

Worcestershire Minerals and Waste

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Monitoring implementation of the Mineral and Waste Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Two iterations of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) were in place during the 2021 monitoring period:

LDS adopted September 2020

Consultation on Main Modifications ran from August to October 2021. WCC published a summary of issues raised in representations on the Main Modifications in November 2021.

The examination continued until receipt of the Inspectors' Report, which was not received by Q1 2022.

and

The Inspectors' Report was received on 6th May 2022 (Q2). Delays in receiving the report from the Planning Inspectorate were beyond the Council's control.

These delays meant that the Plan could not be returned to full Council for adoption in Q2 as anticipated in the September 2021 LDS. The MLP was returned to full Council and adopted in July 2022 (Q3), and the LDS was updated in July 2022 to reflect this.

There were no milestones for formal consultations on the Mineral Site Allocations DPD that fell within the 2021 AMR monitoring year in either the September 2020 LDS or the September 2021 LDS, but work on the preparation of Preferred Options consultation documents was scheduled and was undertaken.

The "detailed review, establishing scope and purpose of revision of Waste Core Strategy" was anticipated in the September 2020 LDS to commence in Q3 2021 – Q3 2022. This work did not commence in 2021, due to resource constraints and staff focussing on the Minerals Local Plan and emerging Mineral Site Allocations DPD.

The Waste Core Strategy milestone was rescheduled in the September 2021 LDS to commence in Q1 2022. Subsequent milestones were scheduled for beyond this AMR monitoring period.

Monitoring Community Involvement

Indicator SCI1: Satisfaction levels with the Development Plan process/service.

Satisfaction with consultation methods employed.

No data available.

2020: No data available.

2019: 71% of

Indicators relating to mineral development

Introduction

The following indicators are all interim indicators which have been monitored to give some indication of how WCC has determined minerals applications despite relying on saved policies in the 1997 County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan prior to the adoption of a new Minerals Local Plan. The new Minerals Local Plan (MLP) was adopted in 2022 and future AMRs will monitor the monitoring indicators contained in the MLP rather than these generic interim indicators.

None

No permissions for minerals development granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding (0 of 1).

2020: There were no applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2020.

2019: No permissions for minerals development granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding (0 of 2).

No unacceptable adverse change in the quality or character of the landscape.

No permissions for minerals development granted with unacceptable adverse change in the quality or character of the landscape (0 of 1 application).

2020: There were no applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2020.

2019: There were no applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2019.

No permissions for minerals development granted with unacceptable adverse impact on amenity (0 of 1).

2020: There were no applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2020.

2019: No permissions for minerals development granted with

This AMR adopts the same measurements used by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whereby decisions are considered to have been made in time where they are made within either the statutory time period, or within the time limits agreed with applicants through planning performance agreements or extensions of time.

Increase

Decreased to 0% (0 of 1) (compared to the last year with relevant applications determined, 2019).

2020: There were no applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2020.

2019: Increased to 100% (2 of 2)

One application was determined for minerals development. This proposal had not previously been discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage. Although the target for this indicator is an increase in the proportion of applications involving pre-application discussions, WCC does not consider that any fundamental action is required at this stage. The limited number of permissions means that the proportion monitored by this indicator can fluctuate significantly between years.

Increase

Decreased to 5 proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council.

2020: Increased to 9 proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council.

2019: Decreased to 7 proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council.

During 2021, 5 proposals for minerals development were discussed with WCC at pre-application stage, a decrease from 9 proposals discussed in the 2020 monitoring period. As WCC cannot require pre-application discussions, some fluctuation in the number of proposals being discussed each year is to be expected. Although the target is for an increase, a decrease in the absolute number of proposals discussed is not considered a serious issue that needs to be rectified. If evidence comes forward that a large number of proposals that should have been discussed at pre-application stage were not, then WCC will reconsider this position.

documents in future. The methods detailed in this note are for guidance only, and there is no set approach for making estimates about waste arisings or projecting waste growth for C&D waste set nationally.

Monitor baseline

0.705 million tonnes

2020: 0.377 million tonnes

2019: 0.648 million tonnes

Monitor baseline

0 tonnes.

2020: 0 tonnes.

2019: 0 tonnes.

No crushed rock working has taken place in Worcestershire since 2009. This issue is addressed in the Minerals Local Plan which was emerging during this monitoring period (subsequently adopted 2022), including through the duty to cooperate discussion with the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party (AWP), other neighbouring AWP's and relevant Minerals Planning Authorities.

rock extraction in Worcestershire, but recognises the constraints on Worcestershire's rock resources.

Minimum 25 years

64 to 69 years (estimated)

2020: 65 to 70 years (estimated)

2019: 66 to 71 years (estimated)

For all years displayed, estimates are based on correspondence with Weinerberger (02.12.2014) which stated 71 years at that point in time, and 76 years estimate based on sales average (Mineral Extract: Great Britain Reports 2002 – 2011)¹ and Weinerberger estimate of permitted resource (02.12.2014), adjusted to reflect seven years of working conducted since that dataset.

