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Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan Employment Land Areas of Search Supplementary Planning Document Adopted Version (2015)

Strategic Environmental Assessment Report

Non-Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
September 2015

Project Title: SEA of the Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan Employment Land Areas of Search SPD

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Introduction

- 1.1 This Non-Technical Summary of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Report relates to the Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan (WLP) Employment Land Areas of Search (ELAS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which has been produced by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). Independent consultants (LUC) have been commissioned by HCC to undertake the SEA in line with statutory requirements on behalf of HCC.
- 1.2 LUC undertook a screening exercise based on the guidance contained in the Government's 2005 SEA guidance¹ and concluded that the ELAS SPD does need SEA as it meets the criteria set out in Articles 2(a), 3.2(a), 3.3 and 3.5 of the SEA Directive. It is considered to have potential for likely significant environmental effects because it allocates specific areas of search (ELAS) where future waste development could be permitted, and the ELAS are situated within sensitive areas (e.g. ground water source protection zones 1 and 2) and within close proximity/adjacent to sensitive areas (e.g. heritage and wildlife designations).
- 1.3 The SEA process is concerned with assessing the potential environmental effects that may arise from the implementation of the ELAS SPD. This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SEA Report (September 2015) for the ELAS SPD Adopted Version (November 2015), and should be read alongside those two documents.

The Hertfordshire WLP ELAS SPD

- 1.4 HCC has produced the ELAS SPD for the 60 ELAS that are identified in the adopted Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)². The purpose of the ELAS SPD is to provide further planning guidance about the suitability of waste-related development within the identified ELAS and should be used by applicants wishing to develop waste management facilities in those locations. The SPD elaborates on the general ELAS waste brief presented in the Waste Site Allocations DPD (which lists key planning issues that should be taken into account at the planning application stage). The SPD contains individual Waste Briefs for each of the 60 ELAS that set out further site specific planning issues that need to be taken into account by waste developers when submitting planning applications within any of the ELAS. The SPD should therefore be read in conjunction with the general ELAS waste brief and the Waste Site Allocations DPD as a whole.
- 1.5 The ELAS SPD does not introduce any further policies, as all policies are included in the adopted Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan document and the Waste Site Allocations DPD. The ELAS SPD will be treated as a material planning consideration in the determination of waste-related planning applications within all ELAS although will not form part of the Development Plan. Other policies that form part of the Development Plan may also be applicable (e.g. individual district/borough Local Plans and the National Planning Policy Framework).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.6 SEA is a statutory assessment process, required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (the SEA Regulations³) which transpose into UK law the European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the SEA Directive). The SEA Directive and Regulations require formal strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment.

¹ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, September 2005.

² <http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/w/wasteallofinal.pdf>

³ Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633.

- 1.7 SEA has been undertaken iteratively as the SPD progressed and involved evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the SPD. The aim was that environmental considerations could be integrated into the production of the SPD in order to improve its overall sustainability performance. The SEA recommendations identified in the Draft SEA Report issued to HCC in December 2014 (and presented in **Chapter 5** of the Final SEA Report) were incorporated into the Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015) and have been included in the ELAS SPD Adopted Version (November 2015), thereby improving its overall sustainability performance.

Compliance with the SEA Regulations

- 1.8 The full SEA Report and this Non-Technical Summary have been prepared in accordance with the SEA Regulations. There are a number of specific pieces of information that must be included in the SEA or 'Environmental Report' as well as in this Non-Technical Summary. Table 1.1 in the full SEA Report indicates where each of the requirements of the SEA Directive has been met, and a summary of the required information is provided in this Non-Technical Summary.

Stages in the SEA Process

- 1.9 There are five main stages in the SEA Process, and a summary of how these stages have been undertaken for the ELAS SPD is provided below:
- **SEA Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the Scope.
 - **SEA Stage B:** Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.
 - **SEA Stage C:** Preparing the SEA Report.
 - **SEA Stage D:** Consulting on the ELAS SPD and the SEA Report.
 - **SEA Stage E:** Monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the ELAS SPD.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

- 1.10 An SEA Scoping letter was prepared and consulted upon with the three statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage) between September and October 2014.
- 1.11 The SEA Scoping exercise involved the following main tasks:
- Identification and review of other relevant policies, plans and programmes, strategies and initiatives which may influence the ELAS SPD and the SEA.
 - Characterisation of the plan area (i.e. describing its economic, social and environmental character).
 - Development of a framework of SEA objectives against which the ELAS SPD and any reasonable alternatives would be appraised.
 - Identification of the key environmental and sustainability issues of relevance to the ELAS SPD.
- 1.12 A list of the comments received from the consultees, along with a description of how each one has been addressed, is provided in Appendix 1 of the full SEA Report. Each of the comments received was reviewed and certain elements of the Scoping work were updated as necessary. The revised and updated baseline information and review of plans, policies and programmes are presented in Chapter 3 of the full SEA Report, and the amended SEA framework and assumptions are presented in Chapter 4 and Appendix 2 of the full SEA Report.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

- 1.13 A summary of how reasonable alternatives to the ELAS were identified in the Waste Site Allocations DPD (and which are now the subject of the ELAS SPD) was set out in Chapter 3 of the

Final SA/SEA Report for the Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations DPD⁴. This information is repeated in Chapter 2 of the full SEA Report for completeness in order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (in particular that the Environmental Report must include "An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with"). The Hertfordshire ELAS SPD does not present any further reasonable alternatives to those considered and appraised through the SA of the Waste Site Allocations DPD.

