

This note has been produced at the request of the Inspector in relation to conformity with the regional strategy (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Sections 20 (50 and Sections 24 (1)).

Gloucestershire County Council consulted the GOSW and the South West Assembly at all of the consultation stages through out the plan preparation. As discussed under paragraph (vi) of Topic Paper One (CD13.10) the County Council sent a conformity request and the response was attached at the end of CD1.13. On 1 April 2010, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 repealed the requirement to obtain the opinion as to the Waste Core Strategy being in general conformity with the RSS.

However the County Council believes that the Waste Core Strategy has been produced in conformity with the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. The County Council has presented a summary of this in the evidence base through its 'soundness self-assessment' CD 1.12 (pages 9-10). For ease of reference the key matters are as follows:

- Whilst it is the Government's intention to abolish the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) at the present time it remains a material consideration.
- The preferred locational strategy set out in the submission WCS, which is focused on locating strategic waste facilities in the area defined as 'Zone C' is consistent with the 'sequential' approach set out in the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (SW-RSS).
- Furthermore, in accordance with transitional arrangements, the data from the RSS (which itself was derived from the Regional Waste Strategy (2004)) has been used in conjunction with the Council's own waste data to inform the capacity requirements set out in the submission WCS. This is discussed in the data update paper CD10.4.
- Letters of conformity were received from the Regional Planning Body at issues and options, preferred options and site options prior to the revocation of the RSS. The correspondence between the County Council and the Regional Planning Body are attached as appendices of the legal compliance assessment CD 1.13.
- Whilst a request for confirmation of conformity (broadly under Regulation 29) was also made at publication to the South West Council due to the abandonment of the Regional Planning Body, no confirmation was received. A copy of the request letter has been provided.
- Responses were received from the Government Office for the South West at issues and options, preferred options and site options but not at publication due to the closure of the Government Office.
- The response reports produced at each stage explain how these and other representations have been considered and dealt with. Copies of the response reports have been provided and are also available.
- The RSS policy framework incorporates the draft policies from the RSS as appropriate. For example the locational strategy (CD1.1 paragraphs 4.86 – 4.87).

The County Council would stress that this note has been produced in response to the note from the Inspector on this matter (CD13.59) and that despite the impending abolition of the RSS, the approach which we have taken continues to be the overall 'direction' for the government. i.e. the old planning policy is about to be abolished, but the overall approach we have taken is a correct one and in line with the Government review of Waste Strategy in 2011. In the opinion of the Council the plan continues to be sound on this basis despite a level of uncertainty in the Planning system. In this regards the totality of the evidence base and the submissions of the Council through the examination cover these issues.