Worcestershire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Authority Monitoring Report

January 2022 to December 2023

worcestershire county council

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Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Two iterations of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) were in place during the 2022/2023 monitoring period:

- LDS adopted September 2021
- LDS adopted July 2022

The milestones in each iteration are set out below.

The current Local Development Scheme is available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lds.

Milestones set out in LDS adopted September 2021

Minerals Local Plan

Independent examination (Reg 24) was anticipated to be completed by Q1 2022. (Target missed)

Examination hearing sessions concluded in December 2020. Consultation on Main Modifications ran from August to October 2021.[1] WCC published a summary of issues raised in representations on the Main Modifications in November 2021. Representations were also provided to the Inspectors for their consideration on 5th November 2021.

Receipt of Inspectors' Report (Regulation 25) was anticipated Q4 2021 or Q1 2022. (Target missed)

Receiving the Inspectors' Report marks the end of the formal period of independent examination. There were delays in receiving the report from the Planning Inspectorate, meaning that the examination continued into Q2 of 2022. The Inspectors' Report was received on 6th May 2022. This was beyond the council's control.

Adoption (Regulation 26) was anticipated Q2 2022. (Target missed)

Due to the delays in receiving the Inspectors' Report, the Minerals Local Plan could not be returned to full Council for adoption in Q2 as anticipated. The Minerals Local Plan was considered and adopted by full Council on 14th July 2022, i.e. Q3 of 2022. Whilst this is within one month of Q2 2022, the revised LDS came into effect on 1st July 2022, which ensured full alignment prior to adoption of the Minerals Local Plan.

Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document

Preferred Options Consultation (Reg 18) was scheduled for Q2-Q3 2022. (Target missed)

Progress had continued on assessing sites and on the preparation of the draft Mineral Site Allocations DPD following consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in summer 2021. However, the Mineral Site Allocations DPD is intended to provide site-specific policies which need to be read alongside the strategic policies set by the Minerals Local Plan, and needs to be compatible with those policies. As such, the delays to receipt of the report on the examination of the Minerals Local Plan and consequent lack of certainty about the exact Main Modifications which would be recommended by the Inspectors had consequent impacts on the timescales for developing the wording of the Mineral Site Allocations DPD.

[1] Consultation started on 2nd August 2021 but was terminated on 10th August due to a technical issue with the draft Policies Map. Consultation restarted on 31st August and ran to 12th October 2021.

In addition, there was a need to gather evidence in relation to site-specific issues. The LDS was updated in July 2022 to reflect this.

Remaining milestones were scheduled for beyond this AMR monitoring period.

Waste Core Strategy

The "detailed review, establishing scope and purpose of revision of Waste Core Strategy" was anticipated to commence in Q1 2022 – Q1 2023. (Target missed)

This did not happen due to resource constraints and staff focus on the MLP and emerging Mineral Site Allocations DPD. The review of the Waste Core Strategy has since been re-scheduled in the 2022 LDS.

Milestones set out in LDS adopted July 2022

Minerals Local Plan

Adoption (Regulation 26) was anticipated Q3 2022. (Target met)

This milestone was met, with the MLP being adopted on 14th July 2022.

Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

One milestone fell within this AMR monitoring period.

Consultation on the Preferred Options (Regulation 18) DPD was anticipated Q2-Q3 2023. (Target missed)

The July 2022 LDS anticipated that consultation on the Preferred Options draft of the DPD would take place in Q2-Q3 2023, though it stated that:

> "*there are significant uncertainties inherent in this timetable. It is difficult to estimate the scale of consultation comments which might be received at each stage, although high levels of local interest might be anticipated as the document seeks to allocate individual sites. In addition, there is potential for significant reforms to planning legislation and policy through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which was put before parliament in May 2022, but it is not yet known what the implications of this might be for the timescales of developing and adopting the Mineral Site Allocations DPD. It is very likely that the LDS will need to be revised during the course of the development of the Mineral Site Allocations DPD.*"

A statement was published on 8th September 2023 setting out that Worcestershire County Council was delaying the development of the Mineral Site Allocations DPD due to uncertainties about changes to national policy and legislation. These national changes included proposed legislative requirements for developing planning policy documents under the (then) Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, as well as published changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, and further anticipated changes to national policy to implement proposals in the Bill.

An updated LDS has since come into effect (February 2025) which ceases work on the Mineral Site Allocations DPD.

Waste Core Strategy

Commence detailed review, establish scope and purpose of revision of Waste Core Strategy was anticipated Q2 2023 – Q2 2024 (Target met)

The July 2022 LDS included a milestone to commence detailed review, establish scope and purpose of revision of the Waste Core Strategy. This was anticipated for Q2 2023 – Q2 2024, and further milestones were scheduled for beyond this AMR monitoring period. Work began in Q4 2023 to commence the detailed review, and establish the scope and purpose of revising the Waste Core Strategy.

The July 2022 LDS acknowledged that there was potential for significant reforms to planning legislation and policy through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which was put before parliament in May 2022, but that it was not yet known what the implications of this might be for the timescales for the review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy/Waste Local Plan. An updated LDS has since come into effect (February 2025) which sets out next steps for the development of a Waste Plan.

Monitoring Community Involvement

Indicator SCI1: Satisfaction levels with the Development Plan process/service.

Target:

Satisfaction with consultation methods employed.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No data available.

Trend:

2021: No data available.

2020: No data available.

Explanation:

No planning policy consultations took place during the 2022/2023 monitoring years. As such, there were no requests for feedback on the satisfaction of the consultation methods employed.

Indicator SCI2: Response rates to planning policy consultations.

Target:

The SCI does not set specific targets.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: N/A. No planning policy consultations took place within the 2022/2023 monitoring years.

Trend:

2021: 3.5%

2020: 0.9% response rate

Explanation:

No planning policy consultations took place within the 2022/2023 monitoring years.

Indicator SCI3: Satisfaction levels with the planning application process/service.

Target:

Zero complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman, court decisions against the council, or appeals upheld.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Zero complaints or appeals upheld.

Trend:

2021: Zero complaints or appeals upheld.

2020: Zero complaints or appeals upheld.

Explanation:

Within the monitoring period, no complaints were upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman, no court decisions were made against the council, and no appeals were upheld.

Indicators relating to mineral development

Introduction

The Minerals Local Plan (2018-2036) was adopted in July 2022.

Due to the small number of minerals applications received by Worcestershire County Council each year, it is not uncommon for no applications to be determined in any given year.

The following two applications were determined in 2022 prior to the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan, and have therefore not been considered against the monitoring indicators relating to decision making set out below.

- Application reference 21/000029/CM:
  Proposed importation of inert restoration material and extraction of sand to enable engineering operations for stability purposes and completion of site restoration at (Western portion of the former) Sandy Lane Quarry, Wildmoor, Worcestershire.
  (Permitted)
- Application reference 19/000053/CM:
  Proposed sand and gravel quarry with progressive restoration using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and nature enhancement, on land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, Worcestershire
  (Refused)

In addition, the following three applications were granted planning permission in 2022 following the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan and have been considered against the monitoring indicators relating to decision making set out below.

- Application reference 19/000048/CM:
  Proposed extraction of sand and gravel with restoration using site derived and imported inert material to wetland, nature conservation and agriculture at Land at Bow Farm, Bow Lane, Ripple, Worcestershire.
- Application reference 20/000009/CM:
  Proposed extraction of aggregates with restoration to agriculture and lake suitable for water sports on land at Ryall's Court, Ryall Court Lane, Ryall, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire.
- Application reference 20/000015/CM:
  Planning application made under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to not comply with conditions 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 49 and 53 of planning permission: 15/000013/CM "proposed minerals extraction of about 1.4 million tonnes of sand and gravel and erection of a temporary wharf with progressive restoration to make a landscaped lake" to facilitate an alternative working scheme and progressive restoration scheme to
  Agriculture and a lake suitable for water sports at Ryall North quarry, Land off Ryall Court Lane, Holly Green, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire.

No applications for mineral development were refused planning permission or withdrawn in 2022 following the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan, or in 2023.

No applications for minerals development were determined in 2023, therefore, indicators below monitoring the performance of policies in decision making relate to performance in 2022 only.

Indicators not directly linked to decisions are monitored for both 2022 and 2023 and are clearly marked.

As this is the first AMR to monitor the indicators contained within the adopted Minerals Local Plan, no past performance is displayed for many indicators. Future AMRs will display current and past performance once multiple years' data becomes available.

Objective MO 1: Enable the supply of minerals

Indicator 1a: Location of new permitted sand and gravel reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target:

100% of new sand and gravel reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022: 100% (3 of 3 new sand and gravel reserves permitted were within the strategic corridors)

2023: No applications were determined for new sand and gravel reserves in 2023.

Indicator 1b: Location of new permitted crushed rock reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target:

100% of new crushed rock reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new crushed rock reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 1c: Location of new permitted silica sand reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target:

100% of new silica sand reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new silica sand reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 1d: Location of new permitted brick clay reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target: 100% of new brick clay reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new brick clay reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 1e: Location of new permitted building stone reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target: More than 75% of new building stone reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new building stone reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 1f: Location of new permitted salt/brine reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target: More than 75% of new salt/brine reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new salt/brine reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 1g: Location of new permitted other industrial minerals reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target: More than 75% of new other industrial mineral reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new other industrial mineral reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 1h: Location of new permitted oil and gas reserves (over the life of the plan)

Target: 100% of new oil and gas reserves permitted within the strategic corridors.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No applications for new oil and gas reserves were determined in these monitoring years.

