Worcestershire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Authority Monitoring Report

January to December 2021

Contents

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
- LDS adopted September 2021

The Local Development Scheme was updated in September 2021 to reflect progress and remaining steps towards the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan, as well as to make some adjustments to the milestones for the development of the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), and the review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

The milestones in each iteration are set out below.

The current Local Development Scheme is available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lds.

Minerals Local Plan

Milestones set out in LDS adopted September 2020

The following milestones fell wholly or partly within the 2021 AMR monitoring year:

Consultation on main modifications was anticipated during Q1-Q3 2021 (Target met)

The September 2020 LDS stated that consultation on proposed main modifications and accompanying assessments was expected to take place during Q1-Q3 2021, with exact timing to be determined by completion of the Sustainability Appraisal and allowing for any pre-election period as required. Progress was on course to achieve this, with consultation originally commencing on 2nd August 2021 and due to finish on 13th September 2021. However, the Council identified an issue with some of the data shown on the draft policies map due to the data having become corrupted. The original consultation was therefore ceased on 10th August 2021 to ensure that representations about matters affected by the policies map would not be materially disadvantaged by being based on incorrect information.

The consultation was restarted on 31st August 2021, running until 12th October 2021. This meant that it commenced during Q3 as anticipated, but ran into the start of Q4 2021.

Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25) was anticipated Q3 or Q4 2021 and **Adoption (Regulation 26) was anticipated Q4 2021 or Q1 2022 (Targets missed)**

The delays to the consultation on Main Modifications set out above meant that the Inspector's Report was no longer anticipated to be received in Q3 or Q4 of 2021 as per the September 2020 LDS and therefore that Adoption would not be possible in Q4 2021 or Q1 2022. The LDS was therefore updated in September 2021.

Milestones set out in LDS adopted September 2021

Independent examination (Reg 24) was anticipated to be completed by Q1 2022 (Target missed)

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.

Receipt of Inspectors' Report (Regulation 25) was anticipated Q4 2021 or Q1 2022 and **Adoption (Regulation 26) was anticipated Q2 2022 (Targets missed)**

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.

Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document

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.

Waste Core Strategy

Milestones set out in LDS adopted September 2020

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.

Target:

Satisfaction with consultation methods employed.

2021 Performance:

No data available.

Trend:

2020: No data available.

2019: 71% of respondents were satisfied with the consultation process.

Explanation:

During 2021 none of the consultations sent out asked for feedback on the satisfaction of the consultation methods employed.

Further information:

N/A

Indicator SCI2: Response rates to planning policy consultations.

Target:

The SCI does not set specific targets.

2021 Performance:

3.5%

Trend:

2020: 0.9% response rate

2019: 4.3% and 11.5% response rates

Explanation:

One consultation was undertaken in 2021. This was the Main Modifications consultation on the Minerals Local Plan. The consultation was sent to 718 consultees. There were 25 responses, giving

an overall response rate of 3.5%. This low response rate is expected due to the nature of the consultation as part of the examination process.

Indicator SCI3: Satisfaction levels with the planning application process/service.

Target:

Zero complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman, court decisions against the council, or appeals upheld.

2021 Performance:

Zero complaints or appeals upheld.

Trend:

2020: Zero complaints or appeals upheld.

2019: Zero complaints or appeals upheld.

Explanation:

Within the monitoring period, no complaints were upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman, no court decisions were made against the council, and no appeals were upheld.

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.

Indicator M1. Permissions for minerals development granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding.

Target:

None

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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).

Indicator M2. Permissions for minerals development granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality.

Target:

None

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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 water quality (0 of 2).

Indicator M3. Permissions for minerals development that include provision for energy efficiency.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

0% (0 of 1 application).

Trend:

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

2019: 0% (0 of 2 applications).

Explanation:

One application was determined for minerals development which did not include measures for energy efficiency. In this case, this was believed to be acceptable due to the limited scope to apply energy efficiency measures as the application was for minerals extraction with processing activities to be undertaken off-site (i.e. beyond the scope of this application), thus limiting the ability for this application to deliver energy efficiency measures.

Indicator M4. Permissions having an unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character, scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, battlefields or registered historic parks and gardens.

Target:

None

2021 Performance:

No permissions for minerals development granted with unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, battlefields, or registered historic parks and gardens (0 of 1 application).

Trend:

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

2019: No permissions for minerals development granted with unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, battlefields, or registered historic parks and gardens (0 of 2 applications).

Indicator M5. Permissions granted in the Malvern Hills or Cotswolds AONBs.

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

One application was determined for minerals development in 2021, however this was not located in the Malvern Hills or Cotswolds AONB.

Indicator M6. Permissions for minerals development that take into account local characteristics.

Target:

No unacceptable adverse impact on local characteristics.

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

2019: No permissions for minerals development granted with unacceptable adverse impact on local characteristics (0 of 2).

Indicator M7. Permissions for minerals development that take into account amenity considerations.

Target:

No unacceptable adverse impact on amenity.

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

2019: No permissions for minerals development granted with unacceptable adverse impact on amenity (0 of 2).

Indicator M8. Permissions granted in accordance with highways advice.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

100% of permissions granted in accordance with highways advice (1 of 1).

Trend:

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

2019: 100% of permissions granted in accordance with highways advice (2 of 2).

