



PLANNING BULLETIN

BRIEFING NOTE - Planning Policy Statement PPS10: Planning For Sustainable Waste Management

Planning Policy Statement PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management published in July 2005 replaces PPG10: Planning and Waste Management and incorporates into it the role of the Regional Planning bodies in preparing an overall strategy for waste. The policy statement requires regional authorities to include waste management as part of a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and states that this should look forward for a fifteen to twenty year period (paragraph 6.

Waste planning authorities are defined in Appendix A as the local authority with responsibility for land-use planning control for waste management. In County Council's where there is a District Council responsibility for waste management remains with the County Council except where a District Council proposed to develop a waste management facility on its own land. For unitary planning authorities the responsibility is with that authority. In London the Greater London Authority is required to produce a Waste Management Strategy.

The core strategy of a Waste Planning Authority should set out policies and proposals in waste management in line with the RSS and ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations including for waste disposal. It should look forward for a period of at least ten years and be reviewed and rolled forward at least every five years (paragraphs 16 and 19).

Emphasis is given in the planning policy statement to the need for more sustainable waste management, moving the management of waste up the "waste hierarchy" of reduction, re-use, recycling and composting, using waste as a source of energy and only disposing as a last resort (paragraph 1).

The statement does not include the same amount of detailed guidance as that contained in PPG10 and provides very little information with regard to procedure and the responsibilities of the waste planning authorities. The statement, however, needs to be read in conjunction with Government policies for sustainable waste management set out in the Waste Strategy 2000 and a companion guide which provides practice guidance on the implementation of the policies set out in the PPS.

General Principles

Of particular note is the lack of reference to the key buzz words which had become so familiar to those involved in waste planning e.g. there is no mention of "Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)", "regional self-sufficiency", or "the proximity principle".

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However, similar principles are retained within the new guidance. The guidance states that there is a need to develop planning strategies which:

- help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option. This is similar to considering the best practicable environmental option.
- provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste and enable sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities to meet the needs of their community (paragraph 3).

In similar vein, regional planning authorities should aim to provide sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for waste management for all waste streams (paragraph 4).

Landfill

Unlike PPG10 there is little guidance in relation to the locational criteria for landfill and land raising.

Green Belts

Reference is made to the need to protect green belts. However, it is stated that consideration should be given to the particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities when defining detailed green belt boundaries and, in determining planning applications, that these locational needs, together with the wider environmental and economic benefits of sustainable waste management, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be given planning permission (paragraph 3).

Analysis of Data & Review

There is greater emphasis on the need for an analysis of data and the need for a measurable indication of change which can be annually monitored and used as a basis on which regional planning bodies and waste planning authorities periodically review and roll forward their waste planning strategies. These reviews need to occur at least every five years or sooner if there are signs of under-provision of waste management capacity or over-provision of disposal options where these would undermine movement up the waste hierarchy (paragraph 4).

Sustainability Appraisal

Reference is also made for the need for a “sustainability appraisal” incorporating strategic environmental assessment (paragraph 4).

Identifying Sites

In identifying suitable sites and areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities, waste planning authorities should consider:

- opportunities for on-site management of waste where it arises
- a broad range of locations including industrial sites, looking for opportunities to co-locate facilities together with complementary achievers including resource recovery parks (paragraph 20).

The statement provides considerably less guidance than PPG10 on the criteria for testing the

suitability of sites and areas for waste management facilities. For example in Annex E under the heading “traffic and access arrangements” there is no mention of the environmental and economic advantages of using rail or water transport. The only reference to considering alternative means to road transport is in the Section on identifying suitable sites and areas where it is stated “seeking when practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport” (paragraph 20). The need to consider alternative forms of transport other than road transport e.g. water or rail was a key requirement of PPG10.

Summary

To summarise, although PPS10 does bring the guidance on Waste Management up to date in terms of referring to the responsibilities of the new regional development authorities with a greater emphasis on monitoring and review, the lack of detailed guidance and information which was provided in its forerunner, PPG10 is surprisingly missing.

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