

Planning For Waste Treatment Facilities

An information leaflet from the West of England Partnership

Councils in the West of England are working together to produce a Development Plan to set out policies which will help planners make decisions about where waste facilities should be located.

Please bear in mind that this booklet deals with all types of waste and includes municipal, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition wastes. It excludes waste water treatments and radioactive waste.

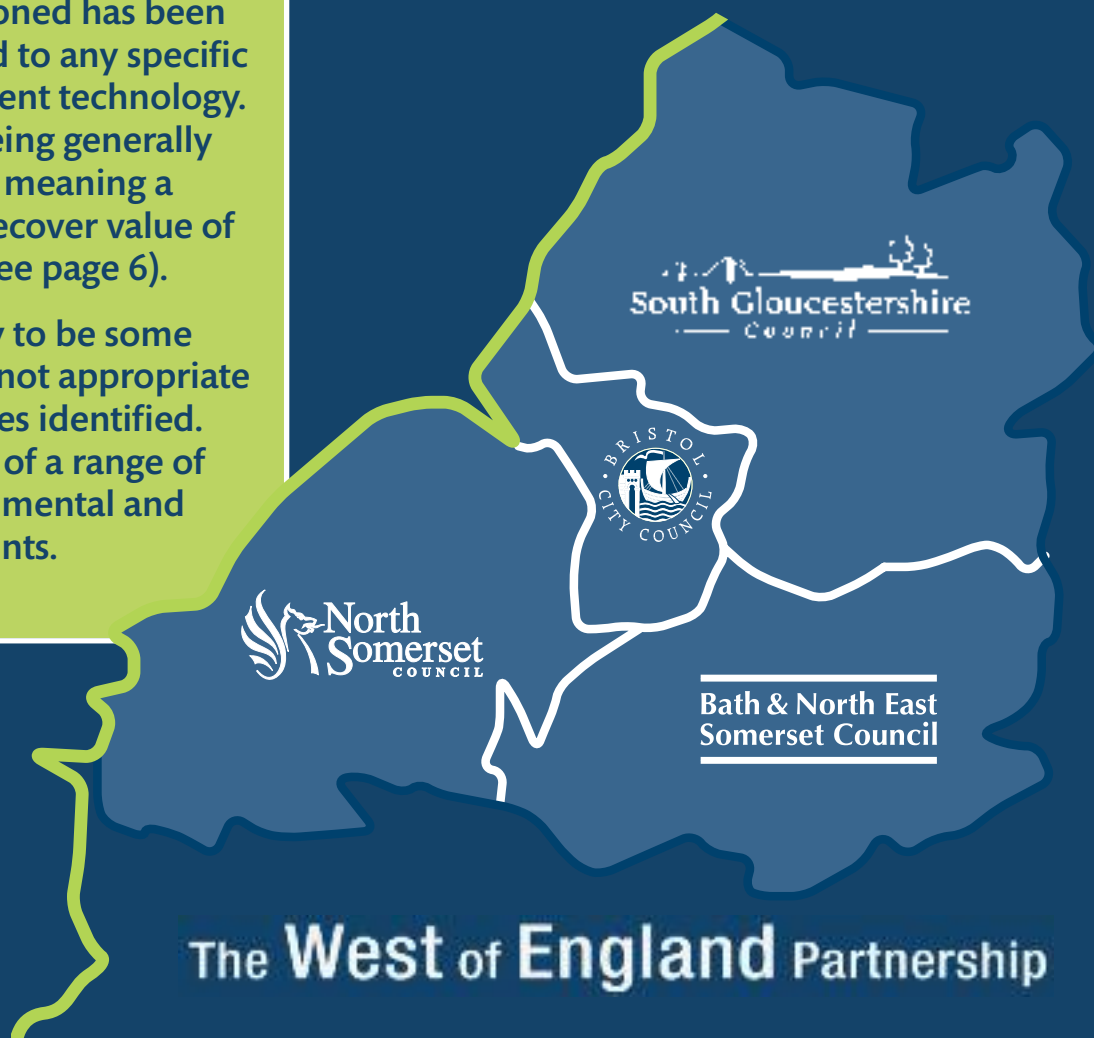
None of the sites mentioned has been reserved for or allocated to any specific type of waste management technology. They are indicated as being generally suitable for 'Recovery' - meaning a technology which can recover value of some sort from waste (see page 6).

In reality there are likely to be some technologies which are not appropriate or deliverable on the sites identified. This could be as a result of a range of issues including environmental and land ownership constraints.

The public are invited to give their views through a 'Preferred Options' consultation document. This explains in more detail the factors that may be taken into consideration.

The consultation document can be downloaded from the West of England's website www.westofengland.org/waste

Copies are also available at councils' offices and one stop shops.