Indicator M10. Applications for minerals development determined within 13 weeks (16 weeks for EIA development), or within an agreed extension of time.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

100% of applications determined within 13 weeks (16 weeks for EIA development), or within an agreed extension of time (1 of 1).

Trend:

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

2019: 100% of applications determined within 13 weeks (16 weeks for EIA development), or within an agreed extension of time (2 of 2)

Explanation:

One application was determined for minerals development in 2021 which was determined within an agreed extension of time.

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.

Indicator M11a. Proportion of approved applications discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage.

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

2019: Increased to 100% (2 of 2)

Explanation:

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.

Indicator M11b. Number of proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage.

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

Decreased to 5 proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council.

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

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.

Indicator M9. Production of secondary and recycled aggregates.

Target:

Monitor baseline

2021 Performance:

No data

Trend:

2020: No data

2019: No data

Explanation:

National policy states that, so far as practicable, planning authorities should "take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials". Secondary aggregate is a term often used to describe mineral that is produced as a by-product of other mining or quarrying activities or as a by-product of an industrial process. There are currently no industrial processes in Worcestershire which are known to produce secondary aggregates. However, there is potential for some provision of secondary aggregates in the future. An Energy from Waste Plant at Hartlebury, near Kidderminster, commenced operation in 2017. This plant is predicted to produce 40,000 tonnes per annum of incinerator bottom ash which may be capable of being used as secondary aggregate, although further processing would be required to enable this.

An application for an Incinerator Bottom Ash Processing and Recovery Facility at Hill and Moor Landfill Site was granted in January 2017. This facility is tied to the life of the Hill and Moor Landfill Site and during the 2021 monitoring year was limited to processing 50,000 tonnes per annum of incinerator bottom ash.

Recycled aggregates arise from several sources, notably construction and demolition waste (C&D waste) such as from the demolition of buildings, asphalt planings from road resurfacing, and railway track ballast. "Recycling" aggregates involves the processing of waste materials to remove unwanted or inappropriate material such as fines, wood, plastic and metal. It will usually include crushing and screening. The recycled aggregate is then re-used, usually for a less demanding application. A guidance note was prepared by representatives from the National Waste Technical Advisory Board Chairs and Aggregate Working Party Chairs in May 2022 outlining various options available for the collection and collation of data to estimate arisings and sales of recycled aggregates and will be taken into account when reviewing Worcestershire’s minerals and/or waste planning policy

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.

Indicator M12a. Annual production of primary land won aggregates (Sand and Gravel).

Target:

Monitor baseline

2021 Performance:

0.705 million tonnes

Trend:

2020: 0.377 million tonnes

2019: 0.648 million tonnes

Indicator M12b. Annual production of primary land won aggregates (Crushed Rock).

Target:

Monitor baseline

2021 Performance:

0 tonnes.

Trend:

2020: 0 tonnes.

2019: 0 tonnes.

Explanation:

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 AWPs and relevant Minerals Planning Authorities.

Indicator M13. Landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves

Target:

Minimum 7 years

2021 Performance:

3.42 years

Trend:

2020: 2.94 years

2019: 4.60 years

Explanation:

The landbank is calculated annually in the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) for Worcestershire. The2021 LAA includes data up to 31st December 2021 and is available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/laa. The landbank at the end of 2021 was calculated based on permitted reserves of 3.42 million tonnes against an annual production guideline of 0.827 million tonnes.

Although the target was not met in 2021, the new Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan has since been developed and adopted in 2022. This plan allocates a large number of Areas of Search and sets out a framework to enable the target to be met in future years. The performance of this will continue to be monitored.

Indicator M14. Landbank of permitted crushed rock reserves.

Target:

Minimum 10 years.

2021 Performance:

0 years.

Trend:

2020: 0 years.

2019: 0 years.

Explanation:

The landbank is calculated annually in the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) for Worcestershire. The 2021 LAA includes data up to 31st December 2021 and is available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/laa. There were no permitted crushed rock reserves in Worcestershire in 2021 and therefore the landbank is 0 years.

This issue has been considered in developing 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 AWPs and relevant Minerals Planning Authorities. The Minerals Local Plan establishes a framework to enable crushed

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

Indicator M15. Landbank of permitted clay reserves.

Target:

Minimum 25 years

2021 Performance:

64 to 69 years (estimated)

Trend:

2020: 65 to 70 years (estimated)

2019: 66 to 71 years (estimated)

Explanation:

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.

Indicator M16. Sufficient productive capacity for sand and gravel supply.

Target:

Monitor baseline (number of sites)

2021 Performance:

4 active sites.

Trend:

2020: 3 active sites.

2019: 4 sites (3 active).

Explanation:

[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).

Further information:

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

- Chadwich Lane Quarry, Chadwich Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove
- Clifton Quarry, Clifton Arles Wood, Severn Stoke
- Wildmoor Quarry, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove
- Ryall's Court Quarry (extraction), Ryall Court Lane, Ryall, Upton-upon-Severn & Ryall House Farm (Processing), Tewkesbury Road, Ryall, Upton-upon-Severn

Indicator M17. Sufficient productive capacity for crushed rock supply.

Target:

Monitor baseline

2021 Performance:

0 sites.

Trend:

2020: 0 sites.

2019: 0 sites.

Explanation:

There were no sites with permitted reserves of crushed rock at 31st December 2021 This means that Worcestershire has no productive capacity for crushed rock.

