

Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Preferred Options Consultation Report
(Regulation 26)

Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework

February 2008



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Appendices

The Appendices to the Core Strategy are contained in a separate accompanying document

Executive Summary

Buckinghamshire County Council's new Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (MWLDF) will set out the Council's planning policies for waste management and mineral extraction for the period to 2026. The **Core Strategy** is the main part of the MWLDF. It will establish the amount of waste treatment and mineral extraction that are needed in the county, identify the general pattern of the facilities needed, and identify the specific sites where the most important of these facilities should be located. Later, separate documents for waste and for minerals (the 'Waste DPD' and the 'Minerals DPD') will provide more details.

The stage we are now at is called the 'Preferred Options' stage. The present document sets out a series of 'spatial options', or patterns of development, that would allow the required amounts of waste treatment and mineral extraction to take place. It puts forward two of these options - one for waste and one for minerals - as the County Council's Preferred Options. The selection of the Preferred Options has been based on detailed assessment of the sustainability and deliverability of all the options - in other words their economic, environmental and social effects, and whether or not they can realistically be achieved in the required time.

No final decisions have yet been taken on which options should be selected for inclusion in the final Core Strategy document. Those decisions will only be taken in the light of the comments received on this report. Comments are invited on all aspects of the report, not just the specific 'Preferred Options'.

Vision - Minerals and Waste in Buckinghamshire in 2026

A 'Vision' has been developed of how minerals and waste development in Buckinghamshire should look in 2026. This vision takes account of existing strategies and policies at national, regional and local level. This vision helps to drive the other details of the Core Strategy and the content of the Waste and Minerals DPDs, by setting out the future state to which those details should be directed.

As currently proposed, the Vision for the MWLDF is as follows:

By 2026, to meet the demands made by European and national policies, the management of waste in Buckinghamshire will have undergone a radical change from its current pattern. A network of facilities for the collection, transfer, recycling, sustainable treatment and (where necessary) disposal of municipal, commercial/industrial and construction/demolition waste will be in place across the county, linked geographically to the locations of the main sources of waste, including sources in the growth area covering Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. Landfilling will be restricted to the disposal of wastes which cannot be re-used or recycled, or from which value cannot be recovered; this will include the untreatable residues from other waste management processes. The importation of wastes from London for landfilling will continue, but at a lower rate than at present. The number of active landfill sites in the county will have reduced to the

necessary minimum, located to match the broad locations of the sources of residual wastes.

At the same time, the extraction of sand and gravel in the south of the county will have taken place in a phased and managed fashion so as to maintain the level of provision required by regional guidance, while safeguarding other viable reserves (including reserves in the north of the county) which may have a longer-term role in maintaining aggregates supply. Facilities will be in place across the county for the creation of secondary or recycled aggregates to at least the levels required by regional guidance.

Protection of the county's environment, and the living and working conditions of its residents and those who work here, from the adverse effects of new waste and minerals developments, will have been secured by the careful selection of sites for waste and minerals development; by co-locating waste facilities on new or existing sites wherever possible; by taking steps through the planning process and by other means to mitigate the impacts of individual schemes; and by maximising the reasonable use of sustainable transport modes for accessing waste and mineral sites.

The restoration of mineral sites, including but not limited to those used for landfill, will be undertaken to the highest standards, in order to minimise the period and nature of environmental disturbance in the areas concerned, to maximise the contribution of these sites to the environment, and to maximise their potential, where appropriate, for recreational or commercial use.

Not all of the topics covered by this Vision are dealt with in the Core Strategy. The more detailed matters will be covered in the Waste and Minerals DPDs.

Strategic objectives for the MWLDF

A series of Strategic Objectives has been developed for the MWLDF, as a means of securing the delivery of the Vision. Drawing also on the objectives of other County Council strategies, they are currently proposed as follows:

- i To secure the sustainable use of Buckinghamshire's natural and material resources
- ii To deliver a strategy to achieve net self-sufficiency in waste treatment within Buckinghamshire, through identifying a range of sites to handle an amount of waste equivalent to that generated in the county.
- iii To deliver a strategy which results in the provision of suitable and suitably-located facilities for the sustainable management of waste, supporting management techniques further up the waste hierarchy, with landfill as the least favoured option
- iv To secure a decrease over the plan period in the number of working non-inert landfill sites, and to husband remaining landfill voidspace

- v To conserve the county's mineral resources through the safeguarding of all viable resources; the managed release of necessary sites for extraction; and an increase in levels of aggregates recycling in the county
- vi To secure appropriate mitigation of impacts from necessary minerals and waste development where these might otherwise be harmful to the rural, cultural or built environment
- vii To minimise the movements of minerals and waste by road, through a combination of a reduction in mileage travelled and the use of more sustainable methods of transport
- viii To ensure the enhancement and restoration to the highest environmental standards of areas affected by minerals and waste development.

The strategies for waste and for minerals have been drawn up as practical ways of ensuring the achievement of these objectives.

Strategy for Waste

The County Council has calculated that by 2026 we will need the capacity to handle an extra 1.77 million tonnes of waste each year, in addition to the capacity already available today. This will have to include capacity for dealing with commercial and industrial waste (known as 'C&I waste'), as well as with municipal solid waste (or 'MSW'), which includes our everyday household waste. Extra capacity is particularly needed for recycling, composting and recovery of energy from waste, which must increasingly replace landfill as the main ways of treating our waste. In all, the amount of new capacity needed in Buckinghamshire is as follows (figures are in tonnes, and are annual figures):

	by 2016	by 2021	by 2026
Recycling capacity	1,101,000	1,128,000	1,203,500
Composting capacity	75,000	93,150	106,500
Recovery capacity *	386,000	460,000	460,000
Landfill capacity	None	None	None
TOTAL	1,560,000	1,681,000	1,770,000

* The recovery of value from waste by generating energy. This can be achieved in various ways: for example, Energy from Waste (incineration with energy generation), anaerobic digestion or mechanical-biological treatment.

Existing landfill capacity is sufficient to provide for landfilling of declining amounts of waste imported from London, as well as wastes originating in Buckinghamshire. All the other treatment methods will deal with waste from Buckinghamshire only, or amounts equivalent to the amounts created in Buckinghamshire.

The Council has looked at various ways in which this capacity could be provided. In doing so, it has taken account of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWMS), prepared in conjunction with the four District Councils, and of work carried out to identify the sites needed to deliver the JMWMS.

It has concluded that its **Preferred Option for waste** should comprise the following elements:

- Concentration of major waste treatment facilities at two 'Strategic Waste Complexes' (SWCs), one in the north of the county and one in the south.
- Provision of necessary supporting facilities in locations well positioned both to receive waste from the places where it arises and - if necessary - to deliver it on to the SWCs.
- The sites selected for the SWCs should be demonstrably 'deliverable'. (There would be no point in selecting a Preferred Option based on sites that could not be developed by the time when new facilities are needed).
- In spatial terms, the 'Alternative Preferred Options' are as follows:

ALTERNATIVE 1

- the establishment of an SWC at Calvert landfill site, for dealing with MSW from Aylesbury Vale District, and C&I waste from the north of the county generally.
- the establishment of an SWC at Wapseys Wood landfill site (near Gerrards Cross), for dealing with MSW from the three Districts of Chiltern, Wycombe and South Bucks, and C&I waste from the south of the county generally.
- all wastes would be delivered to these sites direct from their respective catchment areas, with no intervening transfer stations required.

ALTERNATIVE 2

- the establishment of an SWC for the recovery of MSW at either Calvert landfill site or Wapseys Wood landfill site, with transfer stations at one or more of the sites at High Heavens (Wycombe), London Road (Amersham), College Road North (Aston Clinton), off Osier Way (Buckingham) or Richings Park to facilitate delivery of MSW from more distant parts of the county; together with
 - the establishment of an SWC for the recovery of C&I waste at whichever of the above sites is not used for MSW recovery, with all waste delivered direct.
- As a contingency applying to both Alternatives, if either of the favoured SWC sites turns out to be undeliverable, the Preferred Option identifies alternative locations as follows:

- A site at Woodham Industrial Area, to substitute if necessary for Calvert, and
 - A site at Springfield Farm landfill site, near Beaconsfield, to substitute if necessary for Wapseys Wood.
- All sites referred to in Alternatives 1 (Map 3) and 2 (Map 4) would be safeguarded against uses which might prejudice their use in the manner proposed in those Alternatives.

The Core Strategy's Preferred Option does not include site-specific proposals for other types of waste facility. Those will be considered in the separate Waste DPD.

As well as options involving two SWCs, the County Council has also considered other options:

- Combining all MSW and C&I recovery at a single site serving the whole of the county
- Having all MSW recovery at one site and all C&I recovery at another site, with each site serving the whole county
- Having all MSW recovery at two sites, one in the north of the county and one on the south, with all C&I recovery taking place at a single, different, location.

Section 5 of this document describes each possible option under these scenarios, as well as other options based on having two SWCs serving the whole county. It explains how and why Alternatives 1 and 2 have been selected for inclusion in the Preferred Option. It also explains why two alternative spatial options have been included: in summary this is because Alternative 1 is considered to be the most sustainable option, but its deliverability is open to question; while Alternative 2 is considered to be the most deliverable option.

Strategy for Minerals

In order to meet national and regional policy commitments, by 2026 Buckinghamshire will need to make provision for the extraction of over 6 million tonnes of sand and gravel from new sites, and to allow for the production of at least 600,000 tonnes per year of aggregates by recycling other suitable materials. In all, the new provision needed is as follows (figures in '000 tonnes):

	by 2011	by 2016	by 2021	by 2026
Sand and gravel (cumulative figure)	50	550	2430	6130

Minerals can only be dug where they occur naturally. In Buckinghamshire, the best deposits of sand and gravel are in the south of the county. There are some deposits in north and central Buckinghamshire, but these are generally thinner, of poorer

quality, and found in smaller and more isolated patches than the deposits in the south. An important factor in considering the 'deliverability' of a spatial strategy for sand and gravel extraction is that there has been no interest from the minerals industry in the recent past in undertaking new extraction in the northern or central parts of the county, whereas there has been continuing interest over many years in several of the unworked areas in the south.

Because of their potential for contributing to minerals supply in the period after 2026, all sites containing commercial deposits of sand and gravel should be safeguarded against development which might prevent them being available for extraction in the longer term. Similarly, existing rail depots and wharves used in the transportation of waste or minerals, and other sites with the potential for such a use, should be safeguarded in order to keep down the need to extract primary minerals from within the county, and to encourage these more sustainable methods of transport.

Naturally-occurring sand and gravel resources are not found in any significant quantities within the Aylesbury Vale/Milton Keynes growth area. Ways therefore need to be found to provide the aggregates required in this area from other sources, or brought to the area by different means.

Chalk and clay are also dug in small quantities in the county. There are no national or regional requirements to maintain any particular level of provision of these minerals, and there has been no recent evidence that new sites are needed to enable production to continue.

The recycling of aggregates can take place at a range of locations. These include the proposed Strategic Waste Complexes (where such facilities can be permanent), and - subject to local environmental considerations - at mineral extraction sites and at the sites of major new development or redevelopment (where these facilities would only be provided for the duration of the extraction/development activities). A fuller list of potential locations for aggregates recycling is contained in the Preferred Option below.

Taking all these factors into account, the County Council has concluded that its **Preferred Option for minerals** should comprise the following elements:

- The county's sand and gravel resources should be husbanded to ensure that they are not used up unduly quickly, or used inefficiently. To this end, the aim will be to make provision for extraction at a rate not significantly exceeding the agreed sub-regional apportionment figure for these minerals.
- Future extraction of sand and gravel should be focused on specifically identified sites in the south of the county. Extraction from the south of the county, outside the identified sites, will not normally be favoured.
- Extraction elsewhere, either for its own sake or as a by-product of other development, is not precluded, if suitable proposals were to come forward.
- Sites to be identified for future extraction should be selected from among those known to be of interest to the minerals industry. (At present, just over a dozen

such sites have been identified. They are listed in Appendix 8 of the main report.)

- The specific sites to be identified for this purpose should be those where, on a balance of all relevant considerations, extraction will cause least harm overall to wider sustainability objectives and the objectives of the MWLDF. (These sites will be identified in the Minerals DPD rather than in the Core Strategy.)
- All areas known to have a potential for contributing to the future supply of sand and gravel, and sites where aggregate minerals can be brought into or taken from the county by rail or by water, will be safeguarded against their loss to other uses.
- No specific spatial strategy is required in respect of the future pattern of working of minerals other than sand and gravel.
- Permanent facilities for aggregates recycling will be located principally at the SWCs included within the Preferred Option for waste; at permanent rail depots and wharves used for the import or export of minerals or waste; at Council highways depots; or within general industrial areas (subject to satisfactory protection of the environment) - in all cases, subject to satisfactory protection of the environment.
- Temporary facilities for aggregates recycling will be located principally at existing or new sand and gravel extraction sites; at temporary rail depots, wharves or highways depots; and at the sites of major development or redevelopment throughout the county (including in particular growth locations within the Aylesbury Vale/Milton Keynes growth area) - in all cases, subject to satisfactory protection of the environment.
- The aggregates needs of the Aylesbury Vale/Milton Keynes growth area should as far as possible be met by using recycled aggregates, or primary materials delivered to the area by rail, using existing or safeguarded rail depot sites within or close to the growth area where possible.

Section 1 - Introduction

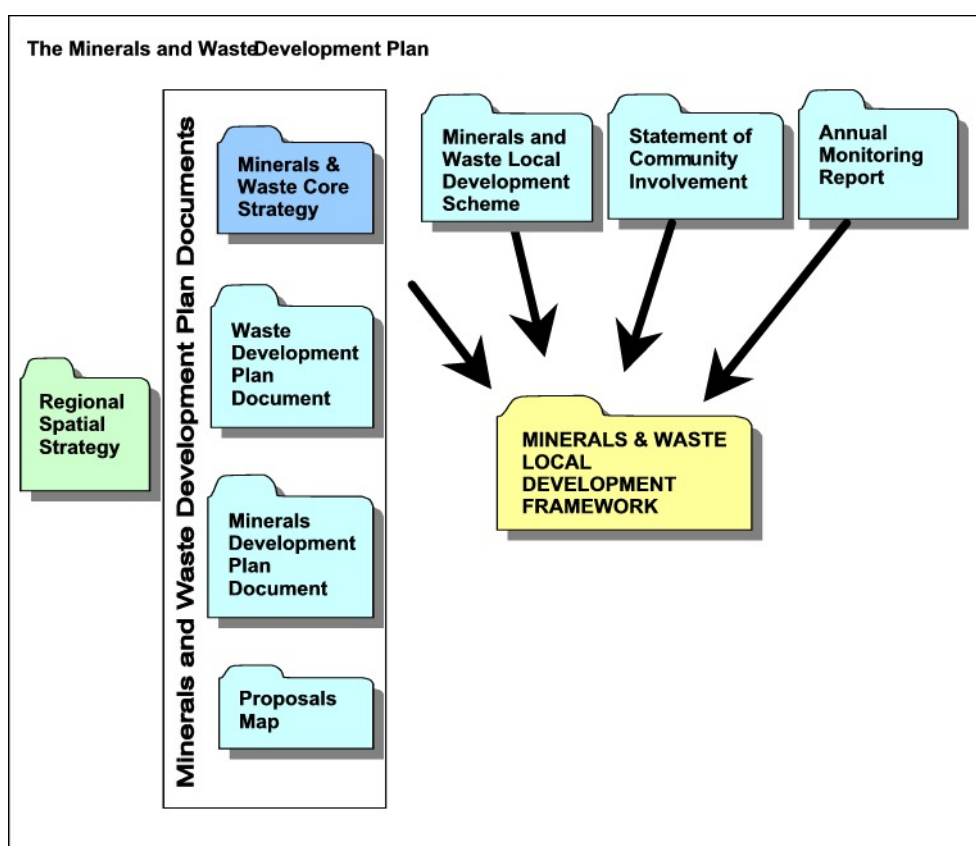
Buckinghamshire County Council is preparing a new 'Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework' (MWLDF) to set out its planning policies for mineral working and waste management in the county.

This chapter explains the background to the MWLDF, and the place of this 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document within it. It also explains how you can get involved in the preparation of the MWLDF.

