

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2006-2021)

Waste Management Topic Paper

April 2008

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BACKGROUND

In January 2007 the Council issued for public consultation the Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy. The Strategy

was the first stage of the new statutory local development plan (LDP).

The next stage in the plan making process is the production of a deposit draft LDP. In order to ensure the soundness of the emerging LDP and transparency in the plan making process, the Council has produced a series of topic papers.

The topic papers address the main area of policy to be considered in the LDP. **It should be stressed that these papers are a starting point for policy development, through the sustainability appraisal process and as the Council's evidence base develops, emerging LDP policy will evolve and be refined.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Local Authorities in Wales have a wide range of responsibilities for waste disposal. As the Waste Planning Authority (WPA) the Local Authority is responsible for land-use planning control over waste management. The Local Development Plan must set out the Authority's overall strategy for land use aspects of waste disposal and make provision for facilities which are regulated by planning and environmental legislation.

Approximately 500,000 tonnes of waste are produced in Rhondda Cynon Taf each year, including 150,000 tonnes of municipal waste. The land use implications of managing and disposing of this waste in a sustainable manner is a major issue for the Local Development Plan, especially as all options involving the treatment, management and disposal of waste materials will have some form of environmental impact.

Traditionally the main method of dealing with waste has been to fill voids such as disused quarries or open cast workings, a method known as landfill. Approximately 90% of household waste in England and Wales is disposed by this method. Although landfilling practices have improved in recent years it is regarded as the least environmentally friendly disposal option and it is widely recognised that other options will need to be found.

This topic paper will directly inform the development of the LDP and will consider:-

- *the national policy context*
- *local policies and strategies*
- *key issues*
- *the aims and objectives set out in Preferred Strategy and the issues raised in its consultation.*

The topic paper will then develop draft LDP policies, which will set out the policy framework for waste management.

2. NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

Planning Policy Wales

Local planning authorities are obliged by the EC Framework Directive for Waste⁷ to make provision for establishing an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations. They are also required, in conjunction with the Environment Agency to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without harming the environment, without endangering human health, without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals, without causing a nuisance through noise or odours, and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest, including areas of acknowledged importance in relation to the natural and cultural heritage.

The UK Government's general policy towards waste management is based on a hierarchy of reduction, re-use and material recovery (including recycling and composting), energy recovery with effective use of waste heat, and safe disposal. A sustainable approach to waste management will require greater emphasis on reduction, re-use and recovery and less reliance on disposal without recovery, and the consideration of the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) which is one of the key mechanisms used to guide waste management options.

Waste should be managed (or disposed of) as close to the point of its generation as possible, in line with the proximity

principle. This is to ensure, as far as is practicable, that waste is not exported to other regions. It also recognises that transportation of wastes can have significant environmental impacts. The waste hierarchy, the proximity principle and regional self-sufficiency should all be taken into account during the determination of the BPEO for the network of waste management installations that provides the best solution to meet environmental, social and economic needs.

In Wales, the aim should be to provide sufficient facilities to treat, manage, or dispose of all the waste produced. Each local authority should consider what facilities are required to manage all waste streams generated within its area, although it may be necessary for some facilities (such as facilities for managing special or clinical waste) to be shared. Local authorities should co-operate through joint working arrangements⁸ to produce regional waste plans in order to provide Wales with an integrated and adequate framework or network of facilities that is actually achieved, thus meeting the requirements of the EC Directive. Local authorities should encourage any necessary movement of waste by rail and water rather than by road wherever economically feasible and have regard to the proximity principle.

Planning Policy Wales Companion Guide

The Planning Policy Wales Companion Guide has been prepared to guide planners and other stakeholders in applying

the Welsh Assembly Government's planning policy to the new system of LDPs. It refers specifically to and should be read in conjunction with, Planning Policy Wales.

With regard waste management it advises that local planning authorities should take account of :

- *the requirements of the EU Framework Directive on Waste*
- *guidance on the waste hierarchy and best practical environmental option*
- *the proximity principle, regional self-sufficiency and sustainable transport*
- *the Waste Strategy for Wales*
- *Regional Waste Plans*

Circular Letter 04-04 - Waste Policies Hazardous Waste Planning Applications

The Circular Letter confirms the requirement for development plans to take full account of the production of the Regional Waste Plans and incorporate adequate land use planning policies prior to their adoption.

