

APPENDIX 5

Appraisal of Core Strategy Objectives

APPRAISAL OF CORE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Key Score	Effects	Score	Effects
++	Significant positive effect	-	Minor negative effect
+	Minor positive effect	--	Significant negative effect
0	Neutral or no effect	?	Uncertain effect
/	Mixed effects (e.g. -/++ minor negative effects and significant positive effects)		

SA Headline Objective	1. Facilities and Waste Hierarchy	2. Design & Construction and Waste Hierarchy	3. Sustainable Locations	4. Employment & Business	5. Proximity Principle	6. Engagement	7. Waste as aggregate	8. Transport	9. Environment & Health	10. Value recovery	11. Integrated Spatial Planning
1. To protect and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment.	++/-	++	++?	0	+/-	++	++	++/-	++	++/--	+
<p>SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 1:</p> <p>1a. Protect Hertfordshire’s Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats and seek opportunities for enhancement? 1b. Avoid adverse impact on air, ground and surface water, geology, and soil quality? 1c. Protect and maintain Hertfordshire’s most valuable assets such as landscapes of natural beauty, historic built heritage, and greenspaces? 1d. Protect dark skies from light pollution, and promote low energy and less invasive lighting sources, considering the balance between safety and environmental impact? 1e. Guard against the loss of woodlands, trees, hedgerows and grassland and create or re-create habitats that ensure sustainable and linked species population?</p> <p>Justification for scores</p> <p>All of the Core Strategy Objectives (except 4, which is not relevant to this SA Objective) are compatible to some extent with SA Objective 1. The most compatible Core Strategy objectives are those that deal with the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle (1, 2, 5, 7 and 9). In the long term, reducing the amount of waste to be managed/going to landfill could reduce landtake and thus disturbance to the natural environment, and should reduce the transportation required, which will have knock-on effects for greenhouse gas emissions. Providing new facilities close to the source of the waste will also help to reduce transport distances and therefore emissions resulting in improvements to air quality. In the shorter term, the construction of additional facilities could lead to landtake and increased transport pressure on the natural and historic environments.</p> <p>Core Strategy Objective 3 is also compatible, in that provision of appropriate locations for waste management facilities can help to steer development to brownfield and industrial sites thus minimising pressure on Green Belt/greenfield land, although the use of the word ‘appropriate’ does not necessarily mean the most sustainable location will be used.</p> <p>Engaging communities in waste management issues (Core Strategy Objective 6) should help to raise awareness of the waste hierarchy and will hopefully reduce the amount of waste that is generated. It also raises awareness of the impacts of less sustainable waste management on the natural and historic environments. In addition, working with other local partners on waste issues (Core Strategy Objective 11) ensures a strategic approach is taken to waste management and environmental protection.</p> <p>Reassessing methods of transporting waste and shifting to water or rail (Core Strategy Objective 8) should help to reduce emissions, traffic disturbance and congestion on roads, but may create a visual impact on natural or historic environments, depending upon the route the river or railway takes.</p> <p>The recovery of the value of waste (Core Strategy Objective 11) ensures that waste is treated as a useful resource leading to a reduced need for mineral extraction and disturbance of land. However, depending upon which technology is employed, there could be some greenhouse gas emissions.</p>											

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Tensions

Tensions could exist between the need to accommodate waste management locally and the need to protect the natural and historic environment. For example, if additional facilities are not sustainably located, they could have potentially adverse effects on the natural and historic environments through landtake and increased traffic flow.

2. To achieve and promote sustainable land use, construction, design and transport in Hertfordshire.	++	++	++/-	0	++/-	++	++	++	0	+?	+
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SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 2:

- 2a. Reduce reliance on road freight movements and seek to increase the efficient use of rail and water where appropriate?
- 2b. Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings?
- 2c. Promote sustainable construction practices (e.g. minimising construction and demolition waste, re-using demolition and excavation materials, using recycled and local materials, materials with low embodied energy and timber from sustainable sources)?