Background to the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework

- 1.1 In June 2006, following a public inquiry, the County Council adopted the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2004-2016. The local plan provides a land use policy framework to 2016 for mineral and waste planning within the county.
- 1.2 Under legislation passed in 2004 (the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004), local plans such as the Minerals and Waste Local Plan have to be replaced with new 'spatial' plans. These new plans are intended to take a broader view than traditional land-use plans, by integrating policies for the use of land with other policies and programmes that influence the nature of places and how they function.
- 1.3 In future, local planning policies will be contained in a set of documents called a Local Development Framework, or LDF. Some of the documents in the LDF will form part of the statutory 'development plan', which is of critical importance when planning decisions are being taken. Others will fall outside the statutory development plan, but they will still have a role in planning decision-making.
- 1.4 County Councils such as Buckinghamshire County Council are responsible for planning for minerals and waste. They are required to prepare a Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (MWLDF), again consisting of some documents that will form part of the statutory development plan, and some that are more of an advisory nature. The structure of Buckinghamshire's MWLDF is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: The Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework



- 1.5 The four documents in the left hand column in Figure 1 will form part of the statutory development plan, and are therefore referred to as ‘Development Plan Documents’, or DPDs. In summary, their roles are as follows:

The **Core Strategy** sets out the guiding principles for the amount of mineral extraction and waste treatment that will take place in the county, identifies the locations where the most important of these activities will take place, and contains some broad principles that will apply when planning applications for minerals or waste development are being considered.

The **Minerals DPD** will include more details regarding the locations where the extraction of minerals, and the recycling of materials to produce ‘alternative minerals’, may be permitted, and the issues that will have to be addressed at these locations. It will also include some more detailed development control policies for use in considering planning applications.

The **Waste DPD** will include details of the locations where waste management facilities, other than the most important ones (which will be covered in the Core Strategy), may be located, together with some more detailed development control policies. It will also consider issues relating

to types of waste - notably hazardous waste - that are not regarded as needing separate treatment in the Core Strategy.¹

The **Proposals Map** is subordinate to the other DPDs as its purpose is to show their proposals on an Ordnance Survey map base. It is prepared in parallel with the production of the other DPDs, and updated as necessary as each DPD is prepared and adopted.

- 1.6 Each of the DPDs will provide policies to deliver the strategy for the period to 2026. They will be subject to regular reviews within that period.
- 1.7 Unlike old-style Local Plans, Development Plan Documents are not expected to include re-statements of national or regional policies. They are not a compendium of all the planning policies that may apply to minerals or waste planning in a county like Buckinghamshire. So where it is proposed to operate national or regional policies in development control, the MWLDF is generally silent on these. Instead, it aims to have a local flavour by focusing on what is special or unique about the area which they cover. Each document is a clear and concise statement of the local policies that will be applied in the planning process.
- 1.8 Preparation of the MWLDF has to involve close liaison between the plan-making authority (in this case, the County Council) and others who have an interest in their contents - including local residents, those who work in the county, the minerals and waste industries, and specialist interest groups and departments.
- 1.9 The approach and policies of the MWLDF will be underpinned by a detailed 'evidence base'. This provides the background to the approach and policies of each DPD, and a basis for monitoring the DPDs to see whether they are moving successfully towards the wider vision or objectives which are the target of the MWLDF. Parts of this evidence base may be summarised within the DPDs, but for the most part it is held separately by the County Council. The evidence base will be kept up to date, and the latest versions of it will be posted on the Council's website at www.buckscc.gov.uk following the path: **Environment > Minerals and Waste Plans > Core Strategy DPD**.
- 1.10 The approach and policies of the MWLDF are tested by processes known as Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Appropriate Assessment (SA, SEA and AA respectively). These are designed to demonstrate that each DPD will secure development that is sustainable, that respects the environment, and for AA does not cause harm to sites identified as of international importance for wildlife. The results of the SA, SEA and AA processes are published alongside the DPDs themselves. They form part of the overall evidence base in support of the DPDs.

¹ The exact scope of the Minerals and Waste DPDs may change as these documents go through the processes leading to their adoption.

The role of this document

1.11 This document is the 'Preferred Options' report, which forms part of the process of preparing the Core Strategy DPD. Its purpose is to **seek your views** on the overall approach that should be followed to planning for minerals and waste in the county, before any firm views on this subject are taken by the County Council.

1.12 It is made up of the following sections:

- Section 1 is this overall Introduction.
- Section 2 describes the national, regional and local context in which the Core Strategy sits, and which it must take account of.
- Section 3 defines the spatial vision that will guide the approach to planning for minerals and waste in the county to 2026, and identifies a set of spatial objectives that will help in deciding whether this vision is being achieved.
- Section 4 identifies the local issues, problems and challenges facing planning for minerals and waste in Buckinghamshire, and explains where they will be addressed in the MWLDF.
- Section 5 sets out a series of 'spatial options' that would be capable of delivering the spatial vision, and explains the main differences between them. It also identifies the County Council's current 'Preferred Options' for waste and for minerals, based (among other things) on the outcome of the SA/SEA and AA processes. **The choice of which option should finally be taken forward has not yet been taken (see below).**
- Section 6 contains a number of general development control policies designed to protect specific features of Buckinghamshire's environment, and to ensure that a sustainable approach is adopted at the planning application stage.
- Section 7 sets out the specific actions that need to be taken, to help to deliver the Preferred Option. The aim is that the County Council should take a strong lead in ensuring that the approach and policies of the Core Strategy are delivered over the period to 2026, and Section 7 describes how this would be done. It also includes details of how the delivery of the Strategy might be monitored, to see whether or not the vision, objectives and policies of the DPD are - or are not - being achieved.
- A key diagram is also included.

1.13 Over the period to 25 April 2008, comments are invited on **any** of the matters contained in this Preferred Options document. As well as welcoming views on

the spatial options and the policies in Sections 5 and 6, the County Council will welcome your thoughts on the issues discussed in Sections 2 to 4, to ensure that no important background matters have been missed, and to ensure that particular matters have not been given too much emphasis - or too little.

- 1.14 No final decisions have yet been taken on any of the matters in this document, and its publication affords everyone the opportunity to have their say on them.
- 1.15 In particular, we stress that you are welcome to express a preference for any of the options described in Section 5. The choice of the 'Preferred Option' will be reviewed in the light of comments received on this document. There is no automatic guarantee that the option currently described as 'preferred' will necessarily be the version that the County Council includes in the 'submission version' of the Core Strategy (see paragraph 1.24). To help the process of reviewing the options:
- if you support the Preferred Option as described in this report, it would help the Council if you would let us know this, and why. On the other hand,
 - if you prefer one of the other options - or even an option that is not included in Section 5 - the Council would like to know this, and to know why you prefer it to the current Preferred Option.
- 1.16 Section 5 of this Core Strategy also includes proposals to identify some specific sites as locations for 'Strategic Waste Complexes'. We would welcome your views about these sites, and you are also welcome to put forward additional or alternative sites for these Complexes, for the Council's consideration. Any sites suggested in this way will be considered alongside those that are suggested in this report. **However**, we would stress that this is the last opportunity for you to suggest alternative sites for these facilities for the Council to consider. If you decide to delay mentioning to the Council a site which you later seek to promote at the 'submission' stage, it will then be your responsibility to demonstrate, in detail, why your site should be included in the plan in preference to, or as well as, another site or sites.
- 1.17 There are no other proposals for specific sites in this document - although other sites are mentioned at various points in the text. There will be further opportunities for you to comment on possible sites for mineral extraction, and sites for smaller waste facilities, when the Minerals DPD and Waste DPD are being prepared. So in the present consultation, we would be grateful if you would concentrate your 'site-specific' comments only on matters relevant to the Strategic Waste Complexes.

Next steps with the Core Strategy

1.18 Your comments on this Preferred Options document should be sent to the County Council **no later than 25 April 2008**. You may make your representation either by post, or electronically. By post, the address to use is this:

**FREEPOST RLZY-THBC-AHHL
Buckinghamshire County Council
Strategic Planning Team
County Hall
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP20 1UY**

1.19 If you want to make your representation electronically, you can either

- fill in the form at www.buckscc.gov.uk/haveyoursay or
- e-mail to Minerals&WasteLDF@buckscc.gov.uk

1.20 If you would like to discuss any aspect of this document with a member of the Council's MWLDF team, please ring **01296 382822**.

1.21 After the end of the period for comments, all the views put forward will be assessed by the Council. If necessary, further detailed assessment of options or sites will be undertaken, and further SA/SEA or AA work will be carried out to strengthen the evidence base for the Core Strategy.

1.22 When the County Council is satisfied that it has produced a Core Strategy that is 'sound', judged against a series of tests laid down by government, it will prepare a new document setting out that strategy and relevant background material. This new document will be structured very similarly to the present document, but it will focus on the eventually-selected option rather than on the range of options that are included in this document.

1.23 In accordance with the 2004 Planning Act, this new document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. It will therefore be referred to as the '**submission document**'. The detailed evidence base and the SA/SEA and AA are also 'submitted' at the same time. The Council's current programme envisages that this stage will be reached in September 2008.

1.24 People then will have an opportunity to make objections to the submission document. These must be on the basis that the document fails in some way to meet all the tests of soundness just referred to. If there are objections, a Public Examination will be held, chaired by an independent Inspector. The Inspector's job will be to decide whether or not the document is 'sound'. Unlike an old-style 'local plan inquiry', the Inspector is not bound to hear all objections made at the 'submission' stage.

- 1.25 The current expectation is that the Public Examination into the Core Strategy will be held around mid-2009. The findings of the Inspector's report following the Examination (which might be available before the end of 2009) will be binding on the County Council. If the Inspector finds the Core Strategy to be 'sound', or to be capable of being made 'sound' by means of relatively minor changes, then it would be adopted more or less immediately following receipt of the report - say in January 2010. On the other hand, if the Inspector finds it to be 'unsound' and that significant changes are needed before it can be adopted, the County Council would have to go back over the 'unsound' aspects, and produce a new submission version (and perhaps a new Preferred Options document), and hold a further Public Examination, before the Strategy can be finally adopted.

Next steps with the Minerals and Waste DPDs

- 1.26 During 2007, the Minerals and Waste DPDs were both the subject of 'Preferred Options' consultations. It was originally intended that these two DPDs would be prepared before the Core Strategy because the Council's Minerals & Waste Local Plan had only been adopted in May 2006, and it was expected that this could provide the necessary strategic framework. However, the Council has now decided to progress the Core Strategy first, as it is important to establish whether or not the Core Strategy is 'sound' before proceeding too far with other DPDs that are, to an extent, subordinate to it. The programming of the Minerals and Waste DPDs has been adjusted accordingly.
- 1.27 The Council's current programme envisages the 'submission' of the Minerals DPD around the end of 2009 and of the Waste DPD in the spring of 2010. This means that the Minerals DPD will be submitted after receipt of the Inspector's Report on the Core Strategy Examination, and the Waste DPD will be submitted after the Core Strategy has been adopted. These two DPDs will be the subject of separate Public Examinations in the summer and autumn of 2010, leading (if they are found to be 'sound') to adoption around January and April 2011 respectively.

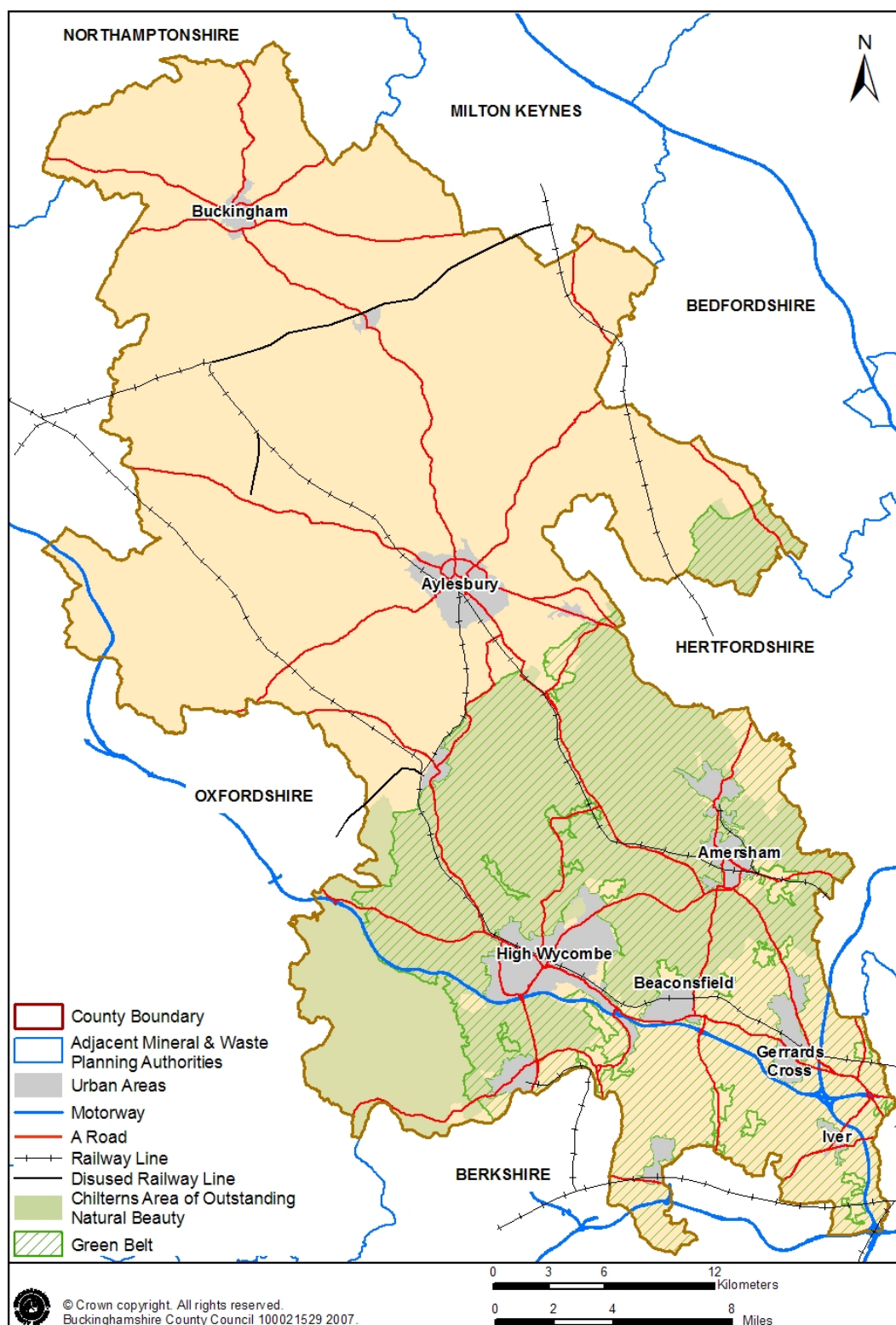
Section 2 - Context

This section describes the main characteristics of Buckinghamshire as a whole, with particular reference to topics relevant to minerals and waste, and describes the national, regional and local context in which the Core Strategy sits, and which it must take account of.

Buckinghamshire today

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire (**Map 1**) has an area of around 156,000ha, and a population of just over 480,000 (2005 estimate). Although close to London, a large part of the county is rural in nature, and there are no really large towns or cities within it. Over 70% of land use in the county is rural, and 40% of the population lives in rural wards. Just over one-third of the population lives in the District of Aylesbury Vale, which makes up nearly 60% of the county's area, and where the main towns are Aylesbury and Buckingham. The remaining two-thirds of the population lives in the three southern Districts of Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe, where the largest towns are High Wycombe, Amersham, Chesham, Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross. The city of Milton Keynes lies to the north-east, immediately adjacent to the county boundary. It was administratively part of Buckinghamshire until April 1997, but it is now a separate authority for local government purposes.
- 2.2 Buckinghamshire is distinguished by its rich heritage and landscape. Over a quarter of the county lies in the Chilterns Area of Natural Beauty, which runs across the centre of the county, while one-third of the county is included in the Metropolitan Green Belt.
- 2.3 Generally, Buckinghamshire has very good transport links to London by road via the M1, M40 and A41, and by rail via the West Coast Mainline and the Chiltern Line. But because of the county's geographical relationship with London, strategic road and rail corridors running north-south and northwest-southeast are generally better than those running east-west. North-south links within the county and beyond (between Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, High Wycombe and the Thames Valley) are less well developed, as are east-west links (between Oxford, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and beyond). Although they have Underground links to central London, the towns of Amersham and Chesham are otherwise not well served by the strategic transport network.
- 2.4 Commercial deposits of minerals (sand and gravel) are found principally in the south of the county, though there are also some poorer-quality deposits in the Ouse valley in North Buckinghamshire. There have been extensive sand and gravel workings in the south of the county for many years. Recent production has totalled just over 1 million tonnes per year. Deposits of chalk and brickclay are worked, on a much smaller scale, in a small number of relatively isolated locations in the Chilterns and in the north of the county.

