

Surrey County Council Minerals and Waste
Planning Policy

Surrey Waste Local Plan

Draft Waste Local Plan - Non-technical Summary

October 2017



SURREY

If you have any questions about the consultation or you are having difficulty in accessing the documents please contact Surrey County Council:



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Why do we have to plan for waste?

There are many pressures on the use of land in Surrey – this includes the need for new homes and employment. The management of waste is also one of those pressures and it's really important that we think carefully about how and where we want waste to be managed in the future. If waste is managed well it is a resource that can be used to make things and to produce energy but, if it isn't, it can impact negatively on our communities and environment. Planning for waste ensures we maximise the benefits and minimise any negative impacts.

As the 'Waste Planning Authority' for Surrey, it's Surrey County Council's job to produce a 'Waste Local Plan'. The current Surrey Waste Plan was adopted in 2008 and is reaching the end of its life. The new Surrey Waste Local Plan (SWLP) will update the Surrey Waste Plan and cover the period from 2018 to 2033. The SWLP will help to ensure that there are enough waste management facilities in Surrey and that waste is managed in a way which is best for the environment, for communities and for the economy, in other words in the most 'sustainable' way, over the period of the plan.

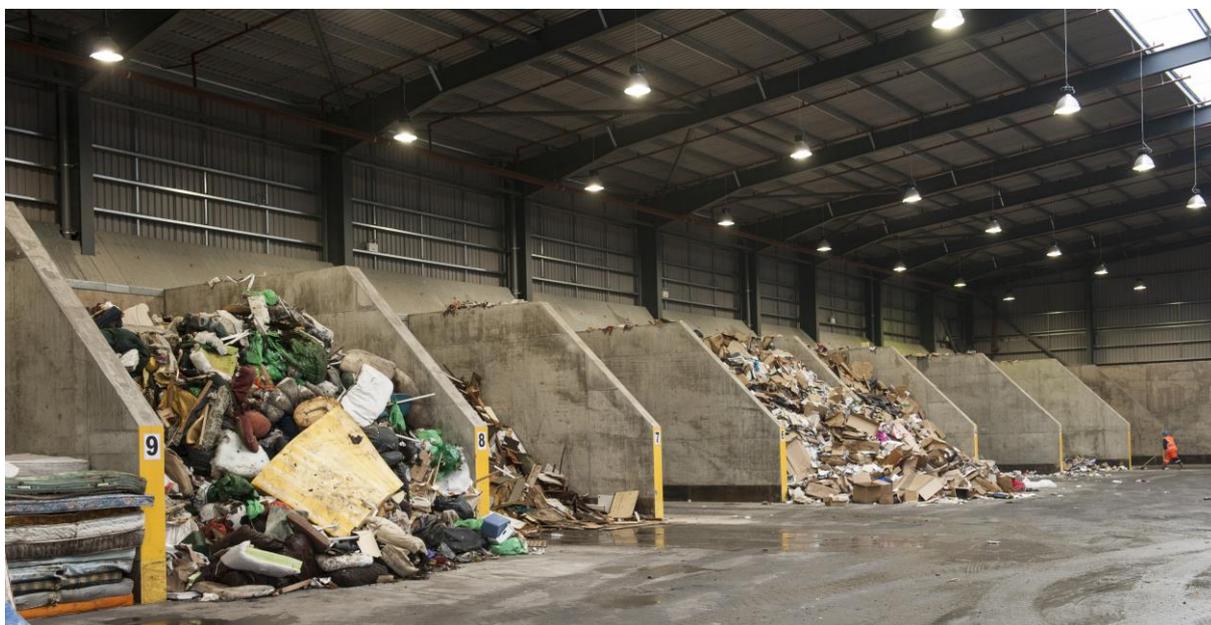


Figure 1 Image of storage bays used for sorted waste (Photo courtesy of SUEZ)

Before new waste management facilities are developed, it is important that the possible impacts of these on communities and on the environment are considered properly – this will ensure we know how they should be designed and where the best places for these facilities are. Planning for waste ensures that in future we will have the right types of waste management facilities, in the right place and at the right time.

What is the Draft Surrey Waste Local Plan about?

