

BARNSLEY, ROTHERHAM AND DONCASTER

JOINT STRATEGIC WASTE DPD

CONSULTATION: TOWARDS THE PUBLICATION DPD

Frequently asked questions

1. *What is the Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster Joint Strategic Waste DPD?*

Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils (BDR) are required by law to plan for the appropriate provision of waste management facilities. They are therefore producing a Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan Document which will provide the planning policies for strategic waste management facilities in BDR and will allocate sites suitable for the management of waste over the period 2010 to 2026.

2. *What are the stages in its preparation?*

There are a number of stages in the preparation of the Joint Strategic Waste DPD. The first stage was about identifying the issues involved with providing strategic waste management facilities, and considering the options in relation to waste management sites in the three Boroughs. Consultation on the issues and options in February-March 2008 was about consulting you before there were any firm proposals. The purpose of this current consultation is to seek further views and comments on the emerging policy approach for the DPD and the reduced list of sites that have been assessed using a detailed site assessment method, including sustainability appraisal. The course of this consultation will inform the scope of further public engagement leading up to the Publication stage (prior to the plan's submission to the government).

The table below summarises the key stages in the DPD preparation to date and the proposed timetable up to Adoption.

Date	Stage
Ongoing	Evidence gathering
February-March 2008	Consultation on the Issues and Options Report and SA Scoping Report.
July-August 2008	Interim Consultation on SA Report and summary of Issues and Options Consultation.
Autumn 08-Winter 09	Further public participation including current consultation on emerging policy approach and reduced list of sites for the DPD.
December 2008 - January 2009	Consideration of responses received and preparation of the Publication DPD.

Date	Stage
2009	Publication of Joint Strategic Waste DPD that BDR proposes to submit to Secretary of State. Invite representations on soundness of DPD, and request response from Yorkshire & Humber Assembly on conformity with Yorkshire & Humber Plan.
2009	Submission of Joint Strategic Waste DPD to Secretary of State.
2009-10	Examination period
2010	Adoption of Joint Strategic Waste DPD

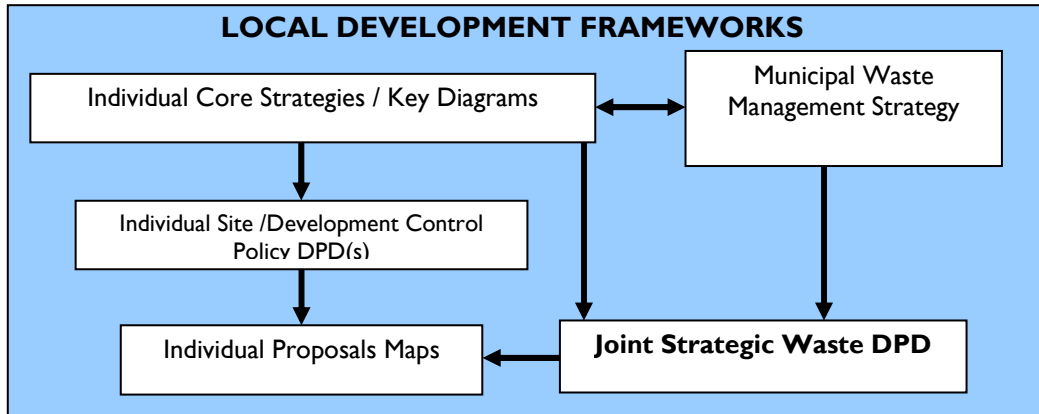
3. *What is a DPD and how does it link to other documents being produced by the Councils?*

A DPD, or Development Plan Document, is one of a number of documents which make up a folder of local development documents called the Local Development Framework (LDF).



The LDF sets out the spatial strategy and policies and proposals for development and other land uses in a local authority area. Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham are each producing their own separate LDFs, and the Joint Strategic Waste DPD will form part of the separate LDFs, along with other DPDs that the Councils are separately producing (e.g. Core Strategies, Area Action Plans).

The diagram below shows how the Joint Strategic Waste DPD fits into each of the Councils' LDFs.



