

**Energy from Waste Incinerator (EFW) including Infrastructure plus that for Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) Processing Plant with Outside Storage Area, and Air Pollution Control Residue (APCR) Treatment and Disposal Facility, Visitor & Office Accommodation and Landscaping within the Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park**

**Sustainability Appraisal.**

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## Executive Summary

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- 1.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been completed with reference to the proposed Energy from Waste Incinerator (EFW) including Infrastructure plus that for Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) Processing Plant with Outside Storage Area, and Air Pollution Control Residue (APCR) Treatment and Disposal Facility, Visitor & Office Accommodation and Landscaping within the Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park.
- 1.2 The purpose of an SA is to gather relevant environmental, social and economic objectives from national, regional and local policy objectives and to critically evaluate the proposed facility against these objectives. The results of this appraisal have proved to be favourable, with the key strengths being in relation to sustainable waste management practices and the generation of energy, both of which are fundamental to these proposals.
- 1.3 A number of points relating to the SA are drawn out as points for potential further action within the conclusion, including the use of an environmental management system during the operation of the facility and the inclusion of the community in the operation of the Visitors Centre.

# 1 Introduction

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- 1.1 This Report presents the SA which has been produced for the proposed Sutton Courtenay EfW facility. This SA is produced to accompany the planning application.
- 1.2 This report describes the background and explains the approach followed and presents the results and recommendations of the SA.

## Proposed Development

- 1.3 Energy from Waste Incinerator (EFW) including Infrastructure plus that for Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) Processing Plant with Outside Storage Area, and Air Pollution Control Residue (APCR) Treatment and Disposal Facility , Visitor & Office Accommodation and Landscaping within the Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park
- 1.4 The EFW is being proposed by WRG to address the need for a facility to deal with mixed residual municipal and other similar wastes (left over after recycling and composting) generated in Oxfordshire. The plant design is based upon a standardised design as far as possible, incorporating a single stream design and is capable of processing 300,000 tonnes of waste per annum (tpa).
- 1.5 The proposal is for the construction and operation of a new EFW plant on land forming part of the existing Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park / landfill complex which is operated by WRG.
- 1.6 The main components of the proposed EfW are:
- The Energy from waste incinerator with an operating capacity of 300,000 tonnes per annum and electrical output of 23 MW;
  - Infrastructure for Combined Heat and Power (CHP);
  - Weighbridges and associated offices;
  - An Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) recycling plant with a capacity of 50,000 tonnes per annum;
  - Pre treatment plant with hazardous waste landfill disposal capacity to accommodate Air Pollution Control residues collected from the incinerator;
  - An education facility with office accommodation;
  - Landscaping.

- 1.7 Further details of the site and its surroundings, the process description and the plant and site layout are included in Chapters 1 and 2 of the Environmental Statement and associated Figures.

### **Sustainability Context**

- 1.8 The main SA within this report answers a number of questions developed as a result of review of national, regional and local policies. There are, however, headline issues with regard to the development which merit discussion at the outset, before the detail of the SA is entered into.
- 1.9 The EfW process has been proposed by WRG (and the other bidders for this contract) as the most technically and economically viable solution for Oxfordshire. The SA is an appraisal of the preferred solution to fulfilling the waste contract to which it relates, and must be considered in context. It is not an appraisal of the proposal against competing waste management technologies such as pyrolysis or gasification as this report would not be the correct vehicle for such a discussion. Scenarios concerning the carbon management of other waste management technologies are discussed in the carbon report accompanying this proposal and it should be further noted that modern incineration should not be compared with historical incineration and is a fully viable solution for the fulfilment of the Oxfordshire waste contract to which this report relates.
- 1.10 There are a number of principal elements within the WRG proposals which can be highlighted as being the leading sustainable elements of the project. These are discussed in turn;
- 1.11 Principally, the proposed development promotes integration of waste services within Oxfordshire utilising the other consented activities which are in place on the same site such as Windrow Composting (WRC) (operational), In-Vessel Composting (IVC) and a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The potential to strengthen the resource Recovery Park adds particular weight to the proposals from WRG as it promotes the integrated treatment of a large proportion of Oxfordshire's waste. The EfW pushes waste up the hierarchy by being part of an integrated solution which supports only using the residual waste after other methods (reduce, reuse, recycle) have been exhausted and avoids landfilling waste (the final option in the waste hierarchy). It also deals with its own by-products largely within the Resource Recovery Park. The further strengthening of the site as the Resource Recovery Park also has the additional benefit of being able to treat waste in the most appropriate manner in one geographical location, which minimises the transportation of waste around the County.

- 1.12 It is intended to house the EfW in a building which will achieve a BREEAM rating and maximise the environmental performance of the building, in keeping with the ethos of the Resource Recovery Park.
- 1.13 Significant efforts have been made to holistically consider sustainability within the development which support all three of the sustainable pillars; economy, environment and society. Some of the principal overall strengths of the development are highlighted below;

#### **Environment**

- 1.14 The benefits to the environment from the EfW facility are two-fold. Firstly, the development will meet Oxfordshire's targets for the reduction of waste going to landfill. Secondly, the development is able to provide enough energy for the supply of electricity to 38,000 houses and is potentially to supply heat to nearby users.

#### **Society**

- 1.15 The benefits to society from the EfW principally revolve around the improvement in waste management in the County which makes for a more pleasant environment to live in and the potential provision of a community fund which would serve to support small scale projects. The educational aspect of the Visitors Centre should not be overlooked in the support it will give to the promotion of sustainable waste management practices within the community.

#### **Economy**

- 1.16 The EfW is not principally an employment generating venture, yet it will lead to the creation of a number of jobs within the local area, both skilled and unskilled. The development is significant in scale within the County and its contribution to the local economy will go beyond that of its direct employment benefits. Goods and services required for its operation are potential avenues for business expansion within the County. It is also important to consider the long length of the contract which the EfW facility will serve and that the Resource Recovery Park as an entity can only serve to strengthen this.

### **Need for Sustainability Appraisal**

- 1.17 As stated in 'Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development:

*'Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning...National planning policies and regional and local development plans provide the framework for planning for sustainable development. This plan led system plays the key role in integrating sustainable*

*development objectives. Where the development plan contains relevant policies, applications for planning permission should be determined in line with the plan’.*

1.18 The principles of sustainable development:

*‘should be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well being, in ways that protect and enhance the physical environment and optimise resource and energy use’*

(UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy ‘Securing the Future’, March 2005).

1.19 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all new development plans are subject to a sustainability appraisal, with the purpose *‘to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into [the plan] preparation’* (ODPM, November 2005).

1.20 Oxfordshire County Council and not Vale of White Horse District Council are the planning authority in the case of the EfW as they deal with applications concerned with the management of waste or the extraction of minerals. The Oxfordshire Structure Plan (adopted in 2005) is to be replaced with a new style Development Plan Document and a broad SA was undertaken in 2003. More recent sustainability appraisals have been produced in relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Development Framework, and have been included within the matrix development - as such the 2003 appraisal has not been used to form part of the appraisal matrix.

1.21 Although there is no statutory requirement for applicants to undertake a sustainability appraisal of a specific project, developers of major developments are frequently being asked by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to demonstrate that they have taken sustainable development concepts into account within their proposals, particularly where no such appraisal has been conducted by the LPA. In some circumstances, the LPA has set a specific requirement to undertake a sustainability appraisal, depending on the size and nature of the development.

1.22 Whilst policies in the adopted development plan promote sustainable development, there are no policies specifically requiring a SA to be undertaken to inform a planning application. In addition, the formal scoping opinion issued by Oxfordshire County Council with respect to the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project did not make any reference to the need for a sustainability appraisal.

- 1.23 There is therefore no explicit legal or policy requirement to carry out a SA for the proposed development. However, it is considered best practice and therefore WRG has considered it appropriate to undertake a voluntary sustainability appraisal.

### **The Purpose and Overall Aim of Sustainability Appraisals**

- 1.24 The ODPM Guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' November 2005, states, in the context of local development documents, that the purpose of SA is *'to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of plans.'* Appraisal objectives are set to define the detail of the social, environmental and economic considerations that need to be taken into account.
- 1.25 Furthermore, the ODPM Guidance explains *'the role of the SA is to assist with the identification of the appropriate options, by highlighting the sustainability implications of each, and by putting forward recommendations for improvement'*.
- 1.26 Sustainability appraisals are objective led, appraising the proposed development against relevant objectives, as opposed to following the EIA approach of identifying the significant environmental effects of the proposed development. Accordingly, in circumstances where environmental objectives are assessed as not being met by the sustainability appraisal, this does not mean that a significant adverse environmental impact arises (unless this is separately identified in the Environmental Statement).
- 1.27 The objectives of a SA are defined taking into account the SA objectives of relevant local planning documents. This is not the same as a Planning Policy Review. Where the SA assesses that an appraisal objective is not being met, this should not be interpreted as indicating that a planning policy is not met.
- 1.28 There is no specific guidance on the methodology to follow for sustainability appraisals of projects and different approaches can be taken. On this basis, the approach taken for this SA has been developed based on current best practice, referring to the ODPM guidance where appropriate.
- 1.29 The aim of this SA is therefore
- to appraise the extent to which social, environmental and economic considerations, as defined by relevant sustainability objectives, have been integrated into the proposed development; and

- To identify recommendations by which the proposed development can be enhanced.

