



National Planning Policy for Waste

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Identifying suitable sites and areas

4. Waste planning authorities should identify, in their Local Plans, sites and/or areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities in appropriate locations. In preparing their plans, waste planning authorities should:

- x identify the broad type or types of waste management facility that would be appropriately located on the allocated site or in the allocated area in line with the waste hierarchy, taking care to avoid stifling innovation (Appendix A);
- x plan for the disposal of waste and the recovery of mixed municipal waste in line with the proximity principle, recognising that new facilities will need to serve catchment areas large enough to secure the economic viability of the plant;
- x consider opportunities for on-site management of waste where it arises;
- x consider a broad range of locations including industrial sites, looking for opportunities to co-locate waste management facilities together and with complementary activities. Where a low carbon energy recovery facility is considered as an appropriate type of development, waste planning authorities should consider the suitable siting of such facilities to enable the utilisation of the heat produced as an energy source in close proximity to suitable potential heat customers;
- x give priority to the re-use of previously-developed land, sites identified for employment uses, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages.

5. Waste planning authorities should assess the suitability of sites and/or areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities against each of the following criteria:

- x the extent to which the site or area will support the other policies set out in this document;
- x physical and environmental constraints on development, including existing and proposed neighbouring land uses, and having regard to the factors in Appendix B to the appropriate level of detail needed to prepare the Local Plan;
- x the capacity of existing and potential transport infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of waste, and products arising from resource recovery, seeking when practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport; and
- x the cumulative impact of existing and proposed waste disposal facilities on the well-being of the local community, including any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential.

6. Green Belts have special protection in respect to development. In preparing Local Plans, waste planning authorities, including by working collaboratively with other

Appendix A

The Waste Hierarchy

- the most effective environmental solution is often to reduce the generation of waste, including the re-use of products ± *prevention*⁴
- products that have become waste can be checked, cleaned or repaired so that they can be re-used ± *preparing for re-use*
- waste materials can be reprocessed into products, materials, or substances ± *recycling*
- waste can serve a useful purpose by replacing other materials that would otherwise have been used ± *other recovery*
- the least desirable solution where none of the above options is appropriate ± *disposal*

Appendix B

Locational Criteria

In testing the suitability of sites and areas in the preparation of Local Plans and in determining planning applications, waste planning authorities should consider the factors below. They should also bear in mind the envisaged waste management facility in terms of type and scale.

a. protection of water quality and resources and flood risk management

Considerations will include the proximity of vulnerable surface and groundwater or aquifers. For landfill or land-raising, geological conditions and the behaviour of surface water and groundwater should be assessed both for the site under consideration and the surrounding area. The suitability of locations subject to flooding, with consequent issues relating to the management of potential risk posed to water [

