

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet  
**AUTHOR:** Development Services Director

13 April 2006

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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH  
MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN –  
ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION 2**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the County Council's consultation document on issues and options for the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework.

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

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| 2. | High quality, accessible, value for money services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seeking the sustainable extraction of minerals and management of waste, including the provision of facilities for household waste in accessible locations.</li><li>• Seeking opportunities to work in partnership with the County Council as the minerals and waste authority, on the planning for minerals and waste within the district.</li></ul> |
|    | Quality village life                               |  |
|    | A sustainable future                               |  |
|    | A better future through Partnerships               |  |

**Background**

3. The County Council is in the early stages of preparing a Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) as part of its new Local Development Framework (LDF). This will replace the adopted Waste Local Plan 2003 and the Cambridgeshire Aggregates (Minerals) Local Plan adopted 1991.
4. The County Council has advised that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan will comprise 3 documents:
  - (a) Core Strategy: a document setting out the strategic vision and objectives, and including a suite of development control policies to guide minerals and waste development
  - (b) Site Specific Policies: Document setting out site specific proposals for mineral and waste development and supporting site specific policies
  - (c) Earith / Mepal Area Action Plan
5. The Core Strategy (including development control policies), Site Specific Proposals and Area Action Plan will be developed broadly in parallel. This reflects the fact that

the County Council considers there to be an urgent need to prepare up to date and comprehensive minerals policies. This approach of parallel plan preparation is similar to that being pursued by this Council in the preparation of its own LDF.

6. Major issues for the Minerals and Waste LDF relate to the development strategy for the area as set out in the Structure Plan 2003 and the emerging RSS for the East of England. In terms of minerals and waste management planning, through the preparation of the new Plan, the County Council identifies that this raises major challenges including the need to ensure:
  - (a) that the raw materials ie. minerals, needed to support the level of growth are available at the right time
  - (b) that the waste generated in the plan area, including the new developments, is dealt with in a sustainable way through a network of waste management facilities with a reduction in the use of landfill.
7. The County Council undertook an initial Issues and Options consultation in June 2005 which sought views on key matters that will be considered in the Plan. It also included a number of possible locations for mineral extraction and waste management facilities that had been proposed by stakeholders.

### **Current Consultation**

8. As a result of the June 2005 consultation, representatives proposed additional locations and the County Council is now seeking views on those additional proposed locations. The deadline for comments is 13 April 2006 (ie. the date of this meeting).
9. The County Council advises that the results of stakeholder consultation on the additional sites will be fed into the site selection exercise associated with the Preferred Options Plan for minerals and waste, to be published in summer 2006 for formal consultation. This will comprise of a Site Specific Proposals Plan and Area Action Plan (making allocations), alongside a Core Strategy setting out strategic and development control land use planning policies that will guide minerals and waste development until 2021.
10. The County Council stresses that inclusion of site specific proposals within this consultation should not be taken to imply support for the proposal by the County and/or Peterborough City Councils.

### **Issues for Consideration**

11. The Council's response to the first consultation in June 2005 made the following comment in respect of waste management, although the principle applies more generally to the Minerals and Waste LDF:

“There is no clear strategy included in the WLP or proposed in the issues and options report for provision of major waste management facilities. A strategy is essential to provide a clear framework for site specific allocations for all scales of waste management facilities, from major waste management

facilities to household waste recycling centres, and also any supporting uses such as waste transfer stations. This should make clear the number, nature and scale of uses proposed and their intended catchment. It should also identify the broad locations for such facilities to meet the objectives of the strategy. This will enable a more detailed site selection process to be undertaken within the context of a clear strategy. “

12. This comment remains valid and it is particularly difficult to comment on site specific proposals without the context of a clear strategy for minerals and waste. It is to be hoped that the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy will include such a strategy. However, it would be preferable to have the opportunity to comment on a draft strategy before the Site Specific Policies DPD is prepared. Again, this point was raised in the June consultation:

“It is understood that the County Council intends that the next stage in the Waste LDF process will include preferred options for specific sites. The District Council is concerned that this is a big step from the general approach being explored here without an intermediate consultation stage on both the overall strategy and site options. The District Council would hope to be consulted on both the strategy and options for site specific allocations before preferred sites are identified that affect South Cambridgeshire, including the major developments.”

13. Notwithstanding this general concern, in considering the sites the subject of this consultation, there are a number of general and site specific observations that can be made.
14. This report has been prepared in consultation with Environmental Health, who endorse this general concern and make the following further comments:
- (a) Whilst fully endorsing the proposal to carry out a full sustainability appraisal of this plan in the future, all environmental impacts should be considered and any potential health impacts identified so that mitigation measures can be implemented where appropriate.
  - (b) As a waste collection authority the District Council would wish to ensure that the sites are suitably located in order that South Cambs can deliver it's waste collection responsibilities with minimal additional cost to the authority.
  - (c) The Plan should include a sufficient number of sites as is appropriate and those sites are located to enable effective delivery of the PFI contract.
  - (d) Combined Heat and Power plant using waste derived fuel from a local source, in line with government policy, has not been identified as a possible additional option. We would welcome the addition of this option in the growth areas within the policy.

Not all these issues are material planning considerations but they provide a context of wider corporate consideration for Members in deciding the Council's response to this planning consultation.

15. Comments on the individual sites are set out in **Appendix 1**.

#### **Financial Implications**

16. None.

#### **Legal Implications**

17. The Council will be obliged to show Minerals and Waste allocations on its own LDF Proposals Map once the Minerals and Waste LDF is adopted.

#### **Staffing Implications**

18. Staff have offered to discuss emerging policies and proposals with the County Council as the Minerals and Waste LDF is prepared.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

19. There is a risk that the Minerals and Waste LDF could include allocations for land not acceptable to the Council, for example waste management issues could prevail over amenity and other planning considerations.

#### **Consultations**

20. Internal consultations with Environmental Health.

#### **Conclusion**

21. There is concern that this consultation on specific sites is taking place in the absence of a clear strategy for minerals and waste, making comments on the suitability of some sites difficult. Also, these sites are put forward by the industry and there is no commentary from the minerals and waste authority to help provide a context for consultees to provide their comments.
22. Notwithstanding, comments are offered on those sites within South Cambridgeshire as set out in Appendix 1.

#### **Recommendations**

23. Cabinet is recommended to agree the responses to the Minerals and Waste Issues and Options consultation 2, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 14 and in Appendix 1.

**Background Papers:** Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan: Issues and Options Paper 2 (January 2006)

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