1.30 The detail of the approach for this SA is explained in Section 2.

### **Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal**

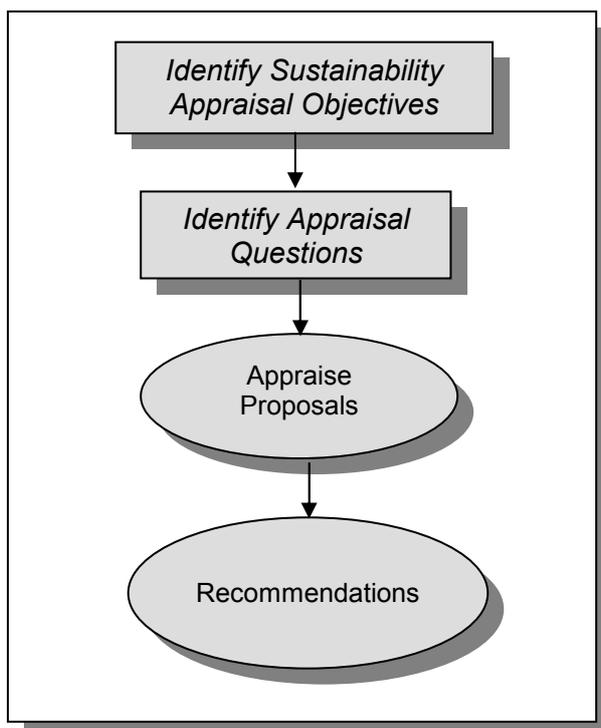
1.31 The scope of the project that is subject to this appraisal is the proposed development of an EfW at the Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park in Oxfordshire.

## 2 Approach to Sustainability Appraisal

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- 2.1 The approach that has been followed in carrying out this SA is based on current guidance and best practice in this field. The principles set out in government policy/guidance for the SA of local and/or regional planning policies (such as the ODPM guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents', November 2005) have been followed where appropriate.
- 2.2 The approach that has been followed consists of 4 main stages: identifying appraisal objectives, identifying appraisal questions, appraising the proposals and making recommendations; as illustrated in Figure 1. The results of the appraisal are presented in a simple tabular format.

**Figure 1 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology**



- 2.3 The following paragraphs describe the main stages and work undertaken for this sustainability appraisal.

## Sustainability Appraisal Stages

### Review of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 2.4 The first stage is to identify the relevant objectives against which the proposed development is assessed. The ODPM Guidance recommends the development of SA objectives *‘to provide a methodological yardstick against which the social, environmental and economic effects ... can be tested.’* The appraisal objectives should both reflect the sustainable framework for this area of England and be achievable and relevant to the scope and level of detail of information available for this project.
- 2.5 Following discussions with Oxfordshire County Council, the following sources were reviewed in developing the SA objectives relevant for this appraisal:

#### National Policies

- UK Government Sustainability Objectives (as defined in the UK Government Sustainability Strategy – Securing Our Future March 2005)
- Waste Strategy for England (2007)
- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
- PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)
- PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)
- PPS23: Planning & Pollution Control (2004)
- PPS25: Development & Flood Risk (2006)
- PPG 13: Transport (2001)
- PPG 14: Development of Unstable Land (1990)

#### Regional Policies

- Government Office for the South East, Regional Planning Guidance for the South East RPG9: Waste and Minerals (June 2006).
- South East England Regional Assembly, Draft South East Plan (2006)
- South East Regional Assembly, The South East Regional Sustainability Framework – ‘Towards a Better Quality of Life’ (March 2008)

- Please note that when the South East Plan is adopted it will take the status of the Regional Spatial Strategy and will replace RPG9 in its entirety, however, until adoption, RPG9 remains the statutory RSS. Due to the timing of the issue of the RPG9 Waste and Minerals Revision (June 2006), and the submission of the Draft South East Plan in the same year, the policies are similar.

#### Local Policies

- Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Structure Plan Saved Policies (currently all policies are saved until October 2008)
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (1996)
- Oxfordshire County Council, Minerals & Waste Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report (updated June 2006)
- Oxfordshire Waste Partnership: 'No Time to Waste' The Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (August 2006)
- Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (all policies are currently saved until July 2009)
- Vale of White Horse District Council, Local Development Framework Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (March 2007)

2.6 Appendix A includes a summary of the relevant objectives from the above documents. The appraisal objectives used for this appraisal are presented in the Sustainability Framework as shown in TABLE 2-1, selected following a review of the above documents, and consideration of the scope of this appraisal.

#### **Develop Appraisal Questions**

2.7 Following identification of the relevant SA objectives, a series of appraisal questions were defined to be used to determine the way in which the proposed development would be appraised against these objectives.

2.8 The aim is to identify questions that are simple and practical and able to demonstrate whether the objective is achieved. They also need to be feasible at this stage and relevant to the proposed development.

2.9 There are no relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance or Supplementary Planning Documents which act as sustainability checklists for Oxfordshire County Council, or the Vale of White Horse District Council which could be used to inform the development of questions for the sustainability appraisal. The questions have been developed with reference to the SEEDA Sustainability Checklist for the South East (undated but in current use). It is not appropriate to use the questions in the checklist for the SA of the EfW facility as the checklist is targeted at general housing and mixed use development, and as such does not have a waste management focus. However, the general categories are considered to be applicable to all development and as such the appraisal questions are sorted into these categories. The appraisal questions used for this SA are presented in the Sustainability Framework as shown in Table 1.

**Table 2-1: Sustainability Framework**

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Category of impact (including categories outlined in SEEDA Sustainability Checklist where appropriate)	Question no.	Appraisal Questions
Sustainable Consumption & Production	Efficient use of land	1	Does the proposal avoid the use of Greenfield land and resist the unnecessary loss of, agricultural land, floodplain, minerals and other natural resources?
		2	Does the proposal make the use of previously developed land a priority?
		3	Does the proposal include any reuse/refurbishment of existing buildings?
	Environmental impact	4	Do the proposals include the use of low environmental impact materials during construction?
		5	Is timber to be used in construction sourced from sustainably managed and temperate sources?
	Locally reclaimed materials	6	Do the proposals include a proportion of locally reclaimed or recycled materials in construction?
	Water resource planning	7	Are there adequate water supplies for the proposed development?
	Waste Management	8	Does the development promote sustainable waste management in line with the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse recycle, recover)?
		9	Does the development promote an integrated approach to waste management methods and how is this demonstrated?
		10	Does the development regard waste as a resource?
		11	Does the development promote regional self sufficiency with regards to waste and contribute to identified targets?
		12	Does the development positively affect the public perception of waste management?

		13	Does the development assist in the development of markets for recovered materials (especially local markets)?
		14	Does the development provide the best possible value for money for waste treatment?
	Construction Waste	15	How does the development minimise waste from its own construction going to landfill?
	Specified BREEAM	16	Is the development to achieve a BREEAM rating?
Climate Change and Energy	Emissions	17	Does the development reduce greenhouse emissions in comparison with alternative solutions?
		18	Have the air quality impacts arising from the specific development activities been assessed? Is there a negative impact on local air quality as a result of development?
		19	Does the development deal with potential odour and vermin issues which may arise due to the handling of waste?
		20	Will the development control dust during construction and operation?
	Flooding	21	Has the proposed development assessed the potential risk of flooding, including that which may result from climate change?
		22	Are appropriate methods proposed i.e. SUDS to minimise the risk of flooding as a result of development through the loss of any surface water drainage from the site?
	Heat Island	23	Will the proposed development contribute to the urban heat island effect?
	Water Efficiency	24	Are water resources to be used for the development for process and services uses to be utilised in an efficient manner?
	Sustainable Energy	25	Does the development use power from a renewable or low emission energy source?
		26	Does the development generate any power for use outside of the development, and reflect the emphasis on CHP from policy EG2 of the County Structure Plan? Specifically does the development master plan consider the site wide distribution of on-site produced energy?
		27	Have energy efficiency measures been incorporated into the design proposals?
	Site Infrastructure	28	Does the development make the best use of existing resources and infrastructure?
	Transportation	29	Does the development minimise emissions from the transportation of waste and any products derived from the waste?
		30	Does the development ease congestion associated with the existing situation?
	Public transport	31	Does the development include measures to reduce the need for travel by private car and provide for a range of travel options to meet travel needs?
Parking	32	Does the development reduce the use of available car parking as an incentive for staff and visitors to use public transport?	
Pedestrians and cyclists	33	Will a green travel plan be produced for the development?	

Natural Resource Protection & Environmental Enhancement	Conservation	34	Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on identified ecological features?
		35	Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on designated natural environmental assets? (e.g. AONBs)?
	Enhancement of ecology	36	Do the proposals include any ecological enhancement measures?
		37	Does the development maintain / contribute to the biodiversity of the site?
	Planting	38	Does any specified planting contribute to the ecological value of the site?
	Noise Pollution	39	Do the proposals include prevention and mitigation measures for any nuisance identified through noise?
	River and ground water quality	40	Does the proposed development protect local river and or groundwater from pollution and/or enhance its quality?
	Appropriate use of land resources	41	Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on identified heritage or archaeological features?
		42	Have the plans taken into account the physical capability of the land to be developed?
	Impact on neighbouring uses.	43	Does the development address any possible effects of the stability of adjoining land?
44		Do the proposals include any avoidance/mitigation measures for any nuisance identified through light pollution?	
Sustainable Communities	Promoting community networks and interaction	45	Does the development foster links with the community with regards to waste management?
	Involvement in decision making	46	Has the community been involved in the development of the proposals in order that their needs, ideas and knowledge are taken into account to improve the quality and acceptability of the development?
		47	Have any community concerns raised been addressed?
	Supporting public services, social economy and community structure	48	Does the development encourage a sustainable lifestyle and aid integration into the local community?
	Community management of the development	49	Are any community facilities which are provided as part of the development to be maintained and a sense of ownership provided to the community?
	Design process	50	Has / will a statement of design intent (informed by studies of its site and surroundings) been discussed with appropriate parties prior to finalisation?
	Form of Development	51	Does the development respect the distinctive character of the Vale whilst reinforcing its own identity?
		52	Does the development create a place with a clear identity which is easy to understand and navigate?
		53	Does the development avoid visual intrusion to the landscape and surrounding area and is it sympathetic to the setting of the River Thames?
	Open space	54	Does the development include open space for visitors and/or staff?

