

TOPIC PAPER 5: LOCATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND SITE ALLOCATIONS

Introduction

To ensure that an appropriate list of sites is developed for the Joint Waste Development Plan Document (JWDPD), it is important that robust site selection criteria are developed. To ensure a transparent system for site selection is established, it is important to develop criteria in consultation with stakeholders. At this time, stakeholders may also want to bring forward or recommend any sites they are aware of that would be suitable for waste management use, these will then be assessed in the next stages of the JWDPD production process.

This topic papers aims to assist the development of site selection criteria by providing information on the policy available at National and Regional level, and also providing information at the local level throughout the review of existing saved waste policies from the 10 UDPs of the Greater Manchester Authorities. This is to ensure that the current policy options expressed by districts are addressed in the development of site criteria policy.

Policy Context

The need to identify sites for waste management facilities is identified within PPS10 and further supported through regional apportionment of waste in Consultation Draft RSS for the North West.

PPS10 paragraph 17 states that “Waste planning authorities should identify in development plan documents sites and areas suitable for new and enhanced waste management facilities for the waste management needs of their areas. Waste planning authorities should in particular:

- 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 or enhanced waste management facilities to support the apportionment set out in the RSS”.

Paragraph 20 – identifying suitable sites and areas states:

“In searching for sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities, waste planning authorities should consider:

- Opportunities for on-site management of waste where it arises;
- A broad range of locations including industrial sites, looking for opportunities to co-locate facilities together and with complimentary activities (resource recovery parks)”.

Annex E of PPS10 on locational criteria specifically supports this paragraph, and lists criteria by which sites and areas can be tested for their suitability. In addition, consideration should also be given to the type, scale and technology of the waste facility proposed.

The regional policy background is provided through Submitted Draft RSS for the North West, specifically Policy EM13 – provision of Nationally Regionally and Sub-Regionally significant Waste Management facilities, which states:

“Plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should provide for an appropriate type, size and mix of development opportunities to support waste management facilities and bring forward and safeguard sites for waste management facilities...”

The JWDPD Project Plan identifies issues relevant to location principles, including the identification of ‘showstopper’ criteria (e.g. buffer zones between sensitive receptors such as residential areas and designated environmental/conservation areas), minimum distances to housing or access arrangements), and additional site selection criteria are also put forward which include the reuse of redundant buildings, and the co-location of facilities.

Existing Policies

The review of the 10 authorities of Greater Manchester’s UDP has identified a selection of policies relating to the allocation of waste facilities. Within the policies themselves is a list of criteria, which can be applied when considering applications. The key areas for consideration are identified below:

- Adverse effect on international, national, regional and local designated sites including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves, etc;
- Development within the greenbelt;
- Highway safety and traffic generation;
- Visual impact;
- Site access;
- Ground water pollution;
- Effect on agricultural land;
- Effect on local recreational land;
- Unacceptable effect on listed buildings, monuments, or conservation areas;
- Effect on local environmental quality - generation of litter, noise, dust;
- Flooding risk;
- Ground stability; and
- Sterilisation of minerals.

Location Principles

Location principles will be considered as part of the Key Principles developed for the JWDPD, and will need to be established prior to the development of site criteria in order for there to be a sound basis in place from which site criteria can develop. Location principles are likely to consider a number of options for the identification of waste management facilities such as:

- Extension of existing sites;
- Co-location of waste facilities e.g. HWRCs and MRFs, or waste facilities with other suitable industries;
- Shared use of facilities e.g. between different authorities and/or private sector;
- Preferential focus on industrial areas;
- Sustainable transport options for waste. e.g. alternatives to conventional road transport such as rail or canals; and
- Requirement for buffer zones to be developed around sensitive criteria e.g. SSSIs, AONBs and residential areas.

Site Criteria

The allocation of sites for the JWDPD is an important part of the plan preparation process. The identification of sites in the JWDPD may provide a steer for the provision of new waste management facilities for all sectors. In developing criteria, consideration of the type of sites required as identified through RSS will be needed, as well as the preferred location for such developments as identified by stakeholders. Different types of waste facilities require different site criteria: these are the sort of issues which will be discussed at the issues and options stage of the JWDPD production process.

There are a number of factors to take account of when identifying areas/sites for future waste management facilities. These include such issues as land take, transport needs e.g. rail links, primary road access, current land use and identified use in existing/saved polices.

PPS10 highlights that the location of facilities must be appropriate for the waste type, and also the scale of the facility proposed. To assist in identifying areas for future waste management facilities in Greater Manchester, locational criteria will be developed, upon which the suitability of sites will be assessed.

Such criteria will include the following:

- Scale and through put of facility proposed;
- Technical requirements for different waste management options, e.g. a number of waste options are now controlled by the Animal By-Product Regulations which requires specific criteria to be used in developing a site, such as separate delivery and collection points to be included, clean and dirty areas to be kept separate, etc;
- Geological and hydrological constraints, e.g. aquifers;
- Catchments area for the facility, and potential transport implications for developing site e.g. number vehicle movements expected and capacity local network to accommodate this;
- Local environmental impact;
- Access to primary road network, rail etc;
- Current land use;
- Geographical constraints, e.g. green belt, extent urban areas;
- Existing/past waste facilities;
- Appropriate existing industrial allocations; and
- Previously developed land/brownfield.

Questions you may wish to consider in advance of the stakeholder events

1. Does the list of criteria include the key locational issues?
2. Should the list be reduced/ expanded in any way?
3. Should these criteria be ranked in any way?
4. Should different criterion be applied to different technologies?
5. Should the plan seek to prioritise specific areas?