Indicator 2: Proportion of permitted mineral development proposals for new mineral developments and extensions to extant sites (a. specific site allocations; b. preferred area allocations; c. areas of search; d. windfall sites within strategic corridors; e. windfall sites outside strategic corridors)Target:

This indicator has no target. It is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

The reasons for which development outside specific site and preferred area allocations are permitted will be monitored and will inform whether any action is necessary (i.e. to address a policy failure) or whether such development is indicating that the policies are providing appropriate flexibility

Current Performance :

2022: Of the three permissions granted in 2022, all were located within an area of search, the highest available level of the hierarchy.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals development in 2023.Explanation:

The Minerals Local Plan sets out the following hierarchy for where sites should be delivered:

a) specific site allocations

b) preferred area allocations

c) areas of search

d) windfall sites within strategic corridors

e) windfall sites outside strategic corridors

The Minerals Local Plan does not contain any specific site, or preferred area allocations. Work on the emerging Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) has been delayed due to uncertainty about changes to national planning policy and legislation for developing planning policy documents.

A public consultation on the "Preferred Options" draft of the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document had been due to take place in Autumn 2023. The Council decided to delay this consultation until there is clarity about changes to the wider plan-making system.

For further information, see the notice available on our website at: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/planning-policy-and-strategy/minerals-planning-policy/emerging-mineral-site-allocations-development-plan-0

Indicator 3: Maintaining a landbank of at least 7 years for sand and gravel.

Target:

Landbank of at least 7 years

Current performance:

2022: 7.59 years

2023: 7.53 years

Trend:

2021: 4.14 years

2020: 2.94 years

Explanation:

In aggregate planning, the term "landbank" is used to refer to the stock of reserves of minerals with planning permission for extraction within a particular area. It can be used as a tool to assess how long supply can be maintained based on forecasted levels of demand. It is expressed in years, based on the amount of remaining reserve divided by the amount expected to be produced and sold each year.

The landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves at the end of a calendar year is established through the annual production of a Local Aggregate Assessment. This assesses data relating to past sales, forecast demand, supply options, and the balance between demand and supply in the county.

Worcestershire's landbank at the end of 2023 was 7.53 years, which is a slight decrease on 2022, but remains slightly above the 7-year landbank requirement set in national policy. The general trend for this indicator is good, with recent permissions leading to an increase in landbank over the last 3 years.

The adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 2022 is likely to provide greater certainty for developers to bring forward planning applications.

Indicator 4: Maintaining sufficient productive capacity: Maintaining or enhancing the number of sand and gravel sites with permitted reserves in relation to the baseline.

Target:

4 or more sites

Current performance:

2022: 6 sites with permitted reserves of sand and gravel.

2023: 6 sites with permitted reserves of sand and gravel.

Trend:

2021: 4 sites with permitted reserves of sand and gravel.

2020: 3 sites with permitted reserves of sand and gravel.

Further information:

This indicator has a review trigger of "1 or more sites coming to the end of their productive life". Most sites have end dates beyond the seven-year landbank period covered by this AMR. However, one extraction site and its extension area, as well as its associated wharf and plant area, must be decommissioning and restored by 2026. Whilst this represents a loss of productive capacity in the shorter term, this loss is not considered to be significant in the overall context of sites coming forward and an upward trend in replenishment rates in recent years.

Indicator 5: Maintaining sufficient productive capacity: Maintaining or enhancing the number of active sand and gravel sites in relation to the baseline.

Target: 3 or more active sites

Past performance

2021: 4 active sites for sand and gravel

2020: 3 active sites for sand and gravel

2019: Data not available

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 4 active sites for sand and gravel

2023: 4 active sites for sand and gravel

This indicator has a review trigger of "1 or more sites coming to the end of their productive life". Most sites have end dates beyond the seven-year landbank period covered by this AMR. However, one extraction site and its extension area, as well as its associated wharf and plant area, must be decommissioning and restored by 2026. Whilst this represents a loss of productive capacity in the shorter term, this loss is not considered to be significant in the overall context of sites coming forward and an upward trend in replenishment rates in recent years.

Indicator 6: Maintaining sufficient productive capacity: Maintaining productive capacity at active sites to meet the annual production guideline for sand and gravel.

Target: No issues identified through the Local Aggregate Assessment which would prevent the production guideline being met by active sites

Past performance

2021: No issues identified

2020: No issues identified

2019: No issues identified

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: No issues identified through the Local Aggregate Assessment which would prevent the production guideline for sand and gravel being met by active sites.

2023: No issues identified through the Local Aggregate Assessment which would prevent the production guideline for sand and gravel being met by active sites.

Further information:

Further information on Worcestershire's landbank and productive capacity can be found in chapter 12 of the Local Aggregate Assessment covering data up to 31st December 2023.

Indicator 7: Securing the steady and adequate supply of crushed rock: importation under the Managed Aggregate Supply System.

Target: The constraints on Worcestershire's crushed rock resources identified in the Minerals Local Plan are still extant and duty to cooperate discussions continue to indicate that surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are able to accommodate supplying Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock.

2022 and 2023 performance

The constraints on Worcestershire's crushed rock resources identified in the Minerals Local Plan are still extant and duty to cooperate discussions continue to indicate that surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are able to accommodate supplying Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock.

Explanation:

The Minerals Local Plan includes a review trigger for this indicator of either:

- Significant change in status of constraints in national policy; or
- Surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are unable to accommodate supplying Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock.

There have been no significant changes to the status of constraints in national policy since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan, meaning that the constraints on Worcestershire's crushed rock resources remain extant.

The West Midlands and other regional Aggregate Working Parties are consulted on draft versions of Worcestershire's Local Aggregates Assessments. No responses were received on either the 2022-data or 2023-data consultation draft LAAs that required changes to WCC's proposed approach to crushed rock in either LAA.

Indicator 8: Achieving and maintaining supply from indigenous resources: Maintaining or enhancing the number of crushed rock sites with permitted reserves in relation to the baseline.

Target: At least 1 site

Past performance

2021: 0 sites

2020: 0 sites

2019: 0 sites

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 0 sites

2023: 0 sites

Explanation:

Although the number of crushed rock sites with permitted reserves is below the target, no review is required as duty to cooperate discussions continue to indicate that surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are able to accommodate Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock. The West Midlands and other regional Aggregate Working Parties are consulted on draft versions of Worcestershire's Local Aggregates Assessments. No responses were received on either the 2022-data or 2023-data consultation draft LAAs that required changes to WCC's proposed approach to crushed rock in either LAA.

Indicator 9: Achieving and maintaining supply from indigenous resources: Maintaining or enhancing the number of active crushed rock sites in relation to the baseline.

Target: At least 1 site

Past performance

2021: 0 sites

2020: 0 sites

2019: 0 sites

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 0 sites

2023: 0 sites

Explanation:

Although the number of crushed rock sites with permitted reserves is below the target, no review is required as duty to cooperate discussions continue to indicate that surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are able to accommodate Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock. The West Midlands and other regional Aggregate Working Parties are consulted on draft versions of Worcestershire's Local Aggregates Assessments. No responses were received on either the 2022-data or 2023-data consultation draft LAAs that required changes to WCC's proposed approach to crushed rock in either LAA.

Indicator 10: Achieving and maintaining supply from indigenous resources: Maintaining sufficient productive capacity to meet the annual production guideline or the sub-regional apportionment for crushed rock.

Target: No issues identified through the Local Aggregate Assessment which would prevent the production guideline (or sub-regional apportionment, as appropriate) being met by active sites in Worcestershire.

Past performance

2021: No productive capacity

2020: No productive capacity

2019: No productive capacity

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: No productive capacity

2023: No productive capacity

Explanation:

The production guideline for crushed rock in the Local Aggregate Assessment (data covering the period up to 31st December 2023) was unable to be calculated, however is explicitly greater than 0 tonnes.

The sub-regional apportionment derived from the National and regional guidelines for aggregate provision in England 2001-2016 was 0.163 million tonnes. No sub-regional apportionment based on the 2005-2020 Guidelines was agreed, and no further National and Sub National Guidelines have been published by government.

The Minerals Local Plan includes a review trigger for this indicator: Issues identified through the Local Aggregate Assessment AND surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are unable to accommodate supplying Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock

Although Worcestershire has no productive capacity for crushed rock, no review is required as duty to cooperate discussions continue to indicate that surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities are able to accommodate Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock. The West Midlands and other regional Aggregate Working Parties are consulted on draft versions of Worcestershire's Local Aggregates Assessments. No responses were received on either the 2022-data or 2023-data consultation draft LAAs that required changes to WCC's proposed approach to crushed rock in either LAA.

Indicator 11: Number of applications received for development which would enable the supply of minerals from substitute, secondary or recycled materials or mineral waste

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time

Performance in 2022 and 2023:

Two applications were determined during 2022 and 2023 which would enable the supply of aggregate materials from secondary or recycled sources:

- **Application reference 22/000028/CM:** Continuation of the processing of incinerator bottom ash (IBA), proposed increase of annual throughput of IBA and proposed aggregate blending operations at Hill and Moor Landfill
- **Application reference 21/000035/CM:** Proposed retention of existing facilities, operations and access; the installation of a wash plant and associated infrastructure for the processing

of inert materials, to produce recovered aggregate and soils; the relocation of the waste sorting shed, workshop permitted under Ref: 18/000048/CM, and the provision of a new site office at MRW Long Marston, Long Marston Works, Long Marston Road, Long Marston, near Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8AQ

A further application was permitted which would enable the supply of metals from recycled materials:

- **Application reference 23/000019/CM:** County Matter planning application for a proposed change of use to Sui Generis use for the recovery of precious metals from metal containing wastes, minor modifications to the existing building, including the installation of exhaust flues and addition of other minor ancillary structures to support development at Unit 10 Merse Road, Moons Moat North Industrial Estate, Moons Moat, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9HL

These are considered further in relation to the indicators monitoring the Waste Core Strategy.