- 1.14 In summary, at each stage in the preparation of the Waste Site Allocations DPD, a number of site options were considered for allocation and appraised through the Sustainability Appraisal/SEA for the DPD. When work commenced in 2005, there was an initial long list of around 650 sites, which included all sites in Hertfordshire that could potentially be suitable for waste development, as the sites represented the types of opportunity areas identified in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 10 at the time (i.e. previously developed land, industrial sites, opportunities for co-location at existing minerals or waste sites). In line with the sequential test in PPS 25, they then excluded all the sites which were located in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The remaining sites were all within Flood Zone 1. HCC then removed all the sites which were below 0.5 hectares in size.
- 1.15 The remaining sites greater than 0.5 hectares and not within Flood Zones 2 or 3 were then subject to HCC officer scrutiny to determine their suitability based on potential deliverability and practicality. Sites which were known to be not suitable were removed. Reasons for sites being not suitable (and not a 'reasonable alternative') included:
- Employment Land which was Use Class B1 (Business).
 - Historic landfill which has been restored for more than 10 years.
 - Restored mineral or landfill sites which now have recreational uses such as Golf Courses.
 - Restored mineral sites which are actually earth bunds (long thin strips of land alongside highways, used during construction of the highway).
 - Practical reasons (such as unavailability of land, due to ownership for example).
- 1.16 The remaining sites were subject to 20 sustainability 'tests' by HCC, which assessed each site on a scale of 1-5 against factors such as proximity to protected features of the natural and built environment, and distances from existing infrastructure, such as primary routes and rail links. Those sites which scored well were chosen as the 48 'preferred option' sites to be taken forward in the preferred options version DPD (January 2008).
- 1.17 Further refining of the site selection methodology occurred in 2008-2009, and from this process, HCC identified 25 preferred sites or 'Preferred Waste Areas' (from the 48 'preferred option' sites), which were considered to have the most potential to provide a network of waste sites across the County during the lifetime of the plan period. HCC's reasons for discounting the other 'preferred option' sites resulted from more detailed assessments of the sites, some site visits, and development which had occurred since the last draft of the DPD (i.e. some sites had been developed, fully restored, or gained planning approval for development).
- 1.18 Nine of the Preferred Waste Areas were located within existing employment areas and were referred to as Preferred Employment Land Areas (PELA). In addition to the 25 'Preferred Waste Areas', the Issues and Preferred Options 2 Site Allocations DPD in 2009 identified:
- 68 Employment Land Areas of Search (ELAS)
 - 14 Sites for re-restoration and
 - 143 Safeguarded Sites.
- 1.19 Of the 68 Employment Land Areas of Search shown in the Issues and Preferred Options 2 DPD, 15 were not included in the Pre Submission Version of the DPD. HCC's reasons for discounting these sites resulted from further information gathered since 2009, including the identification of alternative uses for the sites, and inclusion of some of the sites in Local Development Framework DPDs (for example as part of Area Action Plans or other re-development areas). The boundaries of 12 of the ELAS were amended to exclude certain uses which would be incompatible with waste

⁴ Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations DPD Adopted Version 2014 Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Final SA/SEA Report. LUC, July 2014.

uses (such as residential areas, B1 (business uses), key gateway developments). However, eight of the Preferred Waste Areas which had been identified as Preferred Employment Land Areas (PELA) in the Issues and Preferred Options 2 DPD were shown in the Pre-Submission DPD as Employment Land Areas of Search instead.

1.20 The Pre-Submission Version of the Site Allocations DPD in 2012 included:

- 16 Allocated Sites.
- 61 ELAS.

1.21 No changes to the number of Allocated Sites and ELAS were made in the Proposed Submission Version of the Site Allocations DPD in 2013, but eight of the 16 Allocated Sites and 1 ELAS were deleted from the Adopted Site Allocations in 2014 following the public hearing sessions that formed part of the examination into the 'soundness' of the plan and main modifications in the Inspectors Report.

Hertfordshire WLP Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015)

1.22 The Hertfordshire ELAS SPD does not present or consider any further reasonable alternatives, as the purpose of the ELAS SPD is to provide further planning guidance into the suitability of waste related development on the identified ELAS and should be used by applicants wishing to develop waste management facilities in those locations. As detailed above, the ELAS SPD elaborates on the general ELAS waste brief presented in the Waste Site Allocations DPD, by listing further site specific key planning issues for each ELAS that should be taken into account at the planning application stage. The SPD should therefore be read in conjunction with the general ELAS waste brief and the Waste Site Allocations DPD as a whole.

1.23 The Final Draft SEA Report (issued to HCC in January 2015) identified recommendations, which are outlined in Chapter 5 of the full SEA report and in the SEA Findings section below, to be included in the Draft ELAS SPD to improve its overall sustainability performance. These recommendations were subsequently incorporated by HCC into the Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015).

Hertfordshire WLP ELAS SPD Adopted Version (November 2015)

1.24 Following consultation undertaken from May to July 2015 on the Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015) and the Final Draft SEA Report (January 2015); HCC has completed minor amendments to the ELAS SPD, taking account of representations to the consultation, and primarily including additional supporting information in the Waste Briefs for the ELAS. The full SEA Report has taken account of these final amendments, which has resulted in no changes to the SEA findings originally presented in the Final Draft SEA Report (January 2015), other than further clarification relating to the way the recommendations had been addressed in the SPD.

1.25 Furthermore, the suggested recommendations included in the Final Draft SEA Report (January 2015) have been included in the ELAS SPD Adopted Version and have been left in the full SEA Report and this Non-Technical Summary to show the audit trail of how the SEA influenced the ELAS SPD.

Stage C: Preparing the SEA Report

1.26 The full SEA Report and this accompanying Non-Technical Summary are the output of Stage C.

Stage D: Consulting on the ELAS SPD and the SEA Report

1.27 HCC invited comments on the Hertfordshire WDF Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015) and the Final Draft SEA Report (January 2015), including the Non-Technical Summary (January 2015), between May 2015 and July 2015, in accordance with Part 5, Regulations 12 and 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767). None of the representations to the consultation commented on the Final Draft SEA Report or its findings, or the Non-Technical Summary.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the ELAS SPD

1.28 Proposals for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the ELAS SPD are set out in Chapter 6 of the full SEA Report and summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Difficulties encountered and data limitations

- 1.29 The SEA Regulations require consideration to be given to any difficulties that were encountered during the SA process, including any data limitations. There were a number of potential challenges arising from the scope of this SEA, in particular the need to ensure that the assessment of the likely effects of the numerous ELAS was carried out in a consistent manner. In order to address this issue, detailed assumptions relating to each of the SEA objectives were developed and applied during the appraisal (set out in Appendix 2 of the full SEA Report).
- 1.30 Due to the scale of the SEA work required it was also recognised that not every local characteristic would be able to be investigated in detail for each ELAS. For example, in relation to the proximity of the ELAS to heritage assets it was necessary to base the score on proximity to designated features only – while it was recognised that in some cases sites might be close to high value non-designated assets, the strategic nature of the SEA meant that it was not possible to investigate this potential for each site and the score was based on designated assets only. This approach was considered to be the best way of ensuring consistency and a comparable level of detail in each site appraisal.

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 1.31 The SEA process involves identifying other plans, policies and programmes which may influence the content of the ELAS SPD. These have been reviewed in detail as part of the SA/SEA of the Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations DPD, and during the scoping stage of the SEA for the ELAS SPD in September 2014. Appendix 3 of the full SEA Report details the relevant policies, plans and programmes and describes their relationship with the ELAS SPD and the SEA.
- 1.32 The consultation comments received in relation to the SEA Scoping letter resulted in minor changes/additions to the review and information included in Chapter 3 of the full SEA Report. The review presented in Appendix 3 of the full SEA Report is the updated version which addresses the consultation comments.