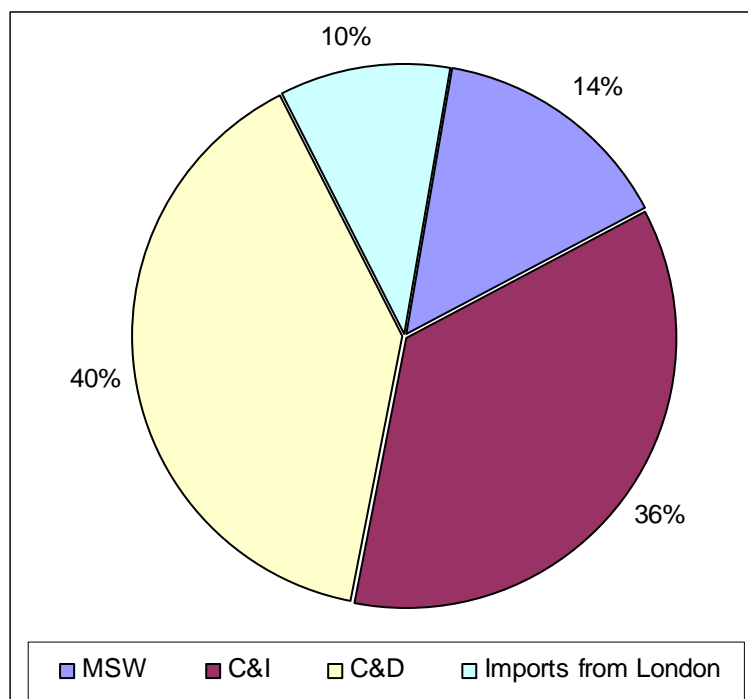
Map 1: Key Diagram



2.5 Around 2.6 million tonnes of waste is managed in Buckinghamshire each year. This includes some wastes imported from neighbouring counties and London. Only about 14% of this waste by weight - around 377,000 tonnes - is municipal (household) waste, with the remainder being made up of

commercial and industrial waste (36%), construction and demolition waste (40%), and imports from London (10%). Details of the split of waste arisings in 2006/07 are shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: Waste Managed in Buckinghamshire 2006/07



Source: BCC derived from Table A3.1 (Appendix 3)

2.6 The proportion of household waste that is recycled or composted has risen from around 23% in 2001/02, to over 40% in 2006/07, and the proportion landfilled has decreased accordingly, from 77% in 2001/02 to under 60% in 2006/07. In 2001 32% of the waste managed in the county was recycled, around 6% was composted, and the remaining 62% was landfilled. It is estimated that by 2007 the proportions recycled and composted had risen to 35% and 7% respectively, while the proportion sent to landfill had fallen to 58%.

Buckinghamshire in the future

- 2.7 Buckinghamshire's 'Sustainable Community Strategy' has a vision that by 2015 the county will have maintained its current economic success and its position as one of the most prosperous counties in England, while at the same time enhancing its environment and improving the well-being and quality of life of all its residents.
- 2.8 In delivering that vision, account will have to be taken of national, regional and local policies and strategies for individual subjects that will have a bearing on the county's economic, environmental and social well-being. These policies and strategies are also fundamental to future planning for minerals and waste

in the county. The relationships between the most important of them and the minerals and waste Core Strategy are set out in the remainder of this Section.

Relationship of the Core Strategy to other policies and strategies

2.9 A full list of the main plans and programmes relevant to the preparation of the Core Strategy is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report which is published alongside this document. That Report draws out the main features of each of these plans and programmes which may have a direct bearing on the approach or content of the Core Strategy. The most significant of these features are noted below, but preparation of the Preferred Options document has taken account of all the matters identified in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

(1) International and EU strategies

2.10 These include **international protocols**, such as those on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002) and on Climate Change (Kyoto 1997). These in turn feed into EU and/or national policies.

2.11 A number of **EU Directives** provide particularly important context for planning for minerals and waste at the more local level. Underpinning all future planning for waste are two Directives which emphasise the critical need for a major change in the way in which waste is regarded and treated. These are the Waste Framework Directive, which aims at reducing the amounts of waste requiring treatment and at encouraging the use of waste as a resource; and the Landfill Directive, which requires substantial reductions over time in the quantities of waste that are landfilled, thus encouraging increasing diversion of non-recyclable and non-reuseable wastes to other methods of treatment.

(2) National policies and strategies

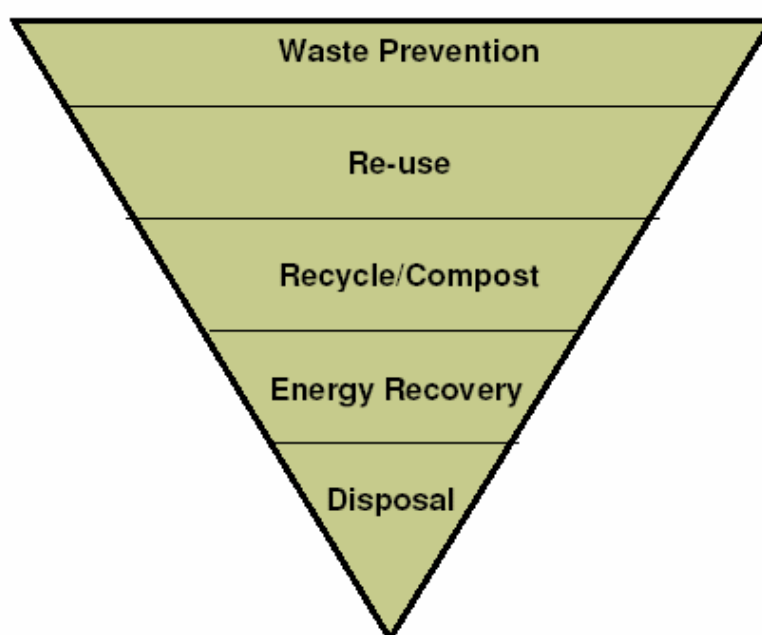
2.12 National planning policies for particular topics are set out in a series of **Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)**, **Policy Planning Guidance Notes (PPGs - now being replaced by PPSs)**, **Minerals Policy Statements (MPSs)**, and earlier **Minerals Policy Guidance Notes (MPGs)**. All of these have to be taken into account, to the extent relevant, in preparing the Core Strategy. Those of most direct relevance are PPS1, which is the overarching PPS on 'Delivering sustainable development' and includes an important Annex on Planning and Climate Change; together with PPS10 'Sustainable waste management' and MPS1 'Planning and minerals'.

2.13 Outside the specific 'planning' field, the overall **UK sustainable development strategy** ('Securing the Future', 2005), and the latest version of the **national waste strategy** ('Waste Strategy for England 2007'), are the national strategies most directly relevant to Buckinghamshire's Core Strategy for minerals and waste. The former contains the government's statement of the purpose of sustainable development, and the five guiding principles that are to be used in achieving that purpose. These have been taken fully into account in undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy, the results of

which have fed directly into the selection of the 'Preferred Option' in the present document.

- 2.14 Waste Strategy 2007 puts into effect at national level the requirements of the EU Waste Framework and Landfill Directives, by identifying a series of objectives and targets² which are to be met through the actions of a wide range of stakeholders, including waste operators, local authorities in their role as waste collection and disposal authorities (as well as planning authorities), and ultimately by every individual and business in the country. It also confirms the importance of moving the treatment of waste away from landfill and up the 'waste hierarchy' (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3: The Waste Hierarchy



Source: Waste Strategy for England 2007, DEFRA May 2007

(3) Regional and Sub-regional policies and strategies

- 2.15 Buckinghamshire is in the South East Region. Each region must prepare a **Regional Spatial Strategy** (RSS) to define the broad picture of how the region will develop over the coming years. The RSS is now part of the statutory 'development plan', which must by law be taken into account when planning decisions are being made.
- 2.16 The RSS for the South East is currently contained in a document called '**RPG9**'. The minerals and waste policies of RPG9 were approved in June 2006, and have been carried forward (with some additions) into the draft **South East Plan**, which is expected to replace RPG9 as RSS before the end of 2008, and which will cover the period to 2026. RPG9 and the South East

² The current targets in Waste Strategy 2007 and RPG9 are set out in Appendix 3.

Plan now incorporate the former Regional Minerals and Waste Management Strategies for the South East. Among other things, they include statements of the amount of mineral extraction, and of waste treatment, for which each county should make provision, as well as regional targets for reducing the amounts of waste sent to landfill.

- 2.17 Buckinghamshire's Core Strategy is required by law to be in general conformity with the prevailing RSS. The content of RPG9 and the emerging South East Plan therefore forms a key component of the background to the Core Strategy. The fact that the Core Strategy covers the period to 2026 is a direct consequence of this being the end-date of the South East Plan.
- 2.18 The Core Strategy must also have regard to relevant policies and provisions in the RSSs of regions that border the South East. Particularly relevant is **The London Plan**, which provides for some of London's waste - the amount declining over time - to be taken for disposal to neighbouring counties, including Buckinghamshire. This London Plan policy is also reflected in the policies of the emerging South East Plan.
- 2.19 National policy identifies the Milton Keynes South Midlands sub-region as a Growth Area, broad policies for which are contained in the **Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy** (2005). The South East Plan include specific proposals for the Milton Keynes/Aylesbury Vale sub-area within the Growth Area. These include proposals for additional housing and commercial development in both Milton Keynes and the town of Aylesbury. The nature and timing of this new development are important considerations that have been borne in mind by the County Council in framing its strategies for waste management, which in turn are reflected in the levels and patterns of provision made in this Core Strategy.
- 2.20 Wider implications of the presence of a Growth Area within and adjoining Buckinghamshire have also been taken into account in preparing this Core Strategy. For example, consideration has been given, in framing options for assessment, of the potential for Buckinghamshire to contribute to meeting the aggregates needs of the wider Growth Area. This is noted further in Section 5 of this document.
- 2.21 Also relevant is the **Chilterns AONB Management Strategy**, subtitled 'The framework for action 2002-2007', produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board. The AONB extends beyond Buckinghamshire into neighbouring counties, and the Management Strategy sets out an approach whose broad aims include the conservation and enhancement of the outstanding qualities of the AONB, and the maintenance of the features which make an essential contribution to its character and quality. It contains two broad aims specifically on minerals and waste disposal: to reduce any adverse impact of former extraction sites on the AONB, and to complement local planning policies to ensure that the objectives of AONB designation are upheld. Five 'Management Plan Policies' are set out in support of these aims: summarised, these seek to secure appropriate restoration and management of former quarries, and to encourage the continuation of the local brick-making industry.

(4) County-wide policies and strategies

- 2.22 The Buckinghamshire **County Structure Plan 1991-2011** was adopted early in 1996, and its statistical base is older still. Much has changed in planning for both waste and minerals in the meantime, and more up-to-date guidance has been issued at national and regional level. Since September 2007 the Structure Plan is no longer operational, although some of its policies have been 'saved' until the adoption of the South East Plan. None of its minerals and waste policies have been 'saved', and they are therefore now of no effect. Hence the Structure Plan is not now seen as a key context document for the new Core Strategy.
- 2.23 On the other hand, the **Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2004-2016**, adopted in May 2006, provides an up-to-date background to many of the issues that are considered in the Core Strategy. The MWLDF will eventually replace the Local Plan, and all the documents making up the MWLDF must take close account of the Local Plan's content - even though the MWLDF is more than just a restatement of the provisions of the Local Plan.
- 2.24 '**A sustainable community strategy for Buckinghamshire**' (2005) provides a framework for joint action by the public, private and voluntary sectors in the county. It sets a long-term vision for the county (see paragraph 2.7), and identifies a series of themes for the promotion of sustainable communities in the county. For each theme, a set of desirable outcomes is identified. Relevant outcomes have been taken into account in the preparation of the Core Strategy, not least through their reflection in the sustainability objectives that have been used in the Sustainability Appraisal. Some of these outcomes relate to improved air quality, the conservation of natural resources, protection of the built and historic environment, increased energy conservation, protection for biodiversity, and waste minimisation - all very relevant to the MWLDF in general, and to the Core Strategy in particular.
- 2.25 The **Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07-2010/11** contains a 20-year transport vision that aims to "secure the strategic and local transport infrastructure and services to sustainably develop the economy; to facilitate growth; and improve accessibility; whilst balancing free, safe and efficient movement of people and goods with protection of the environment". Its 14 key policy objectives designed to deliver this vision include
- delivering the strategic transport infrastructure to support sustainable growth
 - easing or preventing congestion to enable the efficient movement of people and goods and support economic development
 - reducing the need to travel and improving access to employment
 - maintaining or protecting the rural environment whilst improving access and amenity

- improving local air quality, especially in Air Quality Management Areas
- reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on the county's roads.

Among other things, the Local Transport Plan (in support and development of the regional transport strategy, which is included within RPG9 and the Draft South East Plan) aims to address a number of the 'missing transport links' alluded to in paragraph 2.3 above, in particular those between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes, and between Aylesbury and High Wycombe and the Thames Valley. But these - particularly the latter - are long-term schemes.

- 2.26 As waste disposal authority, the County Council plans to deal with its waste in line with a **municipal waste strategy** which has been agreed between the five councils - the County Council and the four District Councils - which make up the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire. The Strategy is contained in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy [JMWMS] Headline Strategy (2007), which is supported by an Action Plan Statement setting out how the strategy's policies will be delivered.
- 2.27 Under the long-term vision of the JMWMS, "Buckinghamshire aspires to be a county in which we will work together to manage waste efficiently so that by 2025, the amount of municipal waste produced will be minimised; the overwhelming majority of materials will be reused, recycled or have value recovered from them; and the environment will be protected and enhanced for future generations". To deliver this vision, ten guiding policies have been developed. One (MWMSP7) seeks to minimise the impacts of waste facilities on the environment by maximising the use of suitable existing sites, encouraging the co-location of municipal and other waste facilities where the environmental capacity is demonstrated, and siting necessary additional capacity in locations within or accessible from existing urban areas or major new or planned development.
- 2.28 The MWMS does not commit the County Council to any one technology for the treatment of residual waste. Policy MWMSP3 states that the future treatment technology could include thermal, biological and mechanical methods in the management of this waste. However, although the Waste Partnership is not ruling out any proven technology, it considers - based on its own assessment of possible options - that some element of thermal treatment is likely to be needed to manage the county's municipal waste in a sustainable way in the longer term. In January 2007 this conclusion was confirmed when the County Council formally gave its support to the use of thermal treatment for managing municipal waste.
- 2.29 Associated with this strategy, Buckinghamshire's **Waste Procurement Project** is now in progress. It aims to put in place a long term solution for handling the county's municipal waste, to replace the current landfill waste disposal contracts, which are due to end between 2009 and 2012. The technology or technologies to be used in the future handling of

Buckinghamshire's residual municipal waste will be decided through the procurement process.

- 2.30 Under this project, measures are currently being taken by the County Council (in its role as Waste Disposal Authority, and in conjunction with the Buckinghamshire District Councils) to secure the completion of a new contract for the treatment of municipal waste over approximately the next 25 years. This contract will cover the provision of a range of facilities for the treatment of municipal waste at specified locations, together with necessary supporting infrastructure. One of its most important effects will be to secure substantial reductions in the amounts of municipal waste going to landfill. The exact details of the contract will depend on who the successful tenderer is, but in principle this contract will make a very significant contribution to securing the achievement of a more sustainable approach to waste treatment in Buckinghamshire.
- 2.31 The Waste Procurement Project is a key driver for the waste component of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has therefore been prepared in close co-operation with those responsible for the preparation of the municipal waste strategy and the procurement project. In places it draws heavily on the technical and site analysis work that underpins those two exercises. Policies of the Core Strategy have been designed to facilitate the achievement of the vision and relevant policies of the waste strategy, and the delivery of the successful procurement bid.
- 2.32 Public involvement in the content of this Core Strategy is being secured in accordance with the procedures described in the **Buckinghamshire MWLDF Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**. The first of the documents of the MWLDF to be finalised, the SCI was approved in July 2007, following an independent examination.
- 2.33 A further relevant local policy document is the **Landscape Plan for Buckinghamshire**, a non-statutory plan prepared by the County Council and published in 2001. Its overall purpose is to act as a catalyst and framework for managing change in the landscape and strengthening the recognition given to the importance of the whole landscape as a substantial and valuable resource. Among its more detailed purposes are to inform the preparation of development plans and to encourage the safeguarding and improvement of the Buckinghamshire landscape.
- 2.34 A more detailed Landscape Character Assessment is currently being carried out for the area of Aylesbury Vale District, as part of a countywide **Strategic Environmental Character System** being developed by the County Council. It is hoped that this will be extended to cover the other three District Council areas in due course.

