

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET PLANNING AND PARKING PANEL – 4 MARCH 2021
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION, PLANNING
AND GOVERNANCE)

HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE LOCAL PLAN – DRAFT CONSULTATION

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Hertfordshire County Council is consulting on its [Waste Local Plan](#). The deadline for responding is 19 March 2021. The timetable then assumes proposed submission consultation in Summer 2022, submission in Summer 2023 and adoption by Spring 2024.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members offer comments and grant delegated authority to the Head of Planning to prepare and submit a response, subject to final agreement by the Executive Member for Planning.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 The Council's previous response to the initial consultation in March 2018:
- supported the aspiration of the vision AND the concept of self-sufficiency
 - encouraged reference to the need to protect the green belt and human health
 - recommended that the plan should use growth targets in Local Plans rather than Objective Assessment of Housing Need (OAN) evidence
 - in respect of Local Authority Collected Waste, it queried why the level is expected to increase by 2031 even though it has remained relatively historically stable and requested that the strategy sets out a growth profile based on household/population growth and waste per household/capita
 - in respect of Commercial and Industrial Waste it recommended that waste integrator data and EEFM projections should be used with caution to avoid over-estimation
 - anticipated that Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste will increase due to significant levels of housing growth
 - supported the site-by-site approach to identify new waste management capacity and the allocation of sites in favour of an areas of search approach, as this has previously been unsuccessful
 - supported the option to safeguard waste sites, the principle of identifying waste consultation areas and the principle of identifying employment areas that are suitable for waste management facilities, subject to a more refined criteria-based approach
 - recommended strategic and site-specific policies for different waste streams, to help provide certainty and to encourage the right facilities in the most appropriate locations

- requested a further round of consultation following the call-for-sites process
- 3.2 The plan anticipates that the waste projected to arise in the county will increase from 3.5 million tonnes at present to 4.4 million tonnes by 2033 and that the waste gap will increase from 755,760 tonnes to nearly 3 million tonnes. Self-sufficiency requires sufficient sites to be identified to close this gap.
 - 3.3 The Council supports the plan's vision to promote the waste hierarchy, achieve net self-sufficiency by 2036, resolution of the current capacity gap, efforts to achieve sustainable development and efforts to embrace modern technologies that reduce carbon emissions.
 - 3.4 The Council supports the ten strategic objectives to: (1) apply the waste hierarchy, (2) promote modern and efficient facilities, (3) promote well-suited waste facilities, (4) increase recycling, (5) waste facilities close to origin, (6) low emission modes of transport, (7) cooperation with partners, (8) waste as economic activity, (9) self-sufficiency and (10) tackle climate change.
 - 3.5 The plan considers that land off Birchall Lane at Cole Green is a strategic site for the management of construction, demolition and excavation waste. Our two councils currently have a Memorandum of Understanding in place for the production of a SPD masterplan for the Birchall Garden Suburb site which would include this strategic waste site.
 - 3.6 The plan also identifies the household waste recycling centre at Birchall off the A414 as a waste site.
 - 3.7 The plan identifies Anticipated Growth Areas around larger settlements in the county, including Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. Preferred sites include: sites with planning permission for waste development, strategic sites, industrial sites and employment land, so long as the proposed use is compatible with neighbouring uses.
 - 3.8 The plan seeks to safeguard existing waste management facilities, so they are not lost to other types of development.
 - 3.9 The plan identifies Waste Consultation Areas, which covers the land within 250m of strategic sites and household waste recycling centres. It requires WHBC to consult HCC on any non-waste development proposals (subject to certain exemptions) to consider whether they would have unacceptable impacts on waste management facilities. This is known as the 'agent of change' principle. This issue is being considered as part of the site allocation and masterplanning process for Birchall Garden Suburb. The list of safeguarded sites will be updated via the Annual Monitoring Report process. It is therefore presumed that Tewin Road site will be added to this list in due course.
 - 3.10 The plan does not include any waste site allocations. This is because it accepts that previous efforts to deliver identified sites have been unsuccessful, largely due to planning challenges and local opposition.
 - 3.11 The plan requires waste development proposals to demonstrate that they will incorporate multi-functional mitigation measures to tackle climate change, including location, setting, orientation, renewable energy, emissions, efficiency of plant and machinery, water efficiency, flood risk and ecosystem.
 - 3.12 The plan requires waste management facilities in the green belt to demonstrate very special circumstances sufficient to outweigh the harm.

- 3.13 The plan requires waste management facilities to ensure that their cumulative effects would not result in unacceptable adverse effects on the environment, health or amenity.
- 3.14 The plan encourages the beneficial use of residual inert material from the construction, demolition and excavation sector.
- 3.15 The plan expects waste development proposals to be located close to the primary route network and use sustainable transport as a priority.
- 3.16 The plan expects operational transport associated with waste sites to be acceptable in terms of highway safety, operation of the highway network, the environment, human health and amenity.
- 3.17 The plan expects waste development proposals to clearly demonstrate that potential health impacts have been assessed, mitigation measures put in place and efforts to enhance the environment, amenity and human health.
- 3.18 The plan also expects waste development proposals to consider and enhance biodiversity, habitats, landscape, green infrastructure, water management and historic environment, sustainability, resource efficiency and rights of way.
- 3.19 The plan supports the excavation and re-restoration of historic landfill sites.
- 3.20 It is therefore recommended that the Council submit a generally supportive response to this consultation document. The plan includes greater reference to the need to protect the green belt. The plan includes greater reference to the need to protect human health and general amenity. The plan includes greater reference to climate change. The plan no longer refers to OAN figures. The plan seeks to resolve the waste management gap by applying the waste hierarchy, protecting existing sites and favouring new sites in suitable urban locations.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 It is presumed that the Waste Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with national legislation and the Council is responding to ensure that its comments are taken into account and so that it can appear at public examination if necessary.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report, other than the cost of planning officers to continue to read and respond to the Waste Local Plan at future stages.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

7 Security and Terrorism Implications

- 7.1 There are no security or terrorism implications associated with this report.

8 Procurement Implications

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications associated with this report.

9 Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 Both this Council and Herts County Council have declared a climate change emergency and set ambitious objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Waste Local Plan makes reference to tackling climate change.

10 Human Resources Implications

10.1 There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implications

11.1 The Waste Local Plan includes reference to protecting human health when considering waste management issues.

12 Communications and Engagement Implications

12.1 It is assumed that Herts County Council have consulted on the Waste Local Plan in accordance with national legislation.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Business Plan 2018-2021 and particularly Priority 2 Our Environment to reduce waste and improve recycling.

14 Equalities and Diversity

14.1 An EqlA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies. It is the responsibility of Herts County Council to ensure their policies are compliant with the Equalities Act.

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Background Papers:

Herts Waste Local Plan

[Herts Draft Waste Local Plan Consultation Document - Jan 2020 \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

CPPP Report, 12 April 2018, Draft Waste Local Plan Initial Consultation

[Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council - Agenda for Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel on Thursday 12th April 2018, 7.30 pm \(welhat.gov.uk\)](https://www.welhat.gov.uk)

Appendices:

WHBC response to Draft Waste Local Plan Initial Consultation, dated 16 April 2018