Policy Context for the Hertfordshire Waste ELAS SPD

National Waste Management Plan

- 1.33 European Directives on waste influence the management and disposal of waste in the UK. The revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (2008/98/EC) came into force in 2010, updating and bringing together EU legislation on waste.
- 1.34 The National Planning Policy for Waste⁵ (see below) together with Defra's Waste Management Plan for England (December 2013) comprise the National Waste Management Plan for England for the purpose of meeting Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive.
- 1.35 The 2013 Waste Management Plan for England is a high level document which is not site-specific. It provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England, and evaluates how it will support implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised WFD.
- 1.36 At the local authority level, the Waste Management Plan notes that waste planning authorities (county and unitary authorities in England) are responsible for producing local waste management plans that cover the land use planning aspect of waste management for their areas. Waste planning authorities should have regard to the National Waste Management Plan - alongside detailed national planning policy on waste, the National Planning Policy for Waste and other planning policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁶ in drawing up or revising their existing local waste management plans. The Hertfordshire ELAS SPD should therefore have regard to the National Waste Management Plan.

⁵ DCLG (October 2014) National Planning Policy for Waste. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

⁶ DCLG (2012). National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/themes/planning-guidance/assets/NPPF.pdf>

National Waste Planning Policy

- 1.37 Although the NPPF does not include specific waste planning policy, Sections 1 to 13 address issues of relevance to planning for the location, design and operation of new waste management facilities.
- 1.38 National waste planning policy is contained in the National Planning Policy for Waste, which supersedes Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management⁷ (PPS10). The National Planning Policy for Waste provides information on how waste planning authorities must discharge their responsibilities, and details how local planning authorities should use a proportionate evidence base when preparing local plans, identify need for waste management facilities, identify suitable sites and areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities in appropriate locations, and how they should monitor and report.
- 1.39 The abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategies reinforced the importance of councils' Local Plans - for waste, including the Hertfordshire WLP and ELAS SPD. The national waste planning policy reflects this approach and stresses the importance of close co-operation between waste planning authorities, so emphasising the legal requirements of the duty to co-operate in section 110 of the Localism Act 2011.

Baseline Information

- 1.40 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the potential environmental effects and sustainability of measures in the emerging ELAS SPD and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the ELAS SPD and monitoring its outcomes.
- 1.41 Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive requires data to be gathered on biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors. However, the SEA only needs to report on those topics where significant effects are likely to arise. If there is little or no relationship between the plan and the topic, then the need for assessment can be 'scoped out' for that topic.
- 1.42 The baseline information collated for Hertfordshire was originally presented in the SEA Scoping Letter (September 2013). In light of consultation comments received in relation to the Scoping Letter a small number of amendments were made to the baseline information. A final review has been undertaken of the relevant data sources and the updated version is presented in Chapter 3 of the full SEA Report.
- 1.43 The 60 ELAS are located within Hertfordshire's districts/boroughs as follows:
- Broxbourne – 2
 - Dacorum – 9
 - East Herts – 11
 - Hertsmere – 7
 - North Herts – 10
 - St Albans – 7
 - Stevenage – 2
 - Three Rivers – 1
 - Watford – 2
 - Welwyn Hatfield – 9
- 1.44 The locations of the ELAS within Hertfordshire are shown in **Figure 1**.

⁷ DCLG (March 2011) Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-sustainable-waste-management-planning-policy-statement-10>

Key Environmental and Sustainability Issues

- 1.45 Consideration of the policy context and baseline information enabled the identification of key environmental and sustainability issues for Hertfordshire, which have been taken into account in the SEA of the ELAS SPD. These are largely the same key issues identified as part of the SA/SEA of the Waste Site Allocations DPD, and were identified at the Scoping stage of the SEA. The key issues for Hertfordshire are presented in **Table 1** below.
- 1.46 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to give consideration to how the key issues are likely to evolve, should the ELAS SPD not be implemented. Therefore, this information is presented in the second column of **Table 1**.

Table 1: Key issues and likely evolution without the ELAS SPD

Key issues for Hertfordshire	Likely evolution without implementing the Hertfordshire WLP and ELAS SPD
Hertfordshire has a rich variety of character, both urban and rural, providing a high quality environment for those who live and work in the County.	Hertfordshire is under significant development pressure. Evidence suggests that this development pressure, including pressure arising from demand for new waste management facilities to manage increases in waste arisings, is leading to a range of cumulative impacts on biodiversity, water quality and availability, air quality, tranquillity and dark skies as well as potential impacts on landscape character and cultural heritage and soil quality. These issues are more likely to continue as at present without the Hertfordshire WLP and ELAS SPD.
Globally, climate change is the most significant threat and opportunity facing us all. The southern part of Hertfordshire is within a climate change region identified as being under immense pressure for water resources as a result of development pressures and climate change ⁸ .	The Hertfordshire WLP and ELAS SPD would help to make development more energy efficient, less waste to be produced by people and businesses, and responsible waste management to be implemented (particularly in relation to landfill gas emissions and transportation). Therefore, without the WLP and ELAS SPD energy demand overall would be likely to increase due to population increases and development in all forms. This would lead to continued increases in greenhouse gas emissions, although measures to minimise these are likely to be implemented.
There is a high demand for housing in Hertfordshire, which will have a direct impact on waste management. More housing is likely to mean more waste unless decisive action is taken to move waste management up the waste hierarchy.	Hertfordshire is under significant development pressure. Evidence suggests that this development pressure, including pressure arising from demand for new waste management facilities to manage increases in waste arisings, is leading to a range of cumulative impacts on biodiversity, water quality and availability, air quality, tranquillity and dark skies as well as potential impacts on landscape character and cultural heritage and soil quality. These issues are more likely to continue as at present without the Hertfordshire WLP and ELAS SPD.
There is limited landfill capacity to meet the	Hertfordshire is under significant development

⁸ Living with climate change in the East of England. Summary Report, 2002.

Key issues for Hertfordshire	Likely evolution without implementing the Hertfordshire WLP and ELAS SPD
current and future municipal and solid waste disposal needs of the county. There is a need to develop alternative forms of waste management and increase levels of waste recycling and recovery.	pressure and pressure to manage increases in waste arisings. Therefore, there is demand for new waste management facilities. However, without the Hertfordshire WLP or ELAS SPD this demand is less likely to be met and these issues are more likely to continue as at present, with increasing pressure on limited landfill capacity.
Implementing a waste strategy which will help to meet Government targets will inevitably put pressure on land resources in the County. Land is at a premium in Hertfordshire. Much of it is environmentally important, and the land that may be available will be the subject of competing claims for other residential and employment uses.	It is likely that sustainable use of natural resources and the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy would be promoted even without implementation of the Hertfordshire WLP or ELAS SPD. However, development pressure will continue to lead to increases in water consumption, impacts on agricultural land, potential sterilization of minerals reserves and increases in waste arising which will require treatment and disposal. Also, siting and the use of technologies to minimise the impacts of waste facilities (i.e. encouraging the use of previously developed land) and transport is likely to be less effective.