The Circular sets out that until further agreement is reached about the location of regional or national scale waste management facilities, it is considered that the most suitable locations for new waste facilities are on general industrial

areas. Therefore, provided that there is enough capacity within existing or future industrial sites to accommodate the waste management facilities required to accord with the Regional Waste Plan, all development plans should include the following policy and suggested supporting text that sets out the minimum guidance to future waste management development.

Policy

PROPOSALS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, INCLUDING DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT PLANT, WILL BE PERMITTED WITHIN SITES LISTED FOR B2 EMPLOYMENT USE IN POLICIES EMP XX (cross-reference to relevant employment policies)

Sites on general industrial sites would be suitable for many of the future waste facilities including waste processing and treatment facilities, transfer stations and possibly mechanical biological treatment, in vessel composting and anaerobic digestion. Industrial sites are not likely to be suitable for landfill or windrow composting, the latter are more suitable on farms as part of farm diversification

Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (2001)

This guidance note provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to sustainable waste resource management. It advises that Waste is a vitally important issue in a society striving for sustainability. With its

commitments to sustainable development, the Assembly has a desire to address waste issues and develop sustainable methods of waste resource management. The TAN was prepared in parallel with the National Waste Strategy for Wales – *Wise About Waste*.

The TAN advises that the land use planning system has an important role to play in facilitating sustainable waste management and should:

- *provide a planning framework which enables adequate provision to be made for waste resource management facilities to meet the needs of society for the re-use, recovery and disposal of waste;*
- *help meet the needs of business and encourage competitiveness;*
- *encourage sensitive waste management, enhance the overall quality of the environment and avoid risks to human health;*
- *have regard to the need to protect areas of designated landscape and nature conservation value from inappropriate development;*
- *have regard to the need to protect the amenity of the community and of land uses and users affected by existing or proposed waste management facilities;*
- *minimise adverse environmental impacts resulting from the handling, processing, transport and disposal of waste;*
- *consider what new facilities may be needed, in the light of waste forecasts; and,*

- *ensure that opportunities for incorporating re-use/recycling facilities in new developments are properly considered.*

People, Places, Spaces: The Wales Spatial Plan

The Wales Spatial Plan is a material consideration for Local Planning Authorities. The National Framework sets out a vision of 'Valuing Our Environment' in which one of the main objectives is to de-couple the growth of waste from economic growth. It states that waste management initiatives need to be developed so that waste can be dealt with as near to source as possible and to ensure the waste hierarchy is implemented as set out in the waste strategy.

Wise About Waste: The National Waste Strategy for Wales

Wise About Waste promotes a number of actions to improve the management of waste in Wales. These include measures to increase the use of recycled and composted materials by businesses and the public sector in Wales, a public sector waste minimisation campaign, an education campaign to raise awareness and understanding across Wales of the need to manage waste in a more environmentally friendly manner.

Figures for 2003-04 show that Welsh councils have exceeded the Assembly Government's target of recycling 15 per cent of waste by 1.25 per cent. Future targets for local authority recycling and composting of municipal wastes are:

- *25% combined recycling and composting by 2006/2007 with a minimum of 10% each of recycling and composting*
- *40% combined recycling and composting by 2009/2010 with a minimum of 15% each of recycling and composting*

Regional Waste Plans

The National Waste Strategy for Wales (Wise About Waste) recognised the need for the development of significant waste management infrastructure in order to achieve Sustainable Waste Management Objectives. The need for infrastructure development was also recognised in Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 21 Waste (TAN 21). TAN 21 recognises that the land use planning system has an important role to play in facilitating sustainable waste management. In order to achieve this, TAN 21 sets out a regional waste planning process to assist in the delivery of identified waste management facilities in Wales.

The purpose of the Regional Waste Plans are to provide a landuse planning document to assist the Authorities in Wales to plan for future waste management facilities, that will be required to treat or dispose of most forms of waste produced in the different regions including industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, hazardous waste and municipal waste.

There are three regional waste plans in Wales - North Wales, South East Wales, and South West Wales plans.

South East Wales Regional Waste Plan

The Regional Waste Plan provides a long-term strategic waste management strategy and land-use planning framework for the sustainable management of wastes and recovery of resources in South East Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government has given the responsibility of preparing, monitoring and reviewing the plan to the South East Wales Regional Waste Group. This group is led by a Steering Group of councillors from the 11 local planning authorities in the region with a Technical Group of officers from local government, the Welsh Assembly Government, Environment Agency Wales and other government bodies, and representatives from the waste industry and environmental groups.

