



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan

Leeds Local Development Framework

extract



Development Plan Document
Preferred Options Main Report
October 2007



Lower Level Works at Knostrop



Recycling Centre, Cross Green

5.5 Waste Management

A. Waste Management Facilities

The Waste Strategy² sets out the long term vision of a “zero waste city”. The aim is to achieve this goal by exploiting every practicable opportunity to drive waste management up the ‘waste hierarchy’, with the reduction of growth in waste being a primary focus for the strategy. Reducing, re-using and recycling waste are key priorities, and all waste is to be treated as a resource.

In 2005/6 Leeds City Council disposed of over 266,000 tonnes (or 78.6%) of household waste in landfill sites. Landfill is considered to be a major source of greenhouse gases and the Government has imposed demanding targets on local authorities to ensure major reductions in the environmental impact of this form of waste management. It is estimated that failure to reduce the current level of landfill could mean Leeds City Council incurring £220m in penalties by 2020 alone. This environmental and financial threat represents one of the biggest challenges currently facing local authorities.

Energy from Waste (EfW) emerged as the best performing option in an appraisal to evaluate a wide range of technologies for treating non-recycled waste and is, therefore, included in the Waste Strategy as a preferred option. EfW involves burning waste under tightly controlled conditions to generate electricity, with potential to provide heat to local housing and businesses. However, it should be noted that no decision has yet been made by the Council as to the location of such a facility.

The Waste Strategy includes a policy to explore the development of a ‘Sustainable Energy and Resource Park’ (or SERP) which could include a materials recycling facility (MRF) for separating the dry recyclables collected in the green wheeled bins, organic waste processing facilities, an EfW facility, an education centre and business incubation units for the development of marketable products from recycled materials. The timetable to deliver the necessary infrastructure has become a priority for

the Council as it responds to stretching statutory recycling and EU landfill targets and the associated environmental and financial pressures.

Preferred Option 5A: Waste Management Facilities

5A) The potential of AVL as a location for a Sustainable Energy Resource Park (SERP) and/or other waste management facilities should be recognised in the AAP.

This option amends Option W2 for waste management which was identified in the Alternative Options consultation document.

Although further evaluation work on potential sites within and external to AVL is necessary, early work based on national planning guidance (PPS10) has clearly identified the potential of AVL as a suitable location. Land is clearly available, transport connections are being improved and similar facilities already exist. The scale of new development envisaged and existing user needs provides great scope to maximise use of any residual energy, heat and power that an EfW plant would generate.

The site search work undertaken recognises the potential to accommodate waste facilities in the following areas. Based on site selection criteria that recognise national and waste planning guidance and an appropriate site threshold the most likely locations are identified in brackets:

- Area 3A – Former wholesale market (Sites 3A.1, 3A.2)
- Area 4 – Knostrop (Sites 4.1 and 4.2)
- Area 4 – Knostrop (Yorkshire Water surplus operational land)
- Area 6C – Skelton Grange (Site 6C.1)