The new Surrey Waste Local Plan will guide the decisions made on planning applications for new waste management facilities until 2033. It provides a strategy for using land in the best way to meet the county's needs for waste management and identifies locations for new waste management facilities. The Plan will help ensure more waste is recycled and used to produce energy and less waste goes to landfill.

The Surrey Waste Local Plan will help provide certainty for developers e.g. waste management companies, and the community, about how and where the management of waste can take place. The plan does this in a number of ways:

- It sets out how the best way of providing new facilities to deal with waste in future;
- it describes the location and type of land that would be suitable for waste management facilities;
- it identifies (or 'allocates') specific areas of land (sites) that are suitable for waste management facilities;
- it specifies what needs to be thought about to ensure facilities are acceptable and provide the maximum benefits.

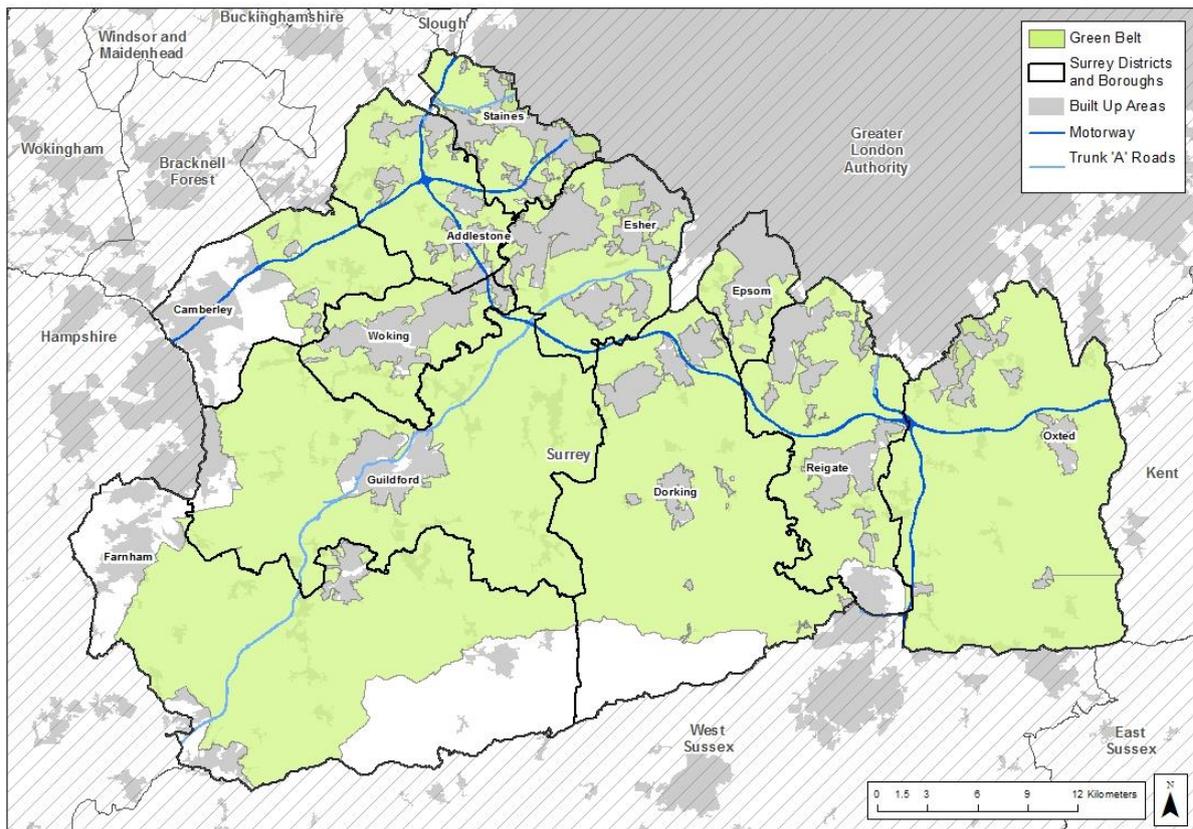


Figure 2 Map of Surrey showing urban areas, Green Belt boundary and primary route network

How is the Surrey Waste Local Plan being prepared?

There are several stages in preparing the new SWLP as illustrated below.