The first Regional Waste Plan was agreed by the Members Steering Group, endorsed by all of the local authorities in the region and published in March 2004.

The Regional Waste Plan 1st Review process commenced in April 2005. An extensive public and stakeholder consultation on the Consultation Draft Regional Waste Plan 1st Review document took place for 10 weeks between 15 October 2007 and 24 December 2007. The final Regional Waste Plan 1st Review document will be published in 2008 after taking into account the feedback received during the consultation period.

Consultation Draft: Regional Waste Plan: 1st Review

The Regional Waste Plan provides a long-term strategic waste management strategy and land-use planning framework for the sustainable management of wastes and recovery of resources in South East Wales.

The vision of the RWP 1st Review is to provide a land-use planning framework for the sustainable management of wastes and recovery of resources in South East Wales. The aims of the RWP 1st Review are:

- To minimise adverse impacts on the environment and human health.
- To minimise adverse social and economic impacts and maximise social and economic opportunities.
- To meet the needs of communities and businesses.
- To accord with the legislative requirements, targets, principles and policies set by the European and national legislation and policy framework.

The RWP 1st Review contains two separate main elements - the RWP Technology Strategy which provides strategic information on the types waste of management / resource recovery facilities required in South East Wales; and the RWP Spatial Strategy, which provides strategic information on the types of locations likely to be acceptable.

These two elements have been developed through different processes; they tackle different issues and have been presented separately. The RWP 1st Review does not bring the two elements together in order to identify which technologies should be located at which site or in which Area of Search. The process of combining the two elements is a policy making exercise which can only be undertaken at the local level though the Local Development Plan preparation process.

The RWP Technology Strategy

Strategic waste management Options are alternative combinations of waste management technologies that would enable the region to meet or exceed legislative targets. Individual technologies for managing waste cannot be considered in isolation – they need to be utilized in combination in an integrated recovery and disposal strategy for all waste streams.

In order to review the RWP Technology Strategy, four main alternative strategic waste management Options covering the main treatment technologies for residual waste were generated:

- Option 1 – A landfill-led strategy for residual waste.
- Option 2 – An Energy from Waste-led strategy for residual waste.

- Option 3 – A Mechanical Biological Treatment-led strategy for residual waste.
- Option 4 – An Autoclave-led strategy for residual waste.

Each main Option was divided into sub-Options, which were considered to represent a sufficient range of choices for dealing with waste in South East Wales.

The Options were assessed using a range of techniques and as no single best option emerged, the best performing seven sub-Options in the Sustainability Appraisal were presented for consultation as alternative RWP Waste Technology Strategies that would enable South East Wales to meet or exceed legislative targets:

- *Sub-Option 2a* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes, where possible, being managed by high levels of Pyrolysis
- *Sub-Option 2c* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes, where possible, being managed by high levels Incineration with energy recovery
- *Sub-Option 3a* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes being managed by Mechanical Biological Treatment followed by Pyrolysis.

- *Sub-Option 3b* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes being managed by Mechanical Biological Treatment followed by Gasification.
- *Sub-Option 3c* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes being managed by Mechanical Biological Treatment followed by Incineration.
- *Sub-Option 3d* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes being managed by Mechanical Biological Treatment followed by Refuse Derived Fuel to off-site energy use.
- *Sub-Option 4d* – High source segregated recycling and composting levels with all remaining residual wastes being managed by Autoclave followed by Refuse Derived Fuel to offsite energy use.

The seven sub-Options put forward for consultation as alternative RWP Waste Technology Strategies:

- are the best practicable environmental sub-Options;
- maximise the use of unavoidable waste as a resource through high source segregated recycling and composting levels; and therefore
- minimise the use of Energy from Waste and landfill.

The RWP Spatial Strategy

The RWP Spatial Strategy contains two elements:

a) estimates of the total land area required for new in-building waste management/resource recovery facilities, an analysis of the potentially available land area for new in-building facilities on *existing* land use class B2 'general industrial' employment sites, major industry sites and B2 sites that have already been allocated in development plans, and a list of these sites.

b). 'Areas of Search' maps for use in identifying *new* sites for in-building and open-air waste management / resource recovery facilities.