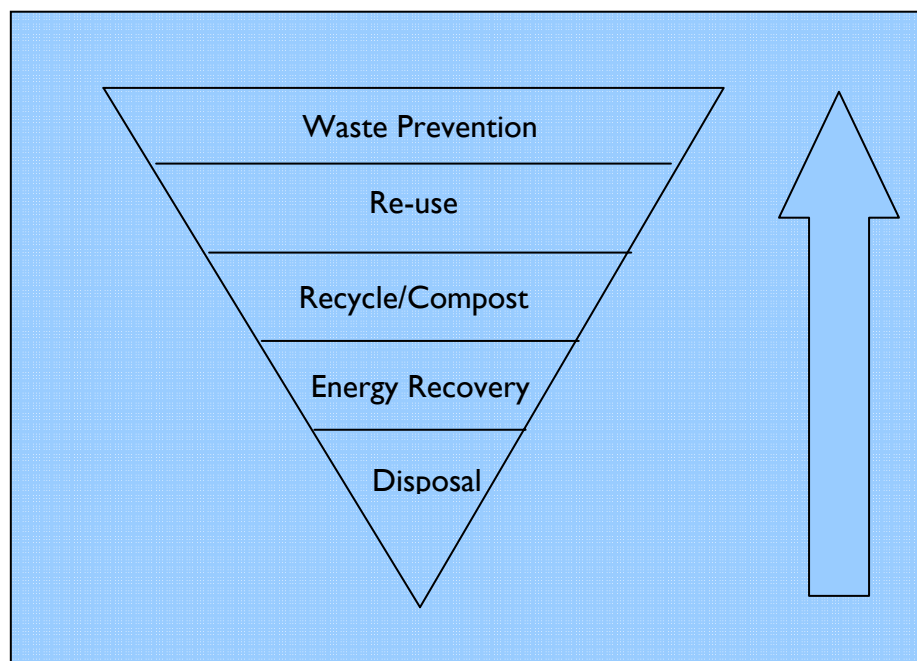
4. *Why are Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham required to plan for the appropriate provision of waste management facilities?*

The Government produced the most recent Waste Strategy for England in 2007:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/>

The overall aim of this national Strategy is to try to move away from waste disposal (landfill) and use waste management initiatives higher up the 'waste hierarchy' as shown below, with prevention of waste being the ultimate aim.

The Waste Hierarchy



In order to meet the aims and targets of this strategy, Waste Planning Authorities need to find enough sites to accommodate new waste management facilities. The Joint Strategic Waste DPD aims to achieve this.

5. *Why have Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Councils decided to work together on the DPD?*

In order to reduce the distances over which waste is transported, and given the need for different types of waste treatment, some larger waste management facilities are likely to be shared resources for the three Boroughs. The Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber has encouraged and is supportive of joint working between boroughs in the region to develop joint planning documents.

6. *What is the relationship between the Joint Strategic Waste DPD and the Councils' Municipal Waste Management Strategies?*

Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham have separately prepared Municipal Waste Management Strategies.

These strategies make choices about the technologies used to treat waste, focussing on municipal waste i.e. waste collected from your home and any other types of waste collected by waste collection authorities. The Joint Strategic Waste DPD is not about making technological choices. Instead it will provide the sites which will enable the delivery of the Municipal Waste Management Strategies. Municipal Waste Management Strategies therefore address the 'how' while the Joint Strategic Waste DPD addresses the 'where'.

By not prescribing specific waste management technologies for different sites, the Joint Strategic Waste DPD should help to encourage innovation and provide more flexibility for the waste management industry to come forward with proposals for facilities incorporating any technology as appropriate, including any new technologies that may be developed in the future.

7. *What are waste management facilities?*

Waste management facilities include one or more of the following:

- 'Civic Amenity Sites' or 'Household Waste Recycling Centres', where members of the public can bring a variety of household waste, before it gets taken to other facilities for recycling, composting or further treatment (see below);
- 'Material Recycling Facilities', where recyclables are separated and bulked together prior to despatch to waste reprocessors who remanufacture the materials into recycled products;
- Treatment facilities, which use mechanical, biological and thermal processes to sort and treat waste;
- Disposal facilities, i.e. landfills.

Despite differences between the waste management technologies employed within them, most material recycling and treatment facilities are enclosed. All waste facilities must be operated in line with environmental protection techniques and standards, are similar to industrial warehouses in appearance,

and are regulated by the Environment Agency. However, some organic waste composting operations are undertaken in the open air.

8. What are the different types of waste management treatment facilities?

Biological Treatment Facilities

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Treats biodegradable organic waste in an enclosed vessel using bacteria in the absence of oxygen. This process breaks down the waste, generating useable products including: biogas, which can be burnt to produce energy; fibre, for soil conditioning; and liquor, which can be used as a liquid fertilizer.



