
CHAPTER 12: SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

This chapter sets out criteria for site selection for the different types of waste management facility identified in the Plan, and provides an indication of potential development areas for waste management facilities in the arc21 Region.

INTRODUCTION

- 12.1 Chapter 10 of the Plan summarises the preferred solution and the future requirements for new waste management facilities to serve the needs of the arc21 Region. For MSW management, these facilities are likely to include a mix of the following over the period of the Plan:
- 1 Material Recovery Facility with a capacity of 60,000 tonnes per annum;
 - 3 Windrow Composting facilities with a capacity of 40,000 tonnes per annum;
 - 1 - 3 In-vessel Composting facilities with a total capacity of 110,000 tonnes per annum;
 - 3 Mechanical and Biological Treatment facilities with a total capacity of up to 325,000, tonnes per annum;
 - 1 Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant with a capacity of up to 43 MWe/ 370,000 tonnes per annum; and,
 - 2-3 landfill sites with an annual throughput of 265,000 – 320,000 tonnes per annum.
- 12.2 In addition, suitable sites will be required to increase the provision of bring recycling facilities, and further sites may also be required for bulking/transfer of wastes depending on the contractual arrangements and location of processing facilities.
- 12.3 This chapter provides advice on the criteria and constraints for the location of different types of waste management facilities for all controlled wastes and identifies indicative areas for the siting of new municipal waste facilities within the arc21 Region.
- 12.4 A number of planning applications are currently awaiting determination for waste management facilities. A full list of these is detailed in Appendix 12B augmented by some review commentary in the addendum.

KEY CONSTRAINTS

- 12.5 The key features and requirements for the waste management facilities proposed in the Plan, and the associated environmental implications for siting, are summarised in Appendix 12A.
- 12.6 All waste treatment and disposal facilities have the potential to cause adverse environmental impacts. For comparative purposes, Table 12.1 summarises the relative impacts of the environmental issues for each facility. This figure may be used as a guide to the environmental factors which are key considerations for each type of facility. However the actual extent to which each environmental issue will constitute a constraint to land use can only be determined on a site specific basis.

Table 12.1 Matrix of Key Environmental Constraints for Waste Management Facilities

	Materials Recovery Facility/ Waste Transfer Station	In vessel Composting/ Anaerobic Digestion	Mechanical Biological Treatment	Composting (Windrow)	Thermal Treatment with Energy Recovery	Landfill/ Landraise
Existing site conditions						
Site setting						
Accessibility & traffic						
Waste arisings						
Landscape and visual impacts						
Nature conservation						
Water resources						
Air emissions						
Odours and dust						
Noise						
Other nuisances						
Other issues/ general amenity						

12.7 Table 12.1 shows that:

- Accessibility to the strategic highway network and vehicle movements is a key issue for all waste management facilities;
- Materials recovery facilities and transfer stations need to be located close to the source of waste to ensure sustainable transportation of waste;
- Composting plants (except for home composting) which give rise to odour and bio-aerosols are associated with negative public perception and as such will not generally be appropriate in residential areas;
- Key considerations for major waste management facilities include visual impact in terms of the size and scale of the facility and the components associated with the facility e.g. stack; air emissions related to the process and associated vehicle movements, and identifying sites of adequate size in appropriate locations;
- Thermal treatment facilities should be located close to the source of residual wastes. Related facilities located on a single site could reduce vehicle movements;
- A further consideration in the location of any energy from waste plant is the potential to afford the most efficient level of energy recovery addressing both heat and electricity. Best endeavours entailing all reasonable, practical and economic measures will be taken to deliver the most effective level of energy recovery with due regard to electricity and heat.
- Landfill sites are identified as having a large number of potential environmental effects, which can extend through the operation and aftercare periods.