Figure 3 Images showing stages of preparing the new Surrey Waste Local Plan

Several of the stages offer opportunities for residents, businesses and other key stakeholders to comment. Comments made during Issues and Options (Stage 2) have influenced the wording of the Vision, Strategic Objectives and Spatial Strategy included within the Draft SWLP.

The current stage of consultation on the draft SWLP is shown above as Stage 3. Following the draft plan consultation, a further consultation on a pre-submission draft (Stage 4) will be held in 2018.

What are the big issues affecting the management of waste in Surrey?

Surrey's Landscape

Surrey is the most wooded county in England and a very large proportion (73%) of the county lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt. The landscape, natural heritage and biodiversity of Surrey are rich, and the county has many important historic sites of high value.



Figure 4 Image showing an example of the Surrey Landscape

These features make Surrey a great place to work and live. Our communities value the high quality of the environment and it is important that the new Waste Local Plan acknowledges this when setting out how and where waste should be managed.

Increasing population

The projected population growth for Surrey, suggests an increase from 1.17 million people to 1.37 million by 2037. There are approximately 483,000 housing units existing across Surrey with a further 86,000 housing units planned between 2015 and 2033.

The types and amounts of waste that will need to be managed

In general, we try to prevent the creation of waste in the first place. However, we still need to plan for the management of all waste that will be produced in future, with a focus on:

- waste from households;
- commercial and industrial (C&I) waste that arises from offices, shops and restaurants;
- construction, demolition and excavation (C, D & E) waste that arises from the construction or demolition of buildings, and civil engineering infrastructure; and

- hazardous waste which contains substances that might make it harmful to human health or the environment.

The chart below shows the annual production of different types of waste and how they are expected to grow in future. By 2033, it is estimated that Surrey will produce 694,000 tonnes of waste from households, 1,164,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste and 1,972,000 tonnes of construction, demolition and excavation waste per year. Overall, the amount of waste produced in Surrey is expected to rise from 3,517,018 tonnes per year in 2018, to 3,830,000 tonnes per year in 2033.

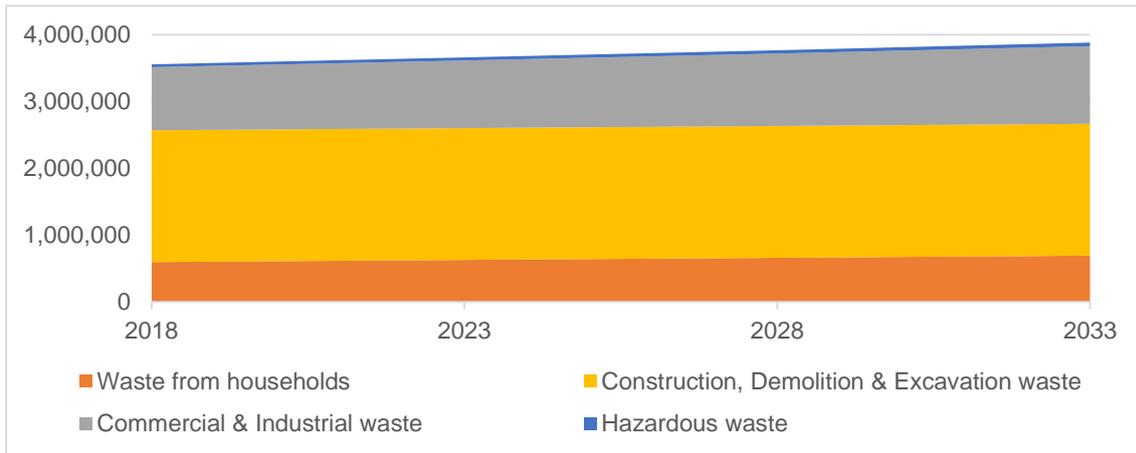


Figure 5 Production of Waste in Surrey 2018 to 2033

Some waste produced in Surrey will be managed in other counties and waste from other areas will be managed in Surrey – this is taken into account in the Draft SWLP but the overall amount of waste that needs to be planned for is equivalent to the amount produced in Surrey.

How will waste be managed in future?

The best way to manage waste

Our approach to planning for waste applies the ‘**waste hierarchy**’, where priority is given to prevention, and then to preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery e.g. energy, and finally the last resort, disposal.

