

Surrey Waste Local Plan - Q & As to accompany Cabinet report

Why is the Plan being reviewed?	We need to have an up to date plan based on the latest evidence. The current plan is over 10 years old. There is a new Government requirement that Local Plans are reviewed at least every five years.
How do we know how much waste to plan for?	We have forecast the amount of waste likely to be produced up to 2035. The 'Waste Needs Assessment' as it is called takes into account the number of new homes likely to be built and economic growth. Each year we will monitor waste produced and this will be taken into account when assessing applications for new waste management facilities.
We plan to be net self-sufficient. What does this mean?	This means we plan for capacity able to manage the equivalent of the amount of waste we produce in Surrey. This reflects the fact that waste movements are driven by commercial considerations which means they cross local authority and national boundaries. This approach is taken by all waste planning authorities and is accepted by Government.
Are we planning for management of waste from other areas?	Waste crosses administrative boundaries. However we plan to be net self-sufficient which means that we plan to manage the equivalent of the waste we produce in Surrey. Other areas are planning on same basis.
How is future need for waste management facilities calculated?	We look at the likely future amount of waste produced and consider how this would be managed if certain recycling and other recovery targets are to be met. We then consider whether the existing and future management capacity available at current built facilities is sufficient to ensure the targets will be met. If there is insufficient capacity this is known as the 'capacity gap'.
What sort of waste management facilities are needed?	Our assessments show that although we are technically self-sufficient overall this is largely due to having a relatively large landfill capacity at Redhill which we are not planning to replace. As we need to plan to manage waste that is disposed of by landfill in a more sustainable way there is capacity gap in Surrey for facilities that will enable this. This could be through additional recycling facilities or recovery (such as turning waste into a fuel or energy).

<p>How is the construction, demolition and excavation waste (C, D & E) recycling capacity gap being dealt with?</p>	<p>The Aggregates Recycling Joint DPD already addresses this issue and a full review of C, D & E recycling will take place when the Minerals Plan is reviewed.</p>
<p>Do we need more energy from waste facilities (or incinerators) especially when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site at Charlton Lane is nearing completion? • Recycling is increasing? • There is to be a ban on single use plastics? 	<p>Our assessment shows that even if we meet the highest level of recycling there will still be the need to manage waste that cannot be recycled.</p> <p>But the plan is flexible and does not require more incinerators as a solution – waste can be turned into fuel and sent elsewhere for example and if more waste is recycled there will be less need.</p> <p>Any new facility will always be expected to demonstrate need at the time of a planning application.</p>
<p>What are the county council's plans for more energy from waste (EfW) following the completion of the Eco Park?</p>	<p>The county council does not have any current plans for building further energy from waste capacity to deal with waste that is has responsibility for managing (household waste).</p>
<p>Where will new waste facilities be located?</p>	<p>The plan protects existing waste facilities and encourages improvements and enhancements to appropriate existing sites. Ideally new facilities will be located in sites and areas outside the Green Belt, including: allocated waste sites, existing waste sites, Industrial Land Areas of Search (ILAS) and other suitable sites. This may include sites within urban areas and within existing industrial areas. Only if it can be shown that there is no available land outside the Green Belt should a site within the Green Belt be considered.</p>
<p>All but one of the allocated sites are in the Green Belt. How can this be justified?</p>	<p>A thorough site selection process which looked at over 200 sites concluded that it was necessary to look at sites within the Green Belt to meet our forecasted need for additional waste facilities. The process and the outcome is set out in the Site Identification and Evaluation Report.</p> <p>However, the plan makes it clear that allocated sites in the Green Belt are not preferred over sites that may come forward outside of the Green Belt and any planning application will need to show that there are no alternative opportunities outside the Green Belt.</p>

How will the quality of residents' environment be protected?	Modern waste management facilities are designed not to cause unacceptable impacts on communities. Any new facility will have to meet strict environmental criteria. Policies in the plan require transport impact assessments and a range of potential environmental impacts to be addressed such as noise, dust, odour and air quality.
How can people make their views known?	People will have the opportunity to make a representation on the Submission Plan that will be available for 6 weeks between 14 January and 24 February 2019. Comments may be made via Surrey Says on Surrey County Council's website. All comments will be forwarded to an independent inspector.
This is a complex subject? Is there a less detailed report	A non-technical summary of the plan has been prepared and will be available during the 6 week period for representations. FAQs will be revisited as necessary.
In what ways does the plan align with the Waste Disposal Authority's strategy - the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWS)	<p>The Plan has taken the JMWMS into account. Both the Plan and the JMWS seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage sustainable waste management • Manage disposal of waste as an option of last resort • Encourage Innovation and minimise impact on communities and environment
How does the plan take account of recycling targets?	<p>Recycling targets are ambitious but need to be realistic. The target is for 70% of local authority collected waste to be recycled by 2030 and 75% by 2035.</p> <p>Targets are set based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular Economy Action Plan (EU) (65% household waste by 2030) • Build upon SWP 2008 targets (60% municipal & 65% C & I by 2025) • JMWMS (70% by 2019/20)

<p>How will the new resources and waste strategy affect things?</p>	<p>This strategy follows on from the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and will likely reflect the EU Circular Economy Package that was adopted by member states in May 2018. The Government has said it will honour commitments in this circular economy package post Brexit which amongst other things includes targets for recycling and diversion from landfill that have been taken into account in the Plan. The Strategy is expected to include measures to incentivise manufacturers of goods, including packaging, to use recycled materials and ensure their products can be more easily re-used and recycled. While it is not expected that the new Strategy will require changes to the Plan, its publication will be closely monitored - if major changes are required these will be reported to Cabinet.</p>
<p>How will Brexit change things?</p>	<p>Depends on the terms of final agreement.</p> <p>Brexit might affect export of residual waste for recovery at EfW facilities in mainland Europe for example.</p> <p>At this stage we cannot say so we have prepared the plan to be flexible and be able to cope with changes.</p> <p>The monitoring of the Plan will indicate when a review of the Plan is needed.</p>
<p>If council agrees to publish the Plan what are the next stages?</p>	<p>Following receipt of representations, the Submission Plan, supporting evidence and the representations will be submitted to the Secretary of State who will then appoint a planning inspector to hold an independent examination to consider the soundness and legality of the plan. During the examination, the planning inspector will consider all representations received and may choose to convene public hearings which would take place at County Hall.</p> <p>If changes to the Plan are necessary, these will be reported to Cabinet for agreement prior to being published for representations. Ultimately the Plan can only be adopted by the county council following receipt of an Inspector's report that finds the Plan sound and legally compliant. Adoption of the Plan would be a decision for Council.</p>