GUIDANCE ON SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

12.8 A list of site assessment criteria based on the identified key constraints above, has been developed to help identify suitable locations and to test the appropriateness of proposed sites or areas for the development of waste management facilities for all controlled wastes. These criteria can be described as key land use planning issues. They also give due regard to practical issues associated with the nature of existing site conditions, site availability and commercial matters such as proximity to waste arisings and accessibility. The Environmental Constraints maps (8 sheets) from the Strategic Environmental assessment are attached at Appendix 12c.

12.9 The criteria are designed to assist developers in selecting appropriate locations for new waste management facilities. They are also provided within the Plan as a material consideration, which may be used to assist the determination of any future planning applications.

12.10 The key criteria are as follows:

- Planning policy;
- Existing site conditions;
- Site setting;
- Accessibility;
- Waste arisings;
- Landscape and visual impacts;
- Nature conservation;
- Water resources;
- Amenity, air quality and environmental nuisance; and
- Other issues.

Planning Policy

12.11 The selection of sites must have regard to the existing planning framework in Northern Ireland. It is necessary to consider how any proposals will relate to existing planning policy designations and policy statements. For example, whether sites are allocated as Green Belt/Country Policy areas or allocated for other types of development such as mineral extraction, housing, industry or recreation. The key reference documents are:

- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 (2001)
- Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (1993)
- Development Plans (Area Plans)
- Planning Policy Statements (specifically PPS11 - Planning and Waste Management) (2002)

12.12 The material considerations detailed in PPS11 include:

- Availability of land for potentially polluting development;
- Sensitivity of the area particularly with regard to landscape, agricultural land quality, nature conservation and archaeological designations;
- Loss of amenity;
- Environmental benefits (e.g. regeneration of derelict land or transport improvements);
- Site design and visual impacts;
- Transport impacts and infrastructure requirements;
- Site condition;
- After use;
- Potential use of mineral workings for landfill;
- Hours of operation and associated impacts on neighbouring land use; and

- Nuisance caused by release of gases, dust, smell, noise, birds, vermin or litter.

12.13 It is also important to have regard to planning gain opportunities and the social and economic benefits that will accrue from the development of particular sites.

12.14 In identifying potential sites/areas for waste management facilities and in assessing each potential site regard must be given to relevant planning policies on and in close proximity to the site.

Planning policy

Positive Effect

Sites where waste development is consistent with land use designations in the relevant Development (Area) Plans and/or where development will help to meet specific planning policy objectives.

Neutral Effect

No specific planning policy constraints designated on-site or in close proximity to the site.

Limited Negative effect

The development of a waste management facility has the potential to be contrary to existing or proposed planning policies related to the site or its environs.

Significant Negative Effect

Site located within a specific plan designation (i.e. area of nature conservation interest, green belt, built development etc.) such that development of a site for waste related activities would be a significant departure from existing planning policies.

Accessibility

12.15 In identifying potential sites/areas for waste related developments and in assessing potential sites, regard must be given to the degree to which the site's accessibility is suitable. The impact of the site on the transportation network and the suitability of its access will be related to the following:

- Access to the site must conform to DOE Road Service standards and have regard to issues such as visibility;
- Approach roads and their current or proposed character and width must be suitable to accommodate the proposed development;
- Accessibility of the site to the primary road network and motorways; and

- Accessibility of the site to modes of transport other than road, including railway lines.
- 12.16 The accessibility of a site also needs to be considered with respect to the effect of using the local road infrastructure on residential amenity and site neighbours.
- 12.17 The significance of the impact of potential sites on the transportation network should be measured against the following criteria depending on the perception of its likely effects.

Accessibility**Positive Effect**

Very good access and direct connection to primary transportation network with capacity to accommodate traffic levels anticipated for the proposed development and/or potential for road improvements as part of waste proposals.

Neutral Effect

No specific access constraints either locally or on the wider transport network.

Limited Negative Effect

Potential access/road junction/highway capacity constraints, subject to detailed assessment.

Significant Negative Effect

Poor junction layout and/or access roads unsuitable for waste vehicles with no apparent possibility of improvement.