SEA Framework

- 1.47 The development of a set of SEA objectives is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared, with each proposal in the plan being scored against each SA objective. It was considered appropriate to make use of the SA/SEA framework that was used for the SA/SEA of the Waste Site Allocations DPD as those objectives were designed to address the key sustainability issues facing waste management in Hertfordshire which are also relevant to the ELAS SPD. The framework, which has been consulted on throughout the SA/SEA of the Waste Site Allocations DPD and ELAS SPD, is presented in **Table 2** below. There are seven headline SEA objectives in total.
- 1.48 Minor changes have been made to the SA framework in light of consultation comments received in relation to the SEA Scoping letter (see Appendix 1 of the full SEA Report), and these are reflected in **Table 2**.

Table 2: SEA Framework for the Hertfordshire ELAS SPD

SEA Headline Objective	Decision making criteria (i.e. Will the ELAS proposal...?)
1. To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	1a. Protect Hertfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats and seek opportunities for enhancement?
	1b. Avoid adverse impact on air, ground and surface water, geology, and soil quality?
	1c. Protect, maintain and enhance Hertfordshire's most valuable assets such as landscapes of natural beauty, the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings' and greenspaces?
	1d. Protect dark skies from light pollution, and promote low energy and less invasive lighting sources, considering the balance between safety and environmental impact?
	1e. Guard against the loss of woodlands, trees, hedgerows and

SEA Headline Objective	Decision making criteria (i.e. Will the ELAS proposal...?)
	grassland and create or re-create habitats that ensure sustainable and linked species population?
2. To achieve and promote sustainable land use, construction, design and transport in Hertfordshire	2a. Reduce reliance on road freight movements and seek to increase the efficient use of rail and water where appropriate?
	2b. Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings?
	2c. Promote sustainable construction practices (e.g. minimising construction and demolition waste, re-using demolition and excavation materials, using recycled and local materials, materials with low embodied energy and timber from sustainable sources)?
3. To reduce contributions to climate change.	3a. Reduce demand for energy and increase the proportion of energy generated and consumed in Hertfordshire from renewable sources?
	3b. Address the causes of climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation/mitigation measures (e.g. tree planting)?
4. To provide for sustainable resource management.	4a. Reduce demand for water and increase the efficient use of ground and surface water resources?
	4b. Develop and promote local water recycling initiatives for development and buildings, and encourage rainwater harvesting to reduce new development water needs?
	4c. Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land?
	4d. Safeguard reserves of exploitable minerals from sterilisation by waste management-related development?
	4e. Minimise production of by-products or wastes, and then promote reuse, recycling, composting, alternative treatment options and energy recovery before resorting to landfill?
5. To maximise the potential economic benefits of waste management to a sustainable economy in Hertfordshire.	5a. Utilise waste as an asset to provide a source of raw materials and some increase in employment levels?
	5b. Foster joint working and partnerships within and between public and private sectors in Hertfordshire and the East of England region, with a view to better local investment in alternatives to landfill and developing markets for waste materials?
	5c. Promote best practice in industry through local waste minimisation clubs and other business fora, and to encourage the extension of producer responsibility initiatives?
	5d. Encourage the purchase and use of recycled products and green procurement by public authorities and businesses?
6. To contribute to the improved health and amenity of local communities in Hertfordshire.	6a. Protect and enhance recreation opportunities for all, including access to the countryside?
	6b. Protect the health and amenity of local residents/communities (e.g. from the impacts of noise, dust, odour, light and traffic)?
	6c. Achieve an equitable distribution of waste management facilities within Hertfordshire?
	6d. Reduce the incidence of crime associated with waste (e.g. fly-tipping and illegal dumping of large volumes of waste)?
7. To maximise community participation and access to services and facilities in	7a. Involve all sections of the community in waste planning decision making and local action, by promoting waste awareness education programmes in schools and the community, and to ensure the public

SEA Headline Objective	Decision making criteria (i.e. Will the ELAS proposal...?)
Hertfordshire.	understand the importance of the waste management industry?
	7b. Promote easily accessible recycling systems for all members of the community, and to ensure clear and understandable signage and language is used?

- 1.49 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations provides a list of specific environmental topics to be addressed (these are also specified in the SEA Directive). In drawing up the SEA objectives, care was taken to ensure that those environmental topics were covered, as shown in **Table 3** below. The table shows which of the SEA environmental topics are addressed by each of the SEA objectives from the Hertfordshire ELAS SPD SEA framework.

Table 3: Coverage of SEA topics by SEA Headline Objectives for the ELAS SPD

SEA Headline Objectives	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
1. To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, cultural heritage, landscape
2. To achieve and promote sustainable land use, construction, design and transport in Hertfordshire	Air, material assets
3. To reduce contributions to climate change.	Climatic factors
4. To provide for sustainable resource management.	Soil, water, material assets
5. To maximise the potential economic benefits of waste management to a sustainable economy in Hertfordshire.	Material assets
6. To contribute to the improved health and amenity of local communities in Hertfordshire.	Human health
7. To maximise community participation and access to services and facilities in Hertfordshire.	Population

Use of the SEA Framework

- 1.50 During the SEA of the Hertfordshire ELAS SPD, symbols have been used to show whether the effect on an SEA objective is likely to be positive or negative, minor or significant, mixed or uncertain as follows:

Table 4: Key to SEA scores

Symbol	Effect
++	Significant positive effect
+	Minor positive effect
0	Neutral or no effect
/	Mixed effects (e.g. -/++ minor negative effects and significant positive effects)
-	Minor negative effect
--	Significant negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

- 1.51 The likely effects of the ELAS SPD need to be determined and their significance assessed, and this inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. This assessment has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either ++ or -- has been used to distinguish significant effects

from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of the measure on the SEA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

- 1.52 The assumptions regarding significant effects for each SEA objective that were used in the SA/SEA of the Waste Site Allocations DPD have also been used for the SEA of the ELAS SPD. These assumptions are set out in Appendix 2 of the full SEA Report and have been slightly amended as relevant to reflect the assessment of ELAS rather than the Allocated Sites within the DPD.

SEA Findings

- 1.53 The likely environmental effects of waste development coming forward on each of the ELAS have been assessed as part of the SEA process using the SEA Framework and method set out above. The findings of the assessment are described below.
- 1.54 **Table 5** summarises the likely significant effects identified through the SEA of the ELAS in Hertfordshire, and the effects of the ELAS on each SEA Headline Objective are described following the table. Note that other minor effects were also identified, and these are described in the detailed SEA matrices in Appendix 4 of the full SEA Report.
- 1.55 The decision making criteria highlighted in grey in **Table 5** (1d, 1e, 2c, 4a, 4b, 5b, 5c, 5d, 6c, 6d, 7a, and 7b) have no scores recorded for the reasons given in the summary sections below and in the SEA framework and assumptions (see Appendix 2 of the full SEA Report).
- 1.56 As stated earlier, the Final Draft SEA Report (issued to HCC in January 2015) identified recommendations to be included in the Draft ELAS SPD to improve its overall sustainability performance. These recommendations were subsequently incorporated by HCC into the Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015). These recommendations, which are included below for information, continue to be addressed in the ELAS SPD Adopted Version (November 2015).

