

Surrey Waste Local Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Table of contents

1. What is a waste local plan?
2. Why is the Waste Plan being reviewed?
3. How do we know how much waste to plan for?
4. We plan to be net self-sufficient. What does this mean?
5. Are we planning for management of waste from other areas?
6. How is the future need for waste management facilities calculated?
7. How has land for new waste facilities been selected?
8. What sort of waste management facilities are needed?
9. How is the construction, demolition and excavation (C, D & E) recycling capacity gap being dealt with?
10. Do we need more energy from waste facilities (or incinerators)?
11. What are the county council's plans for more energy from waste (EfW) following the completion of the Eco Park?
12. Where will new waste facilities be located?
13. Will new waste management facilities only be located on allocated waste sites?
14. All but one of the allocated sites are in the Green Belt. How can this be justified?
15. What sorts of waste management are appropriate to the different levels of the waste hierarchy?
16. How will the quality of residents' environment be protected?
17. This is a complex subject – is there a less detailed report?
18. In what ways does the plan align with the Waste Disposal Authority's strategy – the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWS)

19. How does the plan take account of recycling targets?
20. How will Brexit change things?
21. Has the new Resources and Waste Strategy for England been considered?
22. What is the next stage of the plan process?
23. What is an examination in public?
24. If I made a representation during the period for representations, what will happen to my representation?
25. When will the examination in public take place?

<p>What is a waste local plan?</p>	<p>As the waste planning authority, Surrey County Council is required to produce a waste local plan to show how and where the facilities and infrastructure needed to manage Surrey's waste will be provided.</p> <p>There are many pressures on the use of land in Surrey – this includes the need for new homes and employment. How we deal with waste from households, businesses and construction is also one of those pressures so it's important to think carefully about how and where waste should be managed in the future.</p> <p>If waste is managed well it is a resource that can be used to make new products and to produce energy, but if it's managed badly it can impact negatively on our communities and environment. The Surrey Waste Local Plan will include a strategy and policies to ensure we maximise the benefits and minimise any negative impact from waste management.</p> <p>The Surrey Waste Local Plan will also help provide certainty for the community and for developers, like waste management companies about how and where the management of waste can take place.</p>
<p>Why is the Waste Plan being reviewed?</p>	<p>We need to have an up to date plan based on the latest evidence. The current plan is over 10 years old. There is a new Government requirement that Local Plans are reviewed at least every five years.</p>

<p>How do we know how much waste to plan for?</p>	<p>We have forecast the amount of waste likely to be produced up to 2035. The 'Waste Needs Assessment' takes into account the number of new homes likely to be built and economic growth. Each year we will monitor waste produced and this will be taken into account when assessing applications for new waste management facilities.</p>
<p>We plan to be net self-sufficient. What does this mean?</p>	<p>This means we plan for capacity able to manage the equivalent of the amount of waste we produce in Surrey. This reflects the fact that waste movements are driven by commercial considerations which means they cross local authority and national boundaries. This approach is taken by all waste planning authorities and is accepted by Government.</p>
<p>Are we planning for management of waste from other areas?</p>	<p>Waste crosses administrative boundaries. However, we plan to be net self-sufficient which means that we manage the equivalent of the waste we produce in Surrey. Other areas are planning on the same basis.</p>
<p>How is the future need for waste management facilities calculated?</p>	<p>We look at the likely future amount of waste produced and consider how this would be managed if certain recycling and other recovery targets are to be met. We then consider whether the existing and future management capacity available at current built facilities is sufficient to ensure the targets will be met. If there is insufficient capacity this is known as the 'capacity gap'.</p>

