

ES8.1



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Local Development Plan

Hearing Session 8: Waste

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Examination 2012

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Submission

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SESSION 8 Waste

Introduction

This Statement has been prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in order to help facilitate appropriate discussion at the Waste Hearing Session. The Paper provides a response to the questions set by the Planning Inspector (Mr Vincent Maher).

Where the Council does not intend to provide any additional written evidence the Inspector's attention is directed to the relevant part of the Evidence Base, which in the view of the Council addresses the matters raised. The paper will not repeat evidence previously submitted for consideration.

The Council's detailed responses to the representations received on Waste are contained in the Report of Representations (**SD07b**).

Council Response to Inspector's Questions (questions in bold)

1. How does the Plan translate national and regional waste policy down to the local authority level? What is the logic for seeking to allocate between 0.4 and 4 hectares of land for waste management purposes?

How does the Plan translate national and regional waste policy down to the local authority level?

The Inspector's attention is drawn to the Waste Background paper (**SD51**, pages 5-14) which sets out national and regional waste policy in detail.

The Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales is Towards Zero Waste, One Wales: One Planet, (June 2010) (**W80**). This sets out national waste policy for the next 13 years. It places an emphasis upon ensuring that there is the correct level of waste infrastructure in place to meet the needs of Wales. The overarching strategy is then supported by a series of sector plans which are the delivery action plans for the overall strategy.

The Collections, Infrastructure and Markets plan will cover:

- An assessment of need for the closure of existing waste installations, the need for additional waste installations and, if necessary, the investments related thereto;
- Sufficient information on location criteria for site identification and on the capacity of future disposal or major recovery installations, if necessary; and
- General waste management policies, including planned waste management technologies and methods, or policies for waste posing specific management problems.

Since the development of the Plan's Background Paper (**SD51**) the Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Plan has been released for

consultation. The Plan included consideration of the actions required in respect of improving infrastructure provision in Wales. The plan considers actions aimed at improving the provision of Civic Amenity and bring facilities, development of a network of Anaerobic Digestion facilities to treat food wastes and ensuring waste infrastructure is responsive to a need to adapt to climate change.

Local Planning Authorities are required by Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (**W41**) to make provision for establishing an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations without harm to the environment (**W41**, page 167, paragraph 12.5.1). Each local planning authority is required to consider what facilities are required to treat, manage or dispose of all waste streams generated within its area, although it is acknowledged that it will be necessary for some facilities to be shared. Local authorities are required to cooperate, through joint working arrangements, to produce regional waste plans in order to provide Wales with an integrated and adequate framework of facilities to meet the requirements of the EC Landfill Directive.

Blaenau Gwent is part of the South East Wales Regional Waste Plan group. Regional Waste Plans provide the land use planning document to assist the authorities in Wales to plan for future waste management facilities that will be required to treat or dispose of most forms of waste produced in the different regions including industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, hazardous waste and municipal waste. The Plans are primarily land use documents which set out the regional framework for the preparation of Local Development Plans and the planning of waste management facilities.

The most up to date Regional Waste Plan for this area is the SEWRWP:1st Review (Adopted 2008) (**SD96**). This document is made up of two elements the Technology Strategy and the Spatial Strategy. The technology strategy provides strategic information on the types of waste management / resource recovery facilities required and the spatial strategy provides strategic information on the types of location likely to be acceptable.

The technology strategy identified 7 technological options as no single best option emerged.

The spatial strategy contained two elements - estimates of the total land required for new in-building waste management/resource recovery facilities and analysis of the potentially available land area for new in-building facilities. The second element was 'Areas of Search' maps for use in identifying new sites for in-building and open-air waste management / resource recovery facilities.

The Plan identified that in each local planning authority area there is, at the current time, a clear surplus of developable land with a B2 (and similar) planning permission or proposed use to accommodate the highest estimate of the total land area required for new in-building waste management facilities (**SD96**, page xiv, paragraph 32).

It was identified that depending on which option was chosen, Blaenau Gwent would need to provide between 0.4 and 4ha of land for new in-building facilities (**SD96**, tables following page 120). At the time Blaenau Gwent had 79.3 ha of suitable land available (**SD96**, page 127) which far exceeded the requirement.

Nevertheless, the Waste Plan suggested that Local Development Plans should determine actual locations of facilities and make provision in their development plans (**SD96**, page xvi, paragraph 41).

Blaenau Gwent followed this advice and identified Waun-y-Pound (**SD01**, page 109, Policy W1,1) to accommodate the maximum 4ha required for in-building facilities. To allow for flexibility the Plan (**SD01**, page 77, Policy DM21) also enables other employment sites to be used for waste management facilities.