Indicator 12: Sufficient stock of permitted brick clay reserves for the life of the plan

Target: Permitted brick clay reserves in the county sufficient to last until at least 2036.

Past performance

2021: 20-58 years remaining (2035-2074)

2020: 21-59 years remaining (2036-2075)

2019: 22-60 years remaining (2037-2076)

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 19-57 years remaining (2034-2073)

2023: 18-56 years remaining (2033-2072)

Discussion

The baseline for this indicator was the remaining stock of permitted reserves in December 2016, as provided in confidential discussions with the operator of the clay sites in Worcestershire, Weinerberger, in April 2017. At that time, it was estimated that the stock of permitted reserves in December 2016 would last:

- approximately 63 years (to 2079) based on the 10 year average of known annual sales (0.126 million tonnes per year), or
- less than 25 years (to 2040) based on the sites' maximum potential output.

The dataset used to calculate the 10 year average of known annual sales was the "Mineral extraction in Great Britain, Business Monitor PA1007" reports for 2005 to 2014. Data for Worcestershire was only published for 2012, 2011, 2010, and 2006. The data for other years was withheld to avoid disclosure of information relating to an individual undertaking without the consent of the person

carrying on that undertaking. The last survey published by Government was for 2014, and it has therefore not been possible to update the 10 year sales average.

The figures presented above are therefore a simple subtraction of the amount of time passed from each of the baseline figures.

This indicates that, taking the worst-case figures, the stock of permitted brick clay reserves may not be sufficient to last until at least 2036 and therefore the target has not been met. However, it is unlikely that the sites will have been operating at their maximum potential output throughout this period.

Work is underway to contact the operator of the clay sites in Worcestershire with a view to updating the estimates in this indicator if suitable data can be obtained and published. Any further action will be determined in future reports depending on the outcome of this work.

Indicator 13: Maintaining productive capacity: Maintaining or enhancing the number of brick clay sites with permitted reserves in relation to the baseline.

Target: 2 or more sites

Past performance

2021: 2 sites with permitted reserves.

2020: 2 sites with permitted reserves.

2019: 2 sites with permitted reserves.

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 2 sites with permitted reserves.

2023: 2 sites with permitted reserves.

Further information:

This indicator has a review trigger of "1 or more sites coming to the end of their productive life".

Indicator 14: Maintaining productive capacity: Maintaining or enhancing the number of active brick clay sites in relation to the baseline.

Target: 2 or more active sites

Past performance

2021: 2 active sites

2020: 2 active sites

2019: 2 active sites

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 2 active sites

2023: 2 active sites

Further information:

This indicator has a review trigger of "1 or more sites coming to the end of their productive life".

Indicator 15: Maintaining productive capacity: Maintaining or enhancing the number of silica sand sites with permitted reserves in relation to the baseline.

Target: 1 or more sites

Past performance

2021: 1 site with permitted reserves.

2020: 1 site with permitted reserves.

2019: 1 site with permitted reserves.

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 1 site with permitted reserves.

2023: 1 site with permitted reserves.

Further information:

This indicator has a review trigger of "1 or more sites coming to the end of their productive life".

Indicator 16: Maintaining productive capacity: Maintaining or enhancing the number of active silica sand sites in relation to the baseline.

Target: 1 or more active sites

Past performance

2021: 1 active site

2020: 1 active site

2019: 1 active site

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 1 active site

2023: 1 active site

Further information:

This indicator has a review trigger of “1 or more sites coming to the end of their productive life”.

Indicator 17: The number of building stone sites with permitted reserves in relation to the baseline

There were no building stone sites with permitted reserved in Worcestershire when the Minerals Local Plan was adopted. There have not been any applications for building stone sites since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan.

This indicator has no target and will not be monitored until a relevant application is received, at which point it will then be monitored for information which may reveal trends over time.

Indicator 18: The number of active building stone sites in relation to the baseline

There were no building stone sites with permitted reserved in Worcestershire when the Minerals Local Plan was adopted. There have not been any applications for building stone sites since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan.

This indicator has no target and will not be monitored until a relevant application is received, at which point it will then be monitored for information which may reveal trends over time.

Indicator 19: The number of active salt or brine sites

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time

Past performance

2021: 1 active site

2020: 1 active site

2019: 1 active site

Performance in 2022 and 2023

2022: 1 active site

2023: 1 active site

Indicator 20: The number of applications received for any other industrial minerals

There have not been any applications for any other industrial mineral sites since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan. This indicator has no target and will not be monitored until a relevant application is received, at which point it will then be monitored for information which may reveal trends over time.

Indicator 21: No change in status of coal deposits in the county by the Coal Authority

This indicator has no target but has a review trigger of: Any coal resources in Worcestershire identified to be of commercial value (as assessed by the Coal Authority).

No coal resources in Worcestershire have been identified to be of commercial value by the Coal Authority (no areas in Worcestershire are shown as "Surface Coal Resource Area" on the Coal Authority's Map Viewer at https://www2.groundstability.com/interactive-viewer-help/).

Indicator 22: No change in the number of Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence areas within the county

This indicator has no target but has a review trigger of: Issue of Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence areas within the county.

No Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence areas have been issued within the county. The last Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round was undertaken in 2014. A decision on the timing of the next round has not yet been made (https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/regulatory-information/exploration-and-production/onshore/licensing-regime/).

Indicator 23: Percentage of mineral applications determined within 13 weeks (16 weeks if EIA development) or within an agreed extension of time.

Target: In line with Government targets for planning performance

Current performance:

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted were determined within 13 weeks (16 weeks if EIA development) or within an agreed extension of time.

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023.

Other indicators relevant to Objective MO1

Other indicators relevant to the achievement of Objective MO1 are:

- Indicator 25 (MO 2)
- Indicators 55, 62, 63, 64, 65 (MO 6)

Objective MO 2: Protect and enhance the environmental and socio-economic function of Worcestershire's network of green spaces and natural elements (green infrastructure)

Indicator 24a: Percentage of permitted mineral development proposals that adequately demonstrate how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of the local economic, social and environmental context of the site.

Target:

100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Current performance:

2022: 100% (3 of 3 permissions granted demonstrated how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of the local economic, social and environmental context of the site)

2023: No applications were determined for minerals development in 2023.

Indicator 24b: Percentage of permitted mineral development proposals that adequately demonstrate how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of the potential impacts of climate change.

Target:

100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Current performance:

2022: 100% (3 of 3 permissions granted demonstrated how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of the potential impacts of climate change)

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 24c: Percentage of permitted mineral development proposals that adequately demonstrate how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of site-specific opportunities to:

i. protect and enhance inherent landscape character;

ii. conserve, restore and enhance ecological networks and deliver net gains for biodiversity;

iii. conserve and enhance the condition, legibility and understanding of heritage assets and their setting;

iv. reduce the causes and impacts of flooding;

v. protect and enhance the surface water and groundwater resources at the local and catchment scale;

vi. improve the condition, legibility and understanding of geodiversity; and

vii. enhance the rights of way network and provision of publicly accessible green space.

Target:

100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Current performance:

2022: 100% (3 of 3 permissions granted demonstrated how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of site-specific opportunities as detailed in policy MLP 7, part c)

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023

Indicator 24d: Percentage of permitted mineral development proposals that adequately demonstrate how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of the green infrastructure priorities of the relevant strategic corridor (where the proposed development is within a strategic corridor) or the strategic context of green infrastructure components within the wider green infrastructure network (where the proposed development is not within a strategic corridor).

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted demonstrated how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of the green infrastructure priorities of the relevant strategic corridor (where the proposed development is within a strategic corridor) or the strategic context of green infrastructure components within the wider green infrastructure network (where the proposed development is not within a strategic corridor).

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 24e: Percentage of permitted mineral development proposals that adequately demonstrate how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of how green infrastructure benefits will be secured for the long term.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted demonstrated how they will conserve and enhance networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development by adequately taking account of how green infrastructure benefits will be secured for the long term.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 25: All extant mineral sites delivering development in accordance with approved working, restoration and aftercare plans.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Current performance:

Monitoring of extant sites in 2022 and 2023 indicates all extant mineral sites are delivering development in accordance with approved working, restoration and aftercare plans.

Explanation:

Routine monitoring visits are undertaken by the Council's monitoring and enforcement officer to ensure compliance with planning conditions. The County Council also investigates alleged breaches

of planning control and takes enforcement action when necessary to do so, in accordance with Worcestershire County Council's Enforcement Plan.

Where there are breaches of planning control, there are a number of notices and tools available to the County Council (as listed in Appendix 1 of Worcestershire County Council's Enforcement Plan). No sites with extant minerals planning permission were subject to any of these notices or tools in 2022 or 2023.

Indicator 26: Delivery of the green infrastructure priorities of the Avon and Carrant Brook Strategic Corridor over the life of the plan.

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

Current performance:

No applications relevant to this indicator have been determined since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 2022.