Composting ('in vessel') Micro-organisms break down biodegradable waste using oxygen, leaving a residue (compost), water and carbon dioxide. Waste is shredded in to fine particles before being piled into containers usually in rows. Air is allowed to pass over the waste, often fan assisted and using mechanical devices to turn the waste and cause it to decompose. Undertaking composting under cover ('in vessel') allows for a greater degree of control of the process. The resulting compost is a useful soil improver, which improves soil properties and provides some nutrient value.

Thermal Treatment Facilities

Incineration The burning of waste material at high temperatures with the aim of generating energy – electricity and/or heat – from the process. During combustion a wider range of gases are emitted, including carbon dioxide, acid gases, particulate matter and dioxins. All of these have the potential to cause harm, however elaborate systems have been developed for cleaning up the gases before they are released into the atmosphere. 'Residues' left over from the cleaning up process are hazardous and are usually deposited in hazardous waste landfills.



Pyrolysis Organic waste is heated at high temperatures in conditions of limited or no oxygen to produce a mixture of gaseous and liquid fuels and a solid inert residue (mainly carbon).

Gasification A process of heating carbon based wastes in the presence of air or steam, which converts the carbon to a burnable gas called syngas, leaving a solid residue.

Both processes are considered as 'staged combustion' and so are, to a degree, more controlled than incineration, making the gases



generated by the treatment of waste more likely to be cleaner. However, relatively few pyrolysis and gasification systems have been successfully deployed in Europe and these appear to be those which bear a close resemblance to incineration (the extent of 'staging' is limited).

Open Air Facilities

Landfill Holes in the ground that are filled with waste. In some modern landfills the filling continues above ground level forming 'landraises'. Landfills are lined with a membrane (the liner) to contain the waste and the liquid pollution generated by the decomposition of waste (called leachate). In landfills the biodegradable material degrades in the absence of air. As a result, as with anaerobic digestion, biogas is generated, including methane, carbon dioxide and volatile organic compounds. Landfills are equipped with systems to capture the gas generated, with the aim of using it to generate energy.



Composting ('open air windrow') Micro-organisms break down biodegradable waste using oxygen, leaving a residue (compost), water and carbon dioxide. Waste is shredded into fine particles before being piled into long rows (windrows). Air is allowed to pass over the waste because they are in the open air, and using mechanical devices to turn the waste causes the waste to decompose.



Transfer Stations A facility where solid waste materials are transferred from small vehicles to large trucks for efficient transport to disposal sites.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) The sorting, separation, compaction and storage of dry recyclables before sending on to specialist re-processors.



9. *What are strategic waste management sites?*

Strategic sites have been defined by BDR as large sites, which are approximately five hectares or more and are capable of providing a significant amount of the required capacity for waste management in BDR. Facilities developed on strategic sites allocated in the Joint Strategic Waste DPD will

deal with waste from all three Boroughs. Smaller sites may also be needed to deal separately with waste from the Borough in which they are located. These sites will not be allocated within the Joint Strategic Waste DPD, but dealt with through policies in other DPDs in each Borough's LDF.