Site Setting

- 12.18 The existing pattern and nature of land use in the vicinity of a potential site is a key assessment issue.
- 12.19 Typically, new sites for waste management facilities should be sited with care when located close to residential areas due to intrinsic residential amenity concerns associated with waste treatment/disposal operations. However, amenity concerns need to be balanced with the proximity principle which states that where practicable waste should be treated as close to the source of waste generation as possible. Similarly proposed waste management facilities should not have a detrimental effect on the existing economic use of the land. For example, sites on the best and most versatile agricultural land and areas containing valuable mineral resources should be avoided.

Site setting**Positive Effect**

Site of sufficient size, general setting and conditions to accommodate the relevant waste related development.

Neutral Effect

No specific site setting constraints.

Limited Negative Effect

Uncertainties over suitability of site size to accommodate the scale of waste facility proposed.

Potential land use constraints associated with the nature of neighbouring land uses, sensitive receptors (school, hospital etc.).

Significant Negative Effect

Site of insufficient size and/or inappropriate setting to accommodate the required waste development. Site may also be in close proximity to sensitive receptors.

Existing Site Condition

- 12.20 The existing site condition will be a material consideration. For example, areas of derelict land may provide the potential for planning gain to be realised through imaginative redevelopment and/or restoration of such sites. Such development, where clear betterment can be demonstrated, is likely to be supported by planning policy guidance and the local Area Plan. Certain site conditions might also preclude development for example where there are difficult gradients or where site engineering works would be prohibitively expensive.

Existing site condition**Positive Effect**

Existing brownfield site or similar where development would result in site clean up and general betterment for the area as a whole.

Neutral Effect

No specific site condition constraints.

Limited Negative Effect

Uncertainties over site constraints associated with previous uses, topography etc that may lead to site development difficulties and prohibitive costs.

Significant Negative Effect

Physical site conditions that are clearly incompatible with the nature of the proposed development.

Proximity to Waste Arisings

- 12.21 The proximity of a potential site to waste arisings likely to require treatment or disposal is a key consideration both in identifying potential sites and in assessing their suitability for development for waste related purposes. Locating a site close to a source of waste arisings (i.e. centres of residential and industrial use) is related to the objectives of the proximity principle. The proximity principle together with the concept of regional self sufficiency, are central waste management concepts identified in PPS11.
- 12.22 Typically, new sites for waste management facilities should be located near to residential areas, having regard to local amenity sensitivities, and be well related to the primary transportation network in order to minimise adverse environmental issues associated with the transportation of waste.
- 12.23 The significance of the proximity of a potential site to a source of waste arisings can be categorised under one of the following significance criteria, depending on the perception of its likely effects.

Proximity to waste arisings

Positive Effect

Site is situated close to major source of waste arisings and/or in close proximity to other waste related activities, such as transfer stations.

Neutral Effect

Site offers no specific advantages or disadvantages with respect to its proximity to waste arisings.

Limited Negative Effect

Site situated some distance from major source of waste arisings. Uncertainties exist as to whether waste collection vehicles serving nearby sources of waste arisings could directly serve the site. Uncertainties over the compatibility of the location in the context of other existing waste related activities.

Significant Negative Effect

Site is remote from main source of waste arisings and/or other related waste activities.

Landscape and Visual Impacts

- 12.24 Landscape constraint areas are identified in Chapter 3 of the Plan. They include areas as being of distinctive character and/or special scenic value. Specifically these include:

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Areas of high scenic value; and
- Sensitive landscape character areas.

12.25 Assessment of visual impact needs to consider the proposed site when viewed from neighbouring properties, main transport routes and sensitive public vantage points. Visual impact should be assessed against the nature of the local landscape and how any new structure or landform created by a waste management facility would integrate into the local landscape. It is also appropriate to consider both short and long distance views of the site and the effect hedgerows and other features may have in limiting views of the site.