Further information:

The green infrastructure priorities for the Avon and Carrant Brook Strategic Corridor are:

a) create wetland features such as wet pasture, water meadows, reedbed, fen, marsh, and ditches during both working phases and as part of restoration and after-use, including where characteristic arable, cropping or horticultural land uses or orchards are incorporated;

b) conserve, enhance and restore characteristic hedgerow patterns, and linear tree belts along hedge and ditch lines and along the banks of watercourses;

c) link, extend and enhance the network of public rights of way and other public access routes, incorporating information or routes which increase the legibility and understanding of the geodiversity, heritage and character of the area;

d) in the Principal Village Farmlands and Village Farmlands with Orchards landscape types, conserve, enhance and restore lines of hedgerow fruit trees to define medium- to large-scale fields.

Indicator 27: Delivery of the green infrastructure priorities of the Lower Severn Strategic Corridor over the life of the plan.

Target:

This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

Current performance:

Three applications relevant to this indicator have been determined since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 2022.

- Application reference 19/000048/CM (Bow Farm)
- Application reference 20/000009/CM and 20/000015/CM (Ryall North / Ryall's Court)

Lower Severn Strategic Corridor Green Infrastructure Priority	**How planning permissions intend to deliver the priority**	**Reasons given for not delivering the priority**
a) create wetland features such as fen and marsh, wet grassland, reedbed and lowland meadows during both working phases and as part of restoration and after-use, including where the following characteristic agricultural land uses are incorporated: • cropping and horticulture in the Settled Farmlands on River Terraces landscape type; • pastoral land use in the Riverside Meadows and Wet Pasture Meadows landscape types	19/000048/CM: • progressive restoration to agricultural land (arable) with parts of the site restored to wetland for nature conservation purposes (mosaic of wetland grassland, scrapes and shallows and open water) 20/000009/CM and 20/000015/CM: • progressive restoration primarily to a lake, but including some agricultural restoration to BMV quality, as well as ponds, reedbeds, swales, ditches, wet and dry conservation grassland, agricultural grassland.	N/A
b) conserve, enhance and restore characteristic hedgerow patterns and tree cover along watercourses and streamlines	20/000009/CM and 20/000015/CM: • Two species-rich hedgerows with tree planting at 50m spacing to be reinstated, following existing hedge lines where appropriate, and with associated drainage ditches alongside.	19/000048/CM: • seeks to preserve and reinstate characteristic hedgerow patterns where possible, but overall loss of hedgerow length of 587m. 500m of this being within the areas to be restored to wetland where internal hedgerows would provide vantage points for predators of ground-nesting birds,

		deterring a primary habitat function. 20/000009/CM and 20/000015/CM: • reduction in total length of hedgerow between the existing permitted scheme for this site and the proposed scheme, with a direct effect on this key characteristic of the landscape. However, mitigated by increasing species diversity of reinstated hedges, and the new character to be introduced by restoration to a lake would not be inappropriate within the river flood plain and in the context of the existing permitted lake restoration scheme (15/000013/CM).
c) create accessible semi-natural green space, incorporating information or routes which increase the legibility and understanding of the geodiversity, heritage and character of the area	19/000048/CM: • condition imposed requiring an interpretation strategy for cultural heritage, landscape, ecology and geodiversity. 20/000009/CM: • Existing public rights of way to be diverted around the new lake (public rights of way around the eastern, northern and north-western perimeter of the proposed lake), and provision of the lake for sport and recreation	19/000048/CM: • no additional public rights of way or public access proposed, owing to extensive public access available through and adjacent to the site via public footpaths and bridleways, and nearby Common Land.

	• condition imposed requiring an interpretation strategy for cultural heritage, landscape, ecology and geodiversity. •	

Indicator 28: Delivery of the green infrastructure priorities of the North East Worcestershire Strategic Corridor over the life of the plan.

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

Current performance:

No applications relevant to this indicator have been determined since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 2022.

Further information:

The green infrastructure priorities for the North East Worcestershire Strategic Corridor are:

a) conserve and restore permanent pasture, incorporating lowland heathland, acid grassland and scrub habitats;

b) conserve, enhance and restore characteristic hedgerow patterns and tree cover along watercourses and streamlines;

c) slow the flow of water in upper reaches of the catchment;

d) create accessible semi-natural green space, incorporating information or routes which increase the legibility and understanding of the geodiversity, heritage and character of the area.

Indicator 29: Delivery of the green infrastructure priorities of the North West Worcestershire Strategic Corridor over the life of the plan.

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

Current performance:

No applications relevant to this indicator have been determined since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 2022.

Further information:

The green infrastructure priorities for the North West Worcestershire Strategic Corridor are:

a) conserve, enhance and restore characteristic hedgerow patterns and tree cover along watercourses and streamlines;

b) slow the flow of water in upper reaches and increase flood storage and floodplain connectivity in lower parts of the catchment;

c) create accessible semi-natural green space, incorporating information or routes which increase the legibility and understanding of the geodiversity, heritage and character of the area;

d) in the Riverside Meadows, conserve and restore permanent pasture, incorporating wetland habitats such as fen and marsh, wet grassland, reedbed and lowland meadows alongside pastoral land use;

e) in the Sandstone Estatelands, conserve, enhance and create lowland heathland, acid grassland and scrub. Indicator 30: Delivery of the green infrastructure priorities of the Salwarpe Tributaries strategic corridor over the life of the plan.

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

Current performance:

No applications relevant to this indicator have been determined since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 2022.

Further information:

The green infrastructure priorities for the Salwarpe Tributaries Worcestershire Strategic Corridor are:

a) conserve, enhance and restore characteristic hedgerow patterns and structure;

b) protect, restore and link relic ancient woodlands and conserve and restore tree cover along watercourses and streamlines;

c) slow the flow of water in upper reaches and increase flood storage and floodplain connectivity in lower parts of the catchment;

d) create accessible semi-natural green space, incorporating information or routes which increase the legibility and understanding of the geodiversity, heritage and character of the area

Other indicators relevant to Objective MO2

Other indicators relevant to the achievement of Objective MO2 are:

- Indicators 1, 2 (MO 1)
- Indicators 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 (MO 3)
- Indicator 46 (MO 4)
- Indicator 53 (MO 5)

- Indicator 61 (MO 6)

Objective MO 3: Protect and enhance the quality, character and distinctiveness of the built, historic, natural and water environment

Indicator 31: All permitted mineral extraction and/or engineering operations within the Green Belt adequately demonstrate that they meet the requirements of policy MLP 27.

Target:

100% of permitted mineral extraction and/or engineering operations within the Green Belt demonstrate that they meet the requirements of policy MLP 27.

Current performance:

2022: Of the three applications determined, none were in the Green Belt

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023

Indicator 32: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will conserve, enhance and deliver net gains for biodiversity.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will conserve, enhance and deliver net gains for biodiversity.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 33: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance in 2022

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 34: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the landscape, including inherent landscape character and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the landscape, including inherent landscape character and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 35: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will conserve and enhance geodiversity.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will conserve and enhance geodiversity.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 36: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, quantity and flow of surface water and groundwater resources.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, quantity and flow of surface water and groundwater resources.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 37: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will avoid increasing flood risk to people and property on site or elsewhere and contribute, where possible, to a reduction in overall flood risk.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will avoid increasing flood risk to people and property on site or elsewhere and contribute, where possible, to a reduction in overall flood risk.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Other indicators relevant to Objective MO3

Other indicators relevant to the achievement of Objective MO3 are:

- Indicators 1, 2, 17, 18 (MO 1)
- Indicators 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (MO 2)
- Indicator 46 (MO 4)
- Indicator 53 (MO 5)
- Indicators 60, 61 (MO 6)

Objective MO 4: Protect and enhance the health, well-being, safety and amenity of people and communities

Indicator 38: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from dust.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance in 2022

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from dust.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 39: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from odour.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from odour.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 40: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from noise and vibration.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance in 2022

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from noise and vibration.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 41: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from light.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from light.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 42: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse on amenity or health and well-being from visual impacts.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse on amenity or health and well-being from visual impacts.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 43: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from contamination.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on amenity or health and well-being from contamination.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 44: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on air quality.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not give rise to an unacceptable adverse effect on air quality.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 45: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate how they will help to secure net improvements in overall air quality, or adequately demonstrate why this is not possible.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated how they will help to secure net improvements in overall air quality.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 46: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will protect and enhance rights of way and public access provision.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will protect and enhance rights of way and public access provision.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 47: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will use the most sustainable transport options for the movement of minerals and materials.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will use the most sustainable transport options for the movement of minerals and materials.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 48: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will provide safe access for employees and visitors.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will provide safe access for employees and visitors.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 49: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on safety or congestion of the local or strategic transport network.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on safety or congestion of the local or strategic transport network.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 50: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the environment or amenity along transport routes.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the environment or amenity along transport routes.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 51: Number of active liaison committees for extant mineral developments

Target: This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information and may reveal trends over time

Current performance

Of the 4 extant mineral sites in 2022/2023, 3 had active liaison committees required through their planning conditions. The only site without an active liaison committee does not have such a requirement in its planning conditions.

Other indicators relevant to Objective MO4

Other indicators relevant to the achievement of Objective MO4 are:

- Indicators 1, 2 (MO 1)
- Indicators 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (MO 2)
- Indicator 37 (MO 3)
- Indicators 62, 63, 64, 65 (MO6

Objective MO 5: Protect and enhance the vitality of the local economy

Indicator 52: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will avoid significant development of best and most versatile agricultural land unless they adequately demonstrate it to be necessary.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will avoid significant development of best and most versatile agricultural land, or adequately demonstrated it to be necessary.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 53: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will safeguard the long-term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land by enabling the land to retain its longer-term capability for agricultural use.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will safeguard the long-term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land by enabling the land to retain its longer-term capability for agricultural use.