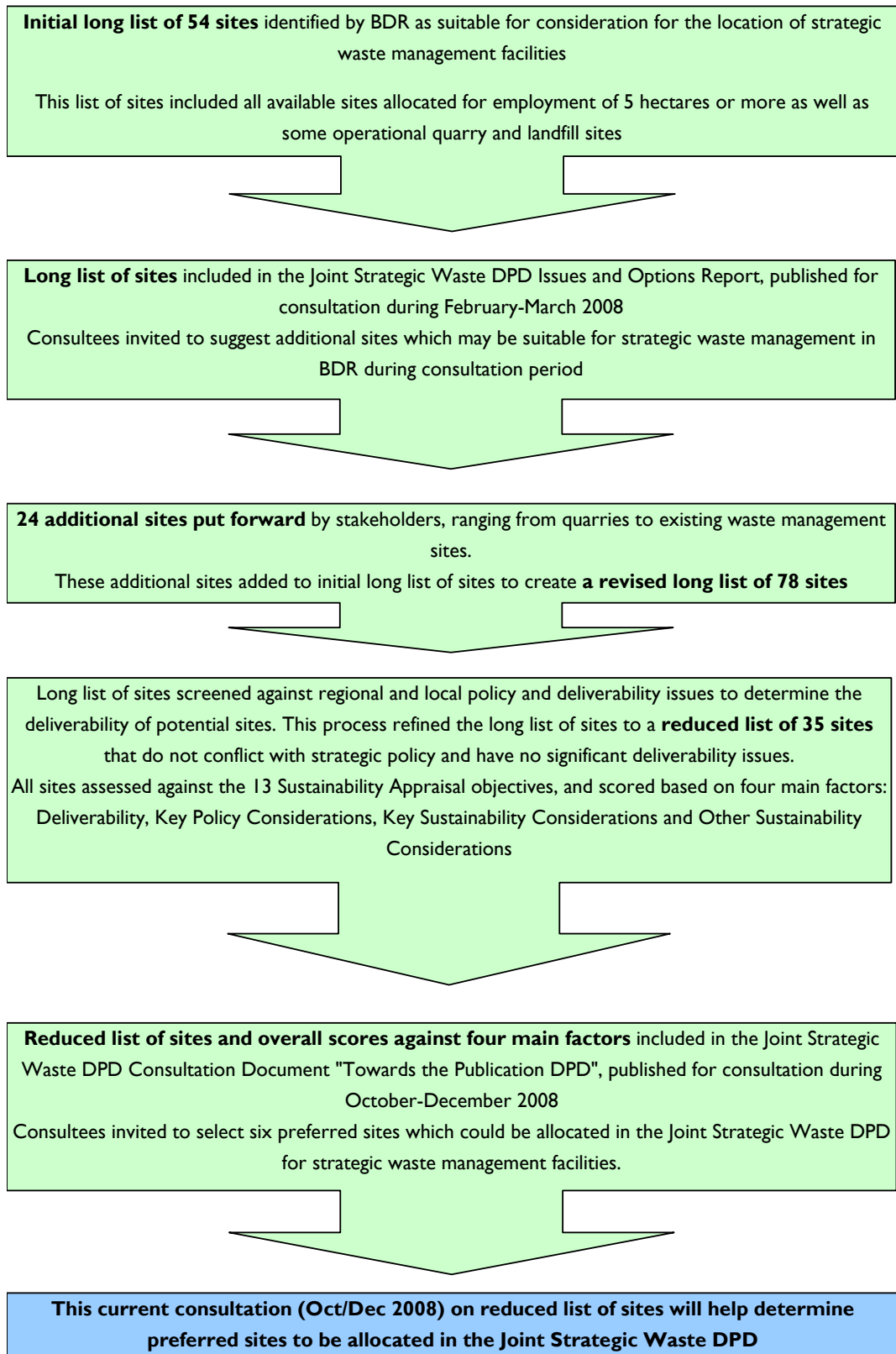
10. Does the DPD deal with waste collection issues?

No it doesn't. As a planning document, the Joint Strategic Waste DPD deals with the management of waste after it has been collected. The collection of waste is planned for within Municipal Waste Management Strategies, and dealt with by separate waste collection authorities (within the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils).

11. Why have sites listed in the Consultation Document been chosen?

The sites listed in the Consultation Document are a reduced list of sites obtained through the detailed site assessment method that has been applied. The figure below provides a diagrammatic summary of how the reduced list has been identified. More information is provided in Chapter 3 of the Consultation Document, and a detailed Site Assessment Report is also available.

Diagrammatic summary of site assessment method



12. Will the reduced list of sites in the Consultation Document definitely be used for waste management?

No. Indeed most will almost certainly not be used for waste management. The sites in the Joint Strategic Waste DPD represent the **reduced list of potential site options**. This current consultation period (October-December 2008) allows people to select their six preferred sites to be allocated for strategic waste management in the DPD. An allocated site in the DPD provides an element of certainty to the waste industry that a waste management proposal could be permitted on that site, but it is up to the industry to submit planning applications to develop the sites. All applications will be assessed against the other development criteria within the DPD.

13. If I have a site which I think is suitable for a waste management facility, what should I do?

If you have not already made the Councils aware of the site through the Issues and Options or Interim consultation periods early this year, we would welcome any reasonable suggestions for strategic waste management sites. If you have a site which you think may be suitable, please provide details of it including full street address, post code, a grid reference and a plan showing the site boundary in the questions relating to Policy 3 in the consultation questionnaire which is available to download on the three Councils' websites. Alternatively, please contact your relevant council for a paper copy.

14. When will new waste management facilities be built?

The final Joint Strategic Waste DPD is not due to be adopted until 2010 and will cover the period to 2026. Before a strategic waste management facility could be built, it would need to obtain planning permission. Any proposals for strategic waste management facilities will need to go through the planning application process and be assessed against policies in the final Joint Strategic Waste DPD.