Justification for scores

The majority of the Core Strategy objectives (particularly 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11) are highly compatible with this SA Objective in that they aim to reduce the amount of waste produced and therefore reduce the amount of land take for waste management facilities and landfills. In addition, they aim to promote the waste hierarchy which should ensure waste materials are recycled where appropriate and used in construction, also reducing the need to extract further raw materials for aggregates.

Using the proximity principle (Core Strategy Objective 5), ensuring waste management facilities are located in 'appropriate locations' (Core Strategy Objective 3) and shifting to more sustainable forms of transport (objective 8) should help to achieve more sustainable transport of waste by reducing transport distances and greenhouse gas emissions. These objectives should also ensure sustainable use of land by seeking to locate waste management facilities in brownfield/industrial locations.

Engaging communities in waste management (Core Strategy Objective 6) should have a significant positive impact on sustainable land use, design, construction and transport in Hertfordshire particularly if the design and construction industry and transport representatives are included in 'the wider community'.

Tensions

The use of the word 'appropriate' in Core Strategy objective 3 is unclear. However, 'appropriate' locations for waste management facilities have been explored and described by the Council within the Core Strategy policies and the site selection process used for allocating sites in the Site Allocations DPD, and are based on Government policy contained in Planning Policy Statement 10. Thus it is assumed that 'appropriate locations should be sustainable and minimise the potential effects of waste management facilities.

3. To reduce contributions to climate change.	++/-	++	--/+	0	++	++	++	++	+	--?	+
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SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 3:

- 3a. Reduce demand for energy and increase the proportion of energy generated and consumed in Hertfordshire from renewable sources?
- 3b. Address the causes of climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation/mitigation measures (e.g. tree planting)?

Justification for scores

Most of the Core Strategy objectives are highly compatible with the SA objective to reduce contributions to climate change

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because minimising the amount of waste produced by recycling and reuse reduces the amount of materials that need extracting or manufacturing. Also, using the proximity principle can reduce the distance for transporting waste therefore helping to lower greenhouse gas emissions (particularly if more sustainable forms of transport are used as in Core Strategy Objective 8).

One method of minimising the impact of waste management development on the natural environment (Core Strategy Objective 9) is by reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill (thereby reducing methane emissions), and by capturing and recycling methane emitted from operational and full landfills. This can reduce the contribution of methane to climate change which in turn helps to protect the natural environment and human health in the longer term.

Tensions

Energy from waste facilities can produce emissions, some of which could contribute to climate change, depending on the technology used.

4. To provide for sustainable resource management.	++	++	++/-	0	0	++	++	0	0	-	+
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SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 4:

- 4a. Reduce demand for water and increase the efficient use of ground and surface water resources?
- 4b. Develop and promote local water recycling initiatives for development and buildings, and encourage rainwater harvesting to reduce new development water needs?
- 4c. Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land?
- 4d. Safeguard reserves of exploitable minerals from sterilisation by waste management-related development?
- 4e. Minimise production of by-products or wastes, and then promote reuse, recycling, composting, alternative treatment options and energy recovery before resorting to landfill?

Justification for score

The Core Strategy objectives that focus on the waste hierarchy contribute to sustainable resource management (SA Objective 4) by reducing the amount of waste created and processed and by promoting recycling and reuse to limit the amount of new raw materials and products that need to be extracted or manufactured (Core Strategy Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 are particularly significant).

However, there is some potential for adverse impacts of new waste management facilities on soil and water quality depending upon the site at which they are located. In addition, emissions from value recovery (Core Strategy Objective 10) could have a negative impact on air and water quality.

Tension

- Provision of sufficient waste management facilities in Hertfordshire to accommodate the county's waste could increase demand for water resources, as well as impacting on soil quality sterilising mineral reserves (depending on location of new facilities).
- Energy from waste facilities may be incompatible with water harvesting if emissions result in impacts on the quality of rain water.