	Adaptability	55	Can the building be adapted to other uses at the end of its useful life? Are there any plans for decommissioning?
	Crime	56	Does the development apply principles which will reduce the likelihood of crime on site?
	Street lighting / security lighting	57	Is adequate external lighting providing to reduce the potential and fear of crime?
	Traffic management	58	Does the development make pedestrian movement attractive and safe?
	Business / economy	59	Does the development contribute towards establishing a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale?
	Employment	60	Will the development provide jobs for the local community during the construction and operational periods?
		61	Does the development contribute to a skilled workforce for the region?
	Quality of life	62	Will the development contribute to an increased quality of life for local residents?
	Health	63	Do the proposals include mitigation measures for any impact on actual health risks?
		64	Do the proposals include any avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on perceived health risks?
	Education & skills	65	Will the proposals contribute to education and skills development in the local area?

### Appraisal and Recommendations

2.10 The proposed development has been appraised against the appraisal objectives and questions set out above. Information on the details of the proposed development and the existing/future management and mitigation which has been taken into account was obtained from the details of the proposed design and processes that would be operated within the EfW the planning application and the accompanying Environmental Statement.

2.11 A response is provided for each question, based on current information available, with an appropriate comment to support each response.

2.12 Based on the responses to each question for each objective, a concluding response to each objective is consequently drawn out, based on the following:-

++ = Proactive enhancement/Significant benefits

+ = Good mitigation/some enhancement

0 = Neutral impact / or not applicable

- = Minor impacts, not wholly mitigated
- = Significant environmental impacts, cannot be mitigated
- ? = Uncertain (insufficient information to answer the question at this stage)

- 2.13 The responses as described are set out in section 0, with a summary table of the scoring provided set out at the end.
- 2.14 In line with the UK Government's stated intention of pursuing the aims of sustainable development in an integrated way (see paragraph 1.19), the expectation of the SA should not necessarily be to meet or exceed all the appraisal objectives defined on an individual basis. The results should be considered on balance, with appropriate recommendations made where an enhancement opportunity is identified.
- 2.15 Weightings have not been applied to the appraisal questions nor have the achievements of each objective been summarised into one overall score. It is important to consider all of the achievements in a balanced way, not giving undue importance to one specific objective.
- 2.16 Where opportunities have been identified that could improve the current proposed development in response to a particular question, recommendations have been made, as set out in Section 5.

## 4 Appraisal Results

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4.1 The SA results are presented in numbered question order, and an appraisal score provided. The appraisal scores are also summarised at the end of the section in Table 0-1, in which the results have been grouped within their headline categories by the score awarded.

### Sustainable Consumption and Production

#### Efficient Use of Land

1. *Does the proposal avoid the use of Greenfield land and resist the unnecessary loss of, agricultural land, floodplain, minerals and other natural resources?*

4.2 The site for the development is located within the existing resource recovery park operated by WRG. The 264 ha site which will house the EfW is a former sand and gravel quarry and has previously been backfilled with PFA from the adjoining Didcot Power Station so has expended its useful life on this basis. No floodplain will be displaced through the construction of the EfW. The area occupied by the plant has been restored to agricultural use, but given the nature of the landfilled area, is of poor quality.

Appraisal score: +

2. *Does the proposal make the use of previously developed land a priority?*

4.3 The site is a former sand and gravel quarry and landfill for PFA and would therefore be considered a brownfield site.

Appraisal score: +

3. *Does the proposal include any reuse/refurbishment of existing buildings?*

4.4 There are no existing buildings on the site which would be suitable for inclusion within the scheme. The EfW requires a purpose built building to house its processes effectively.

Appraisal score: 0

### Environmental Impacts

4. *Do the proposals include the use of low environmental impact materials during construction?*

- 4.5 It is anticipated that the scheme will score the maximum credits under the BREEAM Industrial Scheme where both the external walls and roof are considered and 80% of which must achieve an 'A' rating in the Green Guide to Specification. There may be room for further incorporation of low environmental impact outside of the specifications of the BREEAM credit, including internal fixtures and fittings such as carpets and work surfaces.

Appraisal score: +

5. *Is timber to be used in construction sourced from sustainably managed and temperate sources?*

- 4.6 It has been confirmed as part of the predictive BREEAM assessment that timber used in construction is to be from a sustainable managed source.

Appraisal score: +

### Locally Reclaimed Materials

6. *Do the proposals include a proportion of locally reclaimed or recycled materials in construction?*

- 4.7 Although the construction materials are predicted to meet the BREEAM credit on materials it is not possible to say at this stage in the design with certainty whether multiple suitable sources of locally reclaimed or recycled materials are available or suitable for the needs of the EfW. However, it is hoped that Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA) from nearby Didcot Power Station may be used in the construction of the EfW. It is also a policy of WRG to, where possible, source materials and services locally in order to support the local economy and minimise transport impacts.

Appraisal score: +

Water Resource Planning*7. Are there adequate water supplies for the proposed development?*

- 4.8 Approximately 20,000 cubic metres of water is required annually for the boiler supply & top up, amenities, cleaning and distribution in the fire fighting network. This is not a significant continuous demand for water and it is considered that there are adequate supplies to the development. The surface water collection systems will enable the majority of the water requirements to be met without the need to utilise portable water.

Appraisal score: +

Waste Management*8. Does the development promote sustainable waste management in line with the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse recycle, recover)?*

- 4.9 The reduction in overall waste within Oxfordshire is an objective pursued by The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and the relevant local authorities. The County is the second best in the Country in terms of waste reduction. The proposed EfW will only treat the waste which is left over after recycling and composting. The Resource Recovery Park aims to manage the outputs on the site, namely the IBA will be processed at the site into a product and the APCR will be land filled without the need to transport off site. In addition, other consented activities are in place such as windrow composting (operational) and IVC and a MRF. WRG have the ability to move the waste up the hierarchy and as such are contributing to the promotion of sustainable waste management. .

Appraisal score: ++

*9. Does the development promote an integrated approach to waste management methods and how is this demonstrated?*

- 4.10 The development is located within a wider resource recovery park which deals with waste in an appropriate manner (including that produced by the EfW process), in line with the waste hierarchy. The capabilities of the park are intended to be extended in line with the Masterplan which exists for the Park. Activities such as windrow composting are already in place and other consented activities (IVC and MRF) are to be undertaken within the Park,

Appraisal score: +

*10. Does the development regard waste as a resource?*

- 4.11 This is achieved in the context of the waste hierarchy. To use all waste in the EfW would be in contradiction to the hierarchy. The EfW is only used to recover energy from residual fuels.

Appraisal score: ++

*11. Does the development promote regional self sufficiency with regards to waste and contribute to identified targets?*

- 4.12 The development is being suggested in response to a request for services to deal with Oxfordshire's residual waste from Oxfordshire County Council. The facility will have the capacity to meet the requirement of the Oxfordshire's municipal waste management contract and also provide a treatment facility for a proportion of the commercial and industrial waste that arises within the County that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

Appraisal score: ++

*12. Does the development positively affect the public perception of waste management?*

- 4.13 Information provided about the proposals on both the Oxfordshire County Council and WRG websites explains clearly and logically the decision making process behind the preferred solution and provides examples of similar schemes elsewhere. The information also explains the debate surrounding the decision to opt for EfW and not MBT, gasification or pyrolysis. This is written in plain English and is concise enough to be an acceptable length for the public to be able to gain an understanding of the issues relatively quickly. Furthermore, the inclusion of the visitors centre which will be able to cope with large visitor parties (up to 50 people) is a positive step towards the public understanding of the purpose and methods of the facility.

Appraisal score: +

*13. Does the development assist in the development of markets for recovered materials (especially local markets)?*

- 4.14 The IBA processing to take place at the plant will create secondary aggregates which can be used as a base product for use in road construction, as sub base, aggregate in asphalt, aggregate in concrete, aggregate in block manufacture, lightweight fill and primary aggregate in foamed asphalt. An asphalt coating plant run by Hanson is already located in the waste recovery park and there may be scope to provide IBA as an aggregate to this process. However, it is recommended that should secondary aggregate still be available after this

avenue has been pursued that links are created and fostered with other local markets. Metals are also recovered from the IBA processing and entered into the recycling chain.

Appraisal score: +

*14. Does the development provide the best possible value for money for waste treatment?*

- 4.15 The EfW process has been proposed by WRG (and the other bidders for this contract) as the most technically and economically viable solution for Oxfordshire.