12.26 In considering the potential impacts of a waste management facility on landscape character and visual impact it is appropriate to have regard to the following:

- Effects on the local landscape character, urban setting of the built development/massing and lighting of buildings;
- Interruption of the existing use and introduction of new use and activity;
- Disturbance and removal of habitat and landscape features such as trees and hedgerows, which contribute to the landscape of the site/and or area;
- Loss of integrity of long established habitats and features and/or loss of locally individual features;
- Potential damage to existing landscape features, for example at access points to the site and along public roads;
- Loss of the existing landform;
- Introduction of alien features into the landscape, for example buildings and mitigation measures; and
- Removal of existing vegetation cover.

12.27 The landscape and the visual impact of potential sites should be categorised under one of the following significance criteria in relation to the perception of its likely effects.

Landscape and visual impacts**Positive effect**

Poor existing landscape and visual characteristics of site area will be improved by new development and associated site works i.e. landscaping, removal of derelict/unsightly buildings.

Neutral effect

The proposals complement the scale, landform and pattern of the existing landscape and incorporate measures for mitigation to ensure that the site will blend in well with the surrounding landscape features and elements. The development will maintain existing landscape character.

Limited negative adverse effect

The proposals are not fully integrated or cannot be completely mitigated into the existing landscape and are out of scale with the landscape or at odds with the local landscape pattern or landform. The development will impact on certain views into and across the site and will have an adverse impact on a landscape of recognised quality or on vulnerable and important characteristic features or elements. The development will conflict with policies to protect designated countryside areas.

Significant negative effect

The development proposals would be very damaging to the landscape in that they are at complete variance with the landform, scale and patterns of the landscape and are highly visual and extremely intrusive, destroying fine and valued views both into and across the area. The development would irrevocably damage or degrade, diminish or even destroy the integrity of characteristic features and elements and their setting and would cause a very high quality or highly vulnerable landscape to be irrevocably changed and its quality very considerably diminished. There are no measures that would protect or replace the loss of a nationally important landscape and the development cannot be reconciled with Government policy for the protection of nationally recognised countryside.

Nature Conservation

12.28 Nature conservation constraint areas include those categorised as being of international or Northern Ireland importance such as:

- Ramsar sites
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Marine Nature Reserve (MNR)
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)

12.29 In addition, non statutory sites including sites of local conservation importance, woodlands and countryside parks should also be protected. All these areas are considered key constraints on account of the importance attached to them by planning policies contained within the relevant development plan. Consideration will also be given to earth science interests

in site selection. It should also be noted that individual flora and fauna species also benefit from statutory protection and that these will often be found outside protected areas. Such species can only be confirmed from assessments on a site by site basis.

Nature conservation

Positive effect

Where there is potential for significant enhancement of a site's ecological value e.g. uniting previously fragmented areas through habitat creation work, the diversion of traffic away from a designated site and the provision of new design features such as hedges, ponds, ditches, scrub, linear woodland, grasslands and geological exposures to provide general wildlife gain.

Neutral effect

Proposals will not impact on any known sites of ecological interest either on or near to the site.

Limited negative effect

The site comprises a site of local interest or the potential exists for disturbance of a site of more than local interest. If even in the light of full information, it can not be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on the sites integrity, then the impact should be assessed as a significant negative.

Significant negative effect

The proposals will have a direct impact on a site of acknowledged importance. For example, the integrity of the site will be adversely affected, in terms of the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the population levels of species for which it was classified. Alternatively specific rare species located on or in close proximity to the site would be adversely affected.

12.30 The main effects to ecology are likely to occur during the preparation and construction of the site/facility, although there may also be impacts on surrounding habitats and wildlife during the operation of a waste management facility. The main impacts to ecology include:

- Loss of habitat and component species within areas of construction works, for example, any new highway works, plant and storage areas, and the site itself;
- Fragmentation of habitats;
- Severance of ecological corridors between areas of ecological interest;
- Damage and disturbance to adjacent habitat and species arising during construction and operation activities associated with dust, noise, accidental spillage, lighting and general human presence and movements.