5. To maximise the potential economic benefits of waste management to a sustainable economy in Hertfordshire.	++	0	+	++/-	0	++	-	-?	0	++	0
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SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 5:

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<p>5a. Utilise waste as an asset to provide a source of raw materials and some increase in employment levels?</p> <p>5b. Foster joint working and partnerships within and between public and private sectors in Hertfordshire and the East of England region, with a view to better local investment in alternatives to landfill and developing markets for waste materials?</p> <p>5c. Promote best practice in industry through local waste minimisation clubs and other business fora, and to encourage the extension of producer responsibility initiatives?</p> <p>5d. Encourage the purchase and use of recycled products and green procurement by public authorities and businesses?</p>											
<p>Justification for scores</p> <p>Core Strategy objectives 1, 4, 6 and 10 are the most compatible with SA objective 5. Core Strategy Objective 4 in particular, recognises that waste management generates employment and supports business through waste collection. Moving waste up the hierarchy will require construction and operation of additional waste management facilities and therefore will increase waste related employment. Community engagement could open up new sources of waste for collection, such as bringing about more recycling in the commercial sector.</p> <p>Money could also be saved from recovering the value from waste, by improving energy efficiency and energy capture/reuse.</p> <p>Tensions</p> <p>Some sectors gain jobs (recycling and reuse) whereas mineral extraction/raw materials sector may decline.</p> <p>The diversification of transport to include road and rail may affect road haulage companies if they are used to transport waste.</p>											
6. To contribute to the improved health and amenity of local communities in Hertfordshire.	++	++	+/-	0	+/-	++	++	++	++	-?	+
<p>SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 6:</p> <p>6a. Protect and enhance recreation opportunities for all, including access to the countryside?</p> <p>6b. Protect the health and amenity of local residents/communities (e.g. from the impacts of noise, dust, odour, light and traffic)?</p> <p>6c. Achieve an equitable distribution of waste management facilities within Hertfordshire?</p> <p>6d. Reduce the incidence of crime associated with waste (e.g. fly-tipping and illegal dumping of large volumes of waste)?</p>											
<p>Justification for scores</p> <p>Nearly all of the Core Strategy objectives should contribute positively to the health and amenity of local communities by ensuring sustainable waste management and complying with the waste hierarchy. This will reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill and the disturbance of land for extractive operations. This would reduce the landtake for landfills and with restoration may provide additional areas for recreational use. However, only some areas will benefit depending on where the facilities are located as the construction of additional facilities will inevitably lead to some landtake.</p> <p>The application of the proximity principle (Core Strategy Objective 5) and shift to other forms of transport (Core Strategy Objective 8) should help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ease road congestion leading to better air quality. Involving communities in waste management issues (Core Strategy Objective 6) should help to educate people and encourage sustainable waste management in the home.</p> <p>Tensions</p> <p>There is some potential for health impacts of waste management facilities but these will depend on the technologies and mitigation measures employed.</p> <p>Negative impacts depend upon which areas are chosen for new facilities. Some areas will benefit from reduced landtake but some areas will experience more landtake. There will inevitably be some landtake if new facilities are needed.</p>											
7. To maximise community participation and access to services and facilities in	++	?	++	0	++	++	++	0	+	0	++

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<p>SA decision-making criteria for Headline Objective 7:</p> <p>7a. Involve all sections of the community in waste planning decision making and local action, by promoting waste awareness education programmes in schools and the community, and to ensure the public understand the importance of the waste management industry?</p> <p>7b. Promote easily accessible recycling systems for all members of the community, and to ensure clear and understandable signage and language is used?</p>											
<p>Justification for scores</p> <p>Core Strategy objective 6 is highly compatible with this objective as it aims to engage the community in waste management issues, especially if the link is made to the benefits for health and the environment (objective 9). The other Core Strategy objectives that are compatible (1, 3 and 5) could help to provide accessible waste and recycling centres for all sectors of the population to use and not just car drivers.</p>											