Advances in technology and the introduction of new legislation, policies and practices mean that many modern waste management / resource recovery facilities on the outside look no different to any other industrial building and on the inside contain industrial de-manufacturing processes or energy generation activities that are no different to many other modern industrial processes in terms of their operation or impact. For this reason, many existing land use class B2 'general industrial' employment sites, existing major industrial areas, and new B2 sites allocated in development plans will be suitable locations for the new generation of in-building

waste management facilities this will be required in accordance with the RWP Technology Strategy.

The estimated total land area required in South East Wales for new in-building facilities by 2013 for the seven sub-Options ranges from between 48 hectares to 108 hectares. The analysis of the potentially available land area on existing B2 or major industry sites and B2 sites that have already been allocated in development plans has shown a surplus of developable land available.

The generation and assessment of Areas of Search for in-building and open-air facilities has been undertaken through a Sustainability Appraisal process that incorporated the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment, using a Geographical Information System to produce Areas of Search maps.

The Areas of Search identify

1st Areas of Search – identified as areas appropriate for waste management development due to the presence of appropriate site characteristics (such as proximity to the road network) and few significant environmental constraints;

2nd, 3rd and 4th Areas of Search – identified as those areas that cannot be excluded from consideration as appropriate areas, but where a greater level of constraint or constraints exists; and

Exclusion Areas – identified as those areas that, on the basis of clear planning policy, have been excluded from consideration as appropriate for waste management development.

Local Development Plan

A range of actions and circumstances will be necessary to achieve the implementation of the RWP 1st Review. Local Planning Authorities should include in their development plan, elements of the RWP that are germane to its area and individual Local Planning Authorities should determine actual locations of facilities and make provisions in their development plans. The RWP Technology Strategy and RWP Spatial Strategy will be brought together through the Local Development Plan preparation process in individual Unitary Authority areas in order to identify appropriate sites for waste management / resource recovery facilities.

3. LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

A Better Life: Our Community Plan 2004-14

'A Better Life' is the Community Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf. It sets out a framework through which *'Rhondda Cynon Taf will be a community where everyone who lives, works in or visits the area will enjoy the benefits of a better quality of life, achieving their potential, while helping to develop and protect the area for the benefit for others'*. The Community Plan contains five action themes which are:

- *Safer Communities*
- *Our Living Space*
- *Our Health & Well Being*
- *Boosting our Local Economy*
- *Learning for Growth*

The action themes are developed under chapter headings and set out the goals that will be achieved to deliver the objectives of each action theme.

Under 'Our Living Space', one of the key measures of progress includes the amount of waste recycled. Rhondda Cynon Taf aims to become a clean and environmentally friendly community recycling more and creating less waste.

RCT Waste Strategy 2001/2002: Respecting Waste

The Waste Strategy sets out the Council's objectives with regard waste. These are:-

- to change the culture within Rhondda Cynon Taf, so that everybody is more aware of the implications of their waste disposal choices and gives due consideration to the quality of their local environment when making their choices.
- to minimise the creation of waste within Rhondda Cynon Taf
- to promote fully the reuse, recycling and reduction of waste within Rhondda Cynon Taf and to maximise the

creation of new associated business and employment opportunities.

- to dispose of all residual waste in the most environmentally friendly manner.

The Strategy sets out an Action Plan containing 12 recommended Action Points. These include measures to introduce kerbside recycling schemes, green waste collection and composting. Of particular relevance to the land use plan:-

Action 4

- supports existing and new 'bring sites'.

Action 5

- the development of a clean materials recycling facility
- investigation into the suitability & viability of a gasification unit
- the provision for transporting waste out of the County Borough when necessary
- a phased reduction of landfill as quickly as possible

Action 7

- Supporting links between economic regeneration strategies and waste strategy to ensure the encouragement of new businesses that will contribute towards employment generation and a reduction in waste to landfill.

Action 10

- an analysis of the following waste management options

- * refuse derived fuel production
- * anaerobic digestion facilities
- * residual waste sorting facilities

4. KEY ISSUES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

The key issues to be addressed by the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP have been identified by making an assessment of the following:

- The results of pre deposit consultation with key stakeholders;
- The results of the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Exercise; and
- An overview of baseline social, economic and environmental information.

The issues identified through this process will inform directly the development of the spatial strategy for the LDP.

Pre-deposit Consultation with Key Stakeholders

No waste related issues identified.