12.31 The significance of any potential impact on a habitat or species will depend on the interaction of the following:

- The value of affected species, habitats and sites, with more importance being attached to species or habitats of high value due to rarity;
- The scale (magnitude) of impact, in terms of geographical areas affected and duration.

12.32 The impact of developing a waste management facility on the ecological importance of the site is determined with reference to the integrity of the site and loss of features.

Water Resource Sensitivity

12.33 The possible groundwater sensitivity of sites should be considered in terms of the geology and hydrogeology of the locality. Details of a specific site's hydrogeological characteristics and licensed and unlicensed groundwater abstraction records can be considered as part of an exercise in the assessment of alternative sites, but may only form part of a more detailed site evaluation.

12.34 The proximity of a proposed site to surface watercourses should also be considered in terms of environmental sensitivity. The DOE Water Management Unit is likely to raise concerns particularly if the scheme would involve discharges to watercourses of good quality and/or in close proximity to abstraction points for residential or industrial use.

12.35 Land underlain by permeable deposits, major aquifers or areas that if developed are likely to be in conflict with the Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater in Northern Ireland will be considered significantly constrained areas. Furthermore, land that is in close proximity to abstraction points and areas susceptible to flooding is also unlikely to be considered a suitable location for a waste management facility.

12.36 The potential effects on surface and groundwater that might result through development of a waste management facility relate mainly to the formation and operation of landfill sites. All other forms of waste related development have a potential to affect groundwater resources if appropriate protection measures are not taken.

Water resource sensitivity**Positive effect**

Where there is potential for improvements to local water resources as a result of changes in use. For example, replacement of existing operations with proposals offering operations with significantly improved mitigation measures.

Neutral effect

The site is remote from any sensitive receptors.

Limited negative effect

The operation of waste management activities on-site may result in local adverse effects if mitigation measures/site management practices are not effective.

Significant negative effect

The site is situated in very close proximity to sensitive water resources such as groundwater aquifers and mitigation measures are unlikely to prove effective.

Amenity, Air Quality and Environmental Nuisance

- 12.37 Key environmental impacts of waste related activities are to amenity and to the effects of air emissions, odours, dust, noise and other nuisances generated on the site and its environs. A number of waste related developments have the potential to release gaseous emissions into the atmosphere.
- 12.38 The effects on the site as an amenity will be important in the assessment. Many tourism and recreation services are built around the natural, built and cultural heritage of an area and it is important to protect these resources as far as possible.
- 12.39 The effects of noise generated by on and off-site traffic movements and plant during construction and operation of a waste related development will be to surrounding land uses, in particular sensitive receptors and to wildlife. The introduction of noise to an area may also have an effect on the overall character of the area.
- 12.40 The effects of dust and exhaust emissions from plant during construction and operation will have an impact on sensitive receptors close to the site and may also cumulatively have an effect on the amenity of surrounding land uses. It may also have potential adverse effects on flora and fauna. Sensitivities are also associated with emissions from combustion processes such as those related to energy from waste plants.

Amenity, air quality and environmental nuisance**Positive effect**

Where there is potential for improvements to local sensitive receptors and/or local air quality standards as a result of changes in use. For example, replacement of existing operations with proposals offering operations with significantly improved mitigation measures.

Neutral effect

The site is remote from any sensitive receptors.

Limited negative effect

The operation of waste management activities on-site may result in local adverse effects if mitigation measures/site management practices are not effective.

Significant negative effect

The site is situated in very close proximity to neighbouring land uses that are very sensitive to noise, air quality and other nuisance-related impacts. Mitigation measures are unlikely to prove effective.