<p>How has land for new waste facilities been selected?</p>	<p>The selection of suitable land has involved a detailed assessment of more than 200 sites and has resulted in the identification of land which is available and matches the spatial strategy. There are six sites proposed for allocation as having potential for accommodating a range of waste management facilities. The location of these sites is shown in the plan. A separate Site Identification and Evaluation Report, which describes how sites were assessed and shortlisted, has been prepared. The full report is available online.</p> <p>Areas of land potentially suitable for waste management uses have also been identified. These industrial land areas of search (ILAS) are industrial estates identified or allocated in borough and district local plans as suitable for general industrial (B2) or storage and distribution (B8) uses. Again, a separate ILAS Site Identification report, which describes how the 22 ILAS were assessed and shortlisted, is available online.</p>
<p>What sort of waste management facilities are needed?</p>	<p>Our assessments show that although we are technically self-sufficient overall this is largely due to having a relatively large landfill capacity at Redhill which we are not planning to replace. As we need to plan to manage waste that is disposed of by landfill in a more sustainable way there is capacity gap in Surrey for facilities that will enable this. This could be through additional recycling facilities or recovery (such as turning waste into a fuel or energy).</p>

<p>How is the construction, demolition and excavation (C, D & E) recycling capacity gap being dealt with?</p>	<p>The Aggregates Recycling Joint DPD already addresses this issue and a full review of C, D & E recycling will take place when the Minerals Plan is reviewed.</p>
<p>Do we need more energy from waste facilities (or incinerators) especially when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site at Charlton Lane is nearing completion? • Recycling is increasing? • There is to be a ban on single use plastics? 	<p>Our assessment shows that even if we meet the highest level of recycling there will still be the need to manage waste that cannot be recycled.</p> <p>But the plan is flexible and does not require more incinerators as a solution – waste can be turned into fuel and sent elsewhere for example and if more waste is recycled there will be less need.</p> <p>Any new facility will always be expected to demonstrate need at the time of a planning application.</p>
<p>What are the county council's plans for more energy from waste (EfW) following the completion of the Eco Park?</p>	<p>The county council does not have any current plans for building further energy from waste capacity to deal with waste that it has responsibility for managing (household waste).</p>

Where will new waste facilities be located?	The plan protects existing waste facilities and encourages improvements and enhancements to appropriate existing sites. Ideally new facilities will be located in sites and areas outside the Green Belt, including: allocated waste sites, existing waste sites, Industrial Land Areas of Search (ILAS) and other suitable sites. This may include sites within urban areas and within existing industrial areas. Only if it can be shown that there is no available land outside the Green Belt should a site within the Green Belt be considered.
Will new waste management facilities only be located on allocated waste sites?	No. Whilst allocated sites will help provide the additional waste management capacity there is nothing to prevent proposals being put forward for waste uses on other potentially suitable sites or to enhance or extend existing waste sites. Any planning applications will, however, need to be assessed against the relevant policies in the plan. There may also be proposals that already have planning permission but have yet to be implemented.
All but one of the allocated sites are in the Green Belt. How can this be justified?	A thorough site selection process which looked at over 200 sites concluded that it was necessary to look at sites within the Green Belt to meet our forecasted need for additional waste facilities. The process and the outcome is set out in the Site Identification and Evaluation Report. However, the plan makes it clear that allocated sites in the Green Belt are not preferred over sites that may come forward outside of the Green Belt and any planning application will need to show that there are no alternative opportunities outside the Green Belt.

<p>What sorts of waste management are appropriate to the different levels of the Waste Hierarchy?</p>	<p>Prevention: This includes using less material in the design, manufacture and packaging of products. Keeping products for longer and designing them to last longer. Re-using items.</p> <p>Preparing for re-use: Checking, cleaning, repairing or refurbishing whole items or spare parts.</p> <p>Recycling: Turning waste into a new substance or product.</p> <p>Anaerobic digestion of organic waste where digestate is recycled as fertiliser. This includes composting if it meets the relevant quality specification.</p> <p>Other recovery: Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with a high level of energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis. These processes produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste. Some restoration operations such as using inert waste to restore former mineral sites are classed as recovery.</p> <p>Disposal: The least favoured option. Landfill and incineration with limited or no energy recovery.</p>
<p>How will the quality of residents' environment be protected?</p>	<p>Modern waste management facilities are designed not to cause unacceptable impacts on communities. Any new facility will have to meet strict environmental criteria. Policies in the plan require transport impact assessments and a range of potential environmental impacts to be addressed such as noise, dust, odour and air quality.</p>
<p>This is a complex subject – is there a less detailed report?</p>	<p>A non-technical summary of the plan has been prepared and is available on the Surrey Waste Local Plan 2018-2033 webpage.</p>