Appraisal score: +

#### Construction Waste

*15. How does the development minimise waste from its own construction going to landfill?*

- 4.16 Any PFA extracted from the construction site is to be used as landfill cover on the adjacent site. It will be mandatory for the site to comply with the new Site Waste Management Plan Legislation which came into force on 06 April 2008. It is a legal requirement for construction projects of over £300,000 to produce a suitable Site Waste Management Plan. Sorting and recycling of construction waste on site will also be undertaken as part of BREEAM Credit M5.

Appraisal score: +

#### Specified BREEAM

*16. Is the development to achieve a BREEAM rating?*

- 4.17 A tentative predictive BREEAM rating of at least 'Good' has been calculated for the facility and is described in detail in the dedicated report. It has been requested as part of the contract by Oxfordshire County Council that a BREEAM rating must be achieved for the development, although the particular standard has not been stated. It should be noted that under a formal assessment the EfW building would require a Bespoke assessment, for which specialist credits are developed and is also reflected in the uncertainty over the predictive rating. More information is provided in the dedicated report.

Appraisal score: +

## Climate Change and Energy

### Emissions

*17. Does the development reduce greenhouse emissions in comparison with alternative solutions?*

- 4.18 The process is designed to provide an effective disposal route for residual municipal waste and to offset the use of fossil fuel derived energy by the production of electrical power (and potentially heat) from the thermal destruction of waste. In order to meet LATS allowances, Oxfordshire needs to divert around 155,000 tonnes of BMW from landfill by 2012/13, 202,000 tonnes by 2019/20 and potentially 246,000 tonnes by 2035/36, all of which would be achievable with the 300,000tpa capacity of the proposed scheme. The amount of waste going to landfill would be reduced substantially based on predictions in MSW arisings. As the embodied energy contained within the waste is being re-used usefully and not disposed of via landfill there will be a considerable comparable reduction in the emission of carbon dioxide from the EfW. The production of Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) which is produced by the anaerobic conditions in landfill would also be minimal by comparison with the EfW facility. The diversion away from landfill will also lead to a reduction in methane emissions which would be produced by the anaerobic conditions in landfill (methane has a global warming potential of 21 times that of carbon dioxide).
- 4.19 Oxfordshire County Council have used the Environment Agency's standard analysis methods to quantify the saving in green house gas emissions from Energy from Waste - this shows that for every tonne of residual waste treated by Energy for Waste there will be a reduction of between 130% and 210% (depending on level of combined heat and power) of greenhouse gas emissions compared to landfill. These percentages are over 100% because generating electricity means that other fuels such as coal and gas do not have to be burnt.

Appraisal score: ++

*18. Have the air quality impacts arising from the specific development activities been assessed? Is there a negative impact on local air quality as a result of development?*

- 4.20 A detailed air quality assessment has been undertaken as part of the EIA including identification of emissions associated with the facility, a description of the key pollutants, a summary of relevant emissions and air quality legislation and policy, a summary of baseline air quality and adopted methodology for the assessment, presentation of results, mitigation and residual effects. The assessment considers the air quality effects of emissions from traffic

associated with the EfW (both during construction and operational phases) as well as emissions from the plant itself. Overall, the significance of air predicted air quality effects is considered to be neutral.

Appraisal score: 0

*19. Does the development deal with potential odour and vermin issues which may arise due to the handling of waste?*

- 4.21 During the operational phase potential emissions of odour and dust from the tipping hall and refuse bunker will be controlled by forced draught fans above the refuse bunkers which create a slight negative pressure. Waste will be stored in an appropriate manner to minimise the risk of any vermin being attracted. The facility will enable the diversion of some 200,000 tonnes of waste from the adjacent landfill ensuring that a significant proportion is managed within the building as detailed above. This should reduce the overall impact of the landfill activities on these issues significantly.

Appraisal score: +

*20. Will the development control dust during construction and operation?*

- 4.22 Contractors will be required to follow good practice guidance to minimise dust emissions during the construction phase. During the operation phase potential emissions of odour and dust from the tipping hall and refuse bunker will be controlled by forced draught fans above the refuse bunkers which create a slight negative pressure, presenting dust and litter escaping from the building.
- 4.23 IBA will be wet when it leaves the EFW facility and any dust will be managed by the application of additional water if required.

Appraisal score: 0

Flooding

*21. Has the proposed development assessed the potential risk of flooding, including that which may result from climate change?*

- 4.24 A flood risk assessment has been prepared which meets the requirements of PPG25. The site is very largely in flood zone 1, i.e. has an annual probability of flooding of less than 1 in 1000 and is classified as having a low annual probability of flooding. There is a small area to the

north of the site where the annual probability of flooding rises to between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000, but this is unlikely to be a significant issue.

Appraisal score: +

*22. Are appropriate methods proposed i.e. SUDS to minimise the risk of flooding as a result of development through the loss of any surface water drainage from the site?*

- 4.25 Additional runoff arising from the development will be diverted to soakaways, from where it will infiltrate to groundwater. Runoff from roofs will flow directly to storage tanks within the main building with excess being directed to the soakaways. Runoff from car parking areas will be routed through oil separators/interceptors.

Appraisal score: +

#### Heat Island

*23. Will the proposed development contribute to the urban heat island effect?*

- 4.26 The development is not located within an urban area. Therefore this question is not applicable to this development.

Appraisal score: 0

#### Water Efficiency

*24. Are water resources to be used for the development for process and services uses to be utilised in an efficient manner?*

- 4.27 The steam system comprising the boiler, turbine, condensers and associated pipe work will be a closed system which will require topping up only for relatively small losses. It is intended to include fittings in the development which will be low water use.

Appraisal score: +

#### Sustainable Energy

*25. Does the development use power from a renewable or low emission energy source?*

- 4.28 The EfW turbine will generate a total of 27MW of electricity, 4MW of which will be used to provide power within the facility itself, except during periods of maintenance. There is no

singular definition of a low emission energy source. However, the EfW meets the most stringent values derived from the EC Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) and is consistent with the latest position on energy recovery from the new European Waste Framework Directive. The new Directive recognises the importance of waste as a resource and allows the treatment of waste to deviate from the traditional waste hierarchy or priority order, if this would result in improved environmental, economic and social benefits. Although the residual waste the EfW uses as fuel will have embodied emissions within it, the plant does not use fossil fuels in their primary format.

Appraisal score: ++

*26. Does the development generate any power for use outside of the development, and reflect the emphasis on CHP from policy EG2 of the County Structure Plan? Specifically does the development master plan consider the site wide distribution of on-site produced energy?*

- 4.29 The EfW turbine will generate a total of 27MW of electricity, 23MW of which will be exported to the grid, enough energy to supply electricity to up to 38,000 houses. The EfW plant also enables CHP provision to be incorporated to provide future heat and power opportunities where they arise in the vicinity of the site. A feasibility study has been prepared by PB Energy Solutions which examines the potential scenarios for district heating, district cooling and private wire schemes.

Appraisal score: ++

*27. Have energy efficiency measures been incorporated into the design proposals?*

- 4.30 Despite the scheme being self-sufficient - i.e. the load for the buildings is to be supplied by the process, other energy efficiency measures have been taken including:
- Lighting zones
  - Heating zones
  - Energy efficient lighting
  - Sub metering of substantial energy uses

Appraisal score: +

Site Infrastructure*28. Does the development make the best use of existing resources and infrastructure?*

- 4.31 As the development is located on an existing resource recovery park it makes good use of existing resources and infrastructure. The development is already served by a road infrastructure and there is the potential for the transportation of waste to site using the existing rail infrastructure which is located on site.

Appraisal score: +

Transportation*29. Does the development minimise emissions from the transportation of waste and any products derived from the waste?*

- 4.32 Planning conditions for the site dictate that road imports of waste are not to exceed 350,000 tpa, and that 250,000 tonnes may be imported by rail for the duration of land-filling activities. Transportation of some of the by-products from waste may be necessary e.g. to send metals to specialist recycling centres. However, some utilisation of aggregate by product from IBA treatment may be possible on site. The Air Pollution Controls residues (APC) will be land-filled at an appropriate hazardous landfill cell on site. However, there is the potential for reuse of the APC residues for industrial uses and WRG would utilise this option as preferable to landfill on environmental grounds.

Appraisal score: +

*30. Does the development ease congestion associated with the existing situation?*

- 4.33 By assuming very much worst case scenarios for assessment purposes only, the development is predicted to increase traffic flows along the A4130 by a maximum of 65 vehicles per hour over existing traffic conditions, representing a maximum increase of 3% during periods and at locations where congestion occurs. This increase is based upon all staff arriving and departing the site during congested periods, whereas in practice shift patterns will ensure the increase during congested periods is far less than assessed. Throughout the day, the development is predicted to increase traffic flows along the A4130 by a maximum of 27 vehicles per hour, representing an increase of 3%. The development will not ease existing congestion, nor will it increase congestion.

- 4.34 These figures are misleading however, as there are a number of activities at the Waste Management Site and other developments in the Didcot area which have planning consent but are not yet implemented. Upon the implementation of these consented developments, the proposed development is predicted to increase traffic flows by up to 52 vehicles per hour during congested period, representing an increase of 1.8%. Throughout the day, the development is predicted to increase traffic flows along the A4130 by a maximum of 9 vehicles per hour, representing an increase of 0.7%. Upon considering the consented developments, the proposed development will not alter congestion levels.