(5) The plans and strategies of Buckinghamshire's neighbours

- 2.35 The mineral and waste planning authorities adjacent to Buckinghamshire are all currently preparing their own MWLDFs. They are at different stages of

preparation. At the time of writing, **Milton Keynes** is the only neighbour to have submitted its Waste DPD to the Secretary of State (the results of the public examination of this DPD were received by the Council in January 2008, and it is expected to be adopted in February 2008); **Oxfordshire**, **Northamptonshire** and **the Berkshire UAs (working together)** have published their Preferred Options reports covering both minerals and waste³, while **Bedfordshire** have done so for minerals and **Hertfordshire** have done so for waste. Bedfordshire's waste document, and the minerals documents for Hertfordshire and for Milton Keynes, have not yet reached the Preferred Options stage.

- 2.36 With one exception, none of these emerging DPDs make any specific proposals that would impact directly or specifically on Buckinghamshire. As they are not yet generally at the stage of proposing specific sites, their direct spatial implications for Buckinghamshire are not known.
- 2.37 The exception is the **Milton Keynes Waste DPD**. This document specifically refers to the possible need for Milton Keynes to work with its neighbours to obtain economies and efficiencies of scale in waste treatment, and notes that joint working proposals have been discussed with Northamptonshire but with no other of Milton Keynes' neighbours. The DPD also notes that Milton Keynes has a large non-hazardous landfill capacity, which is available to neighbouring authorities whose landfills are nearly full [this does not however apply to Buckinghamshire, which currently has a large landfill capacity of its own]. The document identifies two alternative sites for a 'strategic waste site' within Milton Keynes; both are in the west or north-west of the town. The preferred site (at Old Wolverton) is stated to be large enough to meet the needs of Milton Keynes to 2026 for a range of waste uses, but there is no explicit suggestion in the DPD of it, or the alternative site at Bletchley, having the potential to treat any significant quantities of waste from outside the city (such as from Buckinghamshire).⁴

(6) Local policies and strategies

- 2.38 The four Districts in Buckinghamshire each have their own **Local Plans**, adopted at various dates between 1997 and 2004. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, some of the policies in these plans ceased to have force after September 2007.
- 2.39 All four Districts are working towards the preparation of their own **Core Strategy DPDs**, but to date only that for Wycombe District has reached the 'submission' stage. The other Districts have yet to complete their 'Preferred Options' stages. The District Councils' DPDs will not include detailed policies on minerals or waste, as these are the responsibility of the County Council.

³ Oxfordshire have recently suspended further work on their MWLDF until the implications of the government's recent proposed changes to the LDF system (November 2007) are clear.

⁴ The content of this paragraph describes the Milton Keynes Waste DPD in the form recommended by the Inspector who held the public examination into it. The reserve site at Bletchley was substituted by the Inspector for one at Wymbush, which had been proposed in the submission version of the plan.

2.40 The Districts' Local Plans and - particularly - their DPDs reflect the same overall sustainability principles as underpin this minerals and waste Core Strategy. In preparing this Strategy, care is being taken to ensure that there is no material conflict between its broad spatial proposals and those of the District Councils' emerging Core Strategies. At the same time, in considering emerging versions of the Districts' DPDs, the County Council will look to ensure that they take all appropriate opportunities to reflect the content and wider objectives of the MWLDF.

Section 3 - Vision and Objectives

This section sets out the County Council's Vision for the county in 2026 in terms of waste and minerals issues, and the Objectives that it has identified to secure delivery of this Vision. The assessment of possible spatial options (as described in Section 5) will consider the extent to which each option contributes to achieving the Vision and Objectives, while the policies proposed in Section 6 are designed to assist in their practical delivery.

Vision

- 3.1 Having regard to the content of Buckinghamshire's other Strategies, and of wider-area policies and strategies affecting the county, the County Council has identified the following as its 'Vision' of the county in 2026, in terms of minerals and waste matters:

Vision for the Minerals and Waste Development Framework

By 2026, to meet the demands made by European and national policies, the management of waste in Buckinghamshire will have undergone a radical change from its current pattern. A network of facilities for the collection, transfer, recycling, sustainable treatment and (where necessary) disposal of municipal, commercial/industrial and construction/demolition waste will be in place across the county, linked geographically to the locations of the main sources of waste, including sources in the Growth Area covering Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. Landfilling will be restricted to the disposal of wastes which cannot be re-used or recycled, or from which value cannot be recovered; this will include the untreatable residues from other waste management processes. The importation of wastes from London for landfilling will continue, but at a lower rate than at present. The number of active landfill sites in the county will have reduced to the necessary minimum, located to match the broad locations of the sources of residual wastes.

At the same time, the extraction of sand and gravel in the south of the county will have taken place in a phased and managed fashion so as to maintain the level of provision required by regional guidance, while safeguarding other viable reserves (including reserves in the north of the county) which may have a longer-term role in maintaining aggregates supply. Facilities will be in place across the county for the creation of secondary or recycled aggregates to at least the levels required by regional guidance.

Protection of the county's environment, and living and working conditions in the county, from the adverse effects of the new minerals and waste development will have been secured by the careful selection of sites for waste and minerals development; by co-locating waste facilities on existing sites wherever possible; by taking steps through the planning process and by other means to mitigate the impacts of individual schemes; and by maximising the

reasonable use of sustainable transport modes for accessing waste and mineral sites.

The restoration of mineral sites, including but not limited to those used for landfill, will be undertaken to the highest standards, in order to minimise the period and nature of environmental disturbance in the areas concerned, to maximise the contribution of these sites to the environment, and to maximise their potential, where appropriate, for recreational or commercial use.

Objectives

- 3.2 The Strategic Objectives that have been developed for the Minerals and Waste Development Framework have been designed to secure the delivery of the Vision. They draw on and reflect the objectives of other Council strategies, notably the Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Municipal Waste Management Strategy, the Local Transport Plan, the Landscape Plan, and the Chilterns AONB Management Plan (see **Appendix 1**). The objectives are intended to apply continuously throughout the period to 2026, and beyond. They are not capable of ‘once for all achievement’ at some point within that period.

Strategic Objectives for the Minerals and Waste Development Framework

- i To enable required levels of provision for waste management and for aggregates to be met in ways which satisfy sustainability objectives deriving from national and regional policies and guidance, while minimising any adverse effects on Buckinghamshire’s environment, and on living and working conditions in the county
- ii To deliver a strategy to achieve net self-sufficiency in waste treatment within Buckinghamshire, through identifying a range of sites to handle an amount of waste equivalent to that generated in the county
- iii To deliver a strategy which results in the provision of suitable and suitably-located facilities for the sustainable management of waste, supporting management techniques further up the waste hierarchy
- iv To secure a decrease over the plan period in the number of working non-inert landfill sites, and to husband remaining landfill void space
- v To conserve the county’s mineral resources through the safeguarding of all viable resources; the managed release of necessary sites for extraction; and an increase in levels of aggregates recycling in the county
- vi To secure the mitigation to acceptable levels of the impacts of necessary minerals and waste development where there might otherwise be harm to the rural, cultural or built environment

- vii To minimise the movements of minerals and waste by road, through a combination of a reduction in road mileage travelled and the use of more sustainable methods of transport
- viii To ensure the enhancement and restoration to the highest environmental standards of areas affected by minerals and waste development

3.3 **Figure 4** shows the links between the Vision and the Objectives.

Figure 4: Links between the Vision and the Strategic Objectives

Vision	<i>Links between vision and objectives</i>	Strategic Objectives
<p>By 2026, to meet the demands made by European and national policies, the management of waste in Buckinghamshire will have undergone a radical change from its current pattern. A network of facilities for the collection, transfer, recycling, sustainable treatment and (where necessary) disposal of municipal, commercial/industrial and construction/demolition waste will be in place across the county, linked geographically to the locations of the main sources of waste, including sources in the Growth Area covering Aylesbury and Milton Keynes.</p>	<p><i>Link to objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>i</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ii and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>iii</i> 	<p>i To enable required levels of provision for waste management and for aggregates to be met in ways which satisfy sustainability objectives deriving from national and regional policies and guidance, while minimising any adverse effects on Buckinghamshire’s environment, and on living and working conditions in the county.</p>
<p>Landfilling will be restricted to the disposal of an amount of residual wastes equivalent to the amount created in Buckinghamshire: the importation of wastes from London for landfilling will have ceased. The number of active landfill sites in the county will have reduced to the necessary minimum, located to match the broad locations of the sources of residual wastes.</p>	<p><i>Link to objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>i</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ii</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>iii and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>iv</i> 	<p>ii To deliver a strategy to achieve net self-sufficiency in waste treatment within Buckinghamshire, through identifying a range of sites to handle an amount of waste equivalent to that generated in Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>iii To deliver a strategy which results in the provision of suitable and suitably-located facilities for the sustainable management of waste, supporting management techniques further up the waste hierarchy</p>
		<p>iv To secure a decrease over the plan period in the number of working non-inert landfill sites, and to husband remaining landfill void space</p>

At the same time, the extraction of sand and gravel in the south of the county will have taken place in a phased and managed fashion so as to maintain the level of provision required by regional guidance, while safeguarding other viable reserves (including reserves in the north of the county) which may have a longer-term role in maintaining aggregates supply. Facilities will be in place across the county for the creation of secondary or recycled aggregates to levels required by regional guidance.

Link to objectives

- v
- vi
- viii

v To conserve the county’s mineral resources through the safeguarding of all viable resources; the managed release of necessary sites for extraction; and an increase in levels of aggregates recycling in the county

Protection of the county’s superb environment, and the living and working conditions of its residents, will have been secured by the careful selection of sites for waste and minerals development; by co-locating waste facilities on new or existing sites wherever possible; by taking steps through the planning process and by other means to mitigate the impacts of individual schemes; and by maximising the reasonable use of sustainable transport modes for accessing waste and mineral sites.

Link to objectives

- iii
- v, and
- vii

vi To secure the mitigation to acceptable levels of the impacts of necessary minerals and waste development where there might otherwise be harm to the rural, cultural or built environment

vii To minimise the movements of minerals and waste by road, through a combination of a reduction in road mileage travelled and the use of more sustainable methods of transport

The restoration of mineral sites, including but not limited to those used in landfill, will be undertaken to the highest standards, in order to minimise the period and nature of environmental disturbance in the areas concerned, to maximise the contribution of these sites to the environment, and to maximise their potential, where appropriate, for recreational or commercial use.

Link to objectives

- vi and
- viii

viii To ensure the enhancement and restoration to the highest environmental standards of areas affected by minerals and waste development

Section 4 - Challenges

This section identifies the local challenges that currently face planning for minerals and waste in Buckinghamshire, and that therefore should be addressed in considering and selecting options for the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework.

4.1 From analysis of national and regional policy requirements, and of the Buckinghamshire context as described in Section 2 (and in more detail in the SA/SEA Report), a number of key challenges have been identified which will need to be addressed if the Vision and Objectives for the MWLDF are to be realised. These challenges, and the places where they are addressed, are summarised in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Key Challenges

Challenge	Context	How addressed in the MWLDF
Securing a fundamental change in the way in which waste is regarded and treated in Buckinghamshire	National targets for waste growth and treatment are set in Waste Strategy 2007, and similar principles are carried forward in RSS (see Appendix 2). The JMWMS takes these into account in planning for municipal waste in the county.	National and regional targets, and JMWMS provisions, are taken into account in calculating the quantities of waste for which the MWLDF should cater (Policies 1 and 2).
Determining how much waste provision should be made in Buckinghamshire	RSS aims for each county to be 'net self sufficient' in terms of waste management, i.e. it should make provision for managing an amount equivalent to the amount created in the county. In addition, counties around London, including Bucks, are to make provision for the disposal of declining amounts of residual waste from London. No other regions' RSSs assume the need for any additional provision in Bucks.	Taken into account in calculating the figures in Policy 2 (see also Box A following this table, and Appendix 3).

Challenge	Context	How addressed in the MWLDF
Assessing how waste should be treated, and what new facilities are needed	National policy is to move the treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy. A range of new facilities will be needed in Bucks if waste is to be treated in the required more sustainable fashion. It is not the function of the MWLDF to determine the technologies to be used for treating waste in the county, but account must be taken of the conclusion in the JMWMS that some form of thermal treatment is likely to be needed for managing municipal waste in the longer term.	The need for a broad range of new facilities has been recognised in drawing up the Preferred Option, and specific proposals are made there for the locations of the most important new facilities. Locations for the other required facilities will be considered in the Waste DPD.
Determining where waste should be treated	Sustainability principles support the idea of dealing with waste close to its point of origin where possible. At the same time, account must be taken of the need to protect the environment and people's living and working conditions from the adverse effects of developing new waste management facilities. Work on the JMWMS identified a small number of sites with potential to accommodate large-scale new facilities.	Broad spatial options for dealing with Bucks' waste are considered in Section 5 of this document. The Preferred Option includes site-specific proposals for locating the largest and most important of the required facilities.
Determining how much new mineral extraction should be planned for	RSS sets an annual level of provision to be made in Bucks for the period to 2016. There are no equivalent provisions for Bucks' other minerals in national or regional policy.	The required level of provision for sand and gravel has been taken into account in calculating the quantities of new provision in Policy 6 (see also Box B following this table, and Appendix 4).
Determining where future sand and gravel extraction should take place	The best-quality sand and gravel resources in Bucks are in the south of the county, and that is the only part of the county where there has been any recent interest in extraction from the minerals industry.	General principles are included in the options assessment and Preferred Option in Section 5 of this document. Specific sites will be identified in the Minerals DPD.

Challenge	Context	How addressed in the MWLDF
Determining how much provision should be made for recycling aggregates, and where this should be located.	Emerging RSS suggests that by 2016 Bucks should make provision that would enable 0.6mt of recycled aggregates to be produced annually. This figure is not yet finalised.	General principles are included in Section 5 of this document. More detailed provision will be included in the Minerals DPD.
Securing the sustainable transportation of waste and minerals	National policy encourages the use of modes other than road for the transportation of freight (including waste and minerals) where possible.	Addressed in the assessment of potential options and sites for major waste management facilities in Section 5, and identified there and in Policy 11ii as a factor to take into account when mineral sites are being identified in the Minerals DPD.
Safeguarding sites and resources for the future	National policy seeks the safeguarding of mineral resources, and of sites that may allow minerals and waste to be carried by transport modes other than road.	General provisions for the long-term safeguarding of mineral resources, of rail depots and wharves that could be used for transporting minerals or waste, and of existing waste management capacity in the county, are included in Section 6 of this document. Further provisions will be included in the Minerals and Waste DPDs.
Minimising the environmental impacts of waste and minerals development	National policy seeks to ensure that important environmental interests are protected from any unacceptable impacts resulting from minerals and waste development. More locally-derived policies identify additional features within Bucks that require an appropriate level of protection.	National and regional policies are not repeated in the MWLDF, but features specific to Bucks that require a degree of protection are identified in Policy 10.

Challenge	Context	How addressed in the MWLDF
Accommodating the needs of the Milton Keynes/ Aylesbury growth area	Latest (but not yet final) figures indicate that a further 48,850 houses are to be provided in this growth area over the period 2006-2026, with a target of a further 49,850 jobs provided over the same period. Construction will require substantial amounts of aggregate minerals, and once constructed the new development will be a significant new source of waste for treatment	Aggregates provision for the growth area is considered in Section 5 and the Preferred Option. The additional amounts of waste from this area have been taken into account both in calculating the total amounts of waste to be managed in Bucks, and in assessing alternative spatial options for waste.
Ensuring contingency provision	The strategies of LDFs must be capable of being delivered. It is therefore desirable to have contingency arrangements in place in case delivery of the Preferred Option runs into unexpected difficulties.	Contingency provision for the siting of major waste facilities is included in the Preferred Option for waste. For minerals, this issue will be addressed as part of the identification of sites in the Minerals DPD.

4.2 Knowing the required amounts of provision for waste management and mineral extraction over the period to 2026 is essential if the MWLDF is to be consistent with national and regional policy. The County Council has therefore studied these topics particularly carefully. Boxes A and B below summarise the outcomes of these studies. Fuller explanations are given in Appendices 3 (for waste) and 4 (for minerals).

Box A How much waste?

Taking account of relevant national and regional targets and policies, the County Council has calculated that over the period 2006-2026, a total of just under 56mt of waste will need to be managed in Buckinghamshire. This is an average of about 2.8mt each year. This total is made up of about 8.5mt of municipal solid waste (MSW), about 22.3mt of commercial and industrial waste, about 20.6mt of construction and demolition waste, and about 4.4mt of waste imported from London for landfill.

Capacity is already available at existing facilities to handle some of this waste (**Map 2**). The County Council has calculated that over the plan period, new capacity is needed for treating some 1.77mt of waste each year. This is made up of 335,000 tonnes capacity for handling MSW; 832,000 tonnes capacity for handling commercial and industrial waste; and 600,000 tonnes capacity for handling construction and demolition waste.

