

APPENDIX 3

Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy Consultation (June-July 2007)

Consultation responses on the SA Report for the Waste Core Strategy
Preferred Options

Consultee	Summary Consultation Response	Proposed Action / Justification	Outcome
General Comments			
English Heritage	Noted concerns about the lack of reference to cultural heritage in the baseline data section of the SA Report.	Noted - information on cultural heritage will be added to the baseline data chapter in the SA Report for the Core Strategy Submission DPD and other DPDs in the WDF. However, despite not being referenced in the baseline chapter, cultural heritage has been addressed in all stages of the SA of the Core Strategy and other DPDs by appraising the potential for effects against SA Headline Objective 1 (To protect and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment) and in particular decision-making criteria 1c, which asks will the option/policy/proposal help to protect and maintain Hertfordshire's most valuable assets such as landscapes of natural beauty, historic built heritage, and greenspaces?	Addressed in this SA Report.
Hertfordshire Councillor	The Councillor asked for assurance that the requirements of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) (Chapter 40 – Duty to conserve biodiversity) has been complied with.	Noted. The SA appraisal objectives have considered the conservation of biodiversity (i.e. SA objective 1 and its decision-making criteria). Every policy, proposed policy and site within the DPDs has been assessed against SA objective 1, and recommendations have been made to avoid or mitigate effects where necessary. In addition, the requirements of the NERC Act have also been addressed in the Habitats Regulations Assessment work already undertaken.	NERC Act included in the updated Plans and Programme review in this SA Report.
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	Supports the SA Report	Noted.	No action required.
Welwyn Hatfield	With reference to Waste Issue 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, the Preferred Options	This is a matter for HCC to address within	No action required.

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Borough Council	document does not appear to reflect the recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment document. Reference is made in the Appropriate Assessment to using a criteria based policy, which refers to the need to protect the integrity of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites including avoiding development within the Wormley Hoddesdon-Park Woods SAC. However this approach is not referred to in the Preferred Options document. They recommend that regard is given to the Appropriate Assessment document and include a criterion which protects the integrity of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites, including avoiding development within the Wormley Hoddesdon-Park Woods SAC.	the DPDs and subsequent stages of the Appropriate Assessment. However the recently prepared Development Policies Preferred Options DPD includes two criteria based policies which refer to Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites, and sets out conditions/requirements to avoid negative impacts on these assets. Within the Site Allocations DPD, the site selection process has also taken Natura 2000, Ramsar and SACs into account. The SA matrices highlight that development of preferred sites that are located within Natura 2000, Ramsar or SAC sites, or are within 500m could have a significant negative or negative effect, respectively, on these assets.	
Natural England	Supports the policy proposals subject to the incorporation as appropriate of the suggested avoidance measures detailed in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.	This is a matter for HCC to address within the DPDs and subsequent stages of the Appropriate Assessment.	No action required.
CPRE – The Hertfordshire Society	Feel the preferred option (Need vs. Environmental Effects) runs contrary to the underlying principles of PPG2 and the point made in para 6.44 of the Sustainability Appraisal regarding the safeguarding of greenfield sites and the protection of the Green Belt.	Noted. The Core Strategy policies have been developed from the Preferred Options stage. They now include policies such as WCS Policy 3 which aims to prioritise the use of previously developed sites and sites outside of the Green Belt before considering sites within the Green Belt. In addition, WCS Policy 4 sets out criteria to be used when considering proposals for waste management facilities within the Green Belt. 'Applications will not be permitted unless there are special circumstances which may make a location within the Green Belt	No action required.

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		<p>appropriate’.</p> <p>The SA for the Site Allocations DPD has assumed that potential sites which are located on greenfield sites or within the Green Belt could have a significant negative effect on these assets.</p>	
The Environment Agency	<p>Refers to the results of the SEA/SA for Waste Issue 1 Need Vs. Environmental Effects and suggests adding additional wording to the Preferred Option so it reads ‘balance the need for waste management facilities and environmental protection <i>and sustainability issues</i>’. They also state that the sustainability issues may include the sustainable management of waste in terms of transport, location, impacts on local amenities and increased adherence to the waste hierarchy.</p>	<p>This is a matter for HCC to address within the DPDs. It should be noted that the policies have since been developed from the Preferred Options stage and several now cover the sustainability issues outlined by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>All of the sustainability issues raised by the Environment Agency have been addressed within the SA Reports for the Core Strategy and other DPDs in the WDF.</p>	No action required.