Indicator M18. Sufficient productive capacity for clay supply.

Target:

Monitor baseline

2021 Performance:

2 sites.

Trend:

2020: 2 sites.

2019: 2 sites.

Explanation:

Clay is worked in Worcestershire at two sites near Hartlebury, at New House Farm and Waresley quarries, with associated brickworks. Both these sites are operated by the same company.

Indicator M19. Permitted applications for minerals development which include a Consultation Statement.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

0% (0 of 1).

Trend:

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

2019: 0% (0 of 2).

Explanation:

One application was determined for minerals development in 2021. The applicant did not submit a consultation statement. This issue has been highlighted in previous AMRs, with action taken in the form of the adoption of the Validation Document as a mechanism intended to support the delivery of this objective. However, 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". The Minerals Local Plan was not yet adopted in this monitoring period, and therefore this indicator has been monitored in the AMR as a temporary measure prior to adoption. Future AMRs will monitor the adopted monitoring indicators within the MLP.

Indicator M20. Decisions where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision.

Previous AMRs have monitored whether decisions are being made where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision. Due to the advanced state of the development of the new Minerals Local Plan in this monitoring year (which was subsequently adopted in 2022), it is deemed unnecessary to assess this indicator for 2021.

Indicator M21. New mineral development in 'preferred areas'.

Previous AMRs have monitored whether new mineral development is being located in the 'preferred areas' as set out in the 1997 County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan. Due to the advanced state of the development of the new Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan (subsequently adopted in 2022) in this monitoring year, it is deemed unnecessary to assess this indicator for 2021.

Indicator M23. Annual production of silica sand.

Target:

Monitor baseline

2021 Performance:

Unknown.

Trend:

2020: Unknown.

2019: Unknown.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator M24. Landbank of permitted silica sand reserves.

Target:

Monitor baseline.

2021 Performance:

Unknown.

Trend:

2020: Unknown.

2019: Unknown.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator M25. Annual production of building stone.

Target:

Monitor baseline.

2021 Performance:

0 tonnes.

Trend:

2020: 0 tonnes.

2019: 0 tonnes.

Explanation:

Building stone has not been produced since the closure of Fish Hill Quarry near Broadway (2010) when it was worked as ancillary to crushed rock. Due to this, the annual production of building stone is 0 tonnes in this monitoring period.

Indicator M26. Landbank of permitted building stone reserves.

Target:

Monitor baseline.

2021 Performance:

0 years.

Trend:

2020: 0 years.

2019: 0 years.

Explanation:

Building stone has not been produced since the closure of Fish Hill Quarry near Broadway (2010) when it was worked as ancillary to crushed rock. As there are no permitted reserves in the county, the landbank of permitted building stone reserves is 0 years.

Indicator M27. Increase in GVA in Worcestershire from minerals development.

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

0.05% of Worcestershire GVA.

Trend:

2020: 0.02% of Worcestershire GVA.

2019: 0.06% of Worcestershire GVA.

Explanation:

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.

Indicators relating to planning applications for waste management development

Indicator W1. Permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on flooding

Target:

0% of permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on flooding

2021 Performance:

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on flooding)

Trend:

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on flooding)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on flooding)

Explanation:

No applications were permitted in 2021 for waste management development contrary to EA advice on flooding.

Indicator W2. Permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on water quality

Target:

0% of permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on water quality

2021 Performance:

0% (Of the six permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on water quality)

Trend:

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on water quality)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on water quality)

Explanation:

No applications were permitted in 2021 for waste management development contrary to EA advice on water quality.

Indicator W3. Permissions for waste management development that include measures for energy efficiency

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

17% (Of the six permissions granted, one included measures for energy efficiency)

Trend:

2020: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none included measures for energy efficiency)

2019: 0% (Of the nine permissions granted, none included measures for energy efficiency)

Explanation:

Whilst this target has technically been missed, some of the waste management applications that were permitted in 2021 were not for the types of development that would typically allow for energy efficiency measures. These included permissions for changes to conditions, including operating hours, whereby no physical development would be involved. As such, no action is considered necessary. 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. This will be given consideration when the WCS is reviewed and revised to ensure that any amended indicators are fit for purpose.

Indicator W4: Permissions for waste management development with a gross floor space of over 1000m2 gaining at least 10% of energy supply annually from renewable energy supplies

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

Indicator W4 looks at waste permissions with a gross floorspace of >1000m^2 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.

Indicator W5: Permissions for waste management development that include measures for water efficiency

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none included measures for water efficiency)

2019: 11% (Of the nine permissions granted, one included measures for water efficiency)

Explanation:

This indicator looks at how water demand has been reduced where possible and how water efficiency has been considered in the design and operation of all new built development (policy WCS11 (b)). The Waste Core Strategy includes a review trigger for this indicator of "Less than 90% of permissions comply for three years in any five". However, whilst this target has technically been missed, some of the waste management applications permitted in the last three years were not for the types of development that would typically allow for water efficiency measures. In many cases the type of application does not offer scope for water efficiency measures (for example, the development may include no buildings and may not use water within its operations) or, where there are water efficiency measures, they may be controlled through different regulatory frameworks (such as environmental permitting). As such, no action is considered necessary.

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. This will be given consideration when the WCS is reviewed and revised to ensure that any amended indicators are fit for purpose.