2023: No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Indicator 54: Maintain or increase % of Worcestershire's Gross Value Added (GVA) from mineral development in relation to the baseline.

Target: % of Worcestershire's GVA from mineral development ≥0.03%

Past performance

2019: 0.06%

2020: 0.02%

2021: 0.05%

Current performance

2022: 0.04% of Worcestershire's GVA from mineral development

2023: GVA data was not available at the time of producing this AMR

Explanation:

Estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) from mineral development in Worcestershire was £4m in 2022, representing 0.04% of total GVA. This is a decrease on the proportion in 2021, but meets the target of maintaining or increasing in comparison to the baseline figure of 0.03%. Due to a revised ONS methodology, the GVA figures are not directly comparable with any figures in previous AMRs. 2023 GVA data will be reported on in a subsequent AMR.

Other indicators relevant to Objective MO5

Other indicators relevant to the achievement of Objective MO5 are:

- Indicators 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 (MO 1)
- Indicators 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (MO 2)
- Indicator 37 (MO 3)
- Indicators 47, 48 (MO 4)
- Indicators 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 (MO 6)

Objective MO 6: Prudent use of natural resources

Indicator 55: Number of applications for borrow pits.

Target:

This indicator has no target, it is being monitored for information only and may reveal trends over time

Current performance:

No applications determined in 2022 or 2023 were for borrow pits.

Indicator 56: All permitted borrow pits adequately demonstrate that they are operationally related to a specific project.

Target:

100% of the borrow pit developments which are granted planning permission

Current performance:

No applications determined in 2022 or 2023 were for borrow pits.

Indicator 57: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will minimise the use of water in buildings, plant and transport.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Current performance:

2022: 100% (3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will minimise the use of water in buildings, plant and transport)

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023

Indicator 58: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will minimise the use of energy in buildings, plant and transport.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will minimise the use of energy in buildings, plant and transport.

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023

Indicator 59: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate that they will optimise energy generation from renewable and low-carbon sources.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will optimise energy generation from renewable and low-carbon sources.

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023.

Indicator 60: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate how the benefits of maximising the extraction of mineral resources has been balanced against any benefits of sterilisation of some of the resource by adequately taking account of each of the considerations listed in Policy MLP 26 c) (i-vii).

Target: 100% of mineral developments which are granted planning permission.

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted demonstrated how the benefits of maximising the extraction of mineral resources has been balanced against any benefits of sterilisation of some of the resource.

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023

Further information:

Policy MLP 26, part c, requires applicants to demonstrate that, throughout its lifetime, the proposed development will balance the benefits of maximising extraction with any benefits of allowing sterilization of some of the resource, taking account of:

i. the need for the mineral resource;
ii. the ability to deliver the relevant strategic corridor priorities;
iii. the ability to provide a stable and appropriate landform for beneficial after-use;
iv. the ability to deliver high-quality restoration at the earliest opportunity;
v. the appropriateness of importing fill materials on to site, and the likely availability of suitable fill materials;
vi. the need to protect and enhance inherent landscape character; and
vii. the need to manage or mitigate impacts on the built, historic, natural and water environment and amenity.

Indicator 61: All permitted mineral developments adequately demonstrate how they will protect and conserve soil resources.

Target: 100% of the mineral developments which are granted planning permission

Applications relevant to this indicator determined in 2022: 20/000009/CM, 20/000015/CM, 19/000048/CM

No applications were determined for minerals applications in 2023.

Current performance

2022: 3 of 3 permissions granted adequately demonstrated that they will protect and conserve soil resources.

2023: No applications were determined for mineral development in 2023

Indicator 62: All applications for non-exempt development proposed within or partially within the Mineral Consultation Areas defined on the Policies Map include an assessment of the potential impact of the development on sterilising mineral resources.

Target: WCC to agree a protocol, policies or guidance with Borough, City and District LPAs to support this.

Current performance

Discussions have been undertaken with Borough, City and District LPAs in relation to applications within Mineral Consultation Areas, this includes the publication of a Mineral Resource Assessment guidance note prepared to help applicants by setting out what information an MRA must include which is available on the Council's website.

Indicator 63: Percentage of applications where the specific consultation response from Mineral Planning Authority with regard to safeguarding is given weight in the planning balance (as detailed in officer and committee reports)

Target: 100% of applications with a specific response from the Mineral Planning Authority.

Current performance:

2022: 100%

2023: 100%

Further information:

Worcestershire County Council responded to 12 planning applications as Mineral Planning Authority in 2022 and none in 2023. Worcestershire County Council only responded to applications where mineral safeguarding issues were identified.

The relevant Borough, City and District LPAs gave weigh to the response from WCC in relation to mineral safeguarding as part of the planning balance.

Indicator 64: The sequential approach to avoiding or minimising sterilisation by non-mineral development has been applied in accordance with Policy MLP 41.

Target: This indicator has no target, as it will depend on the number and type of applications in Mineral Consultation Areas over the monitoring period. The number of applications commented on by the MPA which subsequently include conditions regarding safeguarding will be monitored for information and may reveal trends over time

Current performance

Worcestershire County Council responded to 12 planning applications as Mineral Planning Authority in 2022 and 0 in 2023. Of these, 0 subsequently included conditions regarding mineral safeguarding.

Indicator 65: The agent of change principle is applied where non-mineral development is proposed in the vicinity of an existing or planned mineral site.

Target: This indicator has no target, as it will depend on the number and type of applications in Mineral Consultation Areas over the monitoring period. The number of applications commented on by the MPA which subsequently include conditions regarding safeguarding will be monitored for information and may reveal trends over time.

Current performance:

Worcestershire County Council did not respond to any planning applications in 2022 or 2023 where the agent of change principle was, or needed to be, applied to non-mineral development proposed in the vicinity of an existing or planned mineral site.

Other indicators relevant to Objective MO6

Other indicators relevant to the achievement of Objective MO6 are:

- Indicator 11 (MO 1)
- Indicator 25 (MO 2)

Waste Core Strategy (2012)

Indicators relating to planning applications for waste management development

Introduction: Waste and sewage applications determined in 2022 and 2023

The following ten planning applications were granted planning permission during 2022 and 2023, and have been considered against the waste monitoring indicators set out below.

- **Application reference 22/000019/CM:** Proposed replacement and upgrading of existing effluent treatment plant including dissolved air flotation, feed pumps, bioreactor, and an ultrafiltration membrane building at Muller Wiseman Dairies, Pointon Way, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire
- **Application reference 22/000033/CM:** The carrying-out of development pursuant to planning permission: 20/000007/CM: "The installation of a new terminal pumping station incorporating a pumped storm overflow, to replace the existing pumping station at New Street in Upton-upon-Severn, to improve capacity and flood resilience", without complying with condition 3 of that permission to amend the construction days / hours on land to the south of New Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire
- **Application reference 22/000024/CM:** Proposed amendments to the operation of the existing scrap metal yard approved under planning permission Ref: 18/000048/CM, including amendments to the annual operational throughput of waste materials.
- **Application reference 22/000028/CM:** Continuation of the processing of incinerator bottom ash (IBA), proposed increase of annual throughput of IBA and proposed aggregate blending operations at Hill and Moor Landfill
- **Application reference 19/000048/CM:** Proposed extraction of sand and gravel with restoration using site derived and imported inert material to wetland, nature conservation and agriculture (cross-boundary application) on land at Bow Farm, Bow Lane, Ripple, Worcestershire.
- **Application reference 21/000029/CM:** Proposed importation of inert restoration material and extraction of sand to enable engineering operations for stability purposes and completion of site restoration at (Western portion of the former) Sandy Lane Quarry, Wildmoor, Worcestershire
- **Application reference 22/000045/CM:** Proposed Installation of 1 Motor Control Centre (MCC) Kiosk at Honeybourne STW Plant, Honeybourne Road, Wychavon, WR11 7QE
- **Application reference 21/000035/CM:** Proposed retention of existing facilities, operations and access; the installation of a wash plant and associated infrastructure for the processing of inert materials, to produce recovered aggregate and soils; the relocation of the waste sorting shed, workshop permitted under Ref: 18/000048/CM, and the provision of a new site office at MRW Long Marston, Long Marston Works, Long Marston Road, Long Marston, near Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8AQ
- **Application reference 23/000011/CM:** Proposed installation of two Motor Control Centre Kiosks located within the operational sewage treatment works at Upton-upon-Severn Sewage Treatment Works, land to the south of New Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire

- **Application reference 23/000019/CM:** County Matter planning application for a proposed change of use to Sui Generis use for the recovery of precious metals from metal containing wastes, minor modifications to the existing building, including the installation of exhaust flues and addition of other minor ancillary structures to support development at Unit 10 Merse Road, Moons Moat North Industrial Estate, Moons Moat, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9HL

The following planning applications were refused planning permission or withdrawn during 2022 and 2023 and are therefore not considered against the waste monitoring indicators set out below.

- **Application reference 22/000014/CM:** Installation of a kiosk to house control equipment for sewage treatment upgrades and associated infrastructure (part-retrospective) at Alvechurch Sewage Treatment Works, Redditch Road, Alvechurch, Worcestershire
- **Application reference** 21/000030/CM: Retention of external lighting and CCTV provision at Waste Incineration Unit, Hangmans Lane, Hanley Castle, WR8 0AJ

Indicator W1. Permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on flooding

Target:

0% of permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on flooding

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (Of the ten permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on flooding)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on flooding)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on flooding)

Explanation:

No applications were permitted in 2022 or 2023 for waste management development contrary to EA advice on flooding.

