

WASTE PLANNING, RECYCLING AND REGIONAL STRUCTURES

1. Local Authority Duties on Planning and Recycling

Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS 10)

PPS10 and Planning for sustainable waste management : Companion Guide to PPS 10 states, under "Developing Planning Strategies for Waste" (para 3.8) that "Provision for the delivery of waste management infrastructure will require policies that reflect the needs of the relevant MWMS (*minerals and waste management strategy*) developed in accordance with Defra's guidance, and policies that shape non-waste-related development in relation to spatial planning concerns such as transport, housing, economic growth, natural resources and regeneration. This means that waste planning concerns must go wider than the main waste development policies set in Local Development Documents prepared by the Waste Planning Authority. Such concerns will include, for example, on-site re-use of construction & demolition (C&D) wastes, support for community composting schemes, and the provision of reduction and/or **recycling infrastructure** in housing or retail development."

[Paragraph 33, PPS10]

Examining the soundness of minerals and waste policies in core strategies - note for inspectors, Planning Inspectorate

This guidance outlines what to look for when examining core strategy policies on waste. At paras 4.6 and 4.7 this says, in relation to recycling:

"... As a minimum, the waste element of the Core Strategy should:

- Set out a planning strategy for sustainable waste management that enables sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations, including waste recovery, **recycling** and disposal, focusing on delivering the key planning objectives in PPS10, including the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy..."

The core evidence base should support and justify the waste element of the Core Strategy. Reference may be made to the existing/previous Waste Local Plan and to waste policies in the (former) Structure Plan. More specific/technical evidence on waste could include RTAB Annual Reports, studies of particular waste streams (eg. commercial/industrial) and other technical information and reports on waste. The Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy will be a key element of the evidence base, particularly for the municipal/household waste stream. The waste strategy should be based on a clear understanding of the dynamics of waste generation/management within the area, including estimates of existing/future waste arisings for each waste stream, targets for recovery/**recycling**/re-use of waste, and estimates of existing/future waste management/disposal capacity, including landfill."

In the basic questions at the end of the Planning Inspectorate document, it asks (in relation to a core strategy) "Does it set out a planning strategy for sustainable waste management that enables sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations, including waste recovery, **recycling** and disposal, focussing on delivering the key planning objectives in PPS10, including the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy?"

2. Yorkshire and Humber Waste Regional Advisory Group (WRAG)

Yorkshire and the Humber (Y&H) has a well-attended WRAG that meets every quarter and is chaired by Government Office Yorkshire and The Humber. Membership is mainly comprised of all the region's Local Authority Waste Managers, along with representatives from the Environment Agency, Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber, (LGYH), Community Recycling Network (CRN), Yorkshire Forward (the RDA) and the RDA's resource efficiency delivery body formerly known as Resource Efficiency Yorkshire (REY), know part of CO2Sense Yorkshire.

The overall purpose of the group is to support Local Authorities (LAs) in achieving improved performance on waste issues, co-ordinating input to other regional forums & develop good communication links with them e.g. Regional Technical Advisory Board (RTAB).

The group also seeks opportunities to share best practise and strengthen partnership working between LAs and inform them about the good work going on in the region. WRAG also provides a forum for regional bodies with a stake in supporting LA performance to discuss their work. Invited speakers on different issues often include Defra policy leads to inform LAs in the region on recent national policy developments. The WRAG group has overseen several Defra and LGYH funded projects to help LAs work together on various issues, examples are given below.

WRAG has identified waste prevention as an area for collaborative work and is putting together a programme with support from the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (RIEP) and WRAP. This is mostly working with householders to prevent the need for waste disposal. One element is to work on business waste and provide businesses with better information on a range of resource efficiency measures, including recycling. Leeds CC is supporting this work by sharing their handbook on business waste with other local authorities as part of the programme.

3. Links with Regional Technical Advisory Body – RTAB

Y&H has a well-supported RTAB, and its membership includes all of the region's Local Planning Authorities, plus the Environment Agency, Government Office and Yorkshire Forward.

The Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB) provides advice to regional planning bodies on the implications of waste management for the development and implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy. To undertake this role effectively the RTAB draws from those with a direct interest in and knowledge of sustainable waste management and links into the Waste Regional Advisory Group.

WRAG and RTAB have members in common to share information and run joint projects, such as Defra funded piece of work to improve capacity of LA planners to understand waste issues.

4. WRAG Projects around Recycling

Research

The WRAG were keen to gain a better understanding of existing and future waste management infrastructure, and how we might try to better comprehend our capacity for waste management in this region in the short, medium and long-term. To that end, GOYH and the Environment Agency put together a short questionnaire. The results of the infrastructure and capacity survey will be analysed by the Environment Agency, with a view to creating a GIS map of facilities in our region. The results will be made available to local authorities and partners to use.

Delivering Excellence in Waste Management

This was an two year project to help share good practice on waste disposal between local authorities in the region, including best practice examples from outside the region. It helped build capacity of elected members on key issues by holding breakfast meetings, on key recycling and planning issues. There were also case studies provided on how authorities had tackled difficult issues, such as the move to alternate weekly collections. A key strand of the work was run by REY on providing resources, such as help with contracts, to help LAs find markets for their recyclates. Leeds CC played a key role in this work as overall lead on the project on behalf of the WRAG group.