Indicator W6: Permissions for new landfill capacity that include landfill gas management systems

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Indicator W7: Permissions for new built waste management development that include provision for biodiversity enhancement

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 9(c). For the second year in a row this target has not been met. While some waste management applications may offer less scope than others for substantial biodiversity enhancement, it should still be possible for most new built development to include some form of provision, even if this is only relatively minor. This matter will be considered when the Waste Core Strategy is reviewed and revised, and will also take into account any legislative provisions requiring biodiversity net gain.

Indicator W8: Permissions that have an unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character, scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, battlefields or registered historic parks and gardens

Target:

No permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 9(b).

Indicator W9: Permissions for new waste management development granted in the Malvern Hills or Cotswolds AONB

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

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

Indicator W10: Permissions for new waste management development that take into account local characteristics

Target:

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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)

Explanation:

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

Indicator W11: Permissions for new waste management development [that] take into account amenity considerations

Target:

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 14.

Indicator W12: Permissions for new waste management development on greenfield sites

Target:

No relevant permissions granted on greenfield sites

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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

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

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 6.

Indicator W13: Permissions for new waste management development in the Green Belt

Target:

No unacceptable cumulative impact on the purposes of Green Belt designation

2021 Performance:

0 (Of six applications, none were in the Green Belt)

Trend:

2020: 0 (Of six applications, one was in the Green Belt, but no unacceptable cumulative impact)

2019: 0 (Of nine applications, five were in the Green Belt, but no unacceptable cumulative impact)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 13.

Indicator W14: Permissions granted in accordance with highways advice

Target:

100% of relevant permissions granted in accordance with Highways advice

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

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)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 8(c).

Indicator W24. Applications for Waste Management development determined within 13 weeks.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

100% (6 of 6)

Trend:

2020: 100% (6 of 6)

2019: 100% (9 of 9)

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W25a. Proportion of waste management applications discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage.

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

Remaining unchanged at 83% (5 of 6)

Trend:

2020: Increase to 83% (5 of 6)

2019: Increase to 78% (7 of 9)

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W25b. Number of waste management proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

10 proposals discussed.

Trend:

2020: 39 proposals discussed.

2019: 28 proposals discussed.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W26. Permitted applications for waste management which include a consultation statement.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

17% (1 of 6)

Trend:

2020: 0% (0 of 6)

2019: 22% (2 of 9)

Explanation:

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 not currently open to any review of the Waste Core Strategy to include a policy requirement for a consultation statement for all waste management applications. Requiring a consultation statement for every single waste management application - regardless of the characteristics of those applications - would likely be disproportionate.

Taking these issues into account, it is not considered this is a failure of the Waste Core Strategy which requires modifications to policies to rectify, and it has been determined that although there is a failure to deliver this objective, no actions are required at this time.

Indicator W27. Decisions where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision.

Target:

None

2021 Performance:

None.

Trend:

2020: None.

2019: None.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W24. Applications for Waste Management development determined within 13 weeks.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

100% (6 of 6)

Trend:

2020: 100% (6 of 6)

2019: 100% (9 of 9)

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W25a. Proportion of waste management applications discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage.

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

Remaining unchanged at 83% (5 of 6)

Trend:

2020: Increase to 83% (5 of 6)

2019: Increase to 78% (7 of 9)

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W25b. Number of waste management proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

10 proposals discussed.

Trend:

2020: 39 proposals discussed.

2019: 28 proposals discussed.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W26. Permitted applications for waste management which include a consultation statement.

Target:

100%

2021 Performance:

17% (1 of 6)

Trend:

2020: 0% (0 of 6)

2019: 22% (2 of 9)

Explanation:

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 not currently open to any review of the Waste Core Strategy to include a policy requirement for a consultation statement for all waste management applications. Requiring a consultation statement for every single waste management application - regardless of the characteristics of those applications - would likely be disproportionate.

Taking these issues into account, it is not considered this is a failure of the Waste Core Strategy which requires modifications to policies to rectify, and it has been determined that although there is a failure to deliver this objective, no actions are required at this time.

Indicator W27. Decisions where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision.

Target:

None

2021 Performance:

None.

Trend:

2020: None.

2019: None.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W28. Increase in GVA in Worcestershire from Waste Management.

Target:

Increase

2021 Performance:

1.2% Worcestershire GVA.

Trend:

2020: 0.9% of Worcestershire GVA.

2019: 1.1% of Worcestershire GVA.

Explanation:

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.

Indicator W29. Permitted 'other recovery' and disposal (excluding landfill) capacity at each level of the geographic hierarchy.

Target:

100% of new 'other recovery' and disposal (excluding landfill) capacity at level 1 and 2 of the geographic hierarchy.

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

2020: 0 of 1 relevant application permitted in level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy.

2019: No relevant applications.

Explanation:

In 2021 there were two applications for new 'other recovery' or disposal (excluding landfill) facilities in the county. In one of these cases, the application was within level 1 of the geographic hierarchy. In the other case, the application was permitted despite being in level 5 of the geographic hierarchy. This was an inert aggregate facility and was deemed to be acceptable on balance, because it is located on a strategic road and lorry route with the potential to serve local demand for construction and demolition waste management, as well as continuing to serve construction projects. It was also noted that Policy WCS 3 of the Waste Core Strategy, which sets a preference for the highest appropriate level of the geographic hierarchy, contains an element of flexibility.