Discussions will be undertaken with the operator to update this figure for future AMRs. We are unable to update this using the Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry (AMRI) survey data, as this has not been produced by government since 2014.

Monitor baseline (number of sites)

4 active sites.

2020: 3 active sites.

2019: 4 sites (3 active).

¹ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/minerals>

In 2021, there were 4 sand and gravel sites in the County, of which all were "active" (in production for some time during the year).

Worcestershire's sand and gravel sites as of 31st December 2021 were:

- Chadwich Lane Quarry, Chadwich

Monitor baseline

Unknown.

2020: Unknown.

2019: Unknown.

One site currently produces a very small volume of silica sand as an ancillary activity to the working of aggregate sands. The 2014 Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry (AMRI) survey is the most recent dataset available which reports on silica sand production. In 2014 the production figure was withheld for confidentiality reasons, and the Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry (AMRI) survey is no longer published by government, therefore this indicator cannot be monitored.

Monitor baseline.

Unknown.

2020: Unknown.

2019: Unknown.

One site currently produces a very small volume of silica sand as an ancillary activity to the working of aggregate sands. No data is available relating to the proportion of silica sand within the permitted reserves at this site, therefore the landbank of permitted silica sand reserves cannot be calculated.

Monitor baseline.

2019: 0.06% of Worcestershire GVA.

Estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) from minerals in Worcestershire was £7m in 2021, representing 0.05% of total GVA. This is a greater proportion than in 2020. There has been a fluctuation in this proportion since 2017, when the proportion was 0.04%. Due to a revised ONS methodology, the GVA figures are not directly comparable with any figures in previous AMRs.

100% of relevant permissions for waste management development to include 10% renewable energy

100% (Two relevant permissions, both including a condition requiring 10% renewable energy)

2020: 100% (one relevant permission, with 10% renewable energy required by condition)

2019: 100% (one relevant permission, with 10% renewable energy required by condition)

Indicator W4 looks at waste permissions with a gross floorspace of >1000m² and whether they gain at least 10% of their energy supply annually from renewable energy sources (policy WCS11 (d)). The requirement for renewable energy will often be secured through one or more conditions attached to the grant of planning permission. As such, relevant permissions that include such condition(s) satisfy indicator W4, even where the planning application itself does not include such provision.

100% of permissions for waste management development to include measures for water efficiency

33% (Of the six permissions granted, two included measures for water efficiency)

100% of permissions for new landfill capacity to include landfill gas recovery systems

N/A. No permissions were granted for new landfill capacity.

2020: N/A. No permissions were granted for new landfill capacity.

2019: N/A. No permissions were granted for new landfill capacity.

100% of relevant permissions for new built waste management development to include provision for biodiversity enhancement

75% (Out of four applications, three included biodiversity enhancement)

2020: 75% (Out of four applications, three included biodiversity enhancement)

2019: 100% (Out of two applications, both included biodiversity enhancement)

No permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse is grant

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse change on either AONB

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 12(b).

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 12(a).

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

This indicator helps to measure performance against pol

No relevant permissions granted on greenfield sites

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none were on greenfield sites)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none were on greenfield sites)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none were on greenfield sites)

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 6.

100% of relevant permissions granted in accordance with Highways advice

100% (All of the six permissions granted were in accordance with Highways advice)

2020: 100% (All of the six permissions granted were in accordance with Highways advice)

2019: 100% (All of the nine permissions granted were in accordance with Highways advice)

Increase

Remaining unchanged at 83% (5 of 6)

2020: Increase to 83% (5 of 6)

2019: Increase to 78% (7 of 9)

83% of waste management applications determined in 2021 had been discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage. This is the same as the proportion in 2020.

The target for this indicator is an increase in the proportion of applications involving pre

Increase

10 proposals discussed.

2020: 39 proposals discussed.

2019: 28 proposals discussed.

10 waste management proposals were discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage in 2021. This was a decrease on the 2020 result when 39 waste management proposals were discussed at pre-application stage. The significant difference in numbers between 2020 and 2021 is largely due to a refined approach to how such discussions are recorded. Although the target is for an increase, a decrease in the absolute number of proposals discussed is not considered a serious issue that needs to be rectified. If evidence comes forward that a large number of proposals that should have been discussed at pre-application stage were not, then WCC will reconsider this position.

100%

17% (1 of 6)

2020: 0% (0 of 6)

None

None.

2020: None.

2019: None.

There were no decisions where there were no relevant policies in the development plan, or where policies were absent or out of date, in 2021.