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Exercise

Key Issues – Waste

- Rhondda Cynon Taf show a net import of waste to its' landfill sites of 132,000 tonnes in 2003
- Rhondda Cynon Taf has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to neighbouring County Boroughs.

The scoping exercise also set out the SA Framework and potential targets and indicators in relation to employment and the economy.

Overview of Baseline Social, Economic and Environmental Information

Baseline information

- Municipal waste arisings in Rhondda Cynon Taf for 2004/05 stood at 131,777 tonnes. There was an average annual growth in arisings of 2.18% over the previous 6 year period compared with the SE Wales average of 2.92% (Regional Waste Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2006).
- Average household waste arisings per household for 2004/05 stood at 1.332 kilogram's compared with the

SE Wales average of 1.284kg (Regional Waste Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2006).

- Only 15.6% of municipal waste was recycled and composted in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2004/05 compared with 20.7% in SE Wales as a whole (Regional Waste Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2006).

5. PREFERRED STRATEGY FOR THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The objectives of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP are to

- Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill and making adequate provision for waste facilities in accordance with the findings of the Regional Waste Plan.

Development Strategy - Waste Management

The Strategy aims to achieve compatibility with the Regional Waste Plan by supporting appropriate waste management measures to meet Landfill Directive targets by 2013. A hierarchy of waste facilities is supported.

In order to meet the capacity requirements identified in the SE Wales Regional Waste Plan, the following Strategic Waste sites are identified to provide for a range of waste management options, including recycling, and composting, on a regional basis:-

1. at the Bryn Pica site in the Cynon Valley (including landfilling of residual wastes);
2. at Treforest Industrial Estate;
3. at Hirwaun Industrial Estate;
4. at other B2 employment sites as appropriate.

Appropriate waste treatment options aimed at reducing the current emphasis on landfilling are being examined by the Council, which may involve the consideration of other sites. A network of sites for local waste management facilities will also be identified including appropriate provision in the 8 proposed strategic sites.

The following Strategic Employment Policy is included in the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan : Preferred Strategy (January 2007).

SP 13 - Waste

The sustainable management of waste arising in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be facilitated by:

- a) Supporting initiatives for waste reduction and promoting more use of existing facilities for re-use and materials recovery;**
- b) the provision of new facilities for re-use, recycling and composting;**
- c) the development of new technological initiatives;**
- d) reducing the amount of waste disposed of by landfill**
- e) new waste related initiatives which link**

Summary of Preferred Strategy Representations

No representations were received to Paragraph 6.29 –6.31 – Waste Management or SP 13 – Waste Management.

6. DRAFT LDP POLICY

Revised Strategic Policy

SP 13 - Waste

The sustainable management of waste arising in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be facilitated by:

- a) Supporting initiatives for waste reduction and promoting more better use of existing facilities for re-use and materials recovery;**
- b) ~~the provision of~~ providing new facilities for re-use, recycling and composting;**
- c) developing new technological initiatives;**
- d) reducing the amount of waste disposed of by landfill**
- e) introducing new waste related initiatives which that link with economic regeneration and community based strategies.**

The Strategy aims to achieve compatibility with the Regional Waste Plan by supporting appropriate waste management measures to meet Landfill Directive targets by 2013. A hierarchy of waste facilities is supported.

In order to meet the capacity requirements identified in the SE Wales Regional Waste Plan, the following Strategic Waste sites are identified to provide for a range of waste management options, including recycling, and composting, on a regional basis:-

1. at the Bryn Pica site in the Cynon Valley (including landfilling of residual wastes);
2. at Treforest Industrial Estate;
3. at Hirwaun Industrial Estate;
4. at other B2 employment sites as appropriate.

Appropriate waste treatment options aimed at reducing the current emphasis on landfilling are being examined by the Council, which may involve the consideration of other sites. A network of sites for local waste management facilities will also be identified including appropriate provision in the 8 proposed strategic sites.

Area-wide Policies

POLICY WM1 – Sites for Waste Management Facilities (Locational Criteria)

In meeting local and regional requirements for new and improved waste management facilities the following locations will be preferred:

- a) Sites currently used for waste purposes;**

- b) B2 employment sites, whether existing or new allocations, particularly where opportunities exist for development of the Eco Park concept;**
- c) Derelict or degraded land (including the Strategic Sites);**
- d) Suitable redundant buildings;**

Justification

This Plan, in seeking to meet the capacity requirements identified in the Regional Waste Plan (RWP), has allocated specific sites in Policies WM N1, WM N2, WM N3, WM S1, WM S2 and WM S3.. Together with existing facilities, these provide for the management of the bulk of municipal waste arising during the Plan Period. In providing for additional facilities which will be required to meet the provisions of the RWP, further sites will need to be investigated which will take into account factors such as Best Practicable Environmental Option, the Waste Hierarchy and the Proximity Principle.