Landfill sites already permitted in March 2007 had a combined capacity of 26.5 million cubic metres. Most of these sites will gradually become filled over the period to 2026. The County Council has calculated that by 2021 the total available capacity at the sites already permitted in 2007 will have fallen to 14.4 million m³ (about 7 million m³ for non-hazardous waste and about 7.3 million m³ for inert waste), and by 2026 the total figure will have fallen further to about 12 million m³ (about 5.3 million m³ for non-hazardous and about 6.6 million m³ for inert).

The Plan is required to provide landfill capacity for the disposal of a continuous but declining amount of imports of waste from London. The Council must provide capacity for 270,000 tonnes a year until 2016, and 170,000 tonnes a year thereafter. However, the County Council has identified that there will be sufficient landfill capacity available at 2026 and beyond to handle both Buckinghamshire's own non-hazardous and inert materials, and imports from London throughout the Plan period.

Box B How much mineral?

Approved regional guidance (RPG9) identifies a level of aggregates provision for each county in the South East, designed to ensure that provision from the region as a whole is in line with national requirements. For Buckinghamshire, the level of provision required for sand and gravel is 0.99 million tonnes a year (mtpa). This figure is also included in the Draft South East Plan.

To ensure that sites in the county with planning permission can maintain this output in each year to 2026, the County Council has calculated that permissions need to be given over that period for a total of at least 6.13mt of new sand and gravel extraction, in addition to the permissions already in place at the end of 2007. This amount should be phased in as extraction is completed at existing sites, with a view to maintaining the capacity to produce 0.99mt of sand and gravel in each year.

There are no national or local requirements to make provision for specific levels of production of the other minerals currently extracted in Buckinghamshire (chalk and clay).

The Draft South East Plan suggests that by 2016, Buckinghamshire should be capable of providing at least 0.6mtpa of recycled aggregates to contribute to overall aggregates supply. This figure has not yet been finally confirmed, but if it is, the total requirement between 2006 and 2016 may be of the order of 5 million tonnes, with a further 6mt needed up to 2026 if the required level stays the same.

Section 5 - Choosing the Preferred Options

This section describes the alternative spatial options that have been considered as possible ways of delivering the MWLDF's vision and objectives, and explains the choice of the proposed 'Preferred Options'.

Waste: Broad principles for the Preferred Option

5.1 In deriving the Preferred Option for waste, certain principles have been identified which are considered to be appropriate for all spatial options:

- Increased re-use, recycling and composting must be the most important elements in any new waste management strategy, but in spatial terms the most critical - and difficult - decisions concern the locations for **major "recovery" facilities***. The Core Strategy, and its Preferred Option, should therefore concentrate on identifying the most suitable locations for these facilities.
- Provision of major waste treatment facilities should be concentrated to a significant degree at a small number of larger sites, or 'Strategic Waste Complexes' (SWCs), which between them are capable of serving the entire county.

This conclusion derives from the advice in PPS10 (para 20) and RPG9 (para 10.241) that opportunities should be taken to co-locate waste facilities; from an awareness that the economies of scale involved in providing 'fewer, larger' facilities make such a strategy far more likely to be successfully delivered than one involving 'more, smaller' facilities; and from the fact that concentrating activities at a smaller number of sites will also concentrate any environmental disadvantages, rather than spreading them across a larger number of locations.

Moreover, identifying sites for 'Strategic Waste Complexes' links well with the aim of co-locating major waste treatment facilities with complementary activities. This is consistent with the concept of treating waste as a resource from which the maximum value should be realised. SWCs can, for example, provide major centralised recycling and composting facilities, as well as providing recovery capacity for materials which cannot be recycled. Where the location includes an existing landfill, the residues of the recovery processes can also be disposed of at the same site, while recyclable materials can be further processed on-site. Concentrating these facilities has the further advantage of reducing the distances that waste materials are carried, since the outputs of one management process can become the inputs of a complementary treatment or disposal process at

* The recovery of value from waste by generating energy - this can be achieved in various ways: for example, Energy from Waste [incineration with energy generation], anaerobic digestion or mechanical-biological treatment

the same site.

- The locations of facilities to support the SWCs - such as transfer stations where waste from a number of sources is assembled for bulk delivery to the SWCs - should be derived by reference to the locations of the SWCs, to provide an integrated network of facilities to serve the county.

Clearly, having a co-ordinated and integrated network of facilities is likely to be the most efficient way of delivering the selected option, as well as helping to reduce the distances that waste travels. Paragraph 10.241 of RPG9 also refers to the merits of the development of integrated facilities.

- The selected option must be 'deliverable' - that is, it must allow the required facilities to be provided where they are needed and at the time when they are needed.

It is clear that there would be no point in selecting a Preferred Option based on sites that could not be developed by the time when the new facilities are needed.

- 5.2 These principles will therefore influence the choice of the options considered for the delivery of the waste Core Strategy, and must be reflected in the spatial component of the selected Preferred Option.

Deriving the spatial options for waste

- 5.3 As part of the preparation of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (see paragraph 2.26), consultants were commissioned to identify and assess potential locations for the main facilities that would be needed to handle and treat municipal waste in the county. This exercise considered sites across the whole county. The process followed is summarised in **Appendix 5**.

- 5.4 As a result of this assessment, seven locations were judged to have potential for accommodating strategic facilities for dealing with municipal waste. These were included, for consultation purposes, in the 'Waste Development Plan Preferred Options consultation report', issued in June 2007. Following the consultation on that report, two further sites were suggested by potential waste operators.

- 5.5 Further consideration has now been given to the potential of the original seven sites, taking account of views expressed and new information received during that earlier consultation. At the same time, the two additional suggested sites have been analysed, on a similar basis to that used in the earlier assessment of all other potential sites in the county.

- 5.6 Table 5.1 summarises the County Council's current position on the nine sites.

- 5.7 In coming to the 'current position' at each site, account has been taken of the Waste Partnership's conclusion that some element of thermal treatment is

likely to be needed in the management of Buckinghamshire’s municipal waste in the future (see paragraph 2.28).

Table 5.1: Initial list of potential sites for strategic treatment of municipal waste

Site* and District AV - Aylesbury Vale SB - South Bucks W - Wycombe	Source	Comment following consultation/further assessment	BCC current position †
Calvert landfill site (AV)	Consultants	No overriding reason seen for discounting this site	Maintain site for consideration
College Road North, Aston Clinton (AV)	Consultants	Now regarded as unsuitable for thermal treatment because of potential conflicts with operations at RAF Halton	No longer considered suitable for strategic facilities because unsuitable for thermal processes
Woodham Industrial Area (AV)	Consultants	Originally suggested for small-scale thermal processing only, but now considered that the site should not be ruled out for larger-scale facilities because the impacts of such facilities need not necessarily be unacceptable	Maintain site for consideration, with potential for large- or small-scale recovery processes
Long Crendon Industrial Estate (AV)	Consultants	Little or no land is available at the Industrial Estate	No longer considered suitable for strategic facilities, for the reason stated
Haddenham Industrial Park (AV)	Consultants	Consultants recognised that site was not suitable for thermal processes. Its peripheral location within Bucks also argues against its selection	Not considered suitable for strategic facilities for handling municipal waste, because unsuitable for thermal processes. Its peripheral location argues against its selection for major

Site* and District AV - Aylesbury Vale SB - South Bucks W - Wycombe	Source	Comment following consultation/further assessment	BCC current position †
			C&I recovery. Hence site not considered suitable for inclusion in 'strategic' options.
Wapseys Wood landfill site, Gerrards Cross (SB)	Consultants	No overriding reason seen for discounting this site #	Maintain site for consideration
Springfield Farm landfill site, Beaconsfield (SB)	Consultants	No overriding reason seen for discounting this site #	Maintain site for consideration
Denham Park Farm (SB)	Operator	Concerns over access issues, and possible relationship with Denham Airfield. A Green Belt site with no clear advantages over Wapseys Wood or Springfield Farm. Also possible aviation objection relating to RAF Denham	Not favoured for strategic facilities, for the reasons stated
Adjacent to current High Heavens site (W)	Operator	Greenfield site in AONB. Use for strategic facilities would be contrary to regional policies. There is also an aviation objection relating to Wycombe Air Park.	Not suitable for strategic facilities, for the reasons stated

* Sites at Amersham (London Road) and High Wycombe (High Heavens), listed in the table on page 33 of the June 2007 'Waste DPD Preferred Options' report are not included in this table, because they were identified there as suitable for waste transfer only, and not for major 'strategic' recovery facilities.

† The fact that a site is "no longer considered suitable for strategic facilities" does not necessarily preclude it being used for more local waste treatment processes. The assessment of sites for these purposes will be considered in preparing the Waste DPD.

These sites are around 2-3km from a site designated as of international importance for its biodiversity value (Burnham Beeches). They have therefore been subject to Appropriate Assessment - see paragraph 1.10 - which has concluded that their potential impacts on the biodiversity site is not such as should rule them out from consideration as locations for thermal or anaerobic waste treatment.

- 5.8 The assessment of potential sites for the Waste Partnership was targeted at identifying sites for handling municipal waste. But the method by which the basic assessment was carried out took no account of the types of waste for which the sites might be needed, or the technologies which might be used for major waste treatment. The sites were considered objectively on their planning merits⁵.
- 5.9 Therefore, in principle, sites identified as having potential for strategic treatment of municipal waste are also regarded as having potential for strategic treatment of commercial and industrial waste, which is the other main waste stream requiring treatment by similar methods to those used in treating municipal waste.
- 5.10 Taken together with the advice in PPS10 that opportunities should be sought to co-locate waste facilities (PPS10 paragraph 20), these conclusions have led to the derivation of a series of options for the location of strategic waste management facilities in Buckinghamshire. The underlying principles distinguishing these options from each other may be summarised as follows:
- Differences in the total number of sites to be identified across the county
 - Differences in whether each site handles both MSW and C&I waste, or just one or the other; and
 - In the case of one site which currently has rail access (Calvert), differences in the modes of transport used for delivering waste to the site.
- 5.11 In all, these differences have given rise to the identification of 34 possible recovery-led options for delivering the waste strategy, as summarised in **Tables 5.2 and 5.3**. They can be grouped into four wider Scenarios. All options assume delivery of waste to the site/s by road, except where stated.
- 5.12 Some of the options will require the use of intermediate transfer stations for gathering municipal waste from Districts more distant from the SWC. These would be located at one or more of the following locations, which have been identified through the same process that led to the proposed SWC sites (see Appendix 5):
- High Heavens (Wycombe District)
 - London Road, Amersham (Chiltern District)
 - College Road North, Aston Clinton (Aylesbury Vale District)
 - Off Osier Way, Buckingham (Aylesbury Vale District)
 - Proposed multi-modal transfer facility at Richings Park (South Bucks District).

⁵ It is true that some of the sites in Table 5.1 have since been excluded from consideration because they were judged to be unsuitable for thermal treatment of municipal waste. But this factor has only ruled the sites concerned out at a late stage - it did not prevent them being identified by the consultants in the first instance as having potential for strategic facilities.

Details of which transfer station/s would be required for each option are set out in Table 5.3. All the sub-options listed in Table 5.2 (for example, Options 1Di and 1Dii) differ from each other only in respect of the transfer stations that would serve the SWC site, as shown in Table 5.3.

Table 5.2: Waste Scenarios and Options

Scenario 1:	Providing all the county's required capacity for recovering both MSW and C&I waste at a single site
Option 1A	All recovery capacity at Calvert landfill site, using road transfer only
Option 1B	All recovery capacity at Calvert landfill site, with a mix of road and rail transfer of waste to the site
Option 1C	All recovery capacity at Woodham
Option 1D i-ii	All recovery capacity at Wapsey's Wood.
Option 1E i-ii	All recovery capacity at Springfield Farm

Scenario 2:	Providing all the county's required capacity for recovering MSW at a single location, and the required capacity for treating C&I waste at a single, but different, location
Option 2A	All MSW recovery capacity at Calvert; all C&I waste capacity at Wapseys Wood
Option 2B	All MSW recovery capacity at Calvert, with a mix of road and rail transfer of waste to the site; all C&I waste capacity at Wapseys Wood
Option 2C i-ii	All MSW recovery capacity at Wapseys Wood; all C&I waste capacity at Calvert
Option 2D	All MSW recovery capacity at Calvert; all C&I waste capacity at Springfield Farm
Option 2E	All MSW recovery capacity at Calvert, with a mix of road and rail transfer of waste to the site; all C&I waste capacity at Springfield Farm
Option 2F i-ii	All MSW recovery capacity at Springfield Farm; all C&I waste capacity at Calvert
Option 2G	All MSW recovery capacity at Woodham; all C&I waste capacity at Wapseys Wood
Option 2H i-ii	All MSW recovery capacity at Wapseys Wood; all C&I waste capacity at Woodham
Option 2I	All MSW recovery capacity at Woodham; all C&I waste capacity at Springfield Farm
Option 2J i-ii	All MSW recovery capacity at Springfield Farm; all C&I waste capacity at Woodham
Option 2K i-ii	All MSW recovery capacity at Wapseys Wood; all C&I waste capacity at Springfield Farm
Option 2L i-ii	All MSW recovery capacity at Springfield Farm; all C&I waste capacity at Wapseys Wood

Scenario 3: Providing all the county's required capacity for recovering both MSW and C&I waste at two sites, with recovery capacity shared at each site

Option 3A	All recovery capacity at Calvert and Wapseys Wood
Option 3B	All recovery capacity at Calvert and Springfield Farm
Option 3C	All recovery capacity at Woodham and Wapseys Wood
Option 3D	All recovery capacity at Woodham and Springfield Farm
Option 3E	All recovery capacity at Wapseys Wood and Springfield Farm

Scenario 4: Providing all the county's required MSW recovery capacity split between two sites, with C&I waste recovery all at a single, different site

Option 4A	MSW recovered at Calvert and Wapseys Wood; C&I recovered at Springfield Farm
Option 4B	MSW recovered at Calvert and Springfield Farm; C&I recovered at Wapseys Wood
Option 4C	MSW recovered at Woodham and Wapseys Wood; C&I recovered at Springfield Farm
Option 4D	MSW recovered at Woodham and Springfield Farm; C&I recovered at Wapseys Wood

Table 5.3: Sites required for each waste option

Option	RECOVERY FACILITIES				TRANSFER FACILITIES (MSW)				
	Calvert	Woodham	Wapseys Wood	Springfield Farm	High Heavens, Wycombe	London Rd, Amersham	College Rd N, Aston Clinton	off Osier Way, Buckingham	Richings Park (rail)
1A	MSW & CI	--	--	--	X	X			
1B	MSW & CI	--	--	--	X	X			X
1C	--	MSW & CI	--	--	X	X			
1Di	--	--	MSW & CI	--			X		
1Dii	--	--	MSW & CI	--			X	X	
1Ei	--	--	--	MSW & CI			X		
1Eii	--	--	--	MSW & CI			X	X	
2A	MSW	--	CI	--	X	X			
2B	MSW	--	CI	--					X
2Ci	CI	--	MSW	--			X		
2Cii	CI	--	MSW	--			X	X	
2D	MSW	--	--	CI	X	X			
2E	MSW	--	--	CI					X
2Fi	CI	--	--	MSW			X		
2Fii	CI	--	--	MSW			X	X	
2G	--	MSW	CI	--	X	X			
2Hi	--	CI	MSW	--			X		
2Hii	--	CI	MSW	--			X	X	
2I	--	MSW	--	CI	X	X			
2Ji	--	CI	--	MSW			X		
2Jii	--	CI	--	MSW			X	X	
2Ki	--	--	MSW	CI			X		
2Kii	--	--	MSW	CI			X	X	
2Li	--	--	CI	MSW			X		
2Lii	--	--	CI	MSW			X	X	

Option	RECOVERY FACILITIES				TRANSFER FACILITIES (MSW)				
	Calvert	Woodham	Wapseys Wood	Springfield Farm	High Heavens, Wycombe	London Rd, Amersham	College Rd N, Aston Clinton	off Osier Way, Buckingham	Richings Park (rail)
3A	MSW & CI	--	MSW & CI	--	No transfer facilities required				
3B	MSW & CI	--	--	MSW & CI	No transfer facilities required				
3C	--	MSW & CI	MSW & CI	--	No transfer facilities required				
3D	--	MSW & CI	--	MSW & CI	No transfer facilities required				
3E	--	--	MSW & CI	MSW & CI	No transfer facilities required				
4A	MSW	--	MSW	CI	No transfer facilities required				
4B	MSW	--	CI	MSW	No transfer facilities required				
4C	--	MSW	MSW	CI	No transfer facilities required				
4D	--	MSW	CI	MSW	No transfer facilities required				

In Scenarios 1 and 2 –

- for all Options involving the recovery of municipal waste (MSW) at Calvert or Woodham, it is assumed that MSW from Aylesbury Vale District would be delivered direct to the SWC, with MSW from the other three Districts would pass through the transfer stations at High Heavens and at Amersham - and/or in some cases through a rail-linked transfer station at Richings Park; and
- for all Options involving the recovery of MSW at Wapseys Wood or Springfield Farm, it is assumed that all MSW from Chiltern, Wycombe and South Bucks Districts would be delivered direct to the SWC, with MSW from Aylesbury Vale passing through either or both of the transfer stations at Aston Clinton and Buckingham.

