

5. OVERALL STRATEGY, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

5.1 Overall Strategy

5.1.1 The Government, in 'Waste Strategy 2000' has defined its vision for managing waste in the future in a more sustainable way. This vision comprises the following:

- an integrated approach to waste management
- a reduction in the quantity of waste arisings
- higher level of re-use
- increased recycling and composting
- increased energy recovery
- further development of alternative recovery technologies (e.g. pyrolysis, gasification, anaerobic digestion)
- greater public participation in the decision making process
- effective protection of human health and the environment

5.1.2 The Government's vision relies on the actions of a number of parties, including those of Waste Planning Authorities. The role of the WPAs is defined further in Planning Policy Guidance notes, in particular PPG10 'Planning and Waste Management', which states that their future waste management decisions should be based on the principles of:

- consideration of Best Practicable Environmental Option for each waste stream
- regional self-sufficiency
- the proximity principle and
- the waste hierarchy

These principles are described in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3 : PRINCIPLES OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)

This has been defined by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution as 'the outcome of a systematic consultative and decision making procedure which emphasises the protection of the environment across land, air, and water. The BPEO procedure establishes, for a given set of objectives, the option that provides the most benefits at the least damage to the environment, as a whole, at an acceptable cost, in the long term as well as the short term.'

Regional Self-Sufficiency

Most waste should be treated or disposed of within the region in which it is produced. Each region should provide for facilities with sufficient capacity to manage the quantity of waste expected to need to be dealt within that area for at least ten years. In some cases however it may be necessary to recognise units smaller than regions but larger than WPAs. WPAs should make adequate provision in their development plans for any waste management facilities which may be needed, taking account of the advice of the Regional Planning Body for their area.

Proximity Principle

Waste should generally be managed as near as possible to its place of production, because transporting waste itself has an environmental impact.

Waste Hierarchy

This is a theoretical framework that acts as a guide to waste management options, which should be considered when assessing BPEO.

The Waste Hierarchy comprises:

Reduction

Re-use

Recovery (including recycling, composting and energy recovery)

Safe Disposal

5.2 Overall Goal

- 5.2.1 Taking into account the waste management principles set out above, the overall goal of the Waste Local Plan is:

'To provide a sustainable strategy and policy framework for sustainable waste management in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, in accordance with the adopted National Waste Strategy guidelines and the principles of Best Practicable Environmental Option, taking into consideration Regional Self-sufficiency and the Proximity Principle and the Waste Hierarchy.'

5.3 Principal Objectives

- 5.3.1 The main objectives, which will be pursued in order to achieve the overall goal, are:

- to determine waste planning applications in the light of the Governments principles for sustainable waste management, i.e. BPEO, Regional Self-Sufficiency, Proximity Principle and the Waste Hierarchy. These principles will be applied on a waste stream basis
- to contribute towards ensuring regional self-sufficiency in the management of waste, and to seek self-sufficiency within the Plan area where practical and in accordance with the proximity principle
- to encourage waste management practices which do not incur unacceptable adverse impact on the environment or endanger human health
- to ensure suitable provision is made for waste facilities to manage the waste of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the Plan period

- to identify planning policy criteria by which to assess waste development proposals, and ensure effective planning control and the appropriate location and distribution of waste management facilities
- to provide clear guidance to operators, members of the public, and any other interested party on planning policy and proposals
- to safeguard waste management sites from incompatible development