Appraisal score: 0

#### Public Transport

*31. Does the development include measures to reduce the need for travel by private car and provide for a range of travel options to meet travel needs?*

- 4.35 The development does not meet the public transportation credits as dictated by either the Offices or Industrial BREEAM schemes due to its location. However, a Green Travel Plan will be formulated for the development.

Appraisal score: +

#### Parking

*32. Does the development reduce the use of available car parking as an incentive for staff and visitors to use public transport?*

- 4.36 The level of car parking supplied is appropriate for the development and its transport connections.

Appraisal score: 0

Pedestrians and Cyclists

*33. Will a green travel plan be produced for the development?*

- 4.37 Is a green travel plan is to be developed for both staff and visitors. It is also understood that there will be some improvements to bridle paths and local cycle ways as a result of the development.

Appraisal score: +

**Natural Resource Protection & Environmental Enhancement**

Conservation

*34. Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on identified ecological features?*

- 4.38 It has been predicted through the preliminary BREEAM assessment that all existing features of ecological value are to be adequately protected. BREEAM only covers a specific list of features and that all relevant UK and EU law relating to the protection or enhancement of ecology will be adhered to including the protection of water voles which have been identified on site.

Appraisal score: +

*35. Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on designated natural environmental assets? (e.g. AONBs)?*

- 4.39 There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest namely Little Wittenham located approximately 4.6km east of the site. The SSSI comprises a mix of wet woodland, ponds, small springs (flushes), scrub and undisturbed grassland. It is not considered that the site will be affected adversely by the development of the EfW.

Appraisal score: 0

Enhancement of Ecology

*36. Do the proposals include any ecological enhancement measures?*

- 4.40 Along with the proposals for landscaping work will be undertaken to increase habitat connectivity within and near the site which is intended to strengthen local populations.

Appraisal score: +

*37. Does the development maintain / contribute to the biodiversity of the site?*

- 4.41 It is anticipated through the BREEAM assessment that there may be only a small negative change in the ecological value of the site. A biodiversity action plan has not been prepared at the present time.

Appraisal score: -

Planting

*38. Does any specified planting contribute to the ecological value of the site?*

- 4.42 The proposed planting and landscaping works will tie in with the current restoration plan for the site which will enhance the ecological value of the entire site.

Appraisal score: +

Noise Pollution

*39. Do the proposals include prevention & mitigation measures for any nuisance identified through noise?*

- 4.43 An assessment of the potential noise and vibration effects from the construction and operation of WRG's proposed Energy from Waste facility at Sutton Courtenay has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant British Standards and guidance documents. Noise and vibration from construction activities associated with the EfW, will not result in significant effects at any noise sensitive receptor. Noise and vibration from operational activities, including traffic, will not result in significant effects at any noise sensitive receptor. Therefore no mitigation measures are required.

Appraisal score: 0

River and Ground Water Quality

*40. Does the proposed development protect local river and or groundwater from pollution and/or enhance its quality?*

- 4.44 A number of measures are proposed to prevent river and groundwater pollution. Water from infrequent extended periods of boiler blow down will be directed to the foul sewer via a settlement tank. And drainage or spillage from the waste bunker, lime silo and fly-ash silo will be separately contained in bunded areas for treatment and re-use or disposal to sewer in accordance with the discharge consent. Cleaning reagent and treatment chemical storage containers are to be fitted with appropriate safeguards against spillage or leakage. Although the EfW process is a net consumer of water, there is no requirement for regular waste water disposal. However, on the occasions where this is necessary these will be routed to a waste water treatment plant comprised in the EfW plant which will allow water to be reused in the EfW process. Run off from car parks will be routed into appropriate interceptors/separators. It should be noted that the site is not in a groundwater protection zone and is not on a substrate which is classified as an aquifer. There is an existing surface and groundwater management system in operation as part of the existing Environmental Permit for the wider site, which will be updated to include the EfW should the development go ahead.

Appraisal score: 0

Appropriate Use of Land Resources

*41. Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on identified heritage or archaeological features?*

- 4.45 Given the negligible potential for the proposed development area to contain surviving below ground archaeological remains, no mitigation is proposed or necessary.

Appraisal score: 0

*42. Have the plans taken into account the physical capability of the land to be developed?*

- 4.46 The site has been assessed for instability within the remit of the geology, hydrogeology and land contamination assessment. The geology of the site is considered unlikely to give rise to basal heave and there is negligible potential for cavities to exist beneath the site.

Appraisal score: 0

Impact on Neighbouring Uses

*43. Does the development address any possible effects of the stability of adjoining land?*

- 4.47 Investigations have been undertaken to ascertain how the built development will impact upon the adjoining landfill operations and appropriate stand offs will be applied.

Appraisal score: 0

*44. Do the proposals include any avoidance/mitigation measures for any nuisance identified through light pollution?*

- 4.48 During the construction period, although localised tasks lighting may be required after dark during the construction phase, especially during the winter months. Lighting will be kept to a minimum, with light spill controlled by the use of appropriate lighting units and directed away from any sensitive receptors. During the construction phase, lighting units will be positioned horizontally, with no upward tilt, to ensure that excess light is not spilt from the area being illuminated.

Appraisal score: 0

**Sustainable Communities**

Promoting Community Networks and Interaction

*45. Does the development foster links with the community with regards to waste management?*

- 4.49 The visitors centre / educational facility which is to be built alongside the EfW will be able to cope with large visitor parties (up to 50 people) is a positive steps towards the public understanding of the purpose and methods of the facility. The exact programme of events which will be held at the Centre are yet to be confirmed although it is anticipated that these will foster increased community links over time.

Appraisal score: +

Involvement in Decision Making

*46. Has the community been involved in the development of the proposals in order that their needs, ideas and knowledge are taken into account to improve the quality and acceptability of the development?*

- 4.50 WRG have undertaken an extensive programme of public consultation whilst developing plans for the EfW facility. This allowed stakeholders to be fully informed of the proposals and gave them the opportunity to input into the key issues to be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. The consultation process included; a dedicated website, newsletters, a series of public exhibitions and a briefing of Parish Councils. There will also be a series of post planning application public engagement events including newsletters, site visits, public exhibitions and briefings.

Appraisal score: +

*47. Have any community concerns raised been addressed?*

- 4.51 Concerns over access have been considered as has the need for a local community fund for local small scale schemes. Further consultation is still underway. The size of the plant also took into consideration the local residents concerns over traffic related activities.

Appraisal score: +

Supporting Public Services, Social Economy and Community Structure

*48. Does the development encourage a sustainable lifestyle and aid integration into the local community?*

- 4.52 The development of the EfW and the plans for the future of the resource recovery park demonstrate to the community that there is a defined, hierarchical process for dealing with their waste within the region. The visitor / educational centre, which over time will be visited by many school parties, will be able to connect the scheme with the customers it both provides electricity to (albeit indirectly if through the national grid) and takes waste from.

Appraisal score: +

### Community Management of the Development

*49. Are any community facilities which are provided as part of the development to be maintained and a sense of ownership provided to the community?*

- 4.53 The Visitors centre will enable local residents to see and understand the facility. A local community environmental fund is to be established to ensure benefits are maintained locally.

Appraisal score: +

### Design Process

*50. Has / will a statement of design intent (informed by studies of its site and surroundings) been discussed with appropriate parties prior to finalisation?*

- 4.54 The focus of the design brief is discussed more fully in Chapter 2 (Description of Development). One element of the development of this design brief was early consultation with the local planning authority to identify an appropriate building form and the direction that the EfW must be consistent with its neighbouring environment. Please see Appendix 5.3 for further information.

Appraisal score: +

### Form of Development

*51. Does the development respect the distinctive character of the Vale whilst reinforcing its own identity?*

- 4.55 The design brief stated that the development needed to be consistent with the neighbouring environment and the purposes of the waste management facility. The colour choices of the materials are sympathetic to the surroundings by incorporating light reflective colours on the skyline.

Appraisal score: 0

*52. Does the development create a place with a clear identity which is easy to understand and navigate?*

- 4.56 The EfW building is part of a wider Resource Recovery Park Master plan which has clearly identifiable areas. The areas within the EfW proposal are clearly defined and the layout

provided in Figure 4.6. The main access point within the Recovery Park is clearly visible and the areas within the site are to be clearly signposted.

Appraisal score: +

*53. Does the development avoid visual intrusion to the landscape and surrounding area and is it sympathetic to the setting of the River Thames?*

- 4.57 There are a number of ways by which the development avoids visual intrusion to the landscape and surrounding area. Firstly, the site is located in the middle of the wider Resource Recovery Park and distance from any sensitive receptors is the principal mitigating factor. There has also been a revision to the Master Plan for the site to include more woodland planting to act as a landscape buffer and there is landscaping in the form of enhancement of parkland areas. The form of the surrounding existing landfill also acts as a screening for the scheme. The building design also uses light colours on the skyline in order to graduate the building into the landscape.

Appraisal score: 0

#### Open Space

*54. Does the development include open space for visitors and/or staff?*

- 4.58 A range of landscaping activities will take place on site. As part of this landscaping activity, a park is to be provided adjacent to the lake.

Appraisal score: +

#### Adaptability

*55. Can the building be adapted to other uses at the end of its useful life? Are there any plans for decommissioning?*

- 4.59 As the building is a purpose built facility it is unlikely that it would be suitable for alternate purposes at the end of its life. The contract period for the EfW facility is 25 years, however the plant will have an operating life in excess of this. The architects have confirmed that in principle, the materials used in construction of the facility are recyclable.