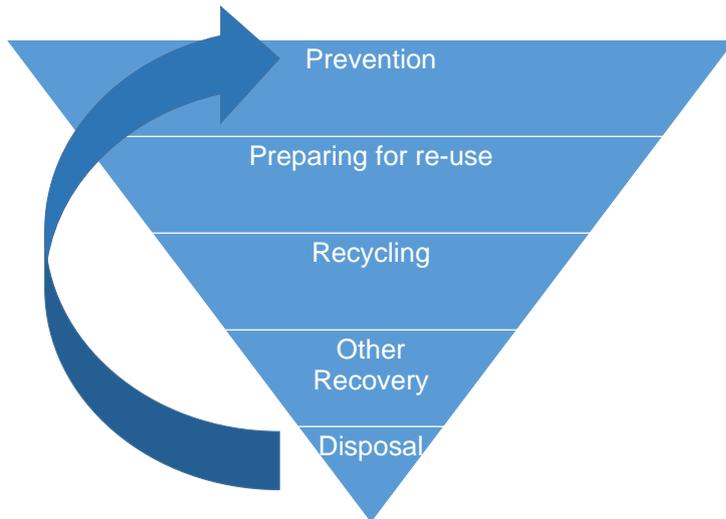


Figure 6 Image of the Waste Hierarchy

- **Prevention** - the most effective environmental solution is often to reduce the generation of waste, including the re-use of products
- **Preparing for re-use** - products that have become waste can be checked, cleaned or repaired so that they can be re-used
- **Recycling** - waste materials can be reprocessed into products, materials, or substances
- **Other recovery** - waste can serve a useful purpose by replacing other materials that would otherwise have been used –
- **Disposal** - the least desirable solution where none of the above options is appropriate

What are our waste management targets?

To ensure the management of waste is in accordance with the waste hierarchy the Draft SWLP recognises the need to provide new targets to 2033 and these are set out below. These targets should be ambitious and encourage sustainable waste management, but they should also be achievable.

Table 1 Targets for recycling and landfill of waste in Surrey

Waste from households	Commercial and Industrial waste	Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste
70% of waste from households is prepared for re-use or is recycled	70% of C&I waste is prepared for re-use or is recycled	80% of C, D & E waste is recycled
No waste from households is landfilled	10% or less of C&I waste is sent to landfill	No C, D & E waste for disposal is landfilled ¹

What types of waste facilities are we planning for?

Recycling and Recovery

While we acknowledge a need for waste recovery facilities, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, we seek to promote recycling first. Recycling, recovery and processing involves a number of different technologies which separate waste and produce energy. The SWLP is intended to provide a flexible framework for managing waste for a number of years into the future and so it doesn't specify which technologies should be used in case new ones are developed.

Recycling of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste

Currently, significant quantities of C, D & E waste are produced in the county from construction activity. The waste makes up over one third of the total solid waste produced in Surrey, every year. It is much harder to find space to manage C, D & E waste in London and as Surrey is nearby some waste from London is managed in Surrey.

Sustainable Construction and Waste in New Developments

It is important that waste management issues are addressed in the design stage of new developments to make sure that any waste created during construction and use of the development can be reduced and managed sustainably.

Recovery of Inert Waste² to Land

The use of inert waste to restore land is particularly encouraged where this is necessary to restore old quarries.

¹ Waste used for beneficial purposes (e.g. restoration of mineral workings) will still be supported

² Inert waste is waste that cannot decompose and is not hazardous, for example bricks and concrete

Disposal of Non-Hazardous Waste to Land

In terms of achieving sustainable waste management, disposal of waste in landfills is the least preferred option, however it is one that we still need to plan for as a few types of waste can only be managed in this way. In general, the Draft SWLP aims to avoid landfill by providing other types of facilities.

Wastewater Treatment Works

There is an established network of wastewater³ treatment facilities within Surrey operated by Thames Water. Thames Water undertakes regular reviews of capacity to ensure that enough is planned for to meet future needs while protecting river water quality. The majority of wastewater treatment works (WwTW) are expected to be able to deal with any increases in the amount of wastewater without any need for improvements to existing facilities.

The 'Capacity Gap' - How many new facilities are needed?

