



Cardiff Council - January 2025

Background Technical Paper Number 7

Deposit Plan

Waste



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Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan Deposit Plan 2021 to 2036

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In line with national ambitions, Cardiff Council is committed to moving towards a more circular economy and more sustainable waste management practices. This background paper will discuss the policy framework for waste management. It will explain Cardiff's waste-related land use needs, and will demonstrate how these needs can be accommodated within the plan period.
- 1.2 The move towards a circular economy marks a major shift in the methods and processes by which waste will be dealt with in the future. It is likely that future waste management facilities will use different technology with differing land use requirements.
- 1.3 Planning for waste management is performed on a regional basis in Wales, with the preparation of Regional Waste Plans, jointly prepared waste monitoring reports and the procurement of major new waste facilities being achieved through regional consortia. A significant implication of the regional approach to waste management provision is that the requirements of an individual local authority can be met by locating a facility within another local authority's area, or through a combination of facilities throughout the region.
- 1.4 The Council is committed to meeting ambitious national targets for waste minimisation, resource efficiency and waste management. This SPG will set out how the waste-related policies of the Replacement LDP will contribute towards the delivery of a sustainable and integrated network of waste management facilities.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The most relevant European Directives are as follows:
 - The **Waste Framework Directive** is the EU's legal framework for waste management, which sets the basic principles and targets for waste management in the EU. It requires Member States to establish and maintain an integrated and adequate network of waste management facilities.
 - The **Landfill Directive** aims to prevent or reduce the negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and setting targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill.
- 2.2 The most relevant national legislation and policy is as follows:
 - The aim of **Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (2014)** is to facilitate the introduction of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable land use planning framework for waste management in Wales. It sets out the requirement for regional coordination in waste matters.

- **Towards Zero Waste: The Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales (2010)** is a long term framework for waste management and resource efficiency in Wales until 2050. It sets out the following key targets:
 - At least 70% recycling across all sectors by 2025;
 - Zero waste by 2050 where all products and services are designed and delivered with waste prevention in mind.
- **The Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan (2012)** sets out waste management framework which will provide the best solutions to meet social, economic and environmental needs to 2050. It indicates that there should be a reduction in disposal and recovery options for treating waste and a move towards high volume source separated collection followed by reprocessing, as well as preparation for re-use and prevention. Development Plans should demonstrate how the CIM Sector Plan has been taken into account.
- **Beyond Recycling (2021)** provides an updated strategy for achieving the Welsh Government's target of net zero waste by 2025, to replace the targets set out in Towards Zero Waste. It provides updated targets, addresses challenges to achieving the targets and contains a series of actions which will result in the move towards a circular economy.
- **Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, February 2024)** sets out the land use policies of the Welsh Government. The National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes recognise the need to prevent waste and make the best use of natural resources, and the need for appropriate infrastructure to support sustainable waste management. Within the Productive and Enterprising Places chapter there is guidance on making the best use of material resources and promoting the circular economy. Waste planning guidance contained in PPW sets out:
 - The need for the principle of moving to a circular economy and the prevention of waste to underpin design, site selection and development decisions;
 - The role of the waste hierarchy as the basis for considering waste management proposals;
 - Provision of a wide ranging and diverse waste infrastructure;
 - Suitable locations for waste management development should be identified in developments plans, along with criteria by which such applications will be determined;
 - Adequate facilities for the collection, composting and recycling of waste should be incorporated into the design and layout of development.

3. Relationship To Other Plans And Publications

- 3.1 Cardiff is a constituent member of the South East Wales Regional Waste Group (SEWRWG), a voluntary joint arrangement of 11 local planning authorities. The SEWRWG produced the **South East Wales Regional Waste Plan**. This was subject to a **1st Review** which was approved by the SEWRWG constituent authorities in 2008.

- 3.2 In accordance with guidance contained in Technical Advice Note 21, regional joint waste monitoring arrangements are in place. The third **Waste Planning Monitoring Report South East Wales** was prepared in 2020. This states that there is no further need for landfill capacity within the South East region and that any further proposal for residual waste treatment should be carefully assessed to ensure that the facility would not result in overprovision.
- 3.3 The Council published **The Recycling Strategy for Cardiff 2022-2025** which is a commitment to achieve the Welsh Government's statutory recycling targets and sets out the Council's intention to move 'beyond recycling' by keeping resources in use and avoiding waste. It focusses on three interventions:
- Improving the recycling performance of the trade waste service;
 - Expanding the residential recycling service to include new segregation streams;
 - Diverting recyclable materials from the residual waste stream.
- It sets out how the city's waste arisings will be more effectively managed to help meet the aims of the **One Planet** strategy and support the transition to net zero carbon by 2030.

4. Current Waste Infrastructure In Cardiff

- 4.1 Since the adoption of the LDP 2006-2026 both Prosiect Gwyrdd and the Cardiff Organic Waste Treatment Project have delivered significant waste facilities which are located within Cardiff, but serve wider regional needs. The facilities are now operational.
- 4.2 The Council has a network of waste management, processing and disposal facilities across the City. This includes:
- An anaerobic digestion plant which processes food waste;
 - Materials Reclamation Facility where dry recyclables are separated, baled and moved on to processors to be recycled;
 - A composting facility where garden waste is composted in an open windrow process;
 - An Energy Recovery Facility where non-recyclable waste is used as fuel for energy recovery;
 - Two household waste recycling centres (HWRCs).
- 4.3 There are also many smaller facilities across the city, the majority of which are run by private operators, which contribute to meeting the waste management and disposal requirements of Cardiff.

5. Future Waste Management Requirements

- 5.1 Given the existing waste management network in place and advice contained in the CIM, it is not anticipated that any significant waste management developments of a scale which would serve regional needs will be required within Cardiff during the Plan period. However, it is possible that changes to national policy, or shifts in waste management technology, may result in the need for significant waste developments.
- 5.2 It is likely that there will be a requirement for smaller waste management facilities during the plan period. These developments will be directed towards existing and proposed 'B2' general industrial land in line with policy MW1. It is not considered necessary to allocate any specific land for waste management purposes in the plan, given the varying requirements of potential waste developments. It is considered that there is sufficient existing and proposed land for industrial purposes protected within the plan which could adequately accommodate any future waste requirements.
- 5.3 The ambition to move to a circular economy may also necessitate other developments which are not typical 'waste management' uses, but which will support a reduction in waste, or the re-use, repurposing or recycling of materials which would otherwise have been considered waste. These industrial uses could also be accommodated within existing and proposed 'B2' land.