Indicator W30. Permitted re-use, recycling, storage, sorting and transfer capacity at each level of the geographic hierarchy.

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

No relevant applications.

Trend:

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

2019: No relevant applications.

Explanation:

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

Indicators relating to waste management capacity

Indicator W16a. Local Authority Collected Waste sent to landfill

Target:

Decrease in percentage of local authority collected waste sent to landfill

2021 Performance:

A total of 13% of local authority waste was sent to landfill (increase).

Trend:

2020: 9%

2019: 11%

Explanation:

Landfill rates for Local Authority Collected Waste increased in 2021 to 13%. This is an increase compared to previous years, but does not indicate a dramatic change when compared to previous years. The 9% seen in 2020 was extraordinarily low compared to the period 2017-2019 where the percentage ranged between 15% and 11%, with all years between 2012 and 2018 being greater than 45%.

Further information:

Data sourced from WasteDataFlow, the web-based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.

Indicator W16b. Commercial and Industrial waste sent to landfill

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

Increased to 24%

Trend:

2020: 20%

2019: 18%

Explanation:

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.

Further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator gives combined data for Household, Commercial and Industrial waste (HCI) managed in Worcestershire. Please note, Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Household waste streams are not interchangeable, therefore LACW cannot be deducted from HCI figures to derive C&I data. HCI is therefore the best available data to indicate C&I and will be used unless better data becomes available in the future. However, there are several limitations with this data:

• It does not record the geographical origin of the waste managed.

• It does not record waste managed under an Environment Agency exemption (A waste exemption is a waste operation that is exempt from needing an environmental permit from the Environment Agency. Each exemption has specific limits and conditions that the holder must operate within).

Indicator W16c. Construction and Demolition waste sent to landfill

Target:

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

2020 Performance:

Unable to monitor

Trend:

Unable to monitor

Explanation:

There is no reliable data on how C&D waste arisings in Worcestershire are managed.

Further information:

The lack of reliable data is a concern nationally and was acknowledged in 2013 by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) in their report "Commercial and Industrial Waste in the UK and Republic of Ireland". As of publication of this AMR this concern was ongoing and not resolved.

Work has been undertaken by the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body into producing a methodology for estimating the quantity of recycled aggregates processed in an area. However, due to the limitations outlined in that document, and the fact it looks only at aggregate, it is not believed this methodology can accurately be used to monitor this indicator.

Indicator W16d. Hazardous waste sent to landfill

Target:

Decrease in percentage of hazardous waste sent to landfill

2021 Performance:

30%

Trend:

2020: 8%

2019: 62%

Explanation:

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.

Further information:

Data sourced from the Environment Agency's Hazardous Waste Interrogator

Indicator W17a. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of LACW waste

Target:

By 2020: 78%, with minimum of 50% re-use and recycling

2021 Performance:

87% (43% re-use and recycling)

Trend:

2020: 91% (43% re-use and recycling)

2019: 89% (44% re-use and recycling)

Explanation:

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy (WCS). At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. Although this date has now passed, until such time as new targets are set through WCS review and revision, the AMR will continue to monitor performance against the 2020 targets.

The target for at least 78% of LACW waste undergoing re-use, recycling or 'other recovery' was comfortably met in 2021. However, the target states that this should include at least 50% managed by re-use or recycling (including composting), and this element of the target has not been met. In 2021, the proportion re-used or recycled was 43%, which is broadly consistent with recent years (43% in 2020 and 44% in 2019) and is below the 2020 target.

LACW waste in Worcestershire is managed through the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) (2004), which was reviewed in 2011. As no planning applications for facilities which manage LACW have been refused in 2012-2021, it has been judged that the Waste Core Strategy is not responsible for preventing the delivery of additional re-use and recycling capacity. Proposals for additional capacity or facilities are likely to be required in order to address this capacity gap, and the Waste Core Strategy continues to provide an enabling framework for such proposals. However, it is acknowledged that part of the target set in objective WO3 has not been met, and this will need to be addressed through review and revision of Worcestershire's waste planning policy.

Further information:

Data sourced from WasteDataFlow, the web-based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.

Indicator W17b. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of Commercial and Industrial waste

Target:

By 2020: 75%, with minimum of 55% re-use and recycling.

2021 Performance:

Decreased to 76% (percentage re-used and recycled cannot be monitored)

Trend:

2020: 80% (percentage re-used and recycled cannot be monitored)

2019: 82% (percentage re-used and recycled cannot be monitored)

Explanation:

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy (WCS). At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. Although this date has now passed, until such time as new targets are set through WCS review and revision, the AMR will continue to monitor performance against the 2020 targets.

Due to data limitations, the proportion of C&I waste sent for re-use and recycling cannot be accurately monitored. As noted below, data for Household, Commercial and Industrial waste is used as a proxy measure for C&I waste. However, the proportion sent for re-use, recycling or 'other recovery' is good, with 76% of waste managed this way, compared to the 2020 target of 75%.

Further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) gives combined data for Household, Commercial and Industrial waste (HCI) managed in Worcestershire. Please note, Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Household waste streams are not interchangeable. As such, LACW cannot be deducted from HCI figures to derive C&I data. HCI is therefore the best available data to indicate C&I and will be used unless better data becomes available in the future. There are, however, several limitations with this data:

• It does not record the geographical origin of the waste managed.

