The results of the SA indicate that this site has mainly neutral effects overall as it is already existing site. The site overlies a major aquifer and is located over a Source Protection Zone III. Despite this fact it scored neutrally on SA objective 2 (*To maintain or improve water quality*) as new planning application will include a risk based assessment containing suitable proposals to safeguard the aquifer as agreed with the Environment Agency.

The site does not have national landscape designations but lies within Special Landscape Area. In the long term this site will benefit from additional landscaping to the existing buffer zones as mitigation measures. It scored positively on objective 16 (*To promote efficient movement patterns within the county (rail or water where possible)*) as it has good access onto A1071 which is a part of the Suffolk Lorry Route Network.

There could be some additional traffic and mitigation measures should include an assessment of the safety and likely traffic implications.

Site	Name	Area
67	Thorington	26.22 ha
<p>SA Appraisal:</p> <p>The results of the SA revealed that this site mainly has neutral effects overall as it is a former mineral site. It is likely to have neutral effects on SA objective 1 (<i>To maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)</i>). It is very well located in relation to a Strategic Lorry Route and has good access to the purposely designed junction directly connecting to the A12.</p> <p>Site scored neutrally on SA objective 3 (<i>To maintain/improve biodiversity and geodiversity</i>) short term and positively in the long term. Site already has existing planning permission for mineral working with the condition for restoration and additional habitat creation. Presence of crested newts is identified on the site and licence from Natural England is necessary for their translocation and their habitat improvement. There will be a need for an Appropriate Assessment due to Natura 2000 sites nearby at Minsmere and Walberswick Heaths and Marshes.</p> <p>The site scored neutrally on SA objective 2 (<i>To maintain or improve water quality</i>) as new planning application will include a risk based assessment containing suitable proposals to safeguard the aquifer as agreed with the Environment Agency.</p>		

Site	Name	Area
W17	Foxhall Landfill Site	30.57ha
<p>SA Appraisal:</p> <p>According to the SA this site scored neutrally on SA objective 1 (<i>To maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)</i>) as it is well-established landfill site and is unlikely to cause additional volume of traffic. It should have neutral effects on SA objective 2 (<i>To maintain or improve water quality</i>) providing appropriate controls measures are in place.</p> <p>This site scored neutrally short term and positively long term on SA objective 3 (<i>To maintain/improve biodiversity and geodiversity</i>) providing there are safeguards to ensure there are no impacts on the Mill River County Wildlife Site, Ipswich Heaths SSSI and Newbourne Springs SSSI. The site should be restored to heathland and acid grassland for biodiversity gains.</p> <p>It is a very screened and established site therefore there will be long term positive effects due to additional landscaping in the proposals for a strategic facility. The site has neutral effects on SA objective 8 (<i>To minimise effects of HGV traffic on the environment</i>) as this site is an existing landfill site. Site is close to the Strategic Lorry Route with good access to the A12.</p>		

Site	Name	Area
W11	Masons Landfill Site	73.93 ha
<p>SA Appraisal:</p> <p>The results of the SA showed that this site scored mainly neutrally against SA objectives. It has neutral effects on SA objective 1 (<i>To maintain/improve air quality (including HGV movements)</i>) however an assessment on the likely impact on the A14 J52 should be undertaken due to increased stress on this junction.</p> <p>Within the quarry there is a geological SSSI which would be preserved. Presence of Great Crested Newts is identified which would need to be adequately safeguarded, and CWS for which suitable mitigation would be required. It is a very well screened and established site. In the long term there could be positive effects due to additional landscaping in the proposals for a strategic facility. There are positive effects on SA objective 16 (<i>To promote efficient movement patterns within the county (rail or water where possible)</i>) as the site is well located in relation to the Strategic Lorry Route Network, with access onto the A14 via the B1113.</p>		

- 1.7 Compatibility testing of Absolute and Comparative assessment criteria and SA Objectives took place in the previous version of Sustainability Appraisal and is presented in Appendix 1.

Statement on the likely significant effects of the Waste Core Strategy

- 1.8 The main role of the Waste Core Strategy is to provide a framework for sustainable waste management in Suffolk over the plan period. It will define objectives based on government guidance and principles of sustainability which will form the basis for preparing policies and a framework for identifying sites for waste management facilities. It is not always possible to prevent and minimise waste, and consequently it is essential that the waste produced by the society is managed effectively.
- 1.9 Identifying how sustainability is incorporated into the plan-making process has been difficult, particularly given the changes in the planning system and in local government generally. Uncertainties over the environmental consequences of new waste technologies make the identification of the effects of the Waste Core Strategy more difficult. Hence, future revisions to the Waste Core Strategy will need to reflect emerging expertise and best practice.

Difference the process has made

- 1.10 The Sustainability Appraisal process is an integral part of the development of the Core Policy and has encouraged communication between experts and colleagues throughout. The role of the SA is to assist with the identification of the appropriate options, by highlighting the sustainability implications of each, and by putting forward recommendations for improvement. As part of Strategic Sites assessment process it has been used to highlight constraints with individual sites and to propose mitigation measures for these sites.