Other Issues

- 12.41 Other issues requiring consideration in identifying suitable sites and in assessing their suitability to accommodate waste facilities include the need to consider the impact of the development and its operation on areas of cultural importance, in particular areas of archaeological and/or historic importance.
- 12.42 Potential effects on the historic environment may arise directly or indirectly. Direct physical impacts on the archaeological resource may arise through development that may either partially or totally remove historic sites or landscape features. These impacts will be permanent and irreversible. Indirect impacts on the archaeological resource may arise through the intrusion into the visual or historical setting of an archaeological site, historic building or group of associated landscape features.
- 12.43 It is important to consider the proximity of features of cultural interest and the degree to which issues such as noise, vibration, visual intrusion or other disturbance may affect the historical significance or setting of a site or area, loss of amenity or changes in the landscape setting. The significance of the impact should be assessed on the basis of the importance of the site or feature and the extent of the effect. The importance of a site is determined on the basis of such factors as the form, condition, complexity, context and period of the site. Sites of importance include listed buildings, parks and gardens of special historical interest, ancient monuments and areas of archaeological importance.

Other Issues**Positive effect**

Where the development of a waste facility would result in a marked improvement to the setting of nationally important sites, to the extent that their context is significantly improved and can be better appreciated or understood, with no appreciable detrimental impact on other aspects of the historic resource.

Neutral effect

Proposals will not impact on any known sites of ecological interest either on or near to the site.

Limited negative effect

The site comprises a site of local interest or the potential exists for disturbance of a site of more than local interest. If even in the light of full information, it can not be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on the sites integrity, then the impact should be assessed as a significant negative.

Significant negative effect

Where the development of a waste facility would have a major direct physical impact on nationally important sites, resulting in the loss of features to such a degree that the integrity of the site is destroyed. Alternatively, the development of the site would result in major visual intrusion into the immediate setting of nationally important sites, to the extent that their context is seriously compromised and can no longer be appreciated or understood.

Identification of Potential Locations for Waste Management Facilities

- 12.44 Future facilities for municipal waste management will be located within the arc21 Region in accordance with the principles of proximity and self sufficiency (see Chapter 11). However, given the scale of Northern Ireland, suitable locations for the required facilities may also be provided in the adjoining sub-regional areas.
- 12.45 Some of the facilities may be established as integrated waste management facilities on the same site. In particular, sites identified as suitable for MRFs may also be equally suitable for use as MBT or waste transfer stations. MRFs and MBT facilities are assumed to have similar site location criteria; similarly, MBT and in-vessel composting facilities are considered to be similar in their location requirements and potential environmental impacts.
- 12.46 As an indication of the number of sites potentially available for waste management use, a list of the current planning applications for sites with a waste management activity are provided in Appendix 12B. However, use should be made of existing sites where practicable and a list of sites with Waste Management Licences in the arc21 Region is also detailed in

Appendix 12B. Potential sites will be subject to constraints within the context of the planning site assessment criteria. Figures detailing a series of constraints across the arc21 region are provided in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Appendix C. The SEA also addresses these potential constraints in more detail.

12.47 As stated above, Appendix 12A provides a summary of the characteristics of the waste management facilities and their desirable locations. On this basis, Table 12.3 below identifies indicative areas of search for new facilities to meet the preferred solution for municipal waste management identified in Chapter 10. These areas are based on:

- Location of facilities in accordance with the main sources of waste arisings (proximity and self-sufficiency); and
- A spread of facilities to provide an equitable distribution across the arc21 Region.

12.48 In accordance with the preferred solution and the previous site assessment work within the arc21 Region, the indicative areas for location of new facilities are summarised as follows:

- **Treatment: Energy from Waste** – For reasons of economies of scale, transport efficiency and proximity, an energy from waste facility is likely to be located in the greater Belfast area.
- **Treatment: Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT)** – such facilities should be located on industrial sites or close to existing waste management facilities. Facilities should also be in close proximity to the main road network.
- **Treatment: Biological** – this encompasses windrow composting, in-vessel composting and anaerobic digestion facilities. Such facilities are closely linked with regional towns in arc21 Region for the reasons of proximity to waste arisings and transport corridors. Due to potential odours careful consideration needs to be given to proximity to residential areas. Facilities could also be linked to the identified requirement for other facilities that are linked with biological treatment e.g. MRF, MBT and energy from waste.
- **Treatment: Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)** – Such facilities are preferably located within existing industrial areas due to the number of vehicle movements and the nature of the wastes handled. They should therefore be closely linked with major towns and cities for the reasons of proximity to waste arisings and transport corridors. Facilities could also be

linked to the identified requirement for other facilities that are linked with MRF e.g. biological, MBT and energy from waste.