In preparing the draft of this new Waste Local Plan, a 'capacity gap' between the amount of waste that will need to be managed in different ways and ability of existing facilities to do this has been identified. It is estimated that over the period of the plan the following new facilities will be needed:

- Energy recovery: 3 to 6 sites
- Composting: 2 sites
- Other waste recovery⁴: 1 to 3 sites

There is also a need for facilities which can recycle C, D & E waste. These are likely to come forward alongside mineral workings and specific sites are not identified.

No new landfill sites are proposed but depending on how much extra waste and recycling capacity is developed there may a need for some more landfill capacity at the end of the plan period.

What does the Draft Surrey Waste Local Plan include?

Vision and Strategic Objectives

The draft SWLP includes a "Vision" that sets out a broad picture of how waste will be managed during and by the end of the plan period. It also includes "Strategic Objectives" which outline how the Vision will be achieved. A draft "Spatial Strategy" is also included that seeks to direct the development of additional waste management capacity to land that has

³ Wastewater include sewage

⁴ 'Other waste recovery' means facilities managing in waste in other ways which reduce the need for landfill. More detailed information about types of facilities can be found on the Minerals and Waste Policy webpage: www.surreycc.gov.uk/newwasteplan

been previously developed and to sites that are well connected to where waste is produced e.g. homes and businesses. This approach helps ensure the best use of land and the efficient transportation of waste.

The Draft Vision encompasses the following five key elements based on national planning policy and legislation:

- Net self-sufficiency
- Sustainable waste management
- Resident wellbeing
- Environmental protection and,
- Sustainable development.

The Vision for waste development in Surrey is:

To enable sufficient waste management capacity to support Surrey's nationally important economy.

To encourage residents and businesses to produce less waste and re-use, recycle and recover more waste.

To recognise the value of Surrey's environment and maintain the high standards of wellbeing enjoyed by our residents when permitting waste facilities.

The Strategic Objectives are strongly linked to national policy which the Draft Surrey Waste Local Plan needs to follow:

Strategic Objective 1: To make sure enough waste management capacity is provided to manage the equivalent amount of waste produced in Surrey.

This objective aims to ensure that enough land is identified for the waste facilities that will be needed to manage waste in Surrey in future.

Strategic Objective 2: To encourage development which supports sustainable waste management in line with national targets for recycling, recovery and composting.

This objective aims to encourage the prevention of waste, preparing for re-use, recycling and recovery of waste.

Strategic Objective 3: To manage disposal of waste to land as an option of last resort, but one that is important for managing residual waste that cannot be treated in any other way.

Sustainable waste management sees waste disposal as the last resort, however it remains a necessary option for certain types of waste that cannot be practically disposed of in any other way.

Strategic Objective 4: To retain and make best use of existing sites for waste development through supporting redevelopment and improvement of facilities.

Within Surrey there is strong competition for available land for housing, employment and waste development. The Draft Surrey Waste Local Plan needs to encourage the best use of the land which is already being used for waste management. It can do this by preventing other types of development on or near existing waste management sites and by allowing more waste to be managed at the site (where appropriate).

Strategic Objective 5: To direct new facilities to locations that have been identified as suitable for waste development.

One of the reasons Surrey is an attractive place to live and work is its environment which includes a number of significant designations such as the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. By making sure that development of waste management facilities is located in the best locations the draft Plan aims to minimise significant adverse impacts on the environment.

Strategic Objective 6: To encourage innovation and new technologies which provide opportunities to minimise the impact of waste development on communities and the environment.

This objective seeks to allow new forms of waste management development e.g. cleaner technologies and improved design that will have greater beneficial impacts, such as increased recycling, and reduced negative impacts.

Strategic Objective 7: To keep waste movement by road to minimum practicable levels and support options for sustainable transport.

This objective aims to encourage sustainable transport for example limiting vehicle emissions and seeking ways to minimise road movements⁵.

⁵ 'road movements' are the transportation of waste by road

Strategic Objective 8: To work closely with our partners such as Surrey Waste Partnership, District and Borough councils and other Waste Planning Authorities to deliver the Surrey Waste Local Plan.

The implementation of the draft Plan and its policies is dependent upon Surrey County Council working with its partners to support initiatives and meet local targets. In addition, early discussions with communities are essential prior to planning applications being submitted to ensure communities are involved in decision making.