100%

100% (6 of 6)

2020: 100% (6 of 6)

2019: 100% (9 of 9)

100% of applications for waste management development determined were within 13 weeks (16 weeks for EIA development), or within an agreed extension of time in 2021.

Although the WCS indicator only refers to the statutory 13-week period for determining applications for major development, a further statutory timeframe of 16 weeks applies where applications require Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition, government recognises that longer time periods can be required in some cases, including for reasons of complexity. This AMR adopts the same measurements used by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whereby

decisions are considered to have been made in time where they are made within either the statutory time period, or within the time limits agreed with applicants through planning performance agreements or extensions of time.

Increase

Remaining unchanged at 83% (5 of 6)

2020: Increase to 83% (5 of 6)

2019: Increase to 78% (7 of 9)

83% of waste management applications determined in 2021 had been discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage. This is the same as the proportion in 2020.

The target for this indicator is an increase in the proportion of applications involving pre-application discussions. As the proportion in 2021 remains the same as in 2020, the target has not been achieved. However, WCC does not consider that any fundamental action is required at this stage. The proportion has increased since 2019, and there is no indication of an ongoing decline in pre-application consultation rates. This will be kept under review in future AMRs.

Increase

10 proposals discussed.

2020: 39 proposals discussed.

2019: 28 proposals discussed.

10 waste management proposals were discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage in 2021. This was a decrease on the 2020 result when 39 waste management proposals were discussed at pre-application stage. The significant difference in numbers between 2020 and 2021 is largely due to a refined approach to how such discussions are recorded. Although the target is for an increase, a decrease in the absolute number of proposals discussed is not considered a serious issue that needs to be rectified. If evidence comes forward that a large number of proposals that should have been discussed at pre-application stage were not, then WCC will reconsider this position.

100%

17% (1 of 6)

2020: 0% (0 of 6)

2019: 22% (2 of 9)

Only a single application of the six permitted in 2021 included a consultation statement. As such, this indicator has failed to meet its target. This has been highlighted in previous AMRs, with action taken in the form of the adoption of the Validation Document alongside the Waste Core Strategy as a mechanism intended to support the delivery of this objective. The Validation Document requires any application that included pre-application public consultation to be accompanied by a Consultation Statement. The Statement needs to set out how the applicant addressed the council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Monitoring of this indicator since the WCS was adopted in 2012 has consistently shown - in common with some other WCS indicators - that it may not be the most appropriate measure of WCS implementation. This is because it fails to reflect the different types of waste management applications that come forward, and because there is no legislative or policy requirement for applicants to undertake pre-application consultation. The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that local planning authorities "cannot require that a developer engages with them before submitting a planning application". It is therefore

None

None.

2020: None.

2019: None.

There were no decisions where there were no relevant policies in the development plan, or where policies were absent or out of date, in 2021.

Increase

1.2% Worcestershire GVA.

2020: 0.9% of Worcestershire GVA.

2019: 1.1% of Worcestershire GVA.

Estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) from waste management in Worcestershire was £178m in 2021, representing 1.2% of total GVA. This is an increase on the proportion in 2020, but there has been a steady fall since 2015, when the proportion was 3.6%. Due to a revised ONS methodology, the GVA figures are not directly comparable with any figures in previous AMRs.

100% of new re-use, recycling, storage, sorting and transfer capacity at level 1 and 2 of the geographic hierarchy.

No relevant applications.

2020: 1 of 2 relevant applications permitted in level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy (50%).

2019: No relevant applications.

In 2021, three recycling permissions were granted, but none of these provided new capacity and so this indicator was not engaged.

Decrease in percentage of commercial and industrial waste managed sent to landfill

Increased to 24%

2020: 20%

2019: 18%

In 2021, the percentage of Commercial and Industrial waste sent to landfill increased to 24% compared to 20% in 2020. Although the target for this indicator is for a decrease, the increase to 24% has not been identified as requiring any specific actions at this stage. There has been significant fluctuation in the proportions over the last eight years, with an overall fall from 52% in 2015, to a low of 18% in 2019, followed by a less pronounced increase over the last two years.

Decrease in percentage of construction and demolition waste managed sent to landfill

Decrease in percentage of hazardous waste sent to landfill

30%

2020: 8%

2019: 62%

The proportion of hazardous waste sent to landfill increased between 2020 and 2021 to 30%. However, the figure of 8% seen in 2020 was the lowest proportion on record and is likely anomalous due to the significant impact of Covid-19 restrictions on economic activities in that year. Therefore, an increase is to be expected following on from this record low. 2021's 30% landfill proportion was lower than any other year since 2015.

Data sourced from the Environment Agency's Hazardous Waste Interrogator

Policies adopted by all City, Borough and District Councils

None

None (0 relevant responses)

2020: None (0 relevant responses)

2019: None (1 relevant response; application was refused)

WCC did not object to any planning applications in 2021 on the grounds of their impact on waste management facilities.