The above policy provides locational criteria in order to inform the process and to provide a degree of certainty in assessing sites for additional facilities that may be required during the Plan Period. These would include sites for commercial and industrial waste, inert waste, composting, regional scale facilities, and potential technological developments such as gasification.

Proposals for waste related operations associated with mineral working, involving restoration, the use of inert waste,

tipping of mineral waste and recycling of aggregates will need to be considered in the context of related policies in the Minerals Chapter, including draft policies (to be added)

POLICY WM2 – Sites for Waste Management Facilities – General Criteria

Proposals for the management and treatment of waste will be considered favourably, provided that: -

- a) They meet the locational criteria in Policy WM1;
- b) A need has been established, either in a local or regional context;
- c) There are no unacceptable detrimental effects on neighbouring land uses including residential amenity;
- d) They are acceptable in terms of highway and transportation considerations;
- e) There are effective measures for the protection of environmental interests, including the need to address noise, effects on air and water quality, landscape protection and design considerations;
- f) Suitable measures for energy recovery and/or the beneficial after use of products are incorporated;
- g) Where appropriate, there are acceptable proposals for restoration, aftercare and after-use.

Justification

The above Policy aims to establish a set of criteria which complement Policy WM1 in assessing potential waste management schemes. Particular regard will need to be given to factors such as the proposed scale of operations and the nature of the waste stream involved. In determining planning applications sufficient information will be required in order to allow proper assessment of the likely environmental impact. Where appropriate, proposals should be accompanied by a formal Environmental Impact Assessment.

POLICY WM3 – Waste Management Provision in New Development

Provision at an appropriate scale, for facilities for the storage, recycling, and other management of waste, will be sought in new development proposals.

Justification

In providing for other forms of uses, particularly in large scale housing, employment, retail and mixed use schemes, it will be important to ensure that provision of integrated facilities for waste management are incorporated. Proposals for the development of the 8 Strategic Sites will be required to demonstrate that the requirement for waste management facilities has been fully considered in conjunction with the Council's Waste Services Division.

Suitable arrangements should be made for the collection of wastes at easily accessible sites within the development. Dependent on the scale of development, a hierarchy of waste facilities will be sought which will complement existing provision in the area. These would range from household scale composting and recycling facilities which can be integrated in the overall design and layout of housing schemes, to recycling banks in retail and employment developments. Adequate access, egress and manoeuvring for collection vehicles should be allowed for in layouts.

Developers will be required to consult with the Council's Waste Services Division to establish the likely extent and nature of the facilities that will be required. Ideally minimisation and waste recovery initiatives should be applied at each stage of the development process. The use of secondary aggregates, for example, will be encouraged at the construction stage.

Northern Strategy Area

POLICY WM N1 – Landfill and Waste Management Facilities (Bryn Pica)

Land at Bryn Pica, which is identified on the Proposals Map, is allocated for waste management purposes, including

- a) Landfilling;**
- b) A Materials Recycling Facility;**

- c) Community Recycling Facilities;**
- d) Composting facilities;**
- e) Further waste related initiatives as appropriate.**

Justification

Since the closure of the Nantygwyddon Landfill site in the Rhondda Valley in 2003, operations have been concentrated at the Bryn Pica facility near Aberdare. The site is operated by Amgen Cymru, a Local Authority Waste Disposal Company (LAWDAC) wholly owned by the Council.

A phased reduction of landfill is programmed through recycling, composting and waste reduction initiatives, coupled with a reduction in waste from other areas that is transported into the County Borough for landfill disposal. The new materials recycling facility and the composting facilities at Bryn Pica will help the company to diversify and remain economically viable. In order to reduce environmental impact heavy traffic is being, and will continue to be, diverted via the A465 rather than through the village of Llwydcoed.

POLICY WM N2 – Waste Management Facilities (Hirwaun)

A site will be identified at the Hirwaun Strategic Site for waste transfer, treatment and/or reduction facilities.