• It does not record waste managed under an Environment Agency exemption (a waste operation that is exempt from needing an environmental permit from the Environment Agency. Each exemption has specific limits and conditions that the holder must operate within).

Indicator W17c. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of Construction and Demolition waste

Target:

By 2020: 75%, with minimum of 55% re-use and recycling

2021 Performance:

Unable to monitor

Trend:

2020: Unable to monitor

2019: Unable to monitor

Explanation:

There is no reliable data on how C&D waste arisings in Worcestershire are managed.

Further information:

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy. At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. Although this date has now passed, until such time as new targets are set through WCS review and revision, the AMR will continue to monitor performance against the 2020 targets.

The lack of reliable data is a concern nationally and was acknowledged in 2013 by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) in their report "Commercial and Industrial Waste in the UK and Republic of Ireland". As of publication of this AMR this concern was ongoing and not resolved. This will need to be addressed through review and revision of Worcestershire's waste planning policy.

Work has been undertaken by the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body into producing a methodology for estimating the quantity of recycled aggregates processed in an area. However, due to the limitations outlined in that document, and the fact it looks only at aggregates, it is not believed this methodology can accurately be used to monitor this indicator.

Indicator W17d. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of Hazardous waste

Target:

By 2020: Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of 75% of hazardous waste (with a minimum of 55% re-use & recycling)

2021 Performance:

70% (0% re-use & recycling)

Trend:

2020: 92% (12% re-use & recycling)

2019: 38% (0.08% re-use & recycling)

Explanation:

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy. At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. Although this date has now passed, until such time as new targets are set through WCS review and revision, the AMR will continue to monitor performance against the 2020 targets.

The proportion of hazardous waste being managed through re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' decreased between 2020 and 2021 to 70%. This follows a rise between 2019 and 2020 from 38% to 92%. The 2021 performance is comparable to the performance in 2012-2014, when this indicator first began to be monitored. It is believed that operational decisions at waste management sites from 2014 onwards led to the reduction in hazardous waste treatment between 2015 and 2019, during which time the proportions were all comparatively worse than in 2021. There has been a return to <1% of hazardous waste being re-used and recycled. Data over the last ten years suggests that the proportion of hazardous waste that is re-used and recycled has never exceeded 12%, and the WCS re-use and recycling target is therefore unlikely to be achievable.

No planning applications for additional re-use or recycling capacity for hazardous waste were refused by the County Council in the monitoring period. It has therefore been judged that the Waste Core Strategy is not responsible for this failure. However, it may be unrealistic for a significant proportion of hazardous waste to be re-used or recycled and it may be appropriate for this issue to be reconsidered when the Waste Core Strategy is reviewed.

Further information:

Data sourced from the Environment Agency’s Hazardous Waste Interrogator, freely available to download.

Indicator W18. Adoption of appropriate policies regarding managing waste arisings from all new development in City, Borough and District Council DPDs

Target:

Policies adopted by all City, Borough and District Councils

2021 Performance:

All City, Borough and District Councils had relevant adopted policies in place

Trend:

2020: All City, Borough and District Councils had relevant adopted policies in place

2019: All City, Borough and District Councils had relevant adopted policies in place

Explanation:

No relevant DPDs were adopted within the monitoring period. Appropriate policies are contained within the extant Wyre Forest Core Strategy (adopted 2010), South Worcestershire Development Plan (adopted 2016), Bromsgrove District Plan (adopted 2017), and Borough of Redditch Local Plan (adopted 2017). WCC continues to engage with the city, borough and district councils on an ongoing basis under the duty to cooperate, to ensure that waste matters are reflected as necessary in emerging Local Plan reviews. Within the monitoring period, WCC contributed to the Wyre Forest Local Plan Review, supporting appropriate policy on waste through responding to the Main Modifications consultation in November 2021.

Further information:

The Local Plans adopted by the City, Borough and District Councils are available on their respective websites. Note that the three South Worcestershire authorities (Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council) are all covered by the single South Worcestershire Development Plan.

Indicator W19. Development permitted within 250m of waste management facilities against County Council advice

Target:

None

2021 Performance:

None (0 relevant responses)

Trend:

2020: None (0 relevant responses)

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

Explanation:

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

Indicator W20. Progress towards equivalent self-sufficiency in re-use and recycling capacity based on headline delivery milestones in Table 5 and Policy WCS 2.[2]

Target:

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

2021 Performance:

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

Trend:

2020: 93.4% (719,539 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 770,000 tonnes)

2019: 102% (745,341 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 727,850 tonnes)

Explanation:

In 2021 re-use and recycling capacity fell compared to 2020. This is the second year in a row in which the actual capacity fell. At the same time, the projected requirement from the WCS continues to increase year on year. This means the capacity has also reduced in percentage terms compared to the projected requirements in the WCS. Although a degree of fluctuation in capacity from year to year is not in itself a cause for concern and reflects the normal operation of the market, due to the age of the WCS projections and changes to national targets since the WCS was adopted, a review of self-sufficiency will need to be considered through review and revision of Worcestershire's waste planning policy. The review and revision will include consideration of whether the projections in the WCS are still accurate and whether the proportions of waste being managed through 'other recovery' are appropriate in relation to the amounts managed through re-use and recycling.