The West of England Partnership

About the West of England Area

The West of England consists of the four unitary authority areas of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. It has a population of just over 1 million, comprised of 436,000 households and covers an area of 133,244 hectares.

The area benefits from good transport links being served by both M4 and M5 motorways, mainline rail services, Bristol International Airport and the Port of Bristol. It also includes a World Heritage site at Bath, international nature conservation sites on the Severn Estuary and elsewhere as well as Mendip Hills and Cotswold Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Guiding Policies affecting waste

Policies on waste, both national and local, are heavily influenced by a number of European Directives. These aim to move waste management away from landfill by reducing waste production and by encouraging waste treatments which focus on recovery. They also encourage the idea that waste should be managed and treated near to where it was generated.

■ Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)

The government introduced a scheme which allocates permits limiting the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be sent to landfill. Councils sending more than their permitted LATS allowances will be fined.

As the number of permits allocated decreases rapidly in the next few years, councils must find alternatives to landfill or pay a price penalty.

■ Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

The Regional Spatial Strategy sets out the broad development strategy for the region over the 15–20 years. It has identified a need for at least 120,000 additional houses and new jobs within the West of England area by 2026.

The challenge

At present:

The West of England generates about 1.1 million tonnes of household, industrial and commercial waste a year.

Of this approximately 618,000 tonnes still goes to landfill. Less than 40% of this goes to landfill in the West of England – the majority goes to sites in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset. Some goes as far as a field as Buckinghamshire.

We also produce more than 900,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste. Half of this is currently dealt with through landfill sites in the West of England, and the rest is recycled through waste transfer stations in the area.



Our Vision

By 2026, in the West of England, there will be:

- less waste going to landfill;
- an integrated network of waste management facilities to meet identified residual waste needs;
- less waste miles;
- substantial self-sufficiency.

The commitment to “3 Rs” – reduce, recycle, recover, will continue.

... and Aims

- To identify sufficient sites to deliver an integrated network of waste management facilities, maximizing re-use, recycling and composting, then recovering further value from the remaining residual waste and only looking to landfill for the disposal of treated wastes;
- To enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet forecast sub-regional requirements;
- To encourage waste minimisation in new development;
- To encourage the provision of waste management facilities at appropriate locations bearing in mind the need to reduce the carbon footprint of waste management facilities;
- To take account of the development of environmental technologies in the processing of waste;
- To ensure that waste management facilities do not harm the environment or endanger human health, and where possible provide benefits;
- To locate development in accordance with land use priorities, giving preference to brownfield land and urban land;
- To ensure everyone has access to waste management facilities.



The waste hierarchy

This is how most people think waste should be managed. In the Waste Hierarchy reduction and re-use take priority over other methods of waste management with disposal to land fill being the last option.



We agree with this, so we have divided up the sections in the planning document into four sections. These are the four areas in which new planning policies are being proposed.

1 Waste Minimisation -
This includes reducing waste in the first place.

2 Recycling and Composting -
More facilities for these services to take place.

3 Recovery - Places where the rubbish which can't be recycled can be treated to recover some further value from it (eg. energy).

4 Landfill - Some landfill sites will always be necessary for certain types of waste.



1: Waste Minimisation

Most people agree that reducing the waste we make in the first place is important. We recognise that it is not an easy task and that local planning authorities have few powers to influence waste behaviour. But we will be actively promoting responsible waste behaviour patterns and each local council will look at ways to help us all reduce waste.

Therefore the proposed planning policies for waste minimisation are:

- To promote the use of Waste Audits for development
- To identify the types of developments for which Waste Audits would be applicable.



2: Recycling and Composting

When we asked your views about waste during the 'Issues and Options' Consultation last year, you told us that you were strongly in favour of recycling and composting as a good way of dealing with waste. The planning policies need to think about where to provide household waste recycling centres as well as facilities for recyclable and/or compostible material produced by agricultural and industrial concerns. These could include recycled aggregate processing facilities, material recycling/waste transfer stations and open windrow and in-vessel composting facilities.

Therefore the proposed policies for recycling and composting are :

■ Inert (construction and demolition) waste recycling facilities	To provide facilities at existing mineral sites, brown-field or industrial sites in urban or rural locations and existing and former waste sites.
■ Non Inert material, recycling/waste transfer facilities	To keep existing facilities on industrial/brown-field land with an acceptable access on to the primary route network.
■ Household waste recycling centres	To provide facilities to serve Bristol, the North Fringe part of Bristol Urban Area and North Somerset.
■ Open windrow composting	To support proposals for small scale 'on-farm' facilities.
■ In-vessel composting facilities	To locate these facilities on brown-field or industrial sites in urban or rural locations along with existing and former waste sites.