Appraisal score: +

Crime

*56. Does the development apply principles which will reduce the likelihood of crime on site?*

- 4.60 The plant is to be manned and operated 24 hours and CCTV systems are to be included within the development.

Appraisal score: +

Street Lighting / Security Lighting

*57. Is adequate external lighting providing to reduce the potential and fear of crime?*

- 4.61 External lighting will be consistent with the minimum lux levels required by relevant standards.

Appraisal score: 0

Traffic Management

*58. Does the development make pedestrian movement attractive and safe?*

- 4.62 External lighting will be provided to ensure the safety of manoeuvring vehicles and pedestrians about the site. Considering the type of development and location, there are not to be a large amount of pedestrians on site who are not staff or visitors. However, there may be groups of visitors who could number up to 50 in size and it is therefore important that their safety is considered. The visitors centre building is located away from the EfW with the lake and parkland between. It is clearly separated from the weighbridge and areas where lorries access the EfW building and a separate pathway with a pedestrian crossing takes pedestrians through the park to the EfW building.

Appraisal score: +

Business / Economy

*59. Does the development contribute towards establishing a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale.*

- 4.63 A large development of this nature will make a significant contribution to the local economy, over and above the direct employment benefits. The lifetime of the project is such that this will be a long term contribution.

Appraisal score: ++

Employment

*60. Will the development provide jobs for the local community during the construction and operational periods?*

- 4.64 During the construction period, which is anticipated to last 33-34 months, the number of skilled staff required for construction would vary. However, it is considered that likely employment levels would peak at approximately 220 during the more intense stages. During the operational period, the facility will employ up to 50 staff, spread over three shifts a day. There will also be the opportunity for local staff to be employed within support roles in, for example, security, cleaning, and maintenance.

Appraisal score: ++

*61. Does the development contribute to a skilled workforce for the region?*

- 4.65 WRG has an ongoing commitment to develop all company personnel and over time, the EfW will lead to the creation of a locally based pool of trained labour.

Appraisal score: +

Quality of Life

*62. Will the development contribute to an increased quality of life for local residents?*

- 4.66 Quality of life is not an impact which lends itself to measurement. However, in so much as the EfW will divert a large proportion of Oxfordshire's waste from landfill it will arguably make for a cleaner and more attractive Oxfordshire.

Appraisal score: +

Health*63. Do the proposals include mitigation measures for any impact on actual health risks?*

- 4.67 Mitigation measures set to avoid environmental and health impacts are implicitly incorporated into the design of the proposed facility and associated activities. However, where appropriate each of the technical disciplines within the Environmental Statement have recommended additional recommendations to further reduce or remove potential impacts and disruption during both construction and operation. An EfW plant can only operate with a permit from the Environment Agency under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations. It must continuously monitor and report emissions from the plant and the EA has the power to close a plant if it breaches the regulations. The EfW facility is also designed to meet the strictest interpretation of the EU Waste Incineration Directive. At the present time, however, an explicit health impact assessment has not been undertaken for the proposed scheme.

Appraisal score: +

*64. Do the proposals include any avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on perceived health risks?*

- 4.68 The proposal is anticipated to have a largely neutral influence on health based upon changes in environmental health pathways (air quality, noise etc), with a minor beneficial influence on employment and income. The proposed facility is not anticipated to significantly influence local health inequality. However, targeted community investment may have a beneficial influence on health through increasing physical activity.

Appraisal score: 0

Education & Skills*65. Will the proposals contribute to education and skills development in the local area?*

- 4.69 The development will contribute to both education and skills. Firstly, the use of the visitors centre is anticipated to contribute to education regarding waste management and the commitment WRG has to the development of their operational workforce will contribute skills development in the local area.

Appraisal score: +

**Table 0-1: Summary of Appraisal Scoring by Category.**

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Category of impact (including categories outlined in SEEDA Sustainability Checklist where appropriate)	Question no.	Appraisal Questions	Appraisal score
Sustainable Consumption & Production	Efficient use of land	1	Does the proposal avoid the use of Greenfield land and resist the unnecessary loss of, agricultural land, floodplain, minerals and other natural resources?	+
		2	Does the proposal make the use of previously developed land a priority?	+
		3	Does the proposal include any reuse/refurbishment of existing buildings?	0
	Environmental impact	4	Do the proposals include the use of low environmental impact materials during construction?	+
		5	Is timber to be used in construction sourced from sustainably managed and temperate sources?	+
	Locally reclaimed materials	6	Do the proposals include a proportion of locally reclaimed or recycled materials in construction?	+
	Water resource planning	7	Are there adequate water supplies for the proposed development?	+
	Waste Management	8	Does the development promote sustainable waste management in line with the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse recycle, recover)?	++
		9	Does the development promote an integrated approach to waste management methods and how is this demonstrated?	+
		10	Does the development regard waste as a resource?	++
		11	Does the development promote regional self sufficiency with regards to waste and contribute to identified targets?	++
		12	Does the development positively affect the public perception of waste management?	+
		13	Does the development assist in the development of markets for recovered materials (especially local markets)?	+
		14	Does the development provide the best possible value for money for waste treatment?	+
	Construction Waste	15	How does the development minimise waste from its own construction going to landfill?	+
	Specified BREEAM	16	Is the development to achieve a BREEAM rating?	+

Climate Change and Energy	Emissions	17	Does the development reduce greenhouse emissions in comparison with alternative solutions?	++
		18	Have the air quality impacts arising from the specific development activities been assessed? Is there a negative impact on local air quality as a result of development?	0
		19	Does the development deal with potential odour and vermin issues which may arise due to the handling of waste?	+
		20	Will the development control dust during construction and operation?	0
	Flooding	21	Has the proposed development assessed the potential risk of flooding, including that which may result from climate change?	+
		22	Are appropriate methods proposed i.e. SUDS to minimise the risk of flooding as a result of development through the loss of any surface water drainage from the site?	+
	Heat Island	23	Will the proposed development contribute to the urban heat island effect?	0
	Water Efficiency	24	Are water resources to be used for the development for process and services uses to be utilised in an efficient manner?	+
	Sustainable Energy	25	Does the development use power from a renewable or low emission energy source?	++
		26	Does the development generate any power for use outside of the development, and reflect the emphasis on CHP from policy EG2 of the County Structure Plan? Specifically does the development master plan consider the site wide distribution of on-site produced	++
		27	Have energy efficiency measures been incorporated into the design proposals?	+
	Site Infrastructure	28	Does the development make the best use of existing resources and infrastructure?	+
	Transportation	29	Does the development minimise emissions from the transportation of waste and any products derived from the waste?	+
		30	Does the development ease congestion associated with the existing situation?	0
	Public transport	31	Does the development include measures to reduce the need for travel by private car and provide for a range of travel options to meet travel needs?	+
	Parking	32	Does the development reduce the use of available car parking as an incentive for staff and visitors to use public transport?	0
	Pedestrians and cyclists	33	Will a green travel plan be produced for the development?	+
Natural Resource Protection & Environmental Enhancement	Conservation	34	Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on identified ecological features?	+
		35	Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on designated natural environmental assets? (e.g. AONBs)?	0

	Enhancement of ecology	36	Do the proposals include any ecological enhancement measures?	+
		37	Does the development maintain / contribute to the biodiversity of the site?	-
	Planting	38	Does any specified planting contribute to the ecological value of the site?	+
	Noise Pollution	39	Do the proposals include prevention and mitigation measures for any nuisance identified through noise?	0
	River and ground water quality	40	Does the proposed development protect local river and or groundwater from pollution and/or enhance its quality?	0
	Appropriate use of land resources	41	Do the proposals include avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on identified heritage or archaeological features?	0
		42	Have the plans taken into account the physical capability of the land to be developed?	0
	Impact on neighbouring uses.	43	Does the development address any possible effects of the stability of adjoining land?	0
		44	Do the proposals include any avoidance/mitigation measures for any nuisance identified through light pollution?	0
	Sustainable Communities	Promoting community networks and interaction	45	Does the development foster links with the community with regards to waste management?
Involvement in decision making		46	Has the community been involved in the development of the proposals in order that their needs, ideas and knowledge are taken into account to improve the quality and acceptability of the development?	+
		47	Have any community concerns raised been addressed?	+
Supporting public services, social economy and community structure		48	Does the development encourage a sustainable lifestyle and aid integration into the local community?	+
Community management of the development		49	Are any community faculties which are provided as part of the development to be maintained and a sense of ownership provided to the community?	+
Design process		50	Has / will a statement of design intent (informed by studies of its site and surroundings) been discussed with appropriate parties prior to finalization?	+
Form of Development		51	Does the development respect the distinctive character of the Vale whilst reinforcing its own identity?	0
		52	Does the development create a place with a clear identity which is easy to understand and navigate?	+

