

To Chief Executives of all  
Waste Planning Authorities in England

10 January 2011

Dear Chief Executive,

### **THE EU WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

I am writing to remind you of the importance of putting in place local waste plans to ensure that the UK complies with European legislation.

The EU Waste Framework Directive requires all waste planning authorities to have in place waste management plans, and for those plans to contain specific information. The recently revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) confirms and updates this requirement – and the Government will shortly lay regulations to ensure its effective transposition.

As you know, the Government's commitment to decentralisation gives local authorities a greater role than ever before in leading the planning agenda. It is crucial, therefore, that local planning authorities press ahead with their waste plans and make sure that they allocate sufficient land for waste management facilities.

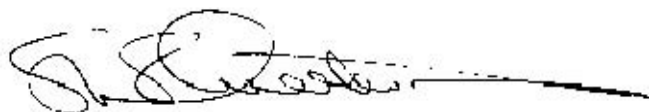
Many authorities have made excellent progress and have already published or even adopted Directive-compliant waste plans. However, I am concerned that a small number are currently not due to publish their plans until well into 2011, or even 2012. This places the UK in a critical position as far as meeting EU requirements is concerned – and risks the UK incurring infraction proceedings and fines as a result of unsatisfactory progress.

Waste plans should already have reached publication stage. In cases where more progress is needed, Ministers expect to see every effort being made to ensure that waste plans are put in place as quickly as possible. You should be aware that the Government has included a power in Part 2 of the Localism Bill to pass on some or all of any fines from the European Court of Justice to any authority which caused the UK to be in breach of its obligations under the Directive.

For those of you due to publish in 2011 or 2012, I would urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you consider that you already have or will have Directive-compliant waste plans in place I would welcome reassurance that this is the case. Please e-mail [Charlotte.Palmer@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Palmer@communities.gsi.gov.uk) by 4 February 2011 with a weblink

and list of relevant policies in your plan which you consider makes it Directive-compliant, and specify when you will publish your plan.

I look forward to you making rapid progress towards fulfilling your obligations. I am copying this letter to Chief Planning Officers in Waste Planning Authorities and to the Planning Inspectorate for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Quartermain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**STEVE QUARTERMAIN**  
Chief Planner