Further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) provides annual throughput figures for all waste management sites with an Environmental Permit in Worcestershire. The WDI is freely available online. The WDI contains details of all waste received and removed from permitted waste facilities in England, but not from exempted facilities. As such, the figures presented above are likely to under-represent the actual waste management capacity in Worcestershire.

This indicator is monitored by assessing the actual re-use and recycling capacity in the county against the "projected requirement" derived from the WCS. The WCS identified a "capacity gap", based on the baseline waste management capacity in Worcestershire and the level of waste arisings (need) projected over the life of the plan (taking account of the relevant recycling and recovery targets). To monitor whether equivalent self-sufficiency is being achieved the AMR needs to monitor actual capacity for the monitoring year against "WCS baseline + the projected capacity gap for that year = total projected requirement". In previous years, an error in monitoring meant that the AMR did not take the WCS baseline into account (i.e. it erroneously used only the capacity gap as the monitoring

[2] Please note that the figures for 2019 and 2020 were reported incorrectly in previous AMRs.

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

Indicator W21. Progress towards equivalent self-sufficiency in 'other recovery' capacity, based on headline delivery milestones in table 5 and Policy WCS 2.[3]

Target:

Achievement of headline delivery milestones for 'other recovery' capacity as set out in the Waste Core Strategy.

2021 Performance:

107% (298,208 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 279,100 tonnes)

Trend:

2020: 108% (298,209 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 276,000 tonnes)

2019: 118% (295,949 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 250,750 tonnes)

Explanation:

In 2021 'other recovery' capacity remained stable and was above the phased target capacity in the Waste Core Strategy. Although the actual capacity grew slightly from 2019 to 2020 and was then stable to 2021, as the projected requirements continue to increase this shows a decrease in percentage terms against the WCS targets between 2019 and 2021. A degree of fluctuation in capacity from year to year reflects the normal operation of the market, but due to the age of the WCS projections and changes to national targets since the WCS was adopted, a review of self-sufficiency will need to be considered as part of review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy. This review should consider whether the projections in the WCS are still accurate and whether the proportions of waste being managed through 'other recovery' are appropriate in relation to the amounts managed through re-use and recycling.

Further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) provides annual throughput figures for all waste management sites with an Environmental Permit in Worcestershire. The WDI is freely available online. The WDI contains details of all waste received and removed from permitted waste facilities in England, but not from exempted facilities. As such, the figures presented above are likely to slightly under-represent the actual waste management capacity in Worcestershire.

This indicator is monitored by assessing the actual 'other recovery' capacity in the county against the "projected requirement" derived from the WCS. To monitor whether equivalent self-sufficiency is being achieved the AMR needs to monitor actual capacity for the monitoring year against "WCS baseline + the projected capacity gap for that year = total projected requirement". In previous years, an error in monitoring meant that the AMR did not take the WCS baseline into account (i.e. it erroneously used only the capacity gap as the monitoring target, rather than the total projected requirement). The figures for 2019 and 2020 given above have been amended to correct this error.

[3] Please note that the figures for 2019 and 2020 were reported incorrectly in previous AMRs.

Indicator W22. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in sorting and transfer capacity.[4]

Target:

Achievement of headline delivery milestones for sorting and transfer capacity as set out in the Waste Core Strategy.

2021 Performance:

87.7% (839,292 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 956,500 tonnes)

Trend:

2020: 90.6% (866,850 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 956,500 tonnes)

2019: 82.5% (788,740 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 956,500 tonnes)

Explanation:

In 2021 sorting and transfer capacity was below the baseline in the Waste Core Strategy. This continues the trend from 2014 to 2020, during which period capacity was also below the baseline the WCS sought to maintain, although the overall trajectory since 2014 has been a steady increase towards the WCS baseline. A degree of fluctuation in capacity from year to year is to be expected and reflects the normal operation of the market. However, due to the age of the WCS projections, and changes to national targets since the WCS was adopted, a review of self-sufficiency - including whether the projections in the WCS are still appropriate - will need to be considered as part of review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) provides annual throughput figures for all waste management sites with an Environmental Permit in Worcestershire. The WDI is freely available online. The WDI contains details of all waste received and removed from permitted waste facilities in England, but not from exempted facilities. As such, the figures presented above are likely to slightly under-represent the actual waste management capacity in Worcestershire.

This indicator is monitored by assessing the actual sorting and transfer capacity and capacity of household recycling centres in the county against the baseline capacity of sorting and transfer and household recycling centre capacity at the time the WCS was adopted. For sorting and transfer capacity, no additional target was set in the WCS, as it was believed that the baseline capacity would be sufficient for the entire plan period. As such, there are no headline delivery milestones for this type of waste management capacity and the “projected requirement” will remain constant until any new requirements are established through review and revision of waste planning policy.

[4] Please note that the figures for 2019 and 2020 were reported incorrectly in previous AMRs.

Indicator W23a. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in disposal and landfill capacity for non-inert waste.

Target:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2021 Performance:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Trend:

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2019: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Explanation:

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 4,342,554m^3 of available void space, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 2,319,183m^3. This means that there is more non-inert landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected. There is therefore no capacity gap for disposal and landfill for non-inert waste. However, a requirement for further landfill capacity may need to be considered through review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Further information:

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.