	53	Does the development avoid visual intrusion to the landscape and surrounding area and is it sympathetic to the setting of the River Thames?	0
Open space	54	Does the development include open space for visitors and/or staff?	+
Adaptability	55	Can the building be adapted to other uses at the end of its useful life? Are there any plans for decommissioning?	+
Crime	56	Does the development apply principles which will reduce the likelihood of crime on site?	+
Street lighting / security lighting	57	Is adequate external lighting providing to reduce the potential and fear of crime?	0
Traffic management	58	Does the development make pedestrian movement attractive and safe?	+
Business / economy	59	Does the development contribute towards establishing a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale?	++
Employment	60	Will the development provide jobs for the local community during the construction and operational periods?	++
	61	Does the development contribute to a skilled workforce for the region?	+
Quality of life	62	Will the development contribute to an increased quality of life for local residents?	+
Health	63	Do the proposals include mitigation measures for any impact on actual health risks?	+
	64	Do the proposals include any avoidance / mitigation measures for any impact on perceived health risks?	0
Education & skills	65	Will the proposals contribute to education and skills development in the local area?	+

## 5 Conclusions and Recommendations

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- 5.1 The results of the SA demonstrate that the proposed development responds well to the SA objectives. The key strengths of the proposal with regards to sustainability are in relation to sustainable waste management practices and the generation of energy, their integration with other waste management practices on the same site, all of which are fundamental to these proposals.
- 5.2 In addition, the reuse of previously developed land; and local community involvement through the extensive consultations, and supporting the local economy through the creation of jobs and local sourcing of materials where possible all support the principles of sustainability.
- 5.3 The SA does not include information on the monitoring and delivery of the scheme. It is an appraisal of the scheme at the design stage. This approach has been adopted for a number of reasons:
- It has not been identified through the examination of relevant policy objectives that it is necessary to monitor the delivery of the scheme on a basis other than at a design stage.
  - The points covered within the SA are very wide ranging and the performance of the facility will be monitored on different levels through other channels such as the monitoring of the local waste strategy, employment surveys etc.
  - On a performance basis, regulations such as the Environmental Permit which will govern the facility are to be adhered to in order that the scheme will function within the limits identified.

### Further Considerations

- 5.4 To improve the sustainability of the proposals, the following should be considered when progressing the detailed design:-
- The continuing involvement of the community in the operation of the visitors centre.
  - The provision of data to bodies which may request information for the purposes of monitoring the performance of the project, such as employment surveys, further revisions to the local waste strategies etc.
  - The adoption of a sustainability and/or environmental management system which picks up relevant items identified through this sustainability appraisal, in a structured way, and sets relevant targets and objectives.

- 5.5 It should be noted that making changes to the design to improve the sustainability may have cost implications for the project.

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## Appendices

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## Appendix A

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### Local, Regional and National Sustainability Objectives<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Please note these exclude objectives for housing which are not relevant to this project.

NATIONAL									
Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)	Waste Strategy for England 2007	PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)	PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management-Principles for Location	PPS 10 - Locational Criteria (as defined in Annex E)	PPS23: Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	PPS25: Development & Flood Risk (2006)	PPG13: Transport (2001)	PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)
Sustainable Consumption and Production	Decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth & put more emphasis on waste prevention and reuse.								
	Meet and exceed the landfill directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020.								
	Increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste.								

<b>NATIONAL</b>									
<b>Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)</b>	<b>Waste Strategy for England 2007</b>	<b>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)</b>	<b>PPS9: Biodiversity &amp; Geological Conservation (2005)</b>	<b>PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management-Principles for Location</b>	<b>PPS 10 - Locational Criteria (as defined in Annex E)</b>	<b>PPS23: Planning &amp; Pollution Control (2004)</b>	<b>PPS25: Development &amp; Flood Risk (2006)</b>	<b>PPG13: Transport (2001)</b>	<b>PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)</b>
	Secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste.			Priority to the re-use of previously-developed land, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages.					
	Get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies.								

NATIONAL									
Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)	Waste Strategy for England 2007	PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)	PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management-Principles for Location	PPS 10 - Locational Criteria (as defined in Annex E)	PPS23: Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	PPS25: Development & Flood Risk (2006)	PPG13: Transport (2001)	PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)
Climate Change and Energy				The capacity of existing and potential transport infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of waste, and products arising from resource recovery, seeking when practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport.	traffic and access			Promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight.	
								Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking & cycling.	

NATIONAL									
Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)	Waste Strategy for England 2007	PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)	PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management-Principles for Location	PPS 10 - Locational Criteria (as defined in Annex E)	PPS23: Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	PPS25: Development & Flood Risk (2006)	PPG13: Transport (2001)	PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)
								reduce the need to travel, especially by car	
Natural Resources Protection and Environmental Enhancement			To promote sustainable development ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.		protection of water resources	the presence of contamination in land can present risks to human health and the environment, which adversely affect or restrict the beneficial use of land but development presents an opportunity to deal with these risks successfully;	Those proposing development are responsible for demonstrating that it is consistent with the policies in PPS25 and those on flood risk in the LDD.		Where development is proposed on land which the planning authority knows is unstable, or potentially unstable, it should ensure that the following issues are properly addressed by the development proposed;

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			To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the population of naturally occurring species which they support.		land instability	where pollution issues are likely to arise, intending developers should hold informal pre-application discussions with the LPA, the relevant pollution control authority and/or the environmental health departments of local authorities (LAs), and other authorities and stakeholders with a legitimate interest; and	Those proposing a development are responsible for providing a Flood Risk Assessment demonstrating:		the physical capability of the land to be developed;

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			To contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by: A/ enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people's sense of wellbeing.		visual intrusion	Where it will save time and money, consideration should be given to submitting applications for planning permission and pollution control permits in parallel and co-coordinating their consideration by the relevant authorities.	whether any proposed development is likely to be affected by current or future flooding from any source;		possible adverse effects of instability on the development;
			B/ ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment		nature conservation		satisfying the LPA that the development is safe and where possible reduces flood risk overall;		possible adverse effects of the development on the stability of adjoining land; and

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					historic environment and built heritage		whether it will increase flood risk elsewhere; and		Possible effects on local amenities and conservation interests of the development and of any remedial or precautionary measures proposed.
					air emissions, including dust		The measures proposed to deal with these effects and risks. Any necessary flood risk management measures should be sufficiently funded to ensure that the site can be developed and occupied safely throughout its proposed lifetime;		

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					odors		designs which reduce flood risk to the development and elsewhere, by incorporating sustainable drainage systems (see Annex F) and where necessary, flood resilience measures (see Annex G); and		
					vermin and birds		Identifying opportunities to reduce flood risk, enhance biodiversity and amenity, protect the historic environment and seek collective solutions to managing flood risk.		
					noise and vibration				

NATIONAL									
Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)	Waste Strategy for England 2007	PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)	PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management-Principles for Location	PPS 10 - Locational Criteria (as defined in Annex E)	PPS23: Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	PPS25: Development & Flood Risk (2006)	PPG13: Transport (2001)	PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)
Sustainable Communities		Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life.		Well-being of the local community, including environmental quality, social cohesion and inclusion or economic potential	litter				
		Contributing to sustainable economic development.			potential land use conflict				
		Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities.							

NATIONAL									
Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)	Waste Strategy for England 2007	PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)	PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management-Principles for Location	PPS 10 - Locational Criteria (as defined in Annex E)	PPS23: Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	PPS25: Development & Flood Risk (2006)	PPG13: Transport (2001)	PPG14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)
		Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design and the efficient use of resources.							
		Ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.							



<b>REGIONAL</b>			
<b>Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)</b>	<b>Government Office for the South East, Regional Planning Guidance for the South East RPG9): Waste and Minerals (June 2006).</b>	<b>South East England Regional Assembly, Draft South East Plan (2006)</b>	<b>South East Regional Assembly, The South East Regional Sustainability Framework – ‘Towards a Better Quality of Life’ (March 2008)</b>
<b>Sustainable Consumption and Production</b>	i. reduce the rate of growth of waste and start to minimise the overall amount generated through uncoupling waste growth from economic progress;		14. To improve efficiency in land use through the appropriate re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance
	ii. change our perception of waste to regard it as a resource and shift the emphasis of policy from disposal to processing;		22. To reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably and ethically produced, local or low impact products
	iii. take an holistic and integrated approach to waste management which is wider than spatial planning;		23. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste
	iv. promote regional net self-sufficiency in terms of waste management capacity (which will include provision for a declining amount of waste imported from London);		
	v. set out an integrated approach which does not exclude any waste management method;		
	vi. aim to meet statutory targets as a minimum and plan for provision of infrastructure to enable these to be exceeded;		
	vii. promote sub-regional net self-sufficiency in terms of waste management capacity, where this is pragmatic;		
<b>Climate Change and Energy</b>	viii. minimise the transport and associated environmental impacts from the movement of waste;	xii The need to incorporate measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Plan	17. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases

<b>REGIONAL</b>			
<b>Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)</b>	<b>Government Office for the South East, Regional Planning Guidance for the South East RPG9: Waste and Minerals (June 2006).</b>	<b>South East England Regional Assembly, Draft South East Plan (2006)</b>	<b>South East Regional Assembly, The South East Regional Sustainability Framework – ‘Towards a Better Quality of Life’ (March 2008)</b>
	x. influence climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.		18. Ensure that the South East is prepared for the impacts of Climate Change
			21. To improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel
			25. To increase energy
<b>Natural Resources Protection and Environmental Enhancement</b>		xi The need to place increased emphasis on natural resource management and efficiency	15. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment
		xiii The need to protect and improve the best of the region's natural environment both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region	16. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve
			19. To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity
			20. To protect and enhance the Region's countryside and historic environment
			24. To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers, ground waters and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management
<b>Sustainable Communities</b>	ix. improve the quality and availability of information, understanding and openness; and	i The need for a clear vision, supported by challenging targets, that reflects quality of life considerations aligned with and tested against the objectives set in the Integrated Regional Framework	