Achievement of headline delivery milestones for re-use and recycling capacity as set out in the Waste Core Strategy.

87.4% (679,548 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 777,700 tonnes)

target, rather than the total projected requirement). The figures for 2019 and 2020 given above have been amended to correct this error.

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2019: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

As of 2021, a cumulative 3,043,559 tonnes of non-inert waste has been landfilled in the county since 2009. This is 11% below the projection of 3,409,956 tonnes made in the Waste Core Strategy. It appears from the last few years that the annual landfill rate is below that which was projected, and therefore capacity will last longer than initially anticipated. As of 2021, there was 4,342,554m³

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2019: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

The amount of hazardous waste landfilled in Worcestershire was 9,631 tonnes in 2021, leading to a cumulative 37,239 tonnes of hazardous waste landfilled in the county since 2009. Although this is 83% below the 220,883 tonnes cumulative projection made in the Waste Core Strategy, the rate of hazardous waste disposal and landfill in Worcestershire has increased in recent years. The 9,631 tonnes landfilled in 2021 is well above the average of 3,100 tonnes landfilled over the last decade. As of 2021, there was 84,885 cubic metres of available void space, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 329,117 cubic metres at this time. This means that there is significantly less hazardous landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected. Although there is not currently a capacity gap for disposal and landfill of hazardous waste, the combination of the significantly lower than predicted void space, and the recent increase in landfill rate means that hazardous landfill capacity should be kept under review and may need to be considered through review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Landfill capacity is set out in the Environment Agency's waste management for England data tables, which provide information on landfill void space annually. In some cases, void space increases or decreases at a different rate than the amount of waste deposited. This is not uncommon and results from re-assessments of void space by the Environment Agency, the creation of new cells at existing sites, or by a void increasing as mineral workings which have planning permission to be restored by landfilling are excavated.

Duty to co-operate: summary of activities 2021

Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to comply with the 'duty to co-operate'. The duty requires local planning authorities to co-operate with other planning authorities and prescribed bodies on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries to ensure that strategic priorities are properly coordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.

Details of activities WCC has undertaken under the duty are set out below.

Consultation on proposed Main Modifications to the Publication Version of the Minerals Local Plan originally began on 2nd August 2021 and was due to run until 13th September 2021. Due to a technical issue affecting the Proposals Map, the original consultation was ended early, on 10th August 2021.

Once the technical data issue had been rectified, the consultation re-started, covering the period 31st August 2021 to 12th October 2021. Details of the re-started consultation were published on the Council's website and on the Programme Officer's website. Consultees were notified by letter and email on 26th August 2021, and notices were published in local newspapers on 25th August 2021, 26th August 2021 and 27th August 2021.

Representations were received from 21 respondents, eight of whom were Duty to Co-operate (DtC) bodies (including groups of DtC bodies responding jointly). Three of the DtC bodies made representations that did not relate to specific Main Modifications. The remaining four DtC bodies made representations relating to one or more of the following issues:

- Potential for functional linkages between areas of land in Worcestershire and the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site;
- Habitats Regulation Assessment;
- Sustainability Appraisal;
- Strategic Location of Development;
- Green Infrastructure;
- Strategic Corridors;
- Supply of Sand and Gravel;
- Supply of Crushed Rock;
- Supply of Industrial Minerals;
- Supply of Energy Minerals;
- Application of safeguarding requirements; and
-

In addition to the formal engagement on the Minerals Local Plan and Mineral Site Allocations DPD, and the responses to planning policy and application consultations, WCC engages with a wide range of DTC partners on an ongoing basis. WCC engages in one-to-one discussions and engages as members of relevant groups, both formally and informally. The section below lists the other bodies WCC has engaged with and the key points arising from discussions with them during the AMR period:

These duty to co-operate meetings provide an opportunity for each authority

for the Statement of Common Ground for the Shropshire Local Plan review (this was progressed in 2022).

March 2021: meeting at which WCC updated on MLP and DPD progress, and confirmed that SFRA had been undertaken for the Mineral Site Allocations DPD. EA updated on migratory fish/catchment-based approach with Natural England. Changes in the climate change allowance are expected later this year. Different allowances will apply in different parts of the catchment.

11th July 2021: Quarterly meeting to share knowledge of applications, enforcement issues and policy development. This included a progress update on MLP, confirming that consultation on Main Modifications was anticipated in August would be accompanied by SA and HRA, and a progress update on the Mineral Site Allocations DPD stating that WCC was currently consultation on SA Scoping.

22nd July 2021: meeting to allow WCC to advise NE of headline changes to MLP HRA ahead of Main Modifications consultation, to ensure full account is taken of the emerging 'functionally linked land' evidence base. NE gave further detail on the FLL research that is underway on both birds and fish.

October 2021: meeting and email exchange to agree how existing information about agricultural land value should be used to inform the development of the DPD.