Indicator W23b. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in disposal and landfill capacity for inert waste

Target:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2021 Performance:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Trend:

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2019: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Explanation:

The amount of inert waste landfilled in Worcestershire was 123,218 tonnes in 2021, leading to a cumulative 1,188,940 tonnes of inert waste landfilled in the county since 2009. This is 37% above the cumulative projection of 869,385 tonnes made in the Waste Core Strategy. As of 2021, there were 875,214 cubic metres of available void space across the county, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 2,079,615 cubic metres. This means that there is significantly less inert landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected, combined with significantly higher volumes of inert waste being landfilled. Whilst there is not currently a capacity gap for disposal and landfill of inert waste, the combination of the higher than predicted landfill rate and lower than predicted void space means that inert landfill capacity should be kept under review and may need to be considered through review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Further information:

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.

Indicator W23c. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in disposal and landfill capacity for hazardous waste

Target:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2021 Performance:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Trend:

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2019: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Explanation:

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.

Further information:

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.

Emerging Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan

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
- Historic Environment.

WCC gave a response to each of the representations in its 'Summary of issues raised in representations on Main Modifications (November 2021)' document, which can be made available electronically on request. Ultimately, it was the independent planning Inspectors who determined how each representation was taken into account in the final Main Modifications which they recommended as part of their report.

Emerging Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Mineral Site Allocations DPD took place from 28th June 2021 to 9th August 2021. Twelve responses to the consultation were received, five of which were from Duty to Co-operate bodies. All responses were provided to the independent consultants carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal.

Strategic Duty to Co-operate Issue: Waste

WCC participates in the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body (WM RTAB) which includes waste planning authorities, waste industry and voluntary and community sector representatives, providing a forum to help waste planning authorities take an overview of strategic waste issues.

Within the AMR monitoring period, WM RTAB met twice (on 10th June and 9th December). Key issues discussed included the group's draft Terms of Reference, and specifically how the percentage-based waste movements should be included with the DtC protocol.

In December 2021 WCC provided comments on a draft 'Approach to Recycled Aggregates Data' note for consideration by all TABs at a February 2022 meeting of TAB chairs.

Minerals and waste duty to co-operate activities relating to other public bodies'activities

Worcestershire County Council engages with other public bodies under the duty to co-operate to ensure strategic issues are fully considered. Most engagement involves issues that can be resolved through the sharing of information and constructive dialogue by letter/email, but some, depending on the issues involved, require ongoing dialogue and meetings.

Responses to planning policy and planning application consultations

Worcestershire County Council comments on the minerals and waste implications of applications made to the city, borough and district councils. Comments are also made in response to strategically significant development in and adjoining the county and on emerging Development Plan Documents. During the monitoring period January 2021 – December 2021, Worcestershire County Council made responses as follows:

- 5 Planning application responses
- 1 Neighbourhood Plan consultation response (Leigh and Bransford)
- 2 Local Plan consultation responses (Draft Black Country Plan 2039 Regulation 18 consultation and Shropshire Local Plan Regulation 19 pre-submission draft consultation)

Wider engagement with Duty to Co-operate partners

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:

Tri-county Minerals and Waste planning policy officer meetings between Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council

These duty to co-operate meetings provide an opportunity for each authority to update the other authorities on the preparation of their minerals and waste planning documents and to share information on current and forthcoming planning applications (especially those with cross-boundary implications). Within the monitoring period, a meeting was held on 17th June 2021. This meeting involved updates on minerals and waste policy progress, key matters arising from consultations, examinations, or current stages of plan development. There was also discussion over whether a Statement of Common Ground was needed for the Herefordshire M&W Plan that was nearing submission (this was progressed in 2022).

Meetings and exchanges between WCC and Worcestershire's city, borough and district councils to ensure minerals and waste safeguarding is reflected in Local Plan policies and allocations.

- March-April 2021: meetings and email exchanges between WCC and South Worcestershire Councils. WCC identified proposed SWDPR allocations that could have minerals and/or waste safeguarding implications. Ultimately agreed that the SWDPR would need to indicate which allocations needed minerals and/or waste safeguarding, and that further information would be shared on the strategic allocations.
- May-July 2021: email exchanges between WCC and South Worcestershire Councils to agree final wording relating to mineral and waste safeguarding for site allocations and strategic growth areas that would be used in the SWDPR Regulation 19 consultation.
- August/September 2021: email exchanges between WCC and Bromsgrove District Council to agree wording for Bromsgrove HELAA in relation to minerals and waste safeguarding.
- Nov 2021 – Feb 2022: email exchanges between WCC and South Worcestershire Councils. WCC commented on draft wording for mineral and waste safeguarding policy in the emerging SWDPR, including reference to which SWDPR site allocations would be required to undertake further safeguarding actions at planning application stage.

Meetings and exchanges between WCC and other county, city, borough and district councils

- 9th June 2021: meeting between WCC and the Black Country authorities. Updates were provided on the Black Country Plan progress and timetable. The Black Country authorities were working with other authorities and looking at a Green Belt review, but there was likely to be a significant shortfall in capacity to meet housing and employment land needs. The authorities were proposing to include a policy to require the prior extraction of minerals to be considered for sites over 5ha.
- September 2021: email exchanges between WCC and Shropshire Council to agree wording

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

Meeting and email exchanges between WCC and the Environment Agency

- 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.

Meetings and email exchanges between WCC and Natural England

- 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.