

Wiltshire Council

Council

7 February 2012

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### Public Participation

Question From Edward Nicholson, Dr Peter Alberry & Lynne Eddy

To Councillor Fleur De Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet Member For Economic  
Development and Strategic Planning  
and Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member For Waste Property,  
Environment And Development Control Services

#### Question 2

In the Draft Waste Allocation Site Document, Lower Compton is not identified as a strategic Materials Recycling Facility or Waste Transfer Station site (MRF/WTS). It is also noted that a single centralised MRF/WTS Facility is inefficient compared to local MRF/WTS's close to the SSTIs and that Lower Compton is only identified as a strategic "waste treatment site", excluding waste to energy. Given these points drawn from the strategic document, in addition to the fact that the existing strategic waste treatment (landfill) permission at Lower Compton will expire in 2022, will Wiltshire Council confirm that Lower Compton will cease to be a strategic site when the expiry of this permission happens?

#### Response

The existing facilities at the Lower Compton site operate in a strategic manner by virtue of scale and geographic catchment. The draft Waste Site Allocations DPD identifies the site as having the potential for accommodating treatment uses to compliment the current permitted operations. Therefore, the definition of scale applied to the proposed site allocation reflects the current operational context.

In terms of the long-term status of the Lower Compton site, it is an accepted fact that the existing waste management permissions covering operations are time limited. The adopted Waste Core Strategy presents a clear commitment to the principles of '**plan, monitor and manage**'. Therefore, as with all planning policy documents adopted by the council(s), the Waste Site Allocations DPD (and allocations therein) will be kept under review and monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report process. If monitoring evidence concludes that the Lower Compton site no longer serves a strategic-scale role in the overall framework of waste facilities (at the time of expiry of the current permission), then a change in status will need to be considered as part of any subsequent plan review process.