3: Recovery

Recovery is the process of extracting a product of value from waste materials. For example, modern technology enables us to generate energy from waste. Currently there are no large scale facilities in operation in the West of England.

However, between now and 2026 our research shows that with a rapidly expanding population, there will be almost 800,000 tonnes of waste every year needing to be dealt with through recovery facilities. This amount is over and above that which we will reduced and recycled and it includes waste produced by businesses and industry.

In planning where new facilities should be located and how they should be spread around the region we have come up with three 'spatial' options.

Option A: Two recovery facilities which would each handle 400,000 tonnes annually.

Option B: Eight recovery facilities each handling 100,000 tonnes annually.

Option C: A combination of different scale facilities suiting the density of the surrounding area.

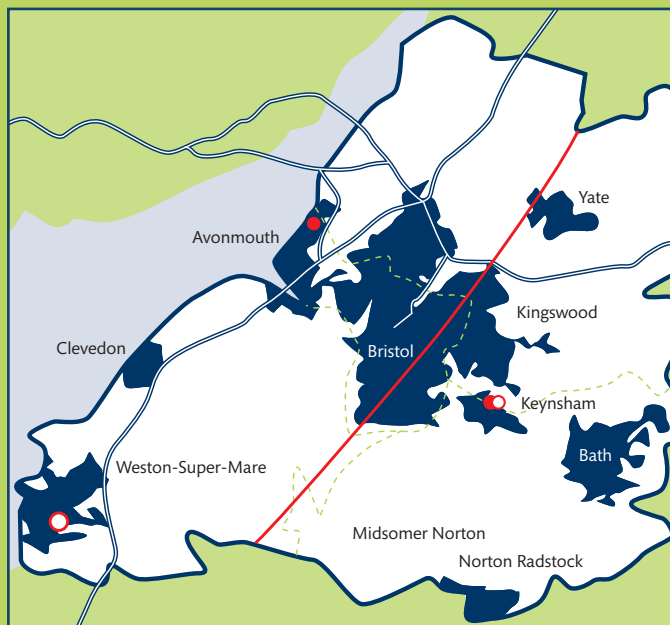
Option A (1 and 2)

This shows the West of England divided into two in a North-West/South-East split with a potential locations in either:

- North West Bristol and Keynsham (Option A1)

or

- Weston-super-Mare and Keynsham (Option A2).

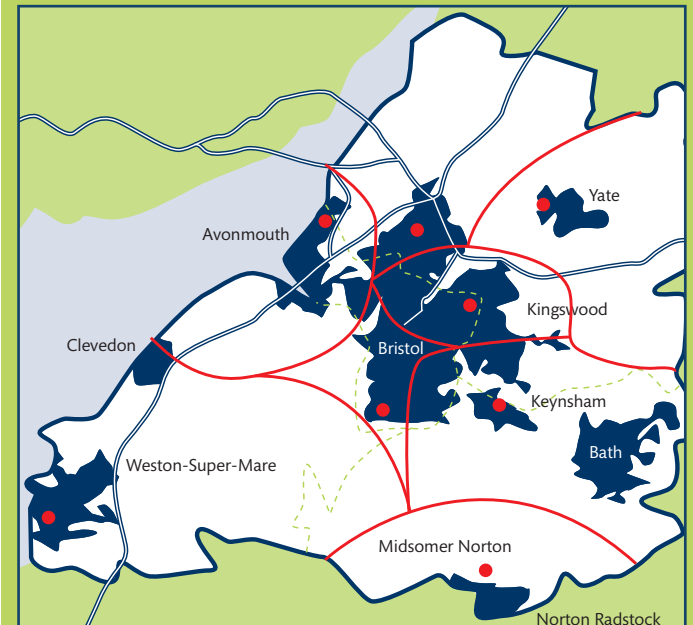


- Option A1 proposed sites (400,000tonnes per annum per site)
- Option A2 proposed sites (400,000tonnes per annum per site)
- Site divisions

Option B

Option B divides the West of England into eight sectors according to population density, logical transport routes and waste production volumes.

The green dots show potential locations.



