

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet 13 March 2008
AUTHOR/S: Corporate Manager – Health & Environmental Services/
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RECAP WASTE DESIGN GUIDE

Purpose

1. To recommend to Cabinet that the RECAP (Recycling in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership) Waste Design Guide is adopted as Council Policy pending its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under Cambridgeshire County Council's new Minerals and Waste Plan in 2010.

Background

2. In May 2006 The RECAP Partnership Senior Officer Group (JWOG) considered a paper outlining some of the waste management challenges posed by the growth agenda in the joint strategy area. JWOG agreed to the production of a Waste Management Design Guide (the Guide) to address the issue of waste management in new developments and redevelopments of a residential, commercial or mixed (residential and commercial) nature.
3. The objectives of the Guide were to seek to ensure that a more consistent waste management centred approach was adopted at the planning and design stage of developments resulting in the provision, as far as practicable, of integrated waste management infrastructure, which supported sustainable growth and development.
4. The Guide would be used by developers, designers and planning authorities to assist the planning process, offering clarity and guidance to prospective developers at the earliest possible opportunity on integrated waste management requirements.

Considerations

5. It was originally envisaged that the Guide would be included within the emerging Cambridgeshire Design Guide for Streets and Public Realm. However, after discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Horizons, who were commissioning the Streets Guide, together with their consultants, it was felt more appropriate that each guide should remain separate but should be cross referenced with each other to ensure a consistent approach.
6. The RECAP Operations panel subsequently set up a project board with representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to coordinate research, development and production of the Guide.
7. In November 2006 a competitive tender was held and consultants appointed in early December. An initial draft report was scheduled for completion in March 2006. Funding for the guide was subsequently obtained from Cambridgeshire Horizons.
8. In January 2007 a stakeholder workshop was held attended by a range of stakeholders including planning, waste operations and urban design officers from

RECAP partner authorities and surrounding local authorities, the Environment Agency, Cambridgeshire Horizons and English Partnerships. A further workshop was held in February 2007 specifically aimed at and attended by developers

9. A draft Guide was issued for initial stakeholder consultation in April 2007. The list of consultees is attached as Appendix A. Extensive further research and development followed the workshops and consultation results including detailed discussions with Cambridgeshire Horizons to ensure consistency between the Waste Design Guide and the Cambridgeshire Design Guide for Streets and Public Realm and a presentation to the Cambridgeshire Chief Planning Officers in May 2007.
10. A revised draft Guide was issued for a second round of stakeholder consultation in September 2007. The list of consultees is attached as Appendix B. Once again the results of the consultation, including comments from the consultants working on the Cambridgeshire Design Guide for Streets and Public Realm, were considered in detail.
11. In November 2007 a Planning Officer User Workshop was held to introduce the Guide primarily to local authority Planning Development Control Officers. Following this a final draft (technical) Guide was agreed by JWOG and presented to the December meeting of the RECAP Waste & Environment Forum (W&EF) where Members recommended that the RECAP partners adopt the Guide either as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) where this was still possible under existing local plans prior to the new LDF framework being adopted; or as Council policy, for the purposes of guiding future development control and meeting the objectives of the Guide.
12. Members of the Waste & Environment Forum also recommended that in the longer term the Guide should be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under the County Council's new Minerals and Waste Plan once adopted in 2010. Having the document as a formal SPD will mean that it will be part of the Local Development Framework, and more weight must be placed on it when considering and determining planning applications