Justification

The Strategic Site at Hirwaun has locational advantages, being well related to the strategic transportation network and with potential for a rail link. The existing industrial estate, along with the new employment allocations in the area will enhance the area's role as an economic 'hub'. With excellent access to adjoining Local Authority areas, a new site will have the potential to play a key role in providing facilities of regional importance.

In advance of the Council's Waste Management tendering process, the exact nature of the facilities to be provided is unknown. However, given Hirwaun's strategic location and the allocation of a major area of new development at the Strategic Site, which will further contribute to the demand for waste management facilities, it is appropriate that new waste facilities are developed at Hirwaun.

At this location, in close proximity to the National Park Boundary, it will be important to ensure that a good standard of design can be achieved. Modern technological solutions aimed at eliminating potentially polluting air emissions and water discharges will also be necessary. In identifying an appropriate site, the requirements of Policy WM 2 must also be met.

POLICY WM N3 – Community Recycling Centres

The following sites will be safeguarded for the continuing or future use as Community Recycling Centres:-

- a) Dinas**
- b) Treorchy;**
- c) Ferndale;**
- d) Aberdare (Bryn Pica)**
- e) Gelli**

Justification

The Council's Waste Strategy 'Respecting Waste' set out the Council's intention to develop traditional Civic Amenity Sites, which were simply waste disposal sites, to Community Recycling Centres. Community Recycling Centres are centres which provide a range of recycling containers for the sorting and separation of waste into appropriate streams for re-use and recycling.

Community Recycling Centres are an important component of the Council's Waste Management Programme and this policy will ensure that current and future sites are safeguarded.

Southern Strategy Area

POLICY WM S1 – Waste Management Facilities (Treforest)

Land at Treforest Industrial Estate, which is identified on the Proposals Map, will be safeguarded as a Central Materials Recycling Facility.

Justification

Kerbside recycling services for green waste and dry mixed recyclables serve 66,000 households in the County Borough. Capacity at the existing sorting facility at Coedcae Lane is limited. The Council's Waste Strategy and Action Plan has identified a need for a central purpose built sorting, bulking and transfer facility.

The facility will provide for up to 50,000 tonnes a year throughput; along with an associated transfer loading station of up to 70,000 tonnes a year to allow for integrated recycling and waste collections. This, together with existing sites will meet the Regional Waste Plan (RWP) capacity requirement of 70,500 tonnes per annum for municipal waste. The parallel development at Bryn Pica is complementary to the Council's proposals, but geared towards recovering more value from commercial rather than household wastes.

POLICY WM S2 – Community Recycling Centres

The following sites will be safeguarded for the continuing or future use as Community Recycling Centres:-

a) Pontyclun

Justification

The Council's Waste Strategy 'Respecting Waste' set out the Council's intention to develop traditional Civic Amenity Sites, which were simply waste disposal sites, to Community Recycling Centres. Community Recycling Centres are centres which provide a range of recycling containers for the sorting and separation of waste into appropriate streams for re-use and recycling.

Community Recycling Centres are an important component of the Council's Waste Management Programme and this policy will ensure that current and future site are safeguarded.

POLICY WM S3 – Waste Management Facilities (Llanilid)

A site will be identified at the Llanilid Strategic Site for waste transfer, treatment and/or reduction facilities.

Justification

The Strategic Site at Llanilid has locational advantages, being well related to the strategic transportation network. With excellent access to adjoining Local Authority areas, a new site will have the potential to play a key role in providing facilities of regional importance.

In advance of the Council's Waste Management tendering process, the exact nature of the facilities to be provided is unknown. However, given Llanilid's strategic location and the allocation of major areas of new development in the southern part of the Borough, it is appropriate that new waste facilities are developed at Llanilid.

At this location, in close proximity to the Dragon Film Studio development, it will be important to ensure that a good standard of design and a satisfactory relationship with adjoining uses is achieved. Modern technological solutions aimed at eliminating potentially polluting air emissions and water discharges will also be necessary. In identifying an appropriate site, the requirements of Policy WM 2 must also be met.

7. FURTHER ADVICE

If you require any further advice or assistance in respect this or other LDP documents or wish to be placed on the Council's consultation database please contact a member of the Local Development Plan Team at:

Development & Regeneration Unit,
Floor 5,
Ty Pennant,
Catherine Street,
Pontypridd
CF37 2TB

Email: LDP@rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk

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