Indicator W2. Permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on water quality

Target:

0% of permissions granted for waste management development contrary to the EA advice on water quality

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (Of the ten permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on water quality)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on water quality)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none were contrary to EA advice on water quality)

Explanation:

No applications were permitted in 2022 or 2023 for waste management development contrary to EA advice on water quality.

Indicator W3. Permissions for waste management development that include measures for energy efficiency

Target:

100% of permissions for waste management development to include measures for energy efficiency

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 50% (Of the ten permissions granted, five included measures for energy efficiency)

Trend:

2021: 17% (Of the six permissions granted, one included measures for energy efficiency)

2020: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none included measures for energy efficiency)

Explanation:

Whilst this target has technically been missed, the five applications that did not include energy efficiency were not for the type of developments that would typically allow for energy efficiency measures. One of the five applications was for changes to a condition, whereby no physical development would be involved. Of the remaining permissions, two did not include buildings, while one was for a kiosk housing equipment, and one - the cross-boundary application 19/000048/CM - did not include any buildings within Worcestershire. As such, no action is considered necessary. Monitoring of this indicator since the WCS was adopted in 2012 has consistently shown - in common with some other WCS indicators - that it may not be the most appropriate measure of WCS implementation. This is because it fails to reflect the different types of waste management applications that come forward. This will be given consideration when the WCS is reviewed and revised to ensure that any amended indicators are fit for purpose.

Indicator W4: Permissions for waste management development with a gross floor space of over 1000m2 gaining at least 10% of energy supply annually from renewable energy supplies

Target:

100% of relevant permissions for waste management development to include 10% renewable energy

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 50% (Of four relevant permissions, two included 10% renewable energy required by condition)

Trend:

2021: 100% (two relevant permissions, both including a condition requiring 10% renewable energy)

2020: 100% (one relevant permission, with 10% renewable energy required by condition)

Explanation:

Indicator W4 looks at waste permissions with a gross floorspace of >1000m^2 and whether they gain at least 10% of their energy supply annually from renewable energy sources (policy WCS11 (d)). Four permissions for waste management development with a gross floorspace of over 1,000 sq m were granted within the monitoring period, two of which included 10% renewable energy. The two relevant permissions that did not include renewable energy were both for the installation of motor control kiosks at sewage treatment works. The absence of renewable energy is not explained in the planning application documentation. The requirement for renewable energy will often be secured through one or more conditions attached to the grant of planning permission. As such, relevant permissions that include such condition(s) satisfy indicator W4, even where the planning application itself does not include such provision.

In addition to the relevant applications discussed above, one permission fell below the floorspace threshold, but did include 10% renewable energy.

Indicator W5: Permissions for waste management development that include measures for water efficiency

Target:

100% of permissions for waste management development to include measures for water efficiency

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 70% (Of the ten permissions granted, seven included measures for water efficiency)

Trend:

2021: 33% (Of the six permissions granted, two included measures for water efficiency)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none included measures for water efficiency)

Explanation:

This indicator looks at how water demand has been reduced where possible and how water efficiency has been considered in the design and operation of all new built development (policy WCS11 (b)). The Waste Core Strategy includes a review trigger for this indicator of "Less than 90% of permissions comply for three years in any five". However, whilst this target has technically been missed, some of the waste management applications permitted in the last three years were not for the types of development that would typically allow for water efficiency measures. In many cases the type of application does not offer scope for water efficiency measures (for example, the development may include no buildings and may not use water within its operations) or, where there are water efficiency measures, they may be controlled through different regulatory frameworks (such as environmental permitting). As such, no action is considered necessary.

Monitoring of this indicator since the WCS was adopted in 2012 has consistently shown - in common with some other WCS indicators - that it may not be the most appropriate measure of WCS implementation. This is because it fails to reflect the different types of waste management applications that come forward. This will be given consideration when the WCS is reviewed and revised to ensure that any amended indicators are fit for purpose.

Indicator W6: Permissions for new landfill capacity that include landfill gas management systems

Target:

100% of permissions for new landfill capacity to include landfill gas recovery systems

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: N/A. Whilst two permissions were granted that included an element of “landfill”, both were for inert waste. Landfill gas is not generated from inert waste.

Trend:

2021: N/A. No permissions were granted for new landfill capacity.

2020: N/A. No permissions were granted for new landfill capacity.

Indicator W7: Permissions for new built waste management development that include provision for biodiversity enhancement

Target:

100% of relevant permissions for new built waste management development to include provision for biodiversity enhancement

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 100% (Of the four permissions that included new built waste management development, all four included provision for biodiversity enhancement).

Trend:

2021: 75% (Out of four applications, three included biodiversity enhancement)

2020: 75% (Out of four applications, three included biodiversity enhancement)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 9(c). While some waste management applications may offer less scope than others for substantial biodiversity enhancement, it should still be possible for most new built development to include some form of provision, even if this is only relatively minor. This matter will be considered when the Waste Core Strategy is reviewed and revised, and will also take into account any legislative provisions requiring biodiversity net gain.

Indicator W8: Permissions that have an unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character, scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, battlefields or registered historic parks and gardens

Target:

No permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (Of the ten permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 9(b).

Indicator W9: Permissions for new waste management development granted in the Malvern Hills or Cotswolds AONB

Target:

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse change on either AONB

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (Of the ten permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had unacceptable adverse impacts)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 12(b).

Indicator W10: Permissions for new waste management development that take into account local characteristics

Target:

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (Of the ten permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 12(a).

Indicator W11: Permissions for new waste management development [that] take into account amenity considerations

Target:

No relevant permissions to have an unacceptable adverse impact

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (Of the ten permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none had an unacceptable adverse impact)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 14.

Indicator W12: Permissions for new waste management development on greenfield sites

Target:

No relevant permissions granted on greenfield sites

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 10% (Of the ten permissions granted, one was on a greenfield site)

Trend:

2021: 0% (Of the six permissions granted, none were on greenfield sites)

2020: 0% (Of the five permissions granted, none were on greenfield sites)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 6.

Although one permission was technically on a greenfield site, this permission was to amend construction hours and did not, in itself, relate to new physical development on a greenfield site. The development to which the condition amendment related was already permitted in a previous year, and the 2022 permission had no net effect on greenfield land.

Indicator W13: Permissions for new waste management development in the Green Belt

Target:

No unacceptable cumulative impact on the purposes of Green Belt designation

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0 (Of ten applications, one was in the Green Belt, but this was deemed not to be inappropriate development)

Trend:

2021: 0 (Of six applications, none were in the Green Belt)

2020: 0 (Of six applications, one was in the Green Belt, but no unacceptable cumulative impact)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 13.

Indicator W14: Permissions granted in accordance with highways advice

Target:

100% of relevant permissions granted in accordance with Highways advice

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 100% (All of the ten permissions granted were in accordance with Highways advice)

Trend:

2021: 100% (All of the six permissions granted were in accordance with Highways advice)

2020: 100% (All of the six permissions granted were in accordance with Highways advice)

Explanation:

This indicator helps to measure performance against policy WCS 8(c).

Indicator W18. Adoption of appropriate policies regarding managing waste arisings from all new development in City, Borough and District Council DPDs

Target:

Policies adopted by all City, Borough and District Councils

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: All City, Borough and District Councils had relevant adopted policies in place

Trend:

2021: All City, Borough and District Councils had relevant adopted policies in place

2020: All City, Borough and District Councils had relevant adopted policies in place

Explanation:

One relevant DPD was adopted within the monitoring period. The Wyre Forest District Local Plan 2016 – 2036 was adopted in April 2022. This included policy SP.35 – Waste, which states that "proposals for new development should incorporate adequate facilities into the design to allow occupiers to separate and store waste for recycling and recovery unless existing provision is adequate." Appropriate policies are also contained within the extant South Worcestershire Development Plan (adopted 2016), Bromsgrove District Plan (adopted 2017), and Borough of Redditch Local Plan (adopted 2017). WCC continues to engage with the city, borough and district councils on an ongoing basis under the duty to cooperate, to ensure that waste matters are reflected as necessary in emerging Local Plan reviews.

Further information:

The Local Plans adopted by the City, Borough and District Councils are available on their respective websites. Note that the three South Worcestershire authorities (Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council) are all covered by the single South Worcestershire Development Plan.

Indicator W19. Development permitted within 250m of waste management facilities against County Council advice

Target:

None

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: None (0 relevant responses)

Trend:

2021: None (0 relevant responses)

2020: None (0 relevant responses)

Explanation:

WCC did not object to any planning applications in 2022 or 2023 on the grounds of their impact on waste management facilities.

Indicator W24. Applications for Waste Management development determined within 13 weeks.

Target:

100%

Current performance:

100% (10 of 10)

Trend:

2021: 100% (6 of 6)

2020: 100% (6 of 6)

Explanation:

100% of applications for waste management development determined were within 13 weeks (16 weeks for EIA development), or within an agreed extension of time in 2022 and 2023.

Although the WCS indicator only refers to the statutory 13-week period for determining applications for major development, a further statutory timeframe of 16 weeks applies where applications require Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition, government recognises that longer time periods can be required in some cases, including for reasons of complexity. This AMR adopts the same measurements used by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whereby decisions are considered to have been made in time where they are made within either the statutory time period, or within the time limits agreed with applicants through planning performance agreements or extensions of time.

Indicator W25a. Proportion of waste management applications discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage.