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<b>Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)</b>	<b>Government Office for the South East, Regional Planning Guidance for the South East RPG9: Waste and Minerals (June 2006).</b>	<b>South East England Regional Assembly, Draft South East Plan (2006)</b>	<b>South East Regional Assembly, The South East Regional Sustainability Framework – ‘Towards a Better Quality of Life’ (March 2008)</b>
		ii The need to plan positively for a reasonable level of economic growth, with consequent labour supply, and appropriate management of physical and social infrastructure implications	
		iii The need for further measures to reduce economic and social disparities in the region	
		vi The need for timely infrastructure provision that keeps pace with development and greater reassurance on that issue through a dialogue with Government on how to plan for that development	2. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
		vii The need to develop clear investment priorities and improve key transport links	3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion and, by improving their performance, close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region
		viii The need to improve access via transport and other means, especially for disadvantaged groups	4. To raise educational achievement levels across the region and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work
		ix The need to promote new initiatives to tackle skills deficits	5. To reduce crime and the fear of crime
		x The need for radical thinking about health provision and access	6. To create and sustain vibrant communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals
		xiv The need to promote a sustainable balance between economic prosperity, environmental quality, social well-being and a high quality of life in the South East	7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment

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		xvi The need to decide whether any strategic development areas should be proposed	8. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East and promote sustainable tourism
		xviii The need to develop the Plan in a manner which recognises uncertainty and incorporates appropriate phasing and flexibility	9. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region
		xix The need to prepare and advocate much improved delivery and management arrangements to secure implementation of the Plan	10. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region by focusing on the principles of smart growth: raising levels of enterprise, productivity and economic activity
		xx The need to set the Plan in a clear inter-regional and European context	11. To stimulate economic revival in deprived areas
		xxi The need to ensure high quality development	12. To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities
			13. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region

LOCAL						
Government Priorities (from Securing Our Future)	Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Structure Plan (currently all policies are saved until October 2008)	Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1996	Oxfordshire County Council, Minerals & Waste Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report (updated June 2006)	Oxfordshire Waste Partnership: 'No Time to Waste' The Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (August 2006)	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 (all policies are currently saved until July 2009)	Vale of White Horse District Council, Local Development Framework Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (March 2007)
Sustainable Consumption and Production		to provide a planning framework which allows the safe and economic treatment and disposal of waste;	• To provide sufficient capacity for the treatment and disposal of waste equivalent to the quantity that is produced in Oxfordshire. A further contribution will be made to national and regional waste management requirements, including waste from London, in accordance with national and regional policy;	1. Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce waste first, then reuse, recycle and compost resources, recover value and, as a last resort, dispose of waste	ii) make the best use of resources and infrastructure;	15. Improve and protect the built environment
		to encourage the re-use and recycling of materials so as to reduce the need both for mineral working and for landfill disposal of waste	To promote reducing waste production while increasing the public awareness of waste as a resource, with encouraging recycling, composting and other recovery of resources from waste. To ensure that national and regional targets are at least met, it also encourages a decrease in landfill of waste;	2. Promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives to Oxfordshire communities to help everyone manage their own wastes	v) reduce the need for development on green fields by promoting - the re-use of vacant, under-used and previously developed land and buildings within existing settlements before Greenfield sites are used	16. Sustainable use of land, buildings and materials
			to provide an integrated approach to waste management and this does not exclude any particular methods;	3. Manage wastes through seeking the most appropriate and sustainable solution that protects the environment, including minimising the transport of waste		

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			To ensure waste management objectives and requirements are taken into account in the planning and design of other development, in particular to encourage provision for re-use, recycling and recovery of resources from waste in new development.	4. Meet or exceed performance required by statutory and locally agreed targets.		
				5. Work together through the provision of co-ordinated services and infrastructure for waste collection, treatment, transfer and disposal to maximise the efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire		
				6. Ensure that waste facilities are suitably sized and distributed and that site identification is informed in accordance with the Minerals and Waste Development Framework and the Regional Spatial Strategy.		
				7. Assist the development of markets, especially those that are local, for recovered materials.		

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				8. Enable customer satisfaction through delivery of effective and efficient services to Oxfordshire residents that minimise the overall tax burden at the best possible value.		
				9. Develop flexible and comprehensive waste management services that are robust and deliverable throughout Oxfordshire now and in the long term.		
				10. Lobby Central Government and work with local business to improve the efficient use of resources, reduce the impact of activities on resource consumption, which results in the production of municipal waste, and encourage them to take responsibility for the wastes they produce.		

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Climate Change and Energy	ii. to reduce pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases;		to reduce the impacts of transportation of minerals and waste by seeking to minimise the travel distance that materials need to be transported by road and also to encourage the use of other alternative transport modes that are practicable;		vi) promote environmentally efficient design to reduce heat loss and maximize solar gain by the careful location, layout and design of new buildings and encourage the use of appropriate materials;	9. Reduced road congestion and associated pollution
	i. to locate development where it can reduce the need to travel and encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport;				vii) Encourage the harnessing and use of environmentally friendly energy sources.	17. Effective action on climate change
	iii. To encourage the location and design and development which makes efficient use of energy and resources, and minimises waste for disposal.				Aim 3: to reduce the need to travel and the harmful effects of traffic on people and the environment.	18. Increased generation of energy by renewables

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					<p>i) reduce the need to travel by car by - encouraging and enabling people to transfer to more environmentally friendly modes of transport by seeking improved facilities for walking, cycling and public transport and through the careful location of new development - locating most new development close to existing facilities and services or where they can be provided and avoiding sporadic and piecemeal development - enabling people to live close to where they work, including encouraging developments which have a mix of different land uses;</p>	
					<p>ii) use traffic management measures to alleviate traffic congestion and improve safety and the environment; and</p>	

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					iii) Resist development which would give rise to excessive or inappropriate traffic, such as heavy goods vehicles on narrow rural roads.	
<b>Natural Resources Protection and Environmental Enhancement</b>	i. to provide effective protection and enhancement for Oxfordshire's biodiversity, landscape and heritage;		to ensure working and supply of minerals and the management of waste are carried out in an environmental-friendly way by minimising impacts on local communities, the landscape and natural environment;		Aim 1: to safeguard the distinctive character of the Vale, and conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment for future generations. i) protect and enhance the countryside for its own sake, particularly areas of attractive landscape and the setting of the River Thames;	14. Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity)
	iii. to maintain and improve the quality of surface and groundwater;		to ensure high quality restoration and appropriate after-use of mineral workings and landfills;		ii) maintain and enhance biodiversity and protect sites important for wildlife conservation;	19. Reduced risk of flooding

<b>LOCAL</b>						
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	iv. To protect the quality of soils and agricultural land.		To secure enhancement of the environment through mineral working and waste management development, in particular through long-term benefits for nature conservation, landscape, recreation and local communities.		iii) protect and enhance the historic and built environment;	20. Maintained and improved river quality and water resources
	ii. to minimise the use of Greenfield land;				iv) protect the distinctive character of the Vale's towns, villages and countryside;	21. Reduced air, noise and light pollution
					v) maintain the integrity of the Oxford Green Belt in the north-east of the district	
					vi) Restrain the overall level of development in accordance with the Oxfordshire Structure Plan.	
					Aim 2: to promote high quality, sustainable development. i) ensure that all new development is designed to a high standard, uses high quality materials and respects the character of the area;	

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					iii) resist the unnecessary loss of floodplains, agricultural land, water, mineral and other natural resources;	
					iv) minimise pollution and noise arising from new development;	
<b>Sustainable Communities</b>	ii. to support communities in which people have access to jobs, services, community and leisure facilities;				Aim 5: to encourage a strong and sustainable economy which is beneficial to all who live in, work in, or visit the Vale. i) promote the diversity of the Vale's economy; ii) enhance its competitiveness, particularly its special emphasis in research and science-based industries; iii) improve employment opportunities and provide for local employment needs; iv) enable regeneration and modernisation; and v) promote sustainable tourism.	2. Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public

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	iii. to provide for a range of travel options to meet transport needs; and				Aim 6: to ensure that the main settlements of Abingdon, Botley, Faringdon, Grove and Wantage are attractive places for living, working and pursuing leisure interests. improve the environment of the urban areas; ii) reduce traffic congestion and improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians; iii) promote the vitality and viability of the main settlements particularly as local centres for shopping and other services; and iv) encourage the economic regeneration and sustainability of the main settlements.	3. Improved community safety

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	iv. To provide safe and attractive places to live and work.				Aim 7: to ensure that the countryside and villages of the Vale are prosperous and have a diverse economy. i) the appropriate diversification of the farming industry, particularly through the careful re-use of existing buildings; ii) the diversification and regeneration of the rural economy, particularly within the villages of the Vale and the areas identified for employment development.	4. Increased quality of life for Vale residents
	i. to support the continued development of Oxfordshire's existing and emerging growth sectors and clusters;					5. Raised educational achievement and skills levels
	ii. to provide for development to meet the economic needs of the county's residents and local businesses; and					6. Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale
	iii. To support the diversification of the rural economy in Oxfordshire.					7. Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities

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						8. Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector
						10. Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential
						11. Vibrant communities
						12. Greater engagement in cultural activity
						13. Improved health and wellbeing