- Option B proposed sites (100,000 tonnes per annum per site)
- Site divisions

Option C

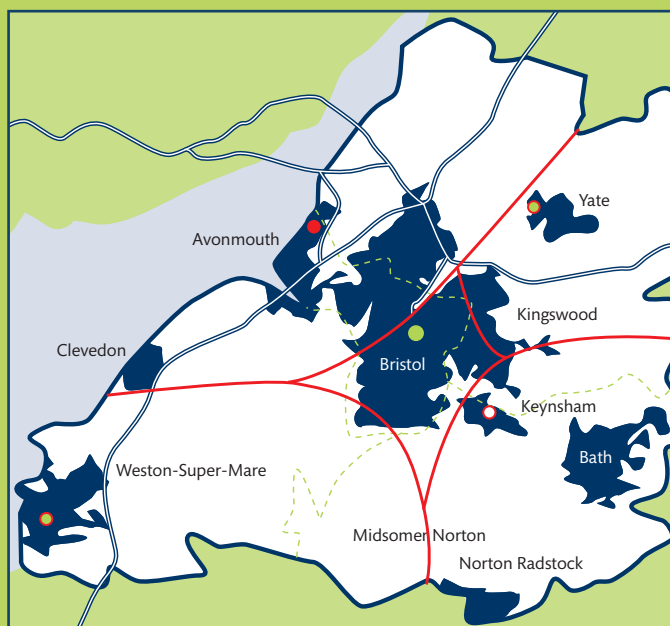
By dividing the region into five sections this option presents a combination of large, medium and smaller size facilities to be distributed across the area.

Potential locations are Weston-super-Mare, Midsomer Norton, Keynsham (for Bath), Yate, North West Bristol (for Cleveland/Portishead), Filton, East Kingswood and South West Bristol.

Potential locations for this option have been divided up on the basis of the size of population, with Bristol taking the largest capacity and split between a larger unit on the outskirts and a smaller unit more centrally located. Potentially a site in Keynsham could house a medium sized recovery facilities serving Bath and North East Somerset. Weston-super-Mare and Yate could each accommodate a slightly smaller facility of 100,000 tonnes per year each for their respective population areas.

Therefore the proposed policies for Recovery are :

- To identify suitable sites at North West Bristol, elsewhere in Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, Keynsham and Yate.



- Proposed sites 60,000 tonnes per annum site
- Proposed sites 100,000 tonnes per annum site
- Proposed sites 150,000 tonnes per annum site
- Proposed sites 390,000 tonnes per annum site
- Site divisions

Our Preferred 'Spatial' Option For Recovery Facilities

An independent Sustainability Appraisal looked in detail at the spatial options and an assessment was made on a range of identified sites (these sites are listed in the Preferred Options consultation document and on the West of England website). Factors such as good transport links, proximity to where waste is produced and existing local waste facilities were all taken into consideration.

Further assessment was carried out on the sites in order to obtain more detailed information about their availability and long-term deliverability for waste management facilities.

In our view...

Option A does not provide sufficient flexibility.

Although conforming to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, **Option B** – the highly dispersed option – is likely to be more difficult to deliver in time and is unlikely to represent the economies of scale offered by a more concentrated option.

Option C is deliverable and would provide the required strategic waste management infrastructure. It provides choice for the commercial sector and minimises waste transport and energy consumption.

Greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions from waste transport are also minimised and this option requires fewer sites than Option B whilst still capturing other benefits derived from economies of scale.

Although Option C (the combination of small, medium and large scale facilities) is the Preferred Option of the West of England Partnership, we now need your comments and views.

You have an opportunity to comment by visiting the web site www.westofengland.org/waste

The full length technical Preferred Options Consultation document is available at council offices and some libraries.

Please contact the West of England Partnership office on 0117 903 6865 if you would like information on how to get a copy.

4: Landfill

There remains a need for landfill for certain types of waste. This is mainly for inert waste – ie. waste which is stable and unlikely to decompose. At present there is only a small amount of landfill space in the West of England and that is only available for a limited time period. Most of the waste materials sent to landfill are currently sent to sites outside the area.

In the Issues and Options consultation it was generally considered that waste should be dealt with close to where it is generated.

Some of the limestone quarries in the West of England are not appropriate for bio-degradable waste because of the Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection policy.

Discussions with adjoining councils have indicated that they do not plan to accept waste from the West of England. Therefore, in order for us to become self sufficient in landfill, we would need to find replacement site/s which could accommodate 265,000 tonnes per year. But there are very many environmental constraints which limit where new landfill sites can go making this a very difficult task. It may require us to continue sending a certain amount of waste out of this area.

Therefore the proposed policies for landfill are:

■ Non-Inert Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requirement for new non-inert landfill capacity to replace existing facilities as they close, up to a maximum capacity of 265,000 tonnes per annum;• Identify Areas of Search and adopt a criteria-based policy approach.
■ Hazardous Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No policy required. Waste to be exported to specialist disposal facilities.
■ Inert Waste (construction and demolition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No policy required. Each council to make provision for their own area.

- This public consultation runs from January to March 2009. Consultation responses should be sent to:

The West of England Partnership Office
Floor 1
Wilder House
Bristol BS2 8PH

Alternatively you may contact us by email, info@westofengland.org or complete the survey on line via the website at:

www.westofengland.org

- If you would like this document in another language, large print, Braille or audiotape please contact 01454 863 860 or 0117 922 2100.