Target:

Increase

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Decrease to 80% (8 of 10)

Trend:

2021: Remained unchanged at 83% (5 of 6)

2020: Increased to 83% (5 of 6)

Explanation:

80% of waste management applications determined in 2022 and 2023 had been discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage. This is a decrease on the proportion in 2021.

The target for this indicator is an increase in the proportion of applications involving pre-application discussions. Although the target has not been achieved, WCC does not consider that any fundamental action is required at this stage. The proportion has increased since 2019, and there is no indication of an ongoing decline in pre-application consultation rates. This will be kept under review in future AMRs.

Indicator W25b. Number of waste management proposals discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage

Target:

Increase

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 21 proposals discussed (increased to 13 proposals in 2022, but decreased to eight proposals in 2023).

Trend:

2021: 10 proposals discussed.

2020: 39 proposals discussed.

Explanation:

13 waste management proposals were discussed with Worcestershire County Council at pre-application stage in 2022, and eight were discussed in 2023. The significant difference in numbers between 2020 and 2021/22/23 is largely due to a refined approach to how such discussions are recorded. Although the target is for an increase, a decrease in the absolute number of proposals discussed is not considered a serious issue that needs to be rectified. If evidence comes forward that a large number of proposals that should have been discussed at pre-application stage were not, then WCC will reconsider this position.

Indicator W26. Permitted applications for waste management which include a consultation statement.

Target:

100%

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 20% (2 of 10)

Trend:

2021: 17% (1 of 6)

2020: 0% (0 of 6)

Explanation:

Only two applications of the ten permitted in 2022/2023 included a consultation statement. As such, this indicator has failed to meet its target. This has been highlighted in previous AMRs, with action taken in the form of the adoption of the Validation Document alongside the Waste Core Strategy as a mechanism intended to support the delivery of this objective. The Validation Document requires any application that included pre-application public consultation to be accompanied by a Consultation Statement. The Statement needs to set out how the applicant addressed the council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Monitoring of this indicator since the WCS was adopted in 2012 has consistently shown - in common with some other WCS indicators - that it may not be the most appropriate measure of WCS implementation. This is because it fails to reflect the different types of waste management applications that come forward, and because there is no legislative or policy requirement for applicants to undertake pre-application consultation (and consequently to provide a statement about the consultation undertaken). The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that local planning authorities "cannot require that a developer engages with them before submitting a planning application". It is therefore not currently open to any review of the Waste Core Strategy to include a policy requirement for a consultation statement for all waste management applications. Requiring a consultation statement for every single waste management application - regardless of the characteristics of those applications - would likely be disproportionate.

Taking these issues into account, it is not considered this is a failure of the Waste Core Strategy which requires modifications to policies to rectify, and it has been determined that although there is a failure to deliver this objective, no actions are required at this time.

Indicator W27. Decisions where there are no policies in the Development Plan which are relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision.

Target:

None

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: None.

Trend:

2021: None.

2020: None.

Explanation:

There were no decisions where there were no relevant policies in the development plan, or where policies were absent or out of date, in 2022.

Indicator W28. Increase in GVA in Worcestershire from Waste Management.

Target:

Increase

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: GVA from waste management was 1.1% in 2022, which is a decrease on the previous year. 2023 GVA data was not available at the time of producing this AMR.

Trend:

2021: 1.3% of Worcestershire GVA.

2020: 1.0% of Worcestershire GVA.

Explanation:

Estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) from waste management in Worcestershire was £179m in 2022, representing 1.1% of total GVA. This is a decrease on the proportion in 2021, but is consistent with the proportions seen from 2018 to 2020. Due to a revised ONS methodology, the GVA figures are not directly comparable with any figures in previous AMRs. 2023 GVA data will be reported on in a subsequent AMR.

Indicator W29. Permitted 'other recovery' and disposal (excluding landfill) capacity at each level of the geographic hierarchy.

Target:

100% of new 'other recovery' and disposal (excluding landfill) capacity at level 1 and 2 of the geographic hierarchy.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 0% (0 of 1 relevant applications permitted in level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy.)

Trend:

2021: 50% (1 of 2 relevant applications permitted in level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy.)

2020: 0% (0 of 1 relevant application permitted in level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy.)

Explanation:

In 2022 and 2023 there was one application for new 'other recovery' or disposal (excluding landfill) facilities in the county. In this case, the application was for the continuation of the processing of incinerator bottom ash with increased annual throughput and proposed aggregate blending operations. The application was in level 3 of the geographic hierarchy, but decision-makers recognised that it would enable waste that would otherwise be landfilled to be recycled and put to a beneficial use, and found that clear synergies had been demonstrated between the development and existing operations on the same site. As such, it was found to be in accordance with the geographic hierarchy set out in policy WCS 3 of the Waste Core Strategy.

Indicator W30. Permitted re-use, recycling, storage, sorting and transfer capacity at each level of the geographic hierarchy.

Target:

100% of new re-use, recycling, storage, sorting and transfer capacity at level 1 and 2 of the geographic hierarchy.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: 33%. One of three relevant permissions was within level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy.

Trend:

2021: No relevant applications.

2020: 1 of 2 relevant permissions was within level 1 or 2 of the geographic hierarchy (50%).

Explanation:

In 2022, one recycling permission was granted for new capacity. This was at level 5 of the geographic hierarchy. Whilst this application was not in level 1 or 2, it was an amendment to the operation of an existing site. Decision-makers stated that the location of the existing operational waste management facility - at level 5 of the geographic hierarchy - was found to be acceptable due to the ancillary nature of the proposal and, given that the proposal was not for a new waste management facility but to enable a moderate increase to existing operational throughput, the proposal would comply with Policy WCS 3 of the Waste Core Strategy.

In 2023, two recycling permissions were granted for new capacity. One of these permissions was at level 1 of the geographic hierarchy. The other was at level 5. The permission at level 5 concerned changes to an existing established operation; the committee report found that “Although the development site is sited within Level 5 'All other areas' of the Geographic Hierarchy, it is considered that the principle of the development in this location has already been established by the granting of [an earlier] planning permission [which] would improve the working conditions by providing new buildings, secure compounds and more space for the management of waste, thereby improving staff welfare and enabling greater working efficiency. The proposed aggregates recycling facility would refine current operations at the site and enable the recovery of material that would normally be landfilled.” On this basis, the apparent failure to comply with WCS policy is not considered to be a cause for concern.

Indicators relating to waste management capacity

Indicator W16a. Local Authority Collected Waste sent to landfill

Target:

Decrease in percentage of local authority collected waste sent to landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 13%

2020: 9%

Explanation and further information:

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, the source data can be accessed online from the 'Waste Data Flow' website at https://www.wastedataflow.org/. Please note that registration is required, but registration and use of the site is free.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W16b. Commercial and Industrial waste sent to landfill

Target:

Decrease in percentage of commercial and industrial waste managed sent to landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 24%

2020: 20%

Further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator gives combined data for Household, Commercial and Industrial waste (HCI) managed in Worcestershire. Please note, Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Household waste streams are not interchangeable, therefore LACW cannot be deducted from HCI figures to derive C&I data. HCI has therefore been used as the best available data to indicate C&I. However, there are several limitations with this data:

- It does not record the geographical origin of the waste managed.
- It does not record waste managed under an Environment Agency exemption (A waste exemption is a waste operation that is exempt from needing an environmental permit from the Environment Agency. Each exemption has specific limits and conditions that the holder must operate within).

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, the source data can be accessed online from the Environment Agency's 'Waste Data Interrogator: Waste Received' dataset, available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/aa53a313-f719-4e93-a98f-1b2572bd7189/2022-waste-data-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W16c. Construction and Demolition waste sent to landfill

Target:

Decrease in percentage of construction and demolition waste managed sent to landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: Unable to monitor

2020: Unable to monitor

Explanation:

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. There is no reliable data on how C&D waste arisings in Worcestershire are managed. The lack of reliable data is a concern nationally and was acknowledged in 2013 by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) in their report "Commercial and Industrial Waste in the UK and Republic of Ireland". As of publication of this AMR this concern was ongoing and not resolved.

Work has been undertaken by the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body into producing a methodology for estimating the quantity of recycled aggregates processed in an area. However, due to the limitations outlined in that document, and the fact it looks only at aggregate, it is not believed this methodology can accurately be used to monitor this indicator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W16d. Hazardous waste sent to landfill

Target:

Decrease in percentage of hazardous waste sent to landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 30%

2020: 8%

Explanation and further information:

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, the source data can be accessed online from the Environment Agency's 'Hazardous Waste Interrogator' dataset, available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/e8d0b36b-692f-4d4d-a7dd-cbcff44a616e/2022-hazardous-waste-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W17a. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of LACW waste

Target:

By 2020: 78%, with minimum of 50% re-use and recycling

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 87% (43% re-use and recycling)

2020: 91% (43% re-use and recycling)

Explanation and further information:

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy (WCS). At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, the source data can be accessed online from the 'Waste Data Flow' website at https://www.wastedataflow.org/. Please note that registration is required, but registration and use of the site is free.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr. It was acknowledged in the 2021 Authority Monitoring Report that part of the target set in objective WO3 has not been met. New targets will be required as part of any review or revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Indicator W17b. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of Commercial and Industrial waste

Target:

By 2020: 75%, with minimum of 55% re-use and recycling.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 76% (percentage re-used and recycled cannot be monitored)

2020: 80% (percentage re-used and recycled cannot be monitored)

Explanation and further information:

The Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator gives combined data for Household, Commercial and Industrial waste (HCI) managed in Worcestershire. Please note, Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Household waste streams are not interchangeable, therefore LACW cannot be deducted from HCI figures to derive C&I data. HCI has therefore been used as the best available data to indicate C&I. However, there are several limitations with this data:

- It does not record the geographical origin of the waste managed.
- It does not record waste managed under an Environment Agency exemption (A waste exemption is a waste operation that is exempt from needing an environmental permit from the Environment Agency. Each exemption has specific limits and conditions that the holder must operate within).

