

Option	Description
OVERALL BALANCE OF THE PLAN	
<i>Need vs. Environmental Effects</i>	
Current Plan approach	<p>Contained in Waste Policy 1: “...the County Council will have regard to the extent to which the (waste management) development is sustainable in form and location and helps to conserve resources of land, water, materials, energy and the environment and minimises traffic congestion, travel distances, waste generation and pollution...(and) give preference to the location of waste...facilities as close as practicable to the origin of waste”, and Waste Policy 2: “The establishment of...(waste management facilities)will be supported provided that in order to accommodate the equivalent of Hertfordshire’s own waste arisings, there is a clearly established need for additional capacity and facilities of the kind that the proposed development would provide, which outweighs any material agricultural, landscape, conservation or environmental interest affected by the proposal.” This is essentially a balance between environmental protection and meeting the need for sustainable waste management facilities, but which tips the balance in favour of need.</p>
Option 1	Place greater emphasis on the need for waste management facilities than environmental protection.
Option 2	While accepting that the need for waste management facilities is important, place even greater priority on environmental protection.
SITE IDENTIFICATION	
<i>Site Location (All options should take into account the 4 key principles of waste management)</i>	
Current Plan approach	<p>Contained in Waste Policy 12: “The County Council will grant permission for the establishment of permanent facilities on sites in the preferred Areas of Search, subject to the requirements of Waste Policy 2.”, and Waste Policy 18: “The County Council will seek to safeguard the following land for re-use, recovery, recycling or transfer of waste and will normally oppose development proposals which would prevent or prejudice the use of this land for those purposes...” 30 Areas of Search are listed in Waste Policy 12, which are mostly within Employment Areas identified in District Local Plans. Para. 6.34 notes that the Areas of Search contain sufficient sites to provide facilities for re-use and recycling of 25% of the “equivalent of all waste arising” in Hertfordshire. Waste Policy 18 lists 28 existing waste recycling and transfer sites and household waste sites, and</p>

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	one proposed household waste site.
Option 1	Do not identify Areas of Search or safeguard existing sites for waste management facilities, and rely on a market-led approach.
Option 2	Identify Areas of Search and safeguard existing sites for waste management facilities.
Option 3	Have criteria-based policies for new facilities together with identifying Areas of Search and safeguarding existing facilities.
Option 4	Have criteria-based policies for waste management facilities without identifying Areas of Search.
<i>Site Assessment</i>	
Current Plan approach	Paragraph 6.30 lists the criteria that were used to evaluate possible Areas of Search for inclusion in the current Waste Local Plan, and Waste Policy 13 contains the same criteria also used to assess proposals for facilities outside the preferred Areas of Search.
Option 1	Revise criteria in para. 6.30 and Waste Policy 13 for assessing sustainable sites for waste management facilities. Ensuring the best balance of location, environmental and social factors. I.e. The most sustainable is the most economical.
Option 2	Retain criteria in para. 6.30 and Waste Policy 13, but include a criterion: "provided the site represents a viable option for the waste management industry".
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION	
<i>PR/Communication/Awareness Raising</i>	
Current Plan approach	The Plan recognises at para 2.1 <i>"that Local Planning Authority powers and influence in relation to waste, although considerable, do not extend to complete control over waste."</i> Communication, education and awareness raising about waste management issues and the environmental effects associated with waste management facilities are not within the remit of a Waste Local Plan. However, one of the Plan's aims and objectives listed in para. 3.2 is <i>"To involve the wider community in the waste management debate"</i> .
Option 1	The Council does more to raise awareness about wider waste management issues and the environmental effects associated with waste management facilities.
Option 2	Developers do more to raise awareness about waste management issues and the environmental effects associated with waste management facilities.

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<i>Facility numbers</i>	
Current Plan approach	<p>Contained in Waste Policy 2: <i>“The establishment of...(waste management facilities)will be supported provided that in order to accommodate the equivalent of Hertfordshire’s own waste arisings, there is a clearly established need for additional capacity and facilities of the kind that the proposed development would provide...”</i> i.e. the Waste Local Plan provides for sufficient sites to meet the need for waste management in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Indicative numbers and types of facility required were based on the Berkshire Waste Local Plan, and are included on p. 49 of Appendix 3. The Areas of Search identified in Waste Policy 12 of the Plan contain a variety of sizes of possible site, and provide for sufficient sites to provide facilities for re-use and recycling of 25% of the “equivalent” of all waste arisings in Hertfordshire. Waste Policy 18 lists 28 existing waste recycling and transfer sites and household waste sites, and one proposed household waste site. Waste Policy 21 lists 27 existing mineral working sites where disposal of waste will be permitted, and 5 former mineral working sites, provided it is in accordance with restoration. Proposals to meet the remaining need for facilities will be assessed against the criteria-based policies in the Plan.</p>
Option 1	Provide a small number of large waste management facilities to meet the need.
Option 2	Provide a large number of small waste management facilities to meet the need.
Option 3	Provide a mixture of small and large waste management facilities to meet the need.
Option 4	Favour extensions to existing sites where adjoining land allows this.
<i>Green Belt</i>	
Current Plan approach	<p>Contained in Waste Policy 16: <i>“The use of land in the Green Belt for the re-use, recovery, recycling and storage of waste will not be permitted unless it maintains openness and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt. The construction of new buildings in the Green Belt...will not be permitted except in very special circumstances. The re-use of existing buildings in the Green Belt...may be permitted subject to other relevant policies of the Development Plan.”</i> Para. 6.46 notes that composting on a less than industrial scale could be appropriate development on sites in the Green Belt, subject to the advice contained in PPG2.</p>