What is the logic for seeking to allocate between 0.4 and 4 hectares of land for waste management purposes?

The logic of providing 0.4 to 4 ha is to enable the Local Development Plan to accommodate the different technological options determined to be acceptable for treating waste in the Regional Waste Plan (**SD96**).

2. Do Policies SP13 and W1 provide sufficient sites to accommodate the county borough’s contribution to waste management?

Yes, Policies SP13 and W1 provide sufficient sites to accommodate the county borough’s contribution to waste management. Policy SP13 criterion 1b enables in-building treatment facilities on Primary and Secondary Employment sites. In total 27.4ha of developable land is made available (excluding the land identified at Silent Valley). In addition existing units on Primary and Secondary sites identified in policy DM11 would also be able to be considered.

Policy Number	Site Name	Hub	Indicative Developable Area (Ha)
Primary Sites (B1, B2, and B8 Use Classes, an appropriate Sui Generis use and an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use)			
<i>MU1</i>	<i>Bryn Serth</i>	<i>Ebbw Vale</i>	<i>10.0</i>
EMP1.5	Rassau Platform A	Ebbw Vale	3.4
EMP1.6	Rassau Platform B	Ebbw Vale	3.7
EMP1.7	Land at Waun-y-Pound	Ebbw Vale	4.6
EMP1.8	Marine Colliery	Ebbw Vale	3.4
EMP1.9	Crown Business Park Platform A	Tredegar	0.7
EMP1.10	Crown Business Park Platform B	Tredegar	1.6

TOTAL			27.4
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3. How might the siting of waste facilities in criterion (3) of Policy DM21 be consistent with other initiatives to support employment growth?

As identified in objective 8 of the Plan (**SD01**, page 18), initiatives to support employment growth includes diversifying the economy, with environmental industries being specifically identified as a growth sector.

Criterion 3 of policy DM21, encourages waste facilities on sites which are considered to be the most appropriate. The allocated sites have been assessed in accordance with the Candidate Site Methodology (**SD30**). In addition, the regional waste site at Waun-y-Pound has been subject to further assessment through the HoV Waste Programme. This site should, therefore, be the starting point for developers when considering locating waste facilities in Blaenau Gwent.

However, to provide flexibility alternative sites, where a B2 use is considered to be an appropriate use, have been identified as being suitable. This approach is supported by the Regional Waste Plan (**SD96**, page xiii, paragraph 31) which accepts that advances in technology and the introduction of new legislation, policies and practices mean that many modern waste management / resource recovery facilities on the outside look no different to any other industrial building and on the inside contain industrial demanufacturing processes in terms of their operation or impact. For this reason, many existing land use class B2 sites will be suitable locations for the new generation of in-building waste management facilities that will be required in accordance with the RWP Technology Strategy. This will enable allocated sites or existing vacant buildings on primary and secondary employment sites to be utilised.

By directing waste facilities to these locations the Plan is consistent with other initiatives to support employment growth.

The final criterion enables facilities to be considered that are not appropriately located within buildings or may appropriately be located on farms. This would support sustainable economic growth in terms of rural enterprise and farm diversification as encouraged by the Plan in Policy SP8 criterion (e) (**SD01**, page 38).

4. What does criterion (6) of Policy DM21 add that is not covered by other policies in the Plan?

It is accepted that some parts of Criterion 6 of Policy DM21 are covered by other policies. However, there are additional issues which relate specifically to waste proposals.

Criterion 6a specifically identifies that regional facilities must have easy access to key transport corridors, and where practicable make use of alternative transport modes. Policy DM1 only requires proposals to have regard to the safe, effective and efficient use of the transport network. Similarly, whilst Policy SP6 seeks to encourage the use of rail it does not require it to be investigated. Therefore criterion 6a is considered to add to other policies.

Criterion 6b is specific to waste processing and is not covered elsewhere in the Plan.

Criterion 6c is also considered to be specific to waste.

Criterion 6d specifically requires measures to maximise energy recovery from waste, whereas Policy SP7 simply sets out that this would be encouraged and supported. Policy DM5 sets out the circumstances where developments which promote renewable energy will be permitted.

Criterion 6e requires that opportunities for co-locating and networking energy for waste facilities with energy consuming land uses such as district heating have been fully explored. Again this is more explicit than Policy SP7 which simply supports such proposals.

It is accepted that the requirements of criterion f are already covered by policy DM1 criteria 2. (a), (b) and (d).