Table 5: Summary of the likely significant effects of each ELAS if waste development is proposed

Site	SEA Obj. 1. Natural & Historic Environment					SEA Obj. 2. Land use/design			SEA Obj. 3. Climate Change		SEA Obj. 4. Sustainable Resource Management					SEA Obj. 5. Economic benefits of waste				SEA Obj. 6. Health and Amenity				SEA Obj. 7. Participation	
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	4c	4d	4e	5a	5b	5c	5d	6a	6b	6c	6d	7a	7b
Borough of Broxbourne																									
ELAS160	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS161	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
Dacorum Borough																									
ELAS006			--?				++		++							++				--	-?/--?				
ELAS007							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS168							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS164							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS167			--?				++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS169			--?				++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS174							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS175							++		++							++					-?/--?				
East Herts District																									
ELAS186	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS187	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS176	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS177	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS178	--?						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS181							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS189							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS182							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS183							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS184							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS185			--?				++		++							++					-?/--?				
Hertsmere Borough																									
ELAS021						--	++		++	--						++				--	-?/--?				
ELAS190						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS191						--	++		++	--						++				--	-?/--?				

Site	SEA Obj. 1. Natural & Historic Environment					SEA Obj. 2. Land use/design			SEA Obj. 3. Climate Change		SEA Obj. 4. Sustainable Resource Management					SEA Obj. 5. Economic benefits of waste				SEA Obj. 6. Health and Amenity				SEA Obj. 7. Participation	
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	4c	4d	4e	5a	5b	5c	5d	6a	6b	6c	6d	7a	7b
ELAS192							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS230							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS233							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS235	--?					--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
North Herts District																									
ELAS026 (Icknield Way East)							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS026 (Main Site)	--		--?				++		++							++			--		-?/--?				
ELAS196						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS197						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS198						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS199						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS200						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS028							++		++							++			--		-?/--?				
ELAS193		0/--/-				--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS201			--				++		++							++					-?/--?				
St Albans City and District																									
ELAS210			--?				++		++							++			--		-?/--?				
ELAS122							++		++							++			--		-?/--?				
ELAS203			--			--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS204			--			--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS205							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS207							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS208							++		++							++					-?/--?				
Stevenage Borough																									
ELAS037			--?				++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS211						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				

Site	SEA Obj. 1. Natural & Historic Environment					SEA Obj. 2. Land use/design			SEA Obj. 3. Climate Change		SEA Obj. 4. Sustainable Resource Management					SEA Obj. 5. Economic benefits of waste				SEA Obj. 6. Health and Amenity				SEA Obj. 7. Participa tion	
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	4c	4d	4e	5a	5b	5c	5d	6a	6b	6c	6d	7a	7b
Three Rivers District																									
ELAS212						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
Watford Borough																									
ELAS221						--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS213							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS214							++		++							++					-?/--?				
Welwyn Hatfield Borough																									
ELAS048a							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS223	--		--?				++		++							++				--	-?/--?				
ELAS043	--						++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS044							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS224							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS225							++		++							++					-?/--?				
ELAS226							++		++							++				--	-?/--?				
ELAS227	--?					--	++		++	--						++					-?/--?				
ELAS236							++		++							++					-?/--?				

SEA Headline Objective 1 - To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings

Likely significant effects

- 1.57 No likely significant positive effects were identified for the ELAS in relation to this SEA objective, which covers effects on biodiversity, air, water, geology and soil quality, landscape and heritage assets. However, a number of potentially significant negative effects were identified.
- 1.58 Twelve of the ELAS have the potential to have significant negative effects on **biodiversity** for the reasons described below.
- 1.59 Three ELAS are partly located within Local Wildlife Sites and/or areas (e.g. woodland) of local ecological value; therefore the development of these sites could have a significant negative effect on biodiversity in general and the local wildlife sites they contain.
- 1.60 Two ELAS are located within 10km downwind of either Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC, or Lee Valley SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, if a thermal treatment facility were to be developed on these ELAS there would be potential for significant negative effects on the qualifying habitats and species due to air pollution.
- 1.61 Six ELAS are all in close proximity to the A10. Should any waste facility be developed within these ELAS there is potential for waste vehicles to travel along the A10, which may give rise to increases in air pollution within 200m of the A10. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report for the Waste Site Allocations DPD found that there was potential for in combination effects on Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC from air pollution arising from waste vehicle movements along the A10 if more than four allocated sites within the eastern half of the County were to be developed at the same time. Therefore, there is potential for a significant negative effect on Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC due to air emissions from waste vehicles on the A10, but only if these ELAS were to be developed for waste use at the same time as other ELASs in proximity to the A10 or the three Allocated Sites in the eastern part of the County (AS019, AS025, AS238).
- 1.62 Two ELAS are both within 10km downwind of Lee Valley SPA and Ramsar site and are in close proximity to the A10 and therefore significant negative effects on the qualifying habitats and species could occur due to air pollution if a thermal treatment facility were to be developed on these ELAS, and due to air emissions from waste vehicles on the A10.
- 1.63 Minor negative effects are expected on **water quality** as many of the ELAS are located in Groundwater Source Protection Zones 2 and 3. While some ELAS are located within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 (SPZ1), the development brief for these ELAS specifies that only enclosed waste transfer stations and materials recovery facilities that handle dry recyclables, along with enclosed inert waste recycling facilities, would be acceptable. No other potential uses that may generate a leachate or liquor, which poses a risk to groundwater resources would be appropriate. Therefore no effects would be expected on the protection of groundwater sources if these waste facilities were developed in SPZ1.
- 1.64 Only one ELAS is likely to have significant negative effects on **geology**, as the site includes a Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site (RIGGS).
- 1.65 No ELAS are expected to have a significant negative effect on **air quality**, as all facilities are considered likely to have a minor negative effect on air pollution as a result of HGV and other facility-related transport during construction and operation of facilities. Note that the specific effects of emissions from thermal facilities and waste vehicle movements described above, are only predicted to have potential significant effects on the particular qualifying habitats and species of the Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC and Lee Valley SPA and Ramsar site, as opposed to air quality in general.
- 1.66 Most of the ELAS are likely to have negligible or minor negative effects on Hertfordshire's landscape and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings. However, eleven ELAS could have significant negative effects on **heritage** assets. Seven ELAS all incorporate/partly incorporate an area of archaeological significance (AAS), and could therefore have significant negative effects on these heritage assets and their settings. Four ELAS either incorporate/partially incorporate an AAS and/or have listed buildings located within the ELAS, and

could therefore have significant negative effects on these heritage assets and their settings. However, as some of the ELAS have listed buildings located within 500m the effects are uncertain in recognition of the potential negative impact on the setting of the listed buildings. Impacts on the setting of the buildings will depend on the precise location, design and facility proposed, as well as on the characteristics and location of the listed buildings.