Draft Spatial Strategy

The Draft Spatial Strategy helps deliver the Strategic Objectives by guiding the form and location of waste development. The strategy was developed from earlier public consultation and the following key 'building blocks':

- Provision of sufficient waste capacity in Surrey to manage waste generated in the county and some that is imported;
- Managing some of the waste that is produced in other areas and recognising that some waste produced in Surrey may be managed in other areas including surrounding counties;
- Recognising the need for a range of facilities of different types and sizes/scales to address the capacity gap for waste management facilities in Surrey;
- Supporting flexibility with sites and areas allocated for a range of different waste treatment types;
- Allowing for development within the Green Belt where 'very special circumstances'⁶ can be demonstrated;
- Reflecting the size, range and distribution of Surrey's communities (e.g. towns and villages) by including a mixture of locations for waste facilities;
- Steering development to Previously Developed Land (PDL) over greenfield land; and,
- Encouraging facilities on land that is well-connected by the main transport network to minimise the impact on local communities and the environment.

⁶ 'Very special circumstances' is a specific term used in national planning policy that relates to development in Green Belts, the fundamental aim of which is to prevent urban sprawl.

Draft Policies

The eight Draft Strategic Objectives are implemented by 16 Draft policies. The policies are very important as they explain exactly how proposals are expected to contribute to improving the management of waste and how they should benefit and protect communities and the environment. The policies therefore set out how proposals for development will be considered acceptable and so whether they are likely to be given planning permission.

Proposed Sites for Allocation

To help address the capacity gaps, parcels of land (sites) that have been assessed as suitable for the development of additional waste management capacity are included in the draft SWLP as those which are proposed for 'allocation'.

The selection of suitable land has involved a detailed assessment of over 200 sites and has resulted in the identification of land which is available and matches the Draft Spatial Strategy. The sites proposed for allocation as having potential for accommodating a range of waste management activities are as follows:

- Former Weylands STW, Hersham
- Land NE of Slyfield Industrial Estate
- Land adjoining Leatherhead STW, Leatherhead
- Land west of Earlswood STW, Redhill
- Land adj Trumps Farm, Longcross
- Land adj Lyne Lane STW, Chertsey
- Oakleaf Farm, Stanwell Moor
- Land at Lambs Business Park, South Godstone
- Land at Martyrs Lane, Woking

A separate 'Site Identification and Evaluation' report which describes how sites were assessed and shortlisted has been prepared and is available on Planning Policy webpage (www.surreycc.gov.uk/newwasteplan).

The allocation of a site within the SWLP means that it will be generally considered acceptable for development for waste use. For a development to take place a separate planning application will need to be made by someone who is interested in developing the site. Planning permission will only be granted if proposed development is in accordance with all the policies of the SWLP.

How can you get involved?

A draft SWLP has been prepared to provide an opportunity for residents, businesses and other stakeholders to contribute to the new SWLP and comment on its proposals and detailed wording.

To make it easy to comment and to help us to understand views on the approach we have taken, we are hosting a survey on the consultation portal 'Surrey Says' (<https://www.surreysays.co.uk>). There are two ways of responding – via the online survey forms, or by sending a form back to us (via post or email). We encourage the submission of comments via the online survey forms as this will help us process responses efficiently and saves paper.

The consultation runs from **1 November 2017 to 7 February 2018**. During this period, we encourage you to consider the information provided and give us your feedback on the draft Plan. All the information is available online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/newwasteplan. Hard copies of documents will also be available at County Hall and in all district and borough council offices.

What will happen next?

Following the consultation on the draft version of the SWLP, we will consider all comments and decide whether any changes to the SWLP are needed. Your comments will help guide and inform the preparation of the final version of the SWLP that we will submit to Government for consideration of its 'soundness' and legality (this will be known as the 'Proposed Submission Draft Plan').

Before submitting to Government, we will invite representations on the Proposed Submission Draft Plan during Spring 2018. This will provide an opportunity for anyone to comment on the soundness and legality of the Plan.

Once the Proposed Submission Draft Plan is submitted to Government, a Planning Inspector will hold an independent examination. During the examination, the Planning Inspector will consider all the comments received and check that the Plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation. If the Inspector thinks that the plan is sound then the County Council will be able to adopt the SWLP and use it when making decisions on planning applications.