All Scenarios and Options assume that all commercial and industrial waste (C&I) would be delivered direct to the SWC.

In the assessment of options, it has been assumed that one-third of the C&I waste for treatment will originate in North Buckinghamshire, and two-thirds in South Buckinghamshire. This is a rounding of the finding that 31.9% of Buckinghamshire’s C&I waste arises in the District of Aylesbury Vale (See Jacobs for BCC, July 2007: Soft market testing of contractors for the management and apportionment of commercial and industrial waste arisings within Buckinghamshire during 2021, Table 9-2).

5.13 Some possible combinations of the four SWC sites have not been carried forward into specific options. The reasons for these are as follows:

- It is considered inappropriate to have thermal treatment facilities at both Wapseys Wood and Springfield Farm, because of their relative proximity and possible impacts on air quality, and also because to have two such plants in the south of the county and none in the north is not considered to accord with the proximity principle. Therefore there are no such options within Scenarios 3 and 4.
- Calvert is seen as having positive advantages over the other site in the north of the county (Woodham), in terms of the space available, the presence of an existing rail access, and the likely continuation for part of the plan period of imports of waste from London to Calvert by rail. For this reason, Woodham is seen only as a contingent substitute for Calvert, rather than an equal alternative to it. There are therefore no options in any scenario which feature both of these sites.

Assessment of the options for waste: Derivation of the Preferred Option

5.14 The 34 options identified above have been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The results of these processes are reported separately in the Sustainability Appraisal Report, and are summarised in Appendix 6.

5.15 The options have also been subjected to an initial transport assessment, to examine their implications in terms of vehicle numbers and routeing, and the changes (upwards or downwards) which they might make to the number of vehicles on the road network in the vicinity of each site⁶. The report of this assessment is purely factual, but it clearly demonstrates the sometimes considerable differences between the options on these matters.

5.16 A third element in the assessment of the options is the question of their deliverability. The County Council has assessed the deliverability of each option, having regard to such considerations as

- whether the four potential SWC sites are in the control of the waste industry
- whether they are all likely to be available to meet the need for additional waste management capacity in the relatively short term as well as the longer term
- whether they are favoured as a location for an SWC by one or more of the current shortlisted bidders under the Waste Procurement Process

⁶ Jacobs, for Buckinghamshire County Council: Waste Preferred Options Sites - Initial Transport Assessment, February 2008

(see paragraphs 2.29-2.31); and if so, what infrastructure (e.g. transfer stations) do the shortlisted bidders propose to support the SWC.

In these terms, Calvert and Wapseys Wood are considered to be the most 'deliverable' sites, as they satisfy all three of the above considerations. Springfield Farm meets the first two of the considerations, but not the third; while Woodham is not fully in the control of the waste industry and does not meet the third consideration, and consequently its ability to satisfy the second consideration is, at best, open to some doubt.

- 5.17 The conclusions of the three assessments of the 34 options are brought together in the summary table at **Appendix 7**. This shows that in sustainability terms the best-performing options are those in Scenario 3 (i.e. those with all waste treatment shared between two SWCs, with all waste delivered direct to the SWCs), and in particular Options 3A to 3D; while in general the options within Scenario 1 (all capacity provided at a single site) perform least well. However, Options 3A to 3D do not all perform equally well in terms of their deliverability. The absence of positive support for Springfield Farm shown in the procurement process depresses the performance of Options 3B and 3D, while the remaining option involving Calvert (3A) emerges as preferable to that involving Woodham (3C) for the reasons explained in paragraph 5.16 above (and see also the second bullet-point in paragraph 5.13). Therefore **Option 3A - all waste recovery split between the sites at Calvert and Wapseys Wood - emerges as the most sustainable of the 34 options that have been examined.**
- 5.18 The options within Scenario 3 all assume that all waste will be delivered directly to the SWC, with no intervening transfer stations. In terms of deliverability, however, the position is complicated by the fact that the proposals of the shortlisted bidders in the Procurement Process are all based on the use of either Calvert or Wapseys Wood as the location for an SWC to deal with all the county's municipal waste, rather than splitting waste recovery between these two sites. In all cases, the bidders have concluded that their proposed arrangement must involve the provision of a number of transfer stations to assemble waste for onward transfer to the SWCs. On this basis, options with no transfer stations - such as Option 3A - may be considered to be to a degree 'aspirational ideals' rather than being options that can be realistically relied on to deliver the necessary additional waste management capacity, particularly in the shorter term. With this in mind, and using the assessments as summarised in Appendix 7, it has been concluded that **the most deliverable options would be options 2A and 2C, involving all municipal waste recovery at either Calvert or Wapseys Wood, and all recovery of commercial and Industrial waste at the other of those two sites.** These two sites are favoured ahead of Woodham and Springfield Farm (respectively) for the same reasons as explained in paragraph 5.17.
- 5.19 However, the sites at Woodham and at Springfield Farm have not been found to be unacceptable on their own merits for accommodating the necessary SWCs. They are therefore identified as contingency sites for SWCs, to be substituted for Calvert or Wapseys Wood (respectively) if those sites prove

unable to deliver the required waste management capacity within the required period.

5.20 The conclusion is therefore reached that the Preferred Option for waste should present two alternative approaches to meeting the need for future waste recovery capacity: the 'most sustainable option', and the perhaps more realistic 'most deliverable option'. These are therefore presented as **Alternatives 1 and 2** (respectively) in the description of the Preferred Option below. It is stressed that, in spatial terms, both rely on the same two preferred locations for the major recovery facilities. The differences between them concern the types of waste which the two locations might each handle, and the fact that Alternative 2 (unlike Alternative 1) includes a network of transfer stations to support the two SWCs.

5.21 Taking all the above factors into consideration, the **Preferred Option for waste** therefore comprises the following elements:

- Concentration of major waste treatment facilities at two 'Strategic Waste Complexes' (SWCs), one in the north of the county and one in the south.
- Provision of necessary supporting facilities in locations well positioned both to receive waste from the places where it arises and - if necessary - to deliver it on to the SWCs.
- The sites selected for the SWCs should be demonstrably 'deliverable'.
- In spatial terms, the 'Alternative Preferred Options' are as follows:

ALTERNATIVE 1

- the establishment of an SWC at Calvert landfill site, for the recovery of MSW from Aylesbury Vale District, and C&I waste from the north of the county generally
- the establishment of an SWC at Wapseys Wood landfill site (near Gerrards Cross), for the recovery of MSW from the three Districts of Chiltern, Wycombe and South Bucks, and C&I waste from the south of the county generally
- all wastes would be delivered to these sites direct from their respective catchment areas, with no intervening transfer stations required.

Map 3 illustrates Alternative 1 in spatial terms.

ALTERNATIVE 2

- the establishment of an SWC for the recovery of MSW at either Calvert landfill site or Wapseys Wood landfill site, with transfer stations at one or more of the sites at High Heavens (Wycombe), London Road (Amersham), College Road North (Aston Clinton), off Osier Way (Buckingham) and Richings Park (Iver) to facilitate delivery of MSW from more distant parts of the county; together with
- the establishment of an SWC for the recovery of C&I waste at whichever of the above sites is not used for MSW recovery, with all waste delivered direct.

Map 4 illustrates Alternative 2 in spatial terms.

As a **contingency** applying to both Alternatives, if either of the favoured SWC sites turns out to be undeliverable, the Preferred Option identifies alternative locations as follows:

- A site at Woodham Industrial Area, to substitute if necessary for Calvert, and
- A site at Springfield Farm landfill site, near Beaconsfield, to substitute if necessary for Wapseys Wood.

All sites referred to in Alternatives 1 and 2 would be safeguarded against uses which might prejudice their use in the manner proposed in those Alternatives.

All of the above sites are shown on the **Proposals Map for Waste (Map 5)**; this sets out:

- The Preferred Areas for Strategic Waste Complexes (SWCs);
- The Safeguarded Areas for reserve SWCs, if needed;
- The Preferred Areas for Waste Transfer Facilities.

Policies for delivering the waste component of the Core Strategy

5.22 The following policies define the principal terms of the waste component of the Core Strategy –

- the quantities of waste treatment for which provision will be made (Policy 1)
- the additional quantities needed over the plan period, over and above the amounts already available at permitted sites (Policy 2)
- the amount of treatment capacity which should be provided at Strategic Waste Complexes (Policy 3)
- the key locational components of the strategy (Policy 4)

Policy 1

Provision will be made for total waste management capacity in the county as follows (all figures in tonnes except where stated):

	by 2016	by 2021	by 2026
Recycling capacity	1,780,000	1,800,000	1,900,000
Composting capacity	155,000	173,000	186,500
Recovery capacity	386,000	460,000	460,000
Landfill capacity	423,000	350,000	311,000
	(436,000 m ³)	(364,000 m ³)	(320,900 m ³)
TOTAL	2,700,000	2,800,000	2,900,000

Policy 2

To meet the above levels, provision will be made for the following additional waste management capacity in the county (all figures in tonnes):

	by 2016	by 2021	by 2026
Recycling capacity	1,101,000	1,128,000	1,203,500
Composting capacity	75,000	93,150	106,500
Recovery capacity	386,000	460,000	460,000
Landfill capacity	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,560,000	1,681,000	1,770,000

The required additional capacity at 2026 for each waste stream is as follows:

	MSW	C & I	C & D
Recycling capacity	90,000	514,000	600,000
Composting capacity	35,000	71,500	0
Recovery capacity	210,000	250,000	0
TOTAL	335,000	835,500	600,000

5.23 The derivation of the figures in Policies 1 and 2 is summarised in Box A at the end of Section 4 above, and explained more fully in Appendix 3.

Policy 3

To meet the requirements of Policy 2, provision of major recovery capacity at the Strategic Waste Complexes should be at the following levels:

By 2016 :	386,000 tonnes
By 2021 :	460,000 tonnes
By 2026 :	460,000 tonnes

Policy 4

Planning permission will be granted for the establishment of Strategic Waste Complexes at Calvert and at Wapseys Wood landfill sites, as shown on the Proposals Map for Waste (Map 5). If (but only if) either or both of these sites is demonstrated to be incapable of delivering the treatment capacities in Policy 3, planning permission will be granted for the establishment of Strategic Waste Complexes at Woodham Industrial Area (as a substitute for Calvert) and at Springfield Farm (as a substitute for Wapseys Wood), (Map 5).

Planning permission will be granted for the establishment of necessary transfer stations linked to the Strategic Waste Complex/es. These will be located at one or more of the sites at High Heavens (Wycombe), London Road (Amersham), College Road North (Aston Clinton), off Osier Way (Buckingham), and Richings Park (Iver) (Map 5).

All sites named in this policy will be safeguarded against uses which might prejudice their use for the stated waste management purposes.

- 5.24 The figures in Policy 3 are the same as those for Recovery Capacity in Policy 2, while Policy 4 gives effect to the key spatial provisions of the Preferred Option. The identification of sites for non-strategic facilities, and (where appropriate) of criteria for judging the acceptability of other proposed sites for these facilities, will be undertaken in due course in the Waste Development Plan Document.

Minerals: Broad principles for the Preferred Option

- 5.25 The broad principles underlying all realistic options for minerals are considered to be these:

- Mineral resources which may be able to contribute to meeting future aggregates needs should be safeguarded against other forms of development.

This reflects national objectives and policies in paragraphs 9 and 13 of MPS1 respectively.

- The MWLDF should identify sites, known as 'Preferred Areas', for future extraction of sand and gravel.

This approach accords with the advice in paragraph 3.7 of MPS1, and with the best practice advice in paragraphs 37-39 of the Practice Guide accompanying MPS1.

- The Preferred Areas should be sought from within the main sand and gravel deposits in the south of the county.

The reason for this is explained in paragraphs 5.28-5.31 below.

- Extraction outside the identified sites should not be ruled out absolutely.

There may be circumstances in which extraction outside the identified sites proves to be acceptable, subject to proper protection of the environment - for example, extraction from a reserve not previously believed to be of commercial interest, or from a 'borrow pit' in association with a major construction project, or as a by-product of some other development. Such opportunities should not be ruled out absolutely in the Preferred Option.

- The county's sand and gravel resources should be husbanded to ensure that they are not used up unduly quickly, or used inefficiently. To this end, the aim will be to make provision for extraction at a rate not significantly exceeding the agreed subregional apportionment figure for these minerals, by phasing the release of the Preferred Areas and by generally resisting the release of other sites in the south of the county.

This reflects the national objective of conserving mineral resources (MPS1 paragraph 9) and policies regarding efficient use in MPS1 paragraph 18. Not allowing the apportionment level of provision to be significantly exceeded will also encourage increases in the use of secondary and recycled aggregates, in accordance with the policies in MPS1 paragraph 15.

- Encouragement should be given, where possible, to the use of rail or water (rather than road) for the transportation of minerals.

This reflects the content of MPS1 paragraph 16.

Deriving the Preferred Option for minerals

5.26 As part of the process of deriving the Preferred Options for minerals, the implications for Buckinghamshire of certain of the above broad principles were tested through the Sustainability Appraisal process. The non-spatial options tested are set out in **Table 5.4**.

Table 5.4: Minerals Options

Option 1A	Identify a minerals safeguarding area (see paragraph 6.8) from which preferred areas will be identified to provide the annual apportionment and landbank as required by regional policy in the Draft South East Plan
Option 1B	Identify a minerals safeguarding area from which preferred areas will be identified to provide a higher level of provision than the apportioned requirement, so as to ensure that the annual apportionment figure can be met.
Option 1C	Identify a minerals safeguarding area but do not pursue a policy of identifying preferred areas, and rely instead on operators to submit panning applications when they wish.
Option 2A	Minerals transported mainly by road
Option 2B	Increase the proportion of minerals transported by rail and water

5.27 The Sustainability Appraisal confirmed the soundness, in local terms, of adopting the above broad principles.

Sand and gravel

5.28 In principle, facilities for treating waste could be located ‘anywhere’ within the county - hence the need to look across the whole county when searching for sites for future waste facilities. But mineral extraction can only take place where minerals occur naturally. Moreover, the minerals industry is only likely to be interested in working minerals where the deposits are of a good enough

quality to make them commercially viable. This generally means that the thicker deposits of mineral, lying closest to the surface, and containing the lowest proportion of non-useable material, are the most favoured for extraction.

- 5.29 In Buckinghamshire, such deposits of sand and gravel are only found in the south of the county. The deposits in the north tend to be of variable quality because they include ‘impurities’ such as clay and chalk and are more variable in thickness than those in the south, and the deposits tend to occur in small isolated patches. Where deposits are more extensive, the seams are generally thin, which means that any extraction would result in the disturbance of large areas of gravel with only relatively small amounts of commercial mineral being recovered.
- 5.30 There have been no planning applications for mineral extraction in north and central Buckinghamshire in recent years, which indicates that mineral operators do not currently consider that viable deposits are present in these parts of the county.
- 5.31 If significant viable deposits *did* exist in the north or central part of the county, extracting them would in principle reduce the distances that aggregates would have to travel to their point of use, and would be a more sustainable approach than relying on deposits from the south of the county. This would be particularly appropriate in making provision for the growth areas of Milton Keynes and Aylesbury. But in the circumstances described in paragraphs 5.29-5.30, the County Council has concluded that it would not be appropriate to place any reliance on deposits in these areas making any contribution to meeting aggregates needs.
- 5.32 Regional policy requires Buckinghamshire to make provision, through the MWLDF, for a defined amount of mineral extraction (0.99mtpa) over the period to 2016 and beyond. The better-quality deposits in the south of the county, where extraction has taken place for many years and where there is known to be continuing interest from the mineral industry for further extraction, would be able to meet this level of provision.
- 5.33 In these circumstances, it is considered that the only realistic spatial option for the general pattern of future sand and gravel extraction in the county is to focus on suitable sites in the south of the county. The area of sand and gravel deposits in the county is relatively small (see **Map 6**), and it has not been considered necessary or appropriate to seek to place artificial restrictions on the selection of potential sites from within this area. Theoretically it might be possible to identify separate options which took account of individual planning constraints - for example –
- to favour sites lying outside the Green Belt, or
 - to favour sites lying beyond a certain distance from any houses, or
 - to favour sites that are distant from sites of national or international nature conservation importance; etc.