- 1.67 It was not possible to assess the likely effects of the ELAS on the protection of dark skies from light pollution, and the promotion of low energy and less invasive lighting sources as the effects will depend on the proposal (facility type, design, operating hours etc.), which would be assessed at the planning application stage.
- 1.68 It was also not possible to assess the likely effects of the ELAS on guarding against the loss of woodlands, trees, hedgerows and grassland and the creation or re-creation of habitats that ensure sustainable and linked species population, as effects will depend on the proposal (facility type, design, etc.), which would be assessed at the planning application stage. Therefore, the columns for those decision making criteria are greyed out in **Table 5**.

Mitigation of potentially significant effects on SEA Headline Objective 1

- 1.69 The potential significant effects on local wildlife sites which could result from the development of waste facilities should be mitigated by Policies 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document, which aim to ensure that impacts on designated sites and BAP habitats are avoided, minimised or adequately compensated for (where this is appropriate) before proposals for waste management facilities are permitted, and that proposals for waste management facilities will not be granted where it would have an irreversible effect on these assets. In addition, the general ELAS waste brief states that appropriate measures should be incorporated to ensure that proposals on employment land do not adversely affect adjacent wildlife sites, or European sites within 10km.
- 1.70 For ELAS which could have significant negative effects on international nature conservation sites due to air pollution from being within 10km downwind, significant negative effects will be avoided if thermal treatment facilities are not proposed. For ELAS which could have significant negative effects on Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC from air pollution arising from waste vehicle movements along the A10, significant negative effects will be avoided if fewer than four ELAS/Allocated Sites within the eastern half of the County which are in proximity to the A10 were to be developed at the same time. In addition, Policies 16 and 17 in the Waste Core Strategy aim to avoid impacts on these features. Also, the Waste Site Allocations DPD states that waste proposals coming forward on the Allocated Sites in the eastern half of the county will be monitored to ensure that air pollution effects from waste transported to and from the Allocated Sites along the A10 do not combine to have a significant effect on the Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC.
- 1.71 Policy 16 in the Waste Core Strategy aims to protect soil, air and water and states that proposals will have to avoid negative impacts on soil unless appropriate measures can be imposed to mitigate harmful effects.
- 1.72 Policy 17 in the Waste Core Strategy states that permission for waste management facilities will not be granted where the proposal would have an irreversible adverse impact on listed buildings and their settings and Areas of Archaeological Importance. This should mitigate the potential impacts of the potential development of the ELAS which incorporate or partly incorporate AAS and/or listed buildings. In addition, the General ELAS Waste Brief provides mitigation through requirements for archaeological impact assessment.

SEA Headline Objective 2 - To achieve and promote sustainable land use, construction, design and transport in Hertfordshire

Likely significant effects

- 1.73 Sixteen of the ELAS are expected to have significant negative effects on **reducing reliance on road freight** movements. These ELAS could have significant negative effects on reducing reliance on road freight and increasing the efficient use of rail because they are distant from existing rail depots and are located more than 3km from a primary route, and movements to and from waste management facilities on the ELAS would therefore have to travel some distance via local distributor roads.

1.74 All of the ELAS are located on previously developed land. As such, proposing waste development on any of the ELAS would have a significant positive effect on promoting the **efficient use of land**.

1.75 It was not possible to assess the likely effects of the ELAS on the promotion of sustainable construction at this stage in the planning process. Effects will depend on the proposal (facility type, design, etc.), which would be assessed at the planning application stage.

Mitigation of potentially significant effects on SEA Headline Objective 2

1.76 Policies 9 and 10 of the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document aim to minimise transport distances and encourage the use of sustainable transport for waste management. These policies mean that the potential transport effects from waste development on these sites will be taken into consideration during the planning application process.

1.77 In addition, the General ELAS Waste Brief states that all planning applications should be supported by a Transport Assessment, as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Transport document: 'Guidance on Transport Assessment' (March 2007). For any new access or significant alteration to an existing access, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit must be carried out and opportunities for a rail connection should be explored where an ELAS adjoins a railway line.

SEA Headline Objective 3 - To reduce contributions to climate change

Likely significant effects

1.78 While it is not possible for the undeveloped sites to have an impact on reducing energy demand, the development of energy from waste facilities on any of the ELAS would have a significant positive effect on increasing the proportion of **energy** generated from renewable sources in Hertfordshire.

1.79 Sixteen of the ELAS could have significant negative effects on **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** as they are further than 3km from a primary route and development of waste management facilities on these ELAS would increase the movement of freight by road. ELAS which are more than 3km from a primary route would have to travel this additional distance by road.

Mitigation of potentially significant effects on SEA Headline Objective 3

1.80 Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 9 and 10 aim to minimise transport distances and encourage the use of sustainable transport for waste management. As the identified effects relate to transport, these policies should also help to mitigate the impacts of development proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

1.81 In addition, the general ELAS waste brief states that all planning applications should be supported by a Transport Assessment, as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Transport document: 'Guidance on Transport Assessment' (March 2007), and opportunities for a rail connection should be explored where an ELAS adjoins a railway line.

SEA Headline Objective 4 - To provide for sustainable resource management

Likely significant effects

1.82 **No likely significant effects, either positive or negative**, have been identified for SEA Headline Objective 4.

1.83 It was not possible to assess the likely effects of the ELAS in terms of reducing demand for water and increasing the efficient use of ground and surface **water resources** at this stage in the planning process. Effects will depend on the proposal (facility type, design, etc.), which would be assessed at the planning application stage.

1.84 It was also not possible to assess the likely effects of the ELAS on developing and promoting local water recycling initiatives for development and buildings, or encouraging rainwater harvesting to reduce new development water needs at this stage in the planning process. Effects will again

depend on the proposal (facility type, design, etc.), which would be assessed at the planning application stage.