- **Disposal: Landfill** – The preferred solution indicates that 2-3 major landfill facilities are required to meet capacity requirements for non-hazardous and non-inert wastes. Areas of search need to be linked to transport corridors but usually outside or on the periphery of urban areas.

12.49 The indicative areas for location of new waste management facilities are summarised in Table 12.3 below.

Table 12.3 Indicative Areas for Location for Waste Management Facilities

Area / Type of Site	Comments
Materials Recovery Facilities	Industrial sites/land zoned for industry close to the main sources of waste arisings
Newtownabbey (Existing)	To serve all arc21 Council areas
Windrow Composting	A range of smaller local facilities are required throughout the sub-region
North	To serve the sub regional Council areas of Antrim, Ballymena, Larne, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus
Central	To serve the sub regional Council areas of Ards, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey and North Down
South	To Serve the sub regional Council areas of Lisburn and Down
In-vessel Composting	Industrial sites/quarries reuse and restoration of land
North	To serve the sub regional Council areas of Antrim, Ballymena, Larne, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus
Central	To serve the sub regional Council areas of Ards, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey and North Down
South	To Serve the sub regional Council areas of Lisburn and Down
Mechanical Biological Treatment	Industrial sites/reuse and restoration of land

Area / Type of Site	Comments
North	To serve the sub regional Council areas of Antrim, Ballymena, Larne, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus
Central	To serve the sub regional Council areas of Ards, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey and North Down
South	To Serve the sub regional Council areas of Lisburn and Down
Energy From Waste	Industrial sites/reuse and restoration of land
Greater Belfast area	To serve arc21 and third party waste where appropriate
Landfill	Major regional facilities in quarries or other despoiled/under-utilised land
North / Central	To minimise transfer distances for residual waste in the northern part of the sub-region
Central / South	To minimise transfer distances for residual waste in the southern part of the sub-region

CONCLUSIONS

- 12.50 The roles and responsibilities outlined in the NI Waste Management Strategy state that District Councils must ensure the provision of an adequate integrated network of regional waste management facilities.
- 12.51 Any sites proposed to meet the requirements for waste treatment facilities will be assessed against the site assessment criteria identified in this Chapter. Site assessment will give consideration to the existing planning applications at that time. As an example, the planning applications available at present is given in Appendix 12B.
- 12.52 Further sites may be required to be identified for the range of facilities including in-vessel composting, MBT and energy from waste and this will be investigated in more detail during detailed site assessment for particular facilities.
- 12.53 Premature identification of sites in private ownership can unduly and detrimentally affect a procurement process through conferring an unfair competitive advantage to a private owner of any such identified site. Arc21 is committed to protect the public interest by taking the appropriate action to ensure that sites in private ownership are not prematurely identified.

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- 12.54 There is a clear link between site selection and procurement. Arc21 will conduct a site selection exercise to inform relevant procurement processes. This will entail identification of potential sites in the Council ownership and may involve potential sites in the ownership of other public bodies followed by possible sites in private ownership. The suitability of sites will be assessed against criteria determined with due regard to the relative treatment or disposal service required in addition to taking into account the generic criteria outlined in this Chapter.
- 12.55 The use of suitable sites under arc21 control is likely to be offered as part of procurement process. The procurement process will not preclude the use of sites in private ownership as the terms of the process will accommodate the submission of any subsequent proposals.
- 12.56 Suitable sites will be identified at the appropriate time in an appendix to the Waste Management Plan. This appendix will be the subject of timely amendments.