

PINS NOTE 22/2011

To: All Inspectors (English casework only)

Date of Issue: 13 July 2011

Currency: review at 6 months after issue

REVIEW OF WASTE POLICY IN ENGLAND 2011

Background

1. In July 2010 Defra launched a [call for evidence](#) for a review of waste policy in England (PINS Note 1168) as required by the commitments set out in Defra's Structural Reform Plan, which aimed to 'set the path towards a zero waste economy through review of waste policies'. The review has now been finalised and the results published [on 14 June 2011](#)¹. The commitments and actions are summarised in an Action Plan, published separately. Defra and DECC have also published a Strategy and Action Plan for Anaerobic Digestion (AD), which sets out a commitment and approach to increasing energy from waste through the use of AD.
2. The Governments' review into waste policy sets out the following main priorities:
 - Consult in 2012 on introducing a landfill restriction on wood waste, review the case for introducing landfill bans on other materials, such as metals, textiles and all biodegradable waste. The Government will work with industry to drive innovation in reuse and recycling in these products before the start of any bans;
 - Accelerate recycling and reducing waste creation in the first place by providing incentives for householders, recycling-on-the-go schemes, better services for businesses and voluntary responsibility deals focusing on the hospitality industry, paper, direct mail, textiles, and construction waste;
 - Scrap unfair bin fines and taxes while bringing in powers to deal with repeat fly-tipping offenders and genuine nuisance neighbours;
 - Crack down on illegal fly-tippers who persistently and recklessly pollute the environment and countryside. Introduce appropriate powers to seize vehicles, and look at penalties that might include offenders clearing up items they have dumped;
 - Consult on increased recycling targets to 2017 for plastic, steel, aluminium and glass. Targets will be consulted on and agreed in time for the 2012 Budget;

¹ Government Review of Waste Policy in England (Defra, June 2011)

- Abolish Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), which is no longer needed to reduce Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) sent to landfill as targets are being met; and
 - Remove powers (through the Localism Bill) from Councils to charge householders for the waste they produce.
3. As far as Infrastructure and Planning is concerned the Government aims to continue to support local authorities in the provision of necessary waste infrastructure. Local communities should see the benefits of having waste infrastructure and should be involved at an early stage. The Government believes a better understanding of the impacts of waste management technology is also needed. This will be done using the following initiatives:
- Provide advice and support for local authorities on science and technology;
 - Work with the Environment Agency, local authorities and industry to collate and publish data on likely waste arisings and future necessary treatment capacity;
 - Support local authorities through effective contract management to seek further efficiencies in waste collection, reprocessing and treatment;
 - Seek to expand capacity to treat commercial & industrial and construction & demolition waste through improved information and developing supply chains for recyclates and solid recovered fuel;
 - Work to help reduce commercial barriers to effective financing of infrastructure.

Action

4. Inspectors should be aware of the results of the review into waste policy in England, particularly in dealing with Waste Local Plans and other casework where waste may be an issue. Particular attention should be paid to p72-76 of the review document, relating to Infrastructure and Planning, summarised in paragraph 3 above, and the relevant parts of the Action Plan. Although this review may be cited in casework, limited weight can be attached to it as this is only the first step in progressing future intended direction of policy. Any consultations arising on future guidance and revised/new legislation will be the subject of further updates and PINS notes as necessary.
5. Please contact XXXX if you have any queries on this Note.

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Director of Quality, Strategy and Plans