

## Purpose of the Study

The Study provides up-to-date information about the Black Country's current and future waste management needs, so that we can plan for these effectively in the new Black Country Plan. The scope of the Study and its key findings are summarised below.

## Scope of the Study

### What the Study does

#### **Estimates how much waste we produce in the Black Country and how it is managed**

The tonnages of waste produced each year by households, businesses and construction projects in the Black Country, the types of waste, and how much is re-used, recycled, recovered as fuel or sent to landfill.

#### **Predicts how the amount of waste we produce might change over the plan period and beyond**

The effects of meeting our identified housing and employment needs up to 2039 and beyond, and other factors that could affect the amount of waste generated each year by households, businesses and construction projects in the Black Country.

#### **Assesses whether the Black Country's existing waste management sites have the capacity to meet our current and future needs**

The number of waste facilities the Black Country already has, where they are, the wastes they handle and whether they have the capacity to meet our current and future needs.

#### **Analyses where our waste goes and whether this is having a significant effect on other areas**

The extent to which the Black Country relies on waste facilities outside the area to manage its waste and other areas rely on waste facilities in the Black Country to manage their waste.

#### **Provides advice on how we should plan for our future waste management needs**

The extra waste management capacity we are likely to need in the Black Country between now and 2039 to manage the amount of waste we are likely to produce, the most suitable locations for new waste facilities, taking into account their operational needs and compatibility with existing land uses, and policies to guide developers on and waste operators on dealing with the environmental effects of waste management.

### What the Study does not do

#### **Allocate sites for new waste facilities**

The study is part of the evidence being gathered to help us prepare the Black Country Plan. It recommends suitable locations for new waste facilities, but this does not necessarily mean that they will be included in the plan. The Black Country Authorities will decide what goes into the waste policies of the plan, taking into account the Study's recommendations and other evidence. The views of the public are also important, and everyone will be able to have their say on any sites we are proposing to allocate for specific land uses, including waste, when the Draft Plan is published for public consultation in summer 2021.

#### **Affect existing arrangements for collecting waste from households and small businesses in the Black Country**

Waste collection arrangements are outside the scope of the Black Country Plan, so the Study has not looked at these. Any changes to the way waste is collected from households and small businesses are matters for each Council to decide when they next review their waste collection arrangements.

#### **Change the way that the Black Country Authorities manage the waste they collect from households and small businesses**

Each of the Black Country Authorities has different arrangements for managing the waste they collect. Normally this is managed at commercial waste facilities under contracts with the operators. The Study has looked at the arrangements currently in place because this is part of the evidence for how and where the Black Country's waste is managed. However, each Council is responsible for its own waste management strategy, and for deciding who will recycle, recover and dispose of the waste it collects and which facilities it will go to.

## Key Findings of the Study

- The waste sector makes a greater contribution to the local economy (0.88% of jobs in the Black Country) than the national economy (0.55% of jobs in Great Britain), and is expected to grow further between now and 2030.
- The evidence shows that in 2017 around 2.2 million tonnes more waste came into the Black Country each year than went out, mainly because we have a lot of specialised waste facilities that aren't available elsewhere in the country.
- However, the Black Country is currently short of landfill sites for construction waste and recycling sites and has no composting sites, so much of the waste requiring this type of management has to be sent outside the area.
- Housing and employment growth in the Black Country between now and 2039 is not expected to significantly increase the amounts of waste produced overall, because the amount of waste being generated by each household and business is reducing.
- However, the Black Country's waste management capacity is projected to decrease over the plan period, mainly because our landfill capacity will become depleted as sites fill up, so that by 2039 we will not have enough capacity to manage the volumes of waste predicted to arise, including waste that comes in from other areas.
- Current national policy on waste aims to encourage further waste reduction and more efficient management of the waste that still does arise, with significantly more waste being re-used, recycled and composted by 2039, meaning that the range of waste facilities we have will have to change to respond this.
- The Black Country's existing waste facilities are also potentially under threat from other development such as housing, and will need to be safeguarded to ensure that they are able to continue operating in the future.
- A number of existing employment areas in the Black Country have been identified as having potential for development of new waste facilities, because they include potential development opportunities and/ or existing waste sites that could adapt to meet the increased demand for recycling facilities over the plan period.

## Implications for the Black Country Plan

There is a need to update and simplify the waste policies in the existing Black Country Core Strategy to reflect the findings of the study. The new policies will need to:

- Identify the Black Country's waste management needs between now and 2039 including the recycling targets we will be expected to meet;
- Safeguard the Black Country's existing waste facilities by discouraging any development near to them which could prevent them from continuing to operate;
- Encourage new developments to manage as much as possible of the waste they produce on site and require them to provide sufficient space to store waste;
- Identify the most suitable locations for new waste facilities, which will mainly be existing employment areas; and
- Identify what new waste facilities will be required to do to ensure they do not have unacceptable effects on local people, health and the environment.



HOUSING ENVIRONMENT EMPLOYMENT TRANSPORT

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