- 1.85 Most ELAS are likely to have mixed (minor positive and minor negative) and uncertain effects on reducing contamination and safeguarding **soil** quality and quantity and minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. Most ELAS have less than 1% agricultural land and therefore have the potential to indirectly safeguard soil quality and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, as the development of new waste management facilities in those locations could reduce the need for landfill and associated landtake on greenfield land. Also, all ELAS include the potential to accommodate Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment facilities; therefore there may be potential for contamination from hazardous waste, though this is considered unlikely as facilities would be enclosed and subject to strict procedural and legislative requirements to ensure the safe treatment of hazardous waste.
- 1.86 All ELAS are likely to have negligible effects on safeguarding reserves of exploitable **minerals** from sterilisation by waste management-related development, as all ELAS are either located outside the Minerals Safeguarding Area, or within the Minerals Safeguarding Area but on previously developed land and therefore the mineral has already been sterilised.
- 1.87 All facility types developed on ELAS except landfill could have a minor positive effect by ensuring waste management occurs using processes higher up the **waste hierarchy** than landfill. However, these effects are uncertain as it will depend on the actual type of facility that gets proposed at the planning application stage.

SEA Headline Objective 5 - To maximise the potential economic benefits of waste management to a sustainable economy in Hertfordshire

Likely significant effects

- 1.88 **No likely significant negative effects** have been identified in relation to this SEA objective.
- 1.89 The development of recycling facilities and in-vessel composting facilities on any of the ELAS could have a significant positive effect on providing a source of raw materials and some level of **employment**. All types of waste management facilities, including enclosed thermal treatment, could have an indirect positive effect on increasing employment levels during construction and operation.
- 1.90 The creation of new waste management facilities other than landfill within Hertfordshire may have a minor positive effect by encouraging investment and the growth of 'green industry' in the county, as well as fostering joint working and partnerships particularly in relation to management of municipal waste. As the number of these facilities increases, a need to service these facilities should generate activity in the local economy and help to develop markets for waste materials. In addition, the new recycling and composting facilities will generate feedstock for reprocessing facilities or composting outlets in close proximity, providing sustainability benefits associated with the proximity principle and reduced transportation distances. However, the specific location of individual ELAS for these waste management facilities would have negligible effects on fostering joint working partnerships within and between public and private sectors in Hertfordshire as the effects would be cumulative and would depend on the type of facilities that get proposed.
- 1.91 The location of new waste management facilities will not affect the promotion of best practice in industry through local waste minimisation clubs and other business fora, or encourage the extension of producer responsibility initiatives.
- 1.92 The location of new waste management facilities will also not affect encouraging the purchase and use of recycled products or green procurement by public authorities and businesses.

SEA Headline Objective 6 - To contribute to the improved health and amenity of local communities in Hertfordshire

Likely significant effects

- 1.93 All ELAS are within 500m of a recreational facility and/or open space and therefore their development for waste use could have a minor negative effect on the protection and enhancement of recreational facilities by making them less attractive for users. However, nine ELAS could have significant negative effects as they all include public rights of way which run

through the ELAS. Therefore, those ELAS could have significant negative effects on the protection and enhancement of **recreational facilities and access to the countryside** by making the public rights of way less attractive for users.

- 1.94 All of the ELAS have the potential for a minor negative effect on protecting health, and a potential significant negative effect on protecting the amenity, of local residents and communities. This is because all development could result in the release of biospores and air emissions from certain facilities such as composting, anaerobic digestion or producing energy from waste, and/or handling of hazardous waste as in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment facilities. Proposals for all types of waste facility would also result in some level of noise, traffic, and light pollution during construction and potentially during operation as well. However, the extent of these impacts could be reduced and is very dependent on the design and potential mitigation measures proposed for the facility, which would be assessed at the planning application stage. All of the ELAS are within 250m of sensitive receptors (households and/or other sensitive land uses such as schools and hospitals) and could therefore have a significant negative effect on the **amenity** of occupiers/users of these sensitive uses.

Mitigation of potentially significant effects on SEA Headline Objective 6

- 1.95 Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 12 and 18 aim to protect recreational assets. In addition, the general ELAS waste brief states that consideration should be given to appropriate screening for proposed potential waste facilities that are adjacent to public rights of way and that waste management proposals should also take into account the proximity of other uses that may surround any of the ELAS (e.g. residential, playing fields, leisure centres etc.).
- 1.96 Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 19 aim to protect the health and amenity of local residents. Although all of the ELAS are within 250 metres of sensitive receptors, Policy 12 of the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document states that '*planning applications for proposals for waste management facilities will be granted provided that...the proposed operation of the site would not adversely impact upon amenity and health...[and]...applications for hazardous waste facilities should satisfactorily address issues of safety and risks to human health...*'. Policy 14 states that waste management proposals should incorporate an appropriately defined buffer zone in order to safeguard sensitive land-uses.
- 1.97 The general ELAS waste brief states that:
- Most waste uses can be housed in a building which would sit comfortably within an employment land area. Where practicable, potential waste facilities should be enclosed in a building to ensure that surrounding uses are not adversely affected by noise, dust and odour generation.
 - Consideration should be given to the location of sensitive receptors. Appropriate measures should be incorporated to ensure that proposals on employment land do not adversely affect sensitive receptors. Further detailed assessment could be required. Waste management development should therefore be compatible with adjacent uses on the employment land.
 - Waste management proposals should also take into account the proximity of other uses that may surround any of the ELAS (e.g. residential, playing fields, leisure centres etc.).

SEA Headline Objective 7 - To maximise community participation and access to services and facilities in Hertfordshire

Likely significant effects

- 1.98 **No potential significant effects, either positive or negative**, have been identified for SEA Headline Objective 7.
- 1.99 The location of new waste management facilities will not have an effect on **involving all sections of the community** in waste planning decision making and local action, by promoting waste awareness education programmes in schools and the community, or ensuring the public understand the importance of the waste management industry.

1.100 The location of new waste management facilities will also not have an effect on promoting easily accessible recycling systems for all members of the community, or ensuring clear and understandable signage and language is used.

Likely significant effects if mitigation successful

1.101 Subject to the mitigation set out above (for SEA Headline Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6) and below being successfully implemented at the planning application stage and at subsequent construction and operational stages of proposals for waste management facilities in ELAS, there should be no significant effects on: **reducing reliance on road freight** (SEA Headline Objective 2); **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** (SEA Headline Objective 3); or **on amenity and health or the protection of recreational facilities** (SEA Headline Objective 6). The **identified significant effects** for SEA Headline Objective 1 should be avoided.

Recommendations

1.102 **The following additions to the Waste Briefs in the ELAS SPD were recommended** to ensure that relevant issues are considered at the planning application stage. These recommendations were incorporated into the Draft ELAS SPD (May 2015) and have been included in the ELAS SPD Adopted Version (November 2015):

- Due to the potential for air pollution impacts on Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar site if a thermal treatment facility proposal comes forward, it is recommended that the Waste Briefs for **ELAS160, ELAS161** and **ELAS227** in the SPD also include a requirement to include an air quality assessment of the potential for air pollution from the thermal treatment facility to affect the Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar site.
- Due to the potential for air pollution impacts on Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC if a thermal treatment facility proposal comes forward, it is recommended that the Waste Briefs for **ELAS160, ELAS235** and **ELAS227** in the SPD also include a requirement to include an air quality assessment of the potential for air pollution from the thermal treatment facility to affect Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC site.
- Due to the potential for air pollution impacts on Wormley Hoddesdon Park Woods SAC from waste transport travelling to and from **ELAS161, ELAS186, ELAS187, ELAS176, ELAS177, ELAS178** and **ELAS227** should any waste facility be developed on these ELAS, it is recommended that the Waste Briefs for these ELAS in the SPD also include a requirement for transport assessments to include an assessment of the potential for air pollution from waste transport to affect the Wormley Hoddesdon Woods Park SAC.