<p>In what ways does the plan align with the Waste Disposal Authority's strategy – the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (JMWS)</p>	<p>The Plan has taken the JMWMS into account. Both the Plan and the JMWS seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage sustainable waste management Manage disposal of waste as an option of last resort Encourage Innovation and minimise impact on communities and environment
<p>How does the plan take account of recycling targets?</p>	<p>Recycling targets are ambitious but need to be realistic. The target is for 70% of local authority collected waste to be recycled by 2030 and 75% by 2035.</p> <p>Targets are set based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular Economy Action Plan (EU) (65% household waste by 2030) Build upon SWP 2008 targets (60% municipal & 65% C & I by 2025) JMWMS (70% by 2019/20)
<p>How will Brexit change things?</p>	<p>The implications will be dependent on the terms of the final agreement. Brexit might affect the export of residual waste for recovery at EfW facilities in mainland Europe for example. At this stage we cannot say so we have prepared the plan to be flexible and be able to cope with changes. The monitoring of the Plan will indicate when a review of the Plan is needed.</p>

<p>Has the new Resources and Waste Strategy for England been considered?</p>	<p>This strategy follows on from the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and reflects the EU Circular Economy Package that was adopted by member states in May 2018. The Government has said it will honour commitments in this circular economy package post Brexit which amongst other things includes targets for recycling and diversion from landfill that have been taken into account in the Plan. The Strategy includes measure to incentivise manufacturers of goods, including packaging, to use recycled materials and ensure that products can be more easily re-used and recycled. Following the release of the strategy minor changes were made to the plan, subsequently, the Waste Plan is entirely consistent with the Resources and Waste Strategy as it envisages and encourages reductions in waste arisings and increases in recycling – this is clearly set out in the vision and Strategic Objectives. The Plan is sufficiently flexible and positive to accommodate any reduction in waste arisings and increases in recycling that might arise from The Strategy, furthermore it will be monitored annually and reviewed at least every 5 years.</p>
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<p>What is the next stage of the plan process?</p>	<p>The Submission Plan, supporting evidence and the representations gathered during the Period for Representations (Reg 19) were submitted on 12 April 2019 to the Secretary of State who will appoint a planning inspector to hold an independent examination to consider the soundness and legality of the plan. During the examination, the planning inspector will consider all representations received and may choose to convene public hearings which would take place at County Hall.</p> <p>If changes to the Plan are necessary, these will be reported to Cabinet for agreement prior to being published for representations. Ultimately the Plan can only be adopted by the county council following receipt of an Inspector's report that finds the Plan sound and legally compliant. Adoption of the Plan would be a decision for Council.</p>
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<p>What is an examination in public?</p>	<p>The examination in public is the final stage in the process of adopting a local plan. The examination focuses on the main issues that the appointed independent Planning Inspector considers are fundamental to the soundness and legality of the plan, as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and National Planning Policy Framework. All representations received will also be considered by the Inspector. This is done through a series of hearing sessions to examine matters relating to the plan.</p> <p>Hearing sessions will be inquisitorial, with the Inspector probing the issues as opposed to an adversarial approach. Those who have sought modifications to the plan and asked to be heard may be invited to the hearings by the Inspector, along with additional parties the Inspector deems necessary.</p> <p>Once the hearing sessions are closed, the Inspector will provide the council with a report of their conclusions along with recommended modifications to the plan.</p>
<p>If I made a representation during the period for representations, what will happen to my representation?</p>	<p>The Period for Representations ran from the 14 January 2019 to the 10 March 2019. All of the representations gathered during the period for representations have been submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Submission Surrey Waste Local Plan. The representations will be considered by the independent inspector during the public examination of the Plan later this year. The county council has provided a summary of the representations made to accompany this, which along with the representations have been published on the website.</p>

<p>When will the hearings for the examination in public take place?</p>	<p>Information on dates, times and venues will be available on The Surrey Waste Local Plan 2018-2033 website. The venue will be County Hall Kingston upon Thames and the dates for hearings likely to be late June or July 2019 (but precise dates are determined by the Inspector)</p>
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