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy (WCS). At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, the source data can be accessed online from the Environment Agency's 'Waste Data Interrogator: Waste Received' dataset, available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/aa53a313-f719-4e93-a98f-1b2572bd7189/2022-waste-data-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages athttps://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr. New targets will be required as part of any review or revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Indicator W17c. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of Construction and Demolition waste

Target:

By 2020: 75%, with minimum of 55% re-use and recycling

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Unable to monitor

Trend:

2021: Unable to monitor

2020: Unable to monitor

Explanation and further information:

There is no reliable data on how C&D waste arisings in Worcestershire are managed. The lack of reliable data is a concern nationally and was acknowledged in 2013 by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) in their report "Commercial and Industrial Waste in the UK and Republic of Ireland". Work has been undertaken by the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body into producing a methodology for estimating the quantity of recycled aggregates processed in an area. However, due to the limitations outlined in that document, and the fact it looks only at aggregates, it is not believed this methodology can accurately be used to monitor this indicator.

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy. At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. New targets and how they can be monitored will be considered as part of any review or revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Indicator W17d. Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of Hazardous waste

Target:

By 2020: Re-use, recycling and 'other recovery' of 75% of hazardous waste (with a minimum of 55% re-use & recycling)

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 70% (0% re-use & recycling)

2020: 92% (12% re-use & recycling)

Explanation and further information:

The target for this indicator is set in the Waste Core Strategy (WCS). At the time the WCS was prepared, national guidance set national targets for waste management by 2020. This formed the basis for the targets set in the WCS. To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, the source data can be accessed online from the Environment Agency's 'Hazardous Waste Interrogator' dataset, available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/e8d0b36b-692f-4d4d-a7dd-cbcff44a616e/2022-hazardous-waste-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages athttps://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr. New targets will be required as part of any review or revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Indicator W20. Progress towards equivalent self-sufficiency in re-use and recycling capacity based on headline delivery milestones in Table 5 and Policy WCS 2.

Target:

Achievement of headline delivery milestones for re-use and recycling capacity as set out in the Waste Core Strategy.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 87.4% (679,548 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 777,700 tonnes)

2020: 93.4% (719,539 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 770,000 tonnes)

Explanation and further information

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, source data on the throughput of all of Worcestershire's waste management sites with waste permits can be found on the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/aa53a313-f719-4e93-a98f-1b2572bd7189/2022-waste-data-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W21. Progress towards equivalent self-sufficiency in 'other recovery' capacity, based on headline delivery milestones in table 5 and Policy WCS 2.

Target:

Achievement of headline delivery milestones for 'other recovery' capacity as set out in the Waste Core Strategy.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 107% (298,208 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 279,100 tonnes)

2020: 108% (298,209 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 276,000 tonnes)

Explanation and further information:

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, source data on the throughput of all of Worcestershire's waste management sites with waste permits can be found on the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/aa53a313-f719-4e93-a98f-1b2572bd7189/2022-waste-data-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W22. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in sorting and transfer capacity.

Target:

Achievement of headline delivery milestones for sorting and transfer capacity as set out in the Waste Core Strategy.

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: Not assessed

Trend:

2021: 87.7% (839,292 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 956,500 tonnes)

2020: 90.6% (866,850 tonnes of capacity against a projected requirement of 956,500 tonnes)

Explanation and further information:

To inform future waste policy, WCC have reviewed a number of indicators which were being monitored, to determine if they provide significant information to determine future policy direction. As a result of this review, this indicator will no longer be monitored. However, source data on the throughput of all of Worcestershire's waste management sites with waste permits can be found on the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator available at https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/aa53a313-f719-4e93-a98f-1b2572bd7189/2022-waste-data-interrogator.

Analysis of previous years' data for Worcestershire can be found in the 'Archive' section of WCC's Authority Monitoring Report webpages at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr.

Indicator W23a. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in disposal and landfill capacity for non-inert waste.

Target:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Trend:

2021: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Explanation:

As of 2022, a cumulative 3,207,272 tonnes of non-inert waste has been landfilled in the county since 2009. This is 15% below the projection of 3,689,696 tonnes made in the Waste Core Strategy. It appears from the last few years that the annual landfill rate is below that which was projected, and therefore capacity will last longer than initially anticipated. As of 2022, there was 4,254,990m^3 of available void space, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 2,039,443m^3. This means that there was more non-inert landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected. There was therefore no capacity gap for disposal and landfill for non-inert waste in 2022.

As of 2023, a cumulative 3,355,860 tonnes of non-inert waste has been landfilled in the county since 2009. This is 15% below the projection of 3,969,437 tonnes made in the Waste Core Strategy. It appears from the last few years that the annual landfill rate is below that which was projected, and therefore capacity will last longer than initially anticipated. As of 2023, there was 3,918,892m3 of available void space, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 1,759,702m3. This means that there is more non-inert landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected. There is therefore no capacity gap for disposal and landfill for non-inert waste. However, requirements relating to landfill capacity for non-inert waste may need to be considered through review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Further information:

Landfill capacity is set out in the Environment Agency's 'Waste Management for England' data tables, which provide information on landfill void space annually. In some cases, void space increases or decreases at a different rate than the amount of waste deposited. This is not uncommon and results from re-assessments of void space by the Environment Agency, the creation of new cells at existing sites, or by a void increasing as mineral workings which have planning permission to be restored by landfilling are excavated.

Indicator W23b. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in disposal and landfill capacity for inert waste

Target:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Trend:

2021: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Explanation:

In 2022, the amount of inert waste landfilled in Worcestershire was 134,571 tonnes, leading to a cumulative 1,278,654 tonnes of inert waste landfilled in the county since 2009. This is 36% above the cumulative projection of 939,305 tonnes made in the Waste Core Strategy. As of 2022, there were 1,413,616 cubic metres of available void space across the county, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 2,009,695 cubic metres.

In 2023, the amount of inert waste landfilled in Worcestershire was 118,925 tonnes, leading to a cumulative 1,357,937 tonnes of inert waste landfilled in the county since 2009. This is 35% above the cumulative projection of 1,009,225 tonnes made in the Waste Core Strategy. As of 2023, there were 786,011 cubic metres of available void space across the county, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 1,939,775 cubic metres. This means that there is significantly less inert landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected, combined with significantly higher volumes of inert waste being landfilled.

Whilst there is not currently a capacity gap for disposal and landfill of inert waste, the combination of the higher than predicted landfill rate and lower than predicted void space means that inert landfill capacity should be kept under review and may need to be considered through review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Further information:

Landfill capacity is set out in the Environment Agency's 'Waste Management for England' data tables, which provide information on landfill void space annually. In some cases, void space increases or decreases at a different rate than the amount of waste deposited. This is not uncommon and results from re-assessments of void space by the Environment Agency, the creation of new cells at existing sites, or by a void increasing as mineral workings which have planning permission to be restored by landfilling are excavated.

Indicator W23c. Maintain equivalent self-sufficiency in disposal and landfill capacity for hazardous waste

Target:

No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Current performance:

2022 and 2023: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Trend:

2021: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

2020: No capacity gap for disposal and landfill

Explanation:

In 2022, the amount of hazardous waste landfilled in Worcestershire was 15,642 tonnes, leading to a cumulative 52,881 tonnes of hazardous waste landfilled in the county since 2009. Although this is 78% below the 239,308 tonnes cumulative projection made in the Waste Core Strategy, the rate of hazardous waste disposal and landfill in Worcestershire has increased in recent years. The 15,642 tonnes landfilled in 2022 is well above the average of 5,300 tonnes landfilled over the last decade. As of 2022, there was 79,902 cubic metres of available void space, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 310,692 cubic metres at this time. This means that there is significantly less hazardous landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected.

In 2023, the amount of hazardous waste landfilled in Worcestershire was 19,222 tonnes, leading to a cumulative 72,104 tonnes of hazardous waste landfilled in the county since 2009. Although this is 72% below the 257,732 tonnes cumulative projection made in the Waste Core Strategy, the rate of hazardous waste disposal and landfill in Worcestershire has increased in recent years. The 19,222 tonnes landfilled in 2023 is well above the average of 7,210 tonnes landfilled over the last decade. As of 2023, there was 195,701 cubic metres of available void space, whereas the WCS anticipated a void space of 292,268 cubic metres at this time. This means that there is significantly less hazardous landfill capacity remaining at this stage in the Waste Core Strategy's plan period than was projected.

Although there is not currently a capacity gap for disposal and landfill of hazardous waste, the combination of the significantly lower than predicted void space, and the recent increase in landfill rate means that hazardous landfill capacity should be kept under review and may need to be considered through review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy.

Further information:

Landfill capacity is set out in the Environment Agency's 'Waste Management for England' data tables, which provide information on landfill void space annually. In some cases, void space increases or decreases at a different rate than the amount of waste deposited. This is not uncommon and results from re-assessments of void space by the Environment Agency, the creation

of new cells at existing sites, or by a void increasing as mineral workings which have planning permission to be restored by landfilling are excavated.