Cumulative Effects

1.103 It is very unlikely that all 60 ELAS will be developed for waste management facilities due to the number of other Allocated Sites within the Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations DPD and the large number of ELAS. It is also unlikely that many ELAS within close proximity to one another will be developed for waste management facilities at the same time. Therefore, significant cumulative effects are not expected to occur in relation to waste development within the ELAS. However, where there is potential for cumulative effects to occur, as highlighted above in relation to SEA Headline Objective 1 for example, adequate mitigation is in place and has been recommended and included through this SEA to avoid these effects.

Monitoring

1.104 The SEA Directive requires that measures are identified and set out for use in monitoring the potential significant effects of the plan in question, in this case the Hertfordshire WLP ELAS SPD. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.

- 1.105 It is recommended that monitoring of the environmental effects of the ELAS SPD is tied into the overall approach to monitoring the sustainability effects of other plans and strategies developed within Hertfordshire (in particular the adopted Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document and the Waste Site Allocations document), as many of the indicators proposed will be relevant to the ELAS SPD.
- 1.106 Authority Monitoring Reports are already produced for the County on an annual basis, and monitoring proposals for the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD are presented in the SA/SEA report for the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD and the Waste Site Allocations DPD. Therefore, it is recommended that monitoring of the potential environmental effects of the ELAS SPD be combined with the annual monitoring process carried out for the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management DPD and the Waste Site Allocations DPD.
- 1.107 As discussed earlier in this Non-Technical Summary, a number of the ELAS could have potential significant effects (both positive and negative) on the SEA objectives, some of which are uncertain. Therefore, it is recommended that monitoring is undertaken to determine whether these effects occur due to implementation of the ELAS SPD, and in order to seek to remedy or reverse them.
- 1.108 Many of these potentially significant negative effects should be able to be mitigated through implementation of policies in the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, the Waste Site Allocations DPD and the detailed assessments and requirements required in the general ELAS waste brief and the specific ELAS Waste Briefs, as described above. Nonetheless, monitoring will need to be undertaken to try and identify trends before such damage is caused and to enable preventative or further mitigation measures to be taken.
- 1.109 **Table 6** below sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant effects of implementing the ELAS SPD, drawing on the indicators that are also used for the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD monitoring where relevant (shown in *italics* – the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD indicators are numbered "IN1, IN2" etc.). It is recommended that monitoring these effects be undertaken by HCC as part of the annual monitoring process carried out for both the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD and the Site Allocations DPD.

Table 6: Proposed indicators for monitoring the potential significant environmental effects of Hertfordshire's ELAS SPD

SEA Headline objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified	Suggested indicators for monitoring effects of the ELAS SPD
<p>SEA Headline Objective 1 - To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings</p>	<p>Condition of SSSIs and other designated sites (<i>Data obtainable from Natural England website</i>)</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Highways England, Sport England and other relevant consulted bodies within the county council (Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD revised IN15)</p> <p>Wildlife indicators (WH1-WH7) reported on annually in Hertfordshire Quality of Life Counts</p>
<p>SEA Headline Objective 2 - To achieve and promote sustainable land use, construction, design and transport in Hertfordshire</p>	<p>Percentage of applicable waste management facilities located within 5km of the primary and strategic road network (Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD revised IN14)</p> <p>Number and capacity of non road-borne waste management facilities permitted (Waste Core Strategy and Development</p>

SEA Headline objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified	Suggested indicators for monitoring effects of the ELAS SPD
	<p>Management Policies DPD revised IN13)</p> <p>Heavy Goods Vehicles by Road Type reported on in Hertfordshire Transport and Traffic Report (http://www.hertsdirect.org)</p> <p>Transport indicator (TR1 – Volume of motor traffic) reported on annually in Hertfordshire Quality of Life Counts</p> <p>Number of yearly breaches of planning control and complaints received relating to operational waste management facilities in the county (Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD revised IN17).</p>
<p>SEA Headline Objective 3 - To reduce contributions to climate change</p>	<p>Percentage of applicable waste management facilities located within 5km of the primary and strategic road network (Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD revised IN14)</p> <p>Number and capacity of non road-borne waste management facilities permitted (Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD revised IN13)</p> <p>Heavy Goods Vehicles by Road Type reported on in Hertfordshire Transport and Traffic Report (http://www.hertsdirect.org)</p> <p>Transport indicator (TR1 – Volume of motor traffic) reported on annually in Hertfordshire Quality of Life Counts</p>
<p>SEA Headline Objective 5 - To maximise the potential economic benefits of waste management to a sustainable economy in Hertfordshire</p>	<p><i>None of the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD indicators are directly relevant, but District and Borough Councils Authority Monitoring Reports may give an indication.</i></p>
<p>SEA Headline Objective 6 - To contribute to the improved health and amenity of local communities in Hertfordshire</p>	<p>Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Highways England, Sport England and other relevant consulted bodies within the county council (Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD revised IN15)</p>

Conclusions

- 1.110 The ELAS in the Hertfordshire WLP ELAS SPD Adopted Version (November 2015) have been subject to a detailed assessment against the SEA objectives which were set out at the scoping stage of the SEA process. In general, the ELAS SPD has been found to have a range of minor positive and significant positive effects on the objectives, particularly in relation to the efficient use of land, increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources, ensuring waste management occurs using processes higher up the waste hierarchy and providing a source of raw materials and some employment.

- 1.111 However, a number of potentially minor negative and significant negative effects could also occur, particularly in relation to biodiversity through disturbance, landtake or air pollution, and in relation to heritage assets through impacts on setting. There is also likely to be significant negative effects in relation to reducing reliance on road freight and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and on impacts relating to recreation and access to the countryside and amenity.
- 1.112 The severity of the identified effects will depend very much on the waste management facilities' type, nature, scale, design and proximity to sensitive receptors, which cannot be known until the planning application stage. However, there are also a range of policies in the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD and the Waste Site Allocations DPD, as well as the detailed assessments and requirements required in the general ELAS waste brief and the specific ELAS Waste Briefs, which should provide mitigation for the identified significant negative effects. Monitoring of these significant effects has also been recommended.

LUC

September 2015