But in practice there is considered to be no justification, in terms of wider policy requirements, to give unqualified precedence to any one of such interests above any other. In a crowded area such as southern Buckinghamshire, where a wide range of planning constraints or criteria apply in different areas, every proposal to extract mineral will give rise to a range of different issues and concerns, some of which may be capable of mitigation and some of which may not.

- 5.34 It is not the intention that this Core Strategy should identify specific sites for further mineral extraction over the period to 2026: that will be a task for the Minerals DPD. But it is appropriate that the Core Strategy should contain a Preferred Option to guide the selection of those sites in due course. At the more detailed level, that selection will be based on a balance of all relevant considerations applying to the various sites that may be considered, with a view to identifying the sites where mineral extraction would cause least harm overall to wider sustainability objectives, and to the objectives of the MWLDF.
- 5.35 **Appendices 8 and 9** list the potential ‘relevant considerations’ that may influence the choice of specific sites for inclusion in the Minerals DPD, and the sites that have come to attention to date as being worthy of detailed consideration. Some of the sites in Appendix 8 have come to notice as a result of the consultation on the Minerals DPD undertaken in the summer of 2007. Further consultation on the ‘relevant considerations’ and on potential sites will take place in due course as part of continuing work on the Minerals DPD.

Extraction of other minerals

- 5.36 Permitted reserves of chalk and clay in Buckinghamshire are being worked only slowly, and there has been no suggestion in recent years that more sites need to be identified to ensure that production can continue. There are no requirements deriving from national or regional policies to maintain any particular level of provision of these minerals.
- 5.37 While the County Council supports the principle of maintaining a supply of material to meet the needs of the Chilterns brick industry, there is considered to be no need at this time to consider spatial options for the future pattern of mineral working to meet the needs of this industry.
- 5.38 Therefore the Core Strategy does not include any spatial options (preferred or otherwise) regarding the future patterns of working of minerals other than sand and gravel.

Aggregates recycling

- 5.39 Increasing the provision of recycled aggregates is a way of limiting the need to dig aggregates from the ground. At present, separate apportionment figures are given in regional guidance for the amounts of provision needed for the extraction of primary aggregates (sand and gravel), and for the creation of aggregates by recycling other materials (e.g. construction and demolition waste), or by using 'secondary aggregates' (e.g. wastes from the extraction of other minerals such as china clay). Making higher provision for one does not therefore mean that lower provision may be made for the other.
- 5.40 Regional policy requires Buckinghamshire to make provision for 0.6mt per year of secondary or recycled aggregates by 2016. In practice, there are currently no known sources of secondary aggregates within or close to the county. It is therefore considered prudent to make provision within the county for the production of at least 0.6mtpa of recycled aggregates alone - although if opportunities arise to use secondary materials as aggregates, these would be counted towards the achievement of the regional requirement.
- 5.41 Facilities for recycling materials to produce aggregates are ideally required across the whole of Buckinghamshire. In particular, there will be a need for such facilities in the north and central parts of the county, where there are no commercial deposits of sand and gravel, and moreover where substantial development is to take place in the Milton Keynes/Aylesbury growth area.
- 5.42 In principle, permanent facilities for aggregates recycling would be appropriately located at the Strategic Waste Complexes identified in the Preferred Option for waste. Current policies in the BMWLP also state that such facilities are generally acceptable in general industrial areas, or in association with other waste management development and mineral sites (in which case they are likely to be of a temporary nature only). It is further considered that rail depots and wharves used for the import or export of waste or minerals from or into Buckinghamshire may also be suitable for accommodating such facilities. In all cases, individual proposals would only be acceptable if their impact on the local environment were also judged acceptable.
- 5.43 For the Core Strategy, no specific spatial options have been tested, because the need is for these facilities across the whole county and because many of the sites for this use will arise as 'windfalls' in association with other development. The Preferred Option for minerals therefore covers this topic in general terms only. More detailed provisions will be included in the Minerals or Waste DPDs.

Serving the Milton Keynes/Aylesbury growth area

- 5.44 The growth area is located well away from the main sources of primary aggregate, either in Buckinghamshire or its immediate neighbours. For this reason, it is concluded that aggregates supplies for the growth area should

consist principally of recycled aggregates, together with primary aggregates imported via rail depots (existing, safeguarded or new) within or close to the growth area. This is considered to be the most sustainable means of supplying the growth area with its necessary aggregates, as it will avoid the need for long-distance supplies of material by road. More detailed provisions on this subject will be included in the Minerals DPD.

Preferred Option for minerals

5.45 Taking the above considerations together, it is concluded that the Preferred Option for minerals should comprise the following elements:

- The county's sand and gravel resources should be husbanded to ensure that they are not used up unduly quickly, or used inefficiently. To this end, the aim will be to make provision for extraction at a rate not significantly exceeding the agreed subregional apportionment figure for these minerals.
- Future extraction of sand and gravel should be focused on specifically-identified sites in the south of the county. Extraction from the south of the county, outside the identified sites, will not normally be favoured.
- Extraction elsewhere, either for its own sake or as a by-product of other development, is not precluded, if suitable proposals were to come forward.
- Sites to be identified for future extraction should be selected from among those known to be of interest to the minerals industry.
- The specific sites to be identified for this purpose should be those where, on a balance of all relevant considerations, extraction will cause least harm overall to wider sustainability objectives and the objectives of the MWLDF.
- All areas known to have a potential for contributing to the future supply of sand and gravel, and sites where aggregate minerals can be brought into or taken from the county by rail or by water, will be safeguarded against their loss to other uses.
- No specific spatial strategy is required in respect of the future pattern of working of minerals other than sand and gravel.
- Permanent facilities for aggregates recycling will be located principally at the SWCs included within the Preferred Option for waste; at permanent rail depots and wharves used for the import or export of minerals or waste; at Council highways depots; or within general industrial areas (subject to satisfactory protection of the environment) - in all cases, subject to satisfactory protection of the environment.
- Temporary facilities for aggregates recycling will be located principally at existing or new sand and gravel extraction sites; at temporary rail depots, wharves or highways depots; and at the sites of major development or

redevelopment throughout the county (including in particular growth locations within the Aylesbury Vale/Milton Keynes growth area) - in all cases, subject to satisfactory protection of the environment.

- The aggregates needs of the Aylesbury Vale/Milton Keynes growth area should as far as possible be met by using recycled aggregates, or primary materials delivered to the area by rail, using existing or safeguarded rail depot sites within or close to the growth area where possible.

Policies for delivering the minerals component of the Core Strategy

5.46 The following policies define the principal terms of the minerals component of the Core Strategy –

- the levels of provision that will be made for the extraction of sand and gravel, and for the production of recycled aggregates (Policy 5)
- the additional quantities of sand and gravel extraction that will be needed over the plan period, over and above the amounts already available at permitted sites (Policy 6)
- the key locational components of the strategy (Policy 7).

Policy 5

Provision will be made to enable the production of 0.99mt of sand and gravel per year, and of at least 0.6mt of recycled aggregates per year by 2016 and beyond; subject in either case to any agreed revisions to the sub-regional apportionments over the period to 2026.

Policy 6

In order to meet the above level of provision of primary aggregates, permissions will be given for the following additional amounts of extraction of sand and gravel, and provision for the recycling of aggregates, over the period to 2026 (figures are in '000 tonnes, and are cumulative):

by 2011	by 2016	by 2021	by 2026
50	550	2430	6130

Policy 7

The extraction of sand and gravel will take place principally from specific sites or 'Preferred Areas' located in the south of the county, with their release phased to secure the delivery of the levels stated in Policy 6. Extraction elsewhere will not be precluded, but in the Mineral Safeguarding Area defined under Policy 9, planning permission will not normally be given for extraction outside the identified Preferred Areas.

- 5.47 The derivation of the figures in Policies 5 and 6 is summarised in Box B at the end of Section 4 above, and explained more fully in Appendix 4.
- 5.48 The release of new sand and gravel sites will be phased as extraction is completed at existing sites. The rates of release will be controlled with a view to maintaining the capacity to produce 0.99mt of sand and gravel in each year. This does not necessarily mean that permissions will only be given for sites of the sizes implied by the numbers in Policy 6. For example, the need for an additional 50,000 tonnes of productive capacity in 2011 (as indicated in the policy) could be met by the release of a single site of that size, with all its production taking place in that year; or it could equally be met by the release of a larger site which would achieve that level of productive capacity in 2011 and which could then continue to be worked at that level, or maybe a higher level, for some years after that, thus helping to make good the continuing shortfalls in capacity shown in Table A4.1 in Appendix 4.

Section 6 - General development control policies

This Section contains policies on a range of topics that are relevant in the successful operation of the MWLDF as a whole, and to securing sustainable minerals and waste development in Buckinghamshire.

6.1 The MWLDF does not repeat national or regional development control policies, although these will be applied in planning for minerals and waste (see paragraph 1.7). However, there is a range of matters outside those covered by national or regional guidance, which in spatial or other terms are considered to have a 'Buckinghamshire-specific' element. These are therefore addressed in the policies in this Section. These policies will apply in the operation of all documents within the MWLDF. They are grouped under three headings:

- 1 Planning for the longer term
- 2 Protecting Buckinghamshire's special assets
- 3 Securing sustainable planning applications.

1 PLANNING FOR THE LONGER TERM

6.2 The Preferred Option for waste includes within it site-specific contingency arrangements, in case one or both of the proposed SWCs cannot be delivered. Site-specific contingency arrangements for mineral extraction will be included in the Minerals DPD, as part of the exercise of identifying future extraction sites (see paragraph 5.33, and the final box of Table 4.1).

6.3 The Core Strategy also needs to consider other aspects of contingency planning and planning for the longer term:

- How to ensure that the objectives and contents of the Core Strategy, and longer-term planning for waste and minerals, are not prejudiced by other planning decisions.
- The consequences of possible changes in the national or regional planning context to the MWLDF.
- The shorter-term relationship between the emerging MWLDF and the adopted Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (BMWLP), which was adopted in 2006 but which will eventually be completely replaced by the documents in the MWLDF.

Safeguarding

6.4 The first of these three issues is addressed by safeguarding –

- existing minerals and waste sites, which are expected to maintain a contribution to the supply of minerals or waste treatment capacity in the county, and whose existence has been taken into account in deciding on the amounts of new provision that should be made in the Preferred Option;
- the sites identified in any of the documents in the MWLDF for use either for waste management or mineral extraction;
- sand and gravel deposits outside those specifically identified in the MWLDF, which may be needed as a resource for the longer term;
- sites of rail depots and wharves that are, or could be, used in the transportation of minerals or waste; and
- sites identified as having potential to accommodate new rail depots or wharves that could be used for these purposes.

6.5 Safeguarding natural resources and depot and wharf sites is encouraged in national policy guidance. Safeguarding the other sites referred to is a logical extension of the same principle, designed to ensure that the delivery of the Preferred Option is not frustrated by other planning decisions taken elsewhere.

6.6 The purpose of this safeguarding is not automatically to preclude other development on the land or sites concerned, but to ensure that, when planning decisions are being taken about development, the case for retaining the land for possible mineral- or waste-related use is weighed very carefully against the case for the need for the alternative development. Having said that, the County Council as mineral and waste planning authority will normally be opposed to any development that would prejudice the present or future minerals or waste use of the sites concerned. It will be for the decision-making authority - in the first instance, usually the District Councils - to carry out the overall balancing exercise.

6.7 As protection of the features listed in paragraph 6.4 is essential to the successful delivery of the Preferred Option or of long-term planning for minerals and waste in Buckinghamshire, the Core Strategy includes a specific policy to address it.

Policy 8

Development proposals which would lead to the sterilisation of commercial sand and gravel resources, or which would prejudice the development for minerals or waste of specific sites identified for those uses in the MWLDF, or which would prejudice the use of existing, proposed or potential sites as depots or wharves enabling the transport of minerals or waste by rail or water, will be opposed.

- 6.8 As a first step in securing the safeguarding of key resources and sites, the Core Strategy includes the designation of a **Mineral Safeguarding Area** for sand and gravel, in accordance with the advice in paragraph 13 of MPS1. Its purpose is above all to alert developers to the possible presence of workable mineral resources, and thus to the need to take account of these when drawing up proposals for individual sites. Ideally, this should be by consulting with the County Council on the likely significance of any mineral deposits at the site, and on the measures that should be taken - up to and including the abandonment of the development project - to ensure that valuable resources are not unnecessarily sterilised.
- 6.9 The Mineral Safeguarding Area covers the part of south Buckinghamshire in which the county's main sand and gravel deposits are found. It is deliberately drawn widely, but not all the land within it will necessarily contain workable sand and gravel deposits - and not all the workable deposits within it will necessarily be suitable for extraction, when site-specific factors are taken into account.

Policy 9

The area shown on Map 7 (Proposals Map for Minerals) is defined as a Mineral Safeguarding Area, as referred to in paragraph 13 of MPS1.

- 6.10 More detailed arrangements for providing protection, through the development control process, to known areas of commercial sand and gravel deposits within the Mineral Safeguarding Area will be made with the District Councils. These will include the identification of Mineral Consultation Areas (as referred to in paragraph 13 of MPS1), where specific arrangements will be put in place, as provided for in Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to ensure that relevant planning applications are notified to the County Councils before any decisions are taken which may adversely affect important mineral resources.
- 6.11 Similar arrangements will also be drawn up for the formal safeguarding of the other features listed in paragraph 6.4.

Changes to national or regional policy

- 6.12 National and regional policies do not stand still. At the very least, they have to be periodically 'rolled forward' to carry them further forward into the future.
- 6.13 The underlying principles of this Core Strategy, and the specific figures in Policies 1-3 and 5-6, derive from the latest approved or emerging national and regional policies. If those principles, or the numerical guidance derived from them, change in the future, the County Council will initiate a review of the relevant content of the Core Strategy and the other documents in the MWLDF. This will include, where necessary, review of both its numerical and the associated spatial content.
- 6.14 The County Council will not necessarily always agree with proposed changes to national or regional policy: and if it does not, it will argue its case strongly during the period when the changes are being debated - as it did successfully when the current 'apportionment' figures for sand and gravel were being drawn up. But once new or revised national or regional policy has been finally approved, the County Council will be obliged to reflect it in the MWLDF.

The operation of policy pending adoption of the Core Strategy and the Minerals and Waste DPDs

- 6.15 The 39 policies of the Buckinghamshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan (BM&WLP adopted 2006) will continue in full force as development plan policies for minerals and waste until at least April 2009. Before that date, the County Council will have to decide whether it wishes to 'save' these policies for a longer period. Assuming (without prejudice) that it is decided to save all the policies, they will then continue in force until they are superseded by adoption of the Core Strategy or the Minerals and Waste DPDs. Fuller details of which BM&WLP policies will be superseded by which Development Plan Document are given in **Appendix 10**, which also explains the position regarding the 'saved' Structure Plan policies (see paragraph 2.22).

2 PROTECTING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S SPECIAL ASSETS

- 6.16 Environmental features in Buckinghamshire that are recognised as being of international, national or regional importance are already protected under national or regional policies. But the county also contains many features that are highly valued at the more local level, and these too merit protection - although national policy dictates that the protection they are given may not always be as strong as that given to features of recognised 'higher order' importance. This protection is secured under Policy 10.

Policy 10

The following particular local interests in or close to Buckinghamshire will be protected from minerals or waste development that would adversely affect their particular interest or value:

- i. Designated Areas of Attractive Landscape
- ii. Local Nature Reserves and other identified local wildlife sites
- iii. The Colne Valley Park
- iv. The River Thames and its immediate valley, and the Grand Union Canal and its Arms within Buckinghamshire
- v. Airfields within the county, or whose safeguarding areas include land within the county.

6.17 Several of the features protected under Policy 10 are already protected under 'saved' policies of the Buckinghamshire Structure Plan (see paragraph 2.22)⁷. But those policies will cease to be 'saved' at some point during the life of the MWLDF. It is therefore appropriate to carry forward their protection against harm from mineral or waste development into the LDF.

6.18 Item (ii) in Policy 10 covers the 16 established Local Nature Reserves in Buckinghamshire (designated under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949), together with sites identified within local Biodiversity Action Plans, and sites known (or found) to contain habitats or species of principal importance, as defined under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

6.19 Item (v) in the policy protects operations at airfields within Buckinghamshire, or whose separately-defined safeguarding areas extend into the county, from any adverse consequences associated with mineral or waste development. These may include birdstrike risks (associated in particular with landfilling operations and with the creation of temporary or permanent new areas of open water), risks resulting from the presence of tall structures close to flight paths, and risks resulting from the effects on air flow of emissions from tall chimneys ('stacks') at thermal waste treatment plants.

