



The countryside charity  
Gloucestershire

**Change is inevitable: it should be for the better**

## **INTERIM POSITION STATEMENT 9 WASTE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this Position Statement is to set out the intentions of CPRE Gloucestershire (CPREG) in respect of waste planning and management, in anticipation of the review by the County Council of policies on that subject. An earlier CPREG position statement has been withdrawn.

Gloucestershire County Council as minerals and waste planning authority has published a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS), whose main purpose is to set out a programme and timetable for the review of development plan documents (DPDs) on both topics. CPRE treats them separately as they involve different planning issues.

The most important existing DPD for waste is the Waste Core Strategy (WCS), which was adopted in 2012 and runs to 2027. The MWDS states that a draft Waste Local Plan, to replace the WCS, is likely to be issued for consultation in early 2024. CPREG will respond to the consultation when the time comes. In the meantime, however, this interim statement sets out the current position on waste management in the County, taking into account two other documents, the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covering 2019 and 2020, and the Scoping Paper for the Duty to Co-operate as it affects planning for waste.

### **Background**

The management of waste in Gloucestershire changed significantly when the energy from waste facility at Javelin Park came into operation in October 2019. One of the intended effects was that landfill of residual municipal waste in the County should cease almost entirely. This has been achieved with the closure of landfill facilities, in particular the sites at Hempsted, Gloucester and at Wingmoor Farm near Bishop's Cleeve. These facilities however remain open for other waste management purposes including household recycling.

The Javelin Park facility has a capacity to handle up to 190,000 tonnes of waste a year, consisting of 90% all residual municipal waste and an element of other (commercial and industrial) waste from within the County or nearby. Other basic features of the facility are the ability to extract some recyclable material (eg metals) from the waste stream after

incineration and the generation of 20MW of energy, enough to power 25,000 homes. There are two residues: bottom ash, which makes up about 20% by weight of the input, and which can be used to make building materials; and lime-based residues from the flue gas treatment system, which are taken off site for treatment and disposal as hazardous waste.

Waste is transported directly to the plant by refuse collection vehicles from nearby areas or in larger vehicles from a number of waste transfer stations further away.

This arrangement is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, there are other important issues which the County Council must address in its review of the Waste Core Strategy and to which CPRE will in due course respond where appropriate.

### **Issues**

The County Council has itself identified issues to be covered in the new Waste Local Plan in the context of the duty to co-operate. These relate to the amount and nature of waste generated within the County, the import and export of waste, and specific issues arising from the location of waste management facilities in the Green Belt and in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All of these are important matters which CPREG will address.

#### *Recycling rates*

Recycling rates have steadily increased across the County in recent years. The target in Waste Core Strategy Policy WCS3 is for at least 60% of municipal waste to be recycled or composted by 2020. Refuse collection is the responsibility of district councils (rather than the County Council), and each council has its own policies. Recycling and composting rates inevitably vary; for example there will be less need, and less scope, for the recycling of garden waste in urban areas, where there is also often less room too for households to accommodate the different bins and boxes for other recyclable materials. There has been some concern about the potential effect of the existence of the Javelin Park facility on recycling rates. Councils can only encourage households to recycle; and this is not a matter on which CPREG can reasonably expect to exert much influence.

#### *Transport*

The Scoping Paper includes a table showing the origins, destinations and quantities of waste transported to and from Gloucestershire. Some of these areas, for example Halton Borough (now part of the Liverpool City Region), are located a long way from the County. It is likely that this is explained by long-standing contracts for the management of particular kinds of waste.

CPREG will address the issue of the scope for reducing the quantities of waste involved and distances travelled in the interests of sustainability.

### *Location of facilities*

The AMR lists a large number of waste management facilities of various kinds across the County, including waste transfer stations, household recycling centres and specialist facilities, for example for metals.

As part of the early stages of the review of the WCS, the County Council has invited landowners and others to submit details of other potential sites for the management of waste. This “call for sites” took place in October and November 2022. CPRE will examine the need for any new facilities in due course.

### **November 2022**

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**CPRE Gloucestershire Position Statements are regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. They should be read as a set.**