

Policy WM8: Waste Prevention and Resource Management
Waste audit or similar mechanism
Updated Guidance and Checklist, July 2017

Purpose of the Guidance:

The purpose of this document is to provide updated guidance to the Districts on how the Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan (WLP) policy WM8 should be implemented since adoption of the Plan, preparation of three Authority Monitoring Reports, changes to national guidance and experience of WM8 policy implementation.

WLP Policy WM8 Waste Prevention and Resource Managementⁱ requires use of waste audits (or similar mechanisms such as site waste management plan (SWMP) or demolition method statement) to plan for and monitor waste minimisation, recycling, management and off-site disposal. Evidence demonstrating how this will be achieved must be submitted by the applicant, and this applies to waste and non-waste projects that are **major development or generate significant volumes of waste**.

On 1 December 2013, the legislation surrounding SWMPs in England was repealedⁱⁱ. The National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) however continues to advocate sustainable management of construction waste (paragraph 8, bullet point 3), and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance for Wasteⁱⁱⁱ (paragraph 49) states: *“For proposals that are likely to generate significant volumes of waste through the development or operational phases it will be useful to include a waste audit as part of the application.”*

Use of a waste audit or similar mechanism provides a mechanism to comply with WLP policy WM8 and the NPPW, and continues to be an approach favoured by industry for managing waste / resources in a more efficient way. This approach can deliver significant financial savings through costs associated with waste management. A waste audit also provides a very important source of information, which is not available through other routes. This is particularly important as despite being the largest waste stream, data on construction, demolition and excavation (CDE) waste is very poor, out of date and often incomplete.

In accordance with national Planning Practice Guidance for Waste, **WLP policy WM8 only applies to major development and proposals likely to generate significant volumes of waste**. The definition of ‘major development’ is set out in legislation^{iv}. Examples of proposals likely to generate significant volumes of CDE waste are provided below:

- Erection of 7 industrial units;
- Demolition of 50 semi-detached dwellings; and
- Demolition of former public house followed by erection of 6 dwellings.

These proposals are not technically major development but are considered likely to generate significant CDE waste.

MEAS advises that a planning condition requiring a waste audit or similar mechanism should be used for these development types. For all other development and demolition projects, which are smaller scale and unlikely to generate significant volumes of waste, we advise using an informative to encourage good practice in sustainable waste management.

The waste audit checklist in Table 1 provides a guide for compliance with policy WM8 and is based on waste audit guidance set out in the Planning Practice Guidance for Waste (paragraph 49) and WRAP’s site waste management plan template. It should be used where a waste audit or similar mechanism is provided prior to determination or required through planning condition.

Information shown in the checklist may be submitted through a variety of formats such as a waste audit, construction environment management plan, sustainability statement or site waste management plan; all of which are acceptable. MEAS will advise on the acceptability of submitted information based on the accepted principle of seeking to move the sustainable management of waste up the Waste Hierarchy.

To demonstrate implementation and compliance with policy WM8, larger scale developments should submit their completed waste audit or similar mechanism. This not only provides an effective monitoring mechanism to enable discharge of a planning condition, for example, but also provides information to be used for WLP monitoring purposes.

Table 1: Policy WM8 Waste Audit Checklist

Planning ref:		Date checked:	By whom:
Proposal:			
Project Stage	Information required	Included(Y/N)	
1 Preparation and design	Details of persons responsible for the SWMP/WA (i.e. the developer and principal contractor)		
	Process for update of plan/audit as project develops through pre-construction and construction phases		
	Process to ensure staff and sub-contractors are aware of SWMP/WA requirements (e.g. toolbox talks)		
	Waste prevention actions (including designing out waste)		
	Waste reduction actions (e.g. safe storage of materials)		
	Waste recycling actions (on and off site)		
2 Pre-construction	Forecast waste types (European Waste Codes desirable)		
	Forecast waste arisings (tonnages)		
	Planned waste carriers and facilities		
	Planned waste fate(s) (recycling/recovery/disposal) and forecast tonnages		
3 Construction/Completion	Actual waste types (European Waste Codes desirable)		
	Actual waste arisings		
	Actual waste carriers and facilities		
	Actual tonnages by waste fate(s) (recycling/recovery/disposal)		

Note: For smaller scale development and demolition projects that do not require a planning condition and are encouraged to manage their waste sustainably through an informative, there is no need to monitor compliance or implementation through the planning process.

Endnotes

ⁱ MEAS (2013) *Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan*
http://www.meas.org.uk/media/4981/ADP-001-WasteLocalPlan_Final_LoRes_opt.pdf

ⁱⁱ Legislation Update Service (2013) *Site Waste Management Plans scrapped 1st December*
<https://legislationupdateservice.co.uk/news/site-waste-management-plans-scrapped-1st-december/>
Accessed: 26/04/2017

ⁱⁱⁱ DCLG (2016) *Determining Planning Applications*
<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/waste/determining-planning-applications>
Accessed: 30/03/16

^{iv} Legislation.gov.uk (2017) *The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010* <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2184/made> Accessed: 26/04/2017