3 SECURING SUSTAINABLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

6.20 By statute, planning applications must include various supporting documents in appropriate cases - for example, Design & Access Statements, and Flood Risk Assessments. Local authorities are encouraged to draw up their own lists

⁷ Areas of Attractive Landscape under Policy LS3, the Colne Valley Park under Policy UF3, and the Thames and Grand Union Canal under Policies W3-4

of the supporting information that should be included with applications, and without which an application cannot be formally validated.

- 6.21 Buckinghamshire County Council is particularly concerned to ensure that applications for waste or minerals development take proper account of key sustainability issues. They have therefore identified a number of topics on which they will require details to be submitted with planning applications for minerals and waste development. These are set out in Policy 11. (Note that individual District Councils may set their own lists of additional topics to be covered in planning submissions.)

Policy 11

Planning applications for minerals and waste development must include

- i. Details of the measures proposed in order to minimise the impacts of the development on climate change, and to ensure that the development is able to adapt to the effects of climate change
- ii. A transport assessment demonstrating the consideration that has been given to incorporating sustainable transport principles
- iii. (in the case of sites to be used for mineral extraction or for temporary waste management uses) Arrangements for the prompt and high-standard restoration, and where appropriate after-care and after-use, of the site following mineral extraction or waste management use.
- iv. Details of the account taken of the content of the site-specific Area Statements included in the Core Strategy and the Minerals and Waste DPDs.

- 6.22 The **climate change impact assessment** (Policy 11i) will be required to consider both the likely impacts of the proposed development on climate change, and the possible impacts of climate change on the development. It should also identify the measures proposed to minimise and mitigate against these impacts.

- 6.23 Assessment of the **transport** issue referred to in Policy 11ii will be required in addition to any more standard transport assessment as required under PPG13. It should demonstrate the consideration that has been given to using modes other than road for the transportation of waste or minerals to or from the site, and the reasons for the mode proposed in the application. It should also show that the choice of haul route to and from the site is the most sustainable option, having regard among other things to the desirability of routing traffic via the Strategic Transport Network and of avoiding routing through environmentally sensitive areas, including rural lanes (compare Structure Plan Policy TR11). In addition, it should assess the impacts, including safety and air quality impacts, on settlements or individual residential properties on the haul routes; and the air quality impacts on established Air Quality Management Areas.

- 6.24 In preparing the **restoration** details required under Policy 11iii, applicants should seek to include wherever possible measures for the enhancement of the environment through restoration. These may include both physical enhancement - such as the provision of new or enlarged wildlife habitats, or appropriate new landscape planting - and 'social' enhancement, such as the provision of improved access to the countryside, new or improved recreation facilities (appropriate to the location), or the provision of new public rights of way.
- 6.25 The **Area Statements** referred to in Policy 11iv apply to the sites identified in the Core Strategy (see **Appendix 11**), and those to be identified in the Minerals and Waste DPDs. They give details of issues known to the County Council as being important considerations in the preparation of planning applications on these sites, and of possible measures to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects. The details in the Area Statements are not necessarily an exhaustive list of such issues. Planning applications for the sites concerned will be required to demonstrate the account they have taken of the contents of the Area Statements. If in any particular case, or for any particular topic, an applicant wishes to adopt an approach different from that in the Area Statement - or to disregard one or more of the Statement's provisions altogether - this should be explained and justified
- 6.26 Policy 12 below differs from Policy 11 in that it applies to all major planning applications, and not just those for minerals or waste development. Its implementation will therefore be mainly in the hands of the District Councils, who are responsible for determining planning applications for development other than for minerals or waste.

Policy 12

Major applications for planning permission, including applications for non-waste development, must be accompanied by a waste audit demonstrating that a sustainable approach has been adopted to design, construction and demolition.

- 6.27 A sustainable approach to the management of waste is not just concerned with the way waste is treated. It is also about avoiding the creation of waste in the first place. Constructing new buildings, or carrying out other larger developments or redevelopments can - if undertaken without proper consideration of waste creation and re-use - prove extravagant in the use of natural resources, and in creating materials that are treated as waste even if they might be capable of re-use or recycling. To ensure that proper consideration *is* given to these issues, Policy 12 sets up a requirement for waste audits to be submitted with all major planning applications, to address the waste issues arising during the whole life-cycle of the development. Further guidance on the form and content of these audits will be prepared by the County Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.

6.28 The details required under Policies 11 and 12 may be included within the Environmental Statement, in the case of developments that are subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment process. If so, they should be clearly signposted within the Statement, so that the extent to which the proposal addresses the matters raised in these policies can be readily identified.

Section 7 - Implementation and Monitoring

This section details the ways in which the Core Strategy will be delivered and monitored, and identifies who the key players in this process will be.

7.1 To ensure that the Core Strategy is delivered, it is important that those responsible for implementing it know who they are, and what part they will have to play in its delivery. It is also important that progress towards the delivery of the Strategy is monitored, to check that it is delivering what it proposes to deliver, and to enable corrective action to be taken if it is not doing so.

Future actions by the County Council

7.2 To contribute to the implementation of the Core Strategy, the County Council will:

- Be guided by the principles set out in **Appendix 12** in all matters relating to planning for waste and minerals in the county
- Secure the letting of a contract for the treatment of municipal solid waste in the county for approximately the next 25 years
- Continue past discussions with waste operators regarding the provision of necessary treatment capacity for major waste streams other than municipal solid waste
- In the Waste DPD, identify locations and/or criteria for the identification of locations for non-strategic waste management facilities
- In the Waste DPD, include appropriate provisions relating to the treatment of hazardous waste, and for future landfilling
- Identify in the Minerals DPD specific sites for meeting the required level of provision of primary aggregates
- In the Minerals or Waste DPD, identify locations and/or criteria for the identification of locations for aggregates recycling.
- Identify one or more Mineral Consultation Areas, to provide specific protection for areas of sand and gravel of known commercial interest
- Put in place a mechanism with the District Councils for securing the safeguarding of mineral resources within the MCAs
- Identify in the Minerals and/or Waste DPDs specific rail depot and/or wharf sites to be safeguarded in accordance with Policy 8

- Put in place a mechanism with the District Councils for ensuring the safeguarding of existing or potential rail depots or wharves
- Provide, in a Supplementary Planning Document, fuller details of the waste audits required under Policy 12.

Actions by others

7.3 “Making the strategy happen” is not just the responsibility of the County Council. The Council can and will play a leading role in promoting the strategy, in encouraging others to contribute to its delivery, and in initiating the wide range of steps needed to secure the satisfactory monitoring of the strategy - as well as in taking the decisions (in the first instance) on planning applications for minerals and waste development. But ultimately decisions about where and when planning applications are submitted are matters for the minerals and waste operators; while a range of other people or organisations will have critical roles in securing the satisfactory delivery or monitoring of the Strategy.

Implementation and Monitoring Framework

7.4 Table 7.1 sets out the proposed Implementation and Monitoring Framework for the Core Strategy. In the table, the suggested Indicators are linked to the objectives of the Strategy as well as to its individual policies, so that delivery of both these aspects can be assessed over the period covered by the strategy.

7.5 The columns “How implemented?” and “Who by?” in the table indicate the extent to which parties outside the County Council will be involved in the implementation and monitoring processes. In summary:

- **Minerals and waste operators** will be responsible for preparing and submitting planning applications, and for supplying certain details of site activities as part of the monitoring of the strategy. In preparing their applications, they will be expected to take full account of national, regional and local planning policies, as well as the specific content of the MWLDF. The County Council will be pleased to assist operators on these and other matters, on a ‘without prejudice’ basis, during the preparation of individual applications. Operators already supply some statistical data about activities at their sites either to the County Council (e.g. annual mineral production figures) or to the Environment Agency (regarding activities at waste treatment sites). The County Council will look to formalise arrangements with operators to secure all the information needed from them for successfully monitoring the relevant indicators in Table 7.1. This may be done either by a global agreement with operators, or by conditions imposed on permissions for individual proposals, or a combination of the two.
- **The Buckinghamshire Waste Partnership** (the waste management ‘arms’ of the County and District Councils, working together) will be

responsible for securing the provision of the new facilities needed to handle MSW which are such a key component of the strategy. They will also have a role in providing monitoring data on the quantities and treatment of MSW arising or treated in the county, and related matters.

- **The District Councils, as planning authorities**, will have important roles in ensuring that planning applications are not permitted which might sterilise minerals, or which might prejudice the delivery of the strategy in some other way. The County Council will look to establish, at an early date, formal arrangements for securing these roles.
- **The Environment Agency**, as licensing authority, will be requested to provide data on a regular basis which will enable relevant indicators to be monitored. Early discussions to secure this will be initiated by the County Council. The Agency will also have a critical role, as a statutory consultee, in advising on the content of mineral and waste planning applications, especially (but not exclusively) on issues relating to flooding, water resources, land drainage and pollution issues.
- **A range of other consultees**, including national bodies such as Natural England, English Heritage and the Highways Agency, as well as specialists within the County and District Councils (e.g. on landscape, drainage, ecology, archaeological and local highways issues) will have important roles in advising and commenting on the content of individual planning applications.
- Importantly, **local interests - including individual residents, parish councils, interest groups, and the local business community** - will have a role in commenting constructively on proposals for minerals and waste development, in the context set by PPS10 which states that “communities [should] take more responsibility for their own waste, and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of their communities”⁸. The local community will also be invited to participate in local liaison committees with site operators once new schemes are approved or operating.

And finally ...

- **All parties** will be expected to take account of the context and content of the MWLDF in planning for the future, and in responding to proposals for new minerals and waste development.

7.6 An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be prepared by the County Council (as required under planning legislation), to report on progress towards the delivery of the Core Strategy and the wider MWLDF. If it appears that critical parts of the Strategy are not being delivered, or that there is a risk that they may not be delivered, this will be highlighted in the AMR. The Strategy is intended to define a long-term approach which should not need fundamental

⁸ PPS10 paragraph 3

review on a regular basis, but the LDF system enables parts of individual Development Plan Documents to be amended without having to review the whole. Advantage of this will be taken if the monitoring of the MWLDF suggests this to be appropriate.

Table 7.1: Implementation and Monitoring Framework

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
1	Total waste management capacity available in Bucks	Objective i Policy 1	As in Policy 1	BCC to encourage provision through the MSW procurement process, and through continuing discussions with waste operators for other waste streams.	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning Bucks Waste Ptshp Waste operators Envt Agency
2	Total new capacity permitted	Objective i Policy 2	As in Policy 2		Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
3	Total capacity of aggregates recycling facilities	Objectives i, v Policy 5	As in Policy 5	Through submission and permission (subject to environmental considerations) of planning applications	Decisions on planning and licensing applications	Annually	BCC Planning Envt Agency

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
4	Volume of sand and gravel extracted annually	Objectives i, v Policies 5-6	The figure of 0.99mtpa is not a production target, but will be a factor in assessing the continuing soundness of the sub-regional apportionment	In industry control, influenced by market demands and the requirements of any windfall schemes	Mineral industry returns	Annually (via established annual survey for RAWP/DCLG)	BCC Planning Mineral operators
5	Total level of aggregates provision in Bucks (i.e. size of landbank)	Objectives i, v Policy 5	At least 6.93mt at any time, and production potential of 0.99mtpa from permitted pits for a period of seven years	Identified sites to be promoted with mineral industry when landbank in danger of falling below target level	Mineral industry returns + details of new permissions	Annually (via established annual survey for RAWP/DCLG)	BCC Planning Mineral operators
6	Rate of release of mineral resources	Objective i, v Policy 5-6	As item 5	Through submission and permission (subject to environmental considerations) of planning applications	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
7	Combined throughput of newly-permitted aggregates recycling facilities	Objectives i, v Policies 5-6	As in Policy 5	Through submission and permission (subject to environmental considerations) of planning applications	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
8	Locations of new extraction in accordance with spatial strategy	Objectives i, v Policy 7	All permissions (other than windfalls) to be on identified sites in S Buckinghamshire	Planning authority will support in principle applications in accordance with strategy	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
9	Number of existing/permitted/ allocated sites lost to non-waste uses	Objective i Policy 8	Nil	Planning authority will raise objection to applications that would cause sites to be lost.	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning District Councils

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
10	Number of safeguarded depots/ wharves lost to other uses	Objective i Policy 8	Nil	Planning authority will raise objection to applications that would cause sites to be lost.	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning District Councils
11	Area of commercial mineral deposits sterilised by other development	Objectives i, v Policy 8	Nil	MCAs to be identified by BCC, and objections raised to applications within them that would sterilise deposits	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning District Councils
12	Number/Extent of applications where prior extraction of minerals has been allowed/refused prior to development	Objectives i, v Policy 8	(Maximised)	Encouragement to be given to prior extraction in appropriate circumstances	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning District Councils

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
13	Number of planning applications within the MSA referred to County Council for comment on mineral issues	Objectives i, v Policy 8	(Maximised)	Through standard development control procedures	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning District Councils
14	Proportion of relevant applications supported by an assessment of climate change impacts	Objective i Policy 11	100%	These assessments will be required post-submission (pre-determination) where not submitted with original application	Applications and decisions on planning applications, and comparable applications	Annually	BCC Planning
15	Proportion of applications supported by a TA addressing sustainable transport issues	Objective i Policy 11	100%	TAs will be required post-submission (pre-determination) where not submitted with original application	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning District Councils

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
16	Proportion of major applications submitted / determined without a Waste Audit	Objective i Policy 12	Nil	Audits will be required post-submission (pre-determination) where not submitted with original application	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
17	Locations of new recycling facilities in accordance with spatial strategy	Objectives i, v	Spread through Bucks, roughly to match distribution of population	Planning authority will support in principle applications in accordance with strategy	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
18	Patterns of waste treatment, broken down according to waste hierarchy	Objectives ii-iv	MSW: From MWMS Other: from national/ regional guidance	Through decisions on planning applications (see also next item)	MSW: Bucks Waste Partnership Other: Environment Agency	MSW: Annually Other: Annually	BCC Planning Bucks Waste Ptshp Env't Agency

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
19	Number of applications proposing movement of waste treatment up the hierarchy	Objectives ii-iv	All waste treatment applications	Movement of waste up the hierarchy to be a key factor in BCC's assessment of planning applications	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
20	Proportion of applications and permissions for new waste facilities that are co-located with other waste facilities	Objectives ii-iv	(Maximised)	BCC to encourage such applications through discussion with waste operators	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
21	Number of Strategic Waste Centre/s permitted	Objective iii Policy 3-4	As in Policy 4	BCC to encourage SWC provision	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
22	Available capacity at Strategic Waste Centre/s	Objective iii Policy 3	As in Policy 3	through the MSW procurement process, and through continuing discussions with waste operators for other waste streams.	Planning decisions and monitoring of on-site progress	Annually	BCC Planning Bucks Waste Ptshp Waste operators
23	Types and sources of wastes deposited at Bucks' landfills	Objective iv Policy 3	As in Policy 3. Quantities from London reduced in accordance with SE regional policy	BWP contractual arrangements, and through assessment of individual planning applications	Monitoring by BCC and Environment Agency; liaison with London waste authorities	Annually	BCC Planning Bucks Waste Ptshp Env't Agency London waste authorities

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
24	Number of applications permitted as exceptions to policies for environmental protection	Objective vi	None, without very sound justification	'Justified' objections provide grounds for refusal. Development control process to seek to address these.	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
25	Number of applications proposing non-road modes for transport of material (a) to or from the site (b) within the site	Objective vii	(Maximised)	Use of non-road modes to be encouraged through the development control process	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
26	Proportion of relevant applications incorporating provision for prompt, high-standard, restoration	Objective ix Policy 11	100%	To be encouraged through the development control process	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning
27	Proportion of relevant applications incorporating adequate proposals for aftercare and/or afteruse	Objective ix Policy 11	100%	To be encouraged through the development control process	Planning applications and decisions	Annually	BCC Planning

	Indicator	Related objectives & policies	Target	How implemented?	Monitoring arrangements		
					Data source	Frequency of monitoring	Who by?
28	Amount of land restored (a) satisfactorily and (b) unsatisfactorily	Objective ix Policy 11	100% satisfactorily	Through careful monitoring of aftercare with appropriate agencies (Defra, BBOWT, others)	On-site monitoring of progress	Annually	BCC Planning Site operators
29	Amount of land newly restored following mineral/waste use compared with amount newly disturbed for those purposes	Objective ix Policy 11	More land restored than disturbed	BCC to promote prompt and progressive restoration of sites both in planning submissions and in subsequent site monitoring and (where necessary) enforcement	Planning applications and decisions, and on-site monitoring of progress	Annually	BCC Planning Site operators