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Option 1	When considering proposals for waste management facilities, give more weight to Green Belt policy (PPG2) than to the proximity principle, i.e. if a site is within the Green Belt, it will not be permitted even if its location is close to the source of the waste needing to be managed.
Option 2	When considering proposals for waste management facilities, give more weight to the proximity principle than to Green Belt policy (PPG2), i.e. even if a site is within the Green Belt, it will be permitted if its location is close to the source of the waste needing to be managed.
<i>Brownfield land</i>	
Current Plan approach	Contained in Waste Policy 13 V) a): <i>“Proposals for facilities to re-use, recover, transfer and recycle waste outside preferred areas of search, or for additional categories of waste management within the Areas of Search, will be permitted subject to compliance with Waste Policy 2 and provided the proposals...V) are preferably on land falling into one of the ...a) land allocated for development, or subject to potential redevelopment, or on despoiled land”</i> . Thus, the Waste Local Plan favours development on brownfield land, as do most development plans due to the national guidance in PPG1, that a sustainable planning framework should use already developed areas in the most efficient way. Other PPGs also advise using previously developed land before greenfield sites for different types of development, such that there are competing demands for brownfield land.
Option 1	Waste management facilities should be given priority for brownfield land over other forms of development (i.e. housing, employment).
Option 2	Other forms of development (i.e. housing, employment) should be given priority for brownfield land over waste management facilities.
<i>Local designations</i>	
Current Plan approach	Contained in Waste Policy 13 I): <i>“Proposals for facilities to re-use, recover, transfer and recycle waste outside preferred areas of search, or for additional categories of waste management within the Areas of Search, will be permitted subject to compliance with Waste Policy 2 and provided the proposals...I) minimise impact on local or natural environments”</i> ; and Waste Policies 33–37 which provide a framework for protecting and conserving locally important landscapes, nature reserves, semi-natural habitats, parks and gardens, and archaeological remains from any impacts

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	proposed waste management facilities may have. Given the difficulty in finding suitable sites should the Plan;
Option 1	Increase the restriction on development of waste management facilities in locally designated areas.
Option 2	Decrease the restriction on development of waste management facilities in locally designated areas.
RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT	
<i>New technologies for dealing with residual waste</i>	
Current Plan approach	Contained in Waste Policy 19: <i>“Proposals for waste to energy plants...should: A) avoid major existing or proposed residential areas; B) minimise impact on local and natural environment; C) ...minimise the impact of traffic; D) be within or close to a major...industrial area; E) ...relate to existing or proposed waste management or energy proposals; F) located where visual and landscape impact is not a critical issue; G) comply with...Waste Policy 2”.</i>
Option 1	Give preference to technologies for treatment of residual waste which have an energy dimension.
Option 2	Do not give preference to technologies for treatment of residual waste which have an energy dimension.
<i>Landraise</i>	
Current Plan approach	Contained in Waste Policy 24: <i>“Disposal of waste by raising the level of land will only be permitted where it would assist the preparation of land for other approved development proposals or where the land is derelict or degraded or where it can be demonstrated that it will not give rise to unacceptable environmental and other effects, and it would result in significant agricultural, land drainage, landscape enhancement or other environmental benefit and...meet...Waste Policies 32-4.”</i>
Option 1	Include landraise as a method for residual waste treatment.
Option 2	Do not include landraise as a method for residual waste treatment.
<i>Mineral voids</i>	
Current Plan approach	Contained in Waste Policy 21 which lists 27 existing mineral working sites where disposal of waste by landfill will be permitted in accordance with a scheme of working and restoration, 5 former mineral working sites where filling is required to achieve satisfactory restoration of the site, and refers to sites identified for future mineral extraction and on other sites approved for mineral extraction in the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan where there is a requirement for fill to achieve restoration; and Waste Policy

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	<i>23: "The County Council will seek to safeguard significant mineral working voids which could potentially be used for the disposal of waste by landfill in the future in line with the restoration objectives set out in the relevant sub-area in the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan..."</i>
Option 1	The restoration of mineral voids should be paramount, and they should not be used for disposal of waste by landfill except where it is demonstrated that the disposal is necessary to achieve the most appropriate form of restoration.
Option 2	The use of mineral voids for disposal of waste by landfill is more important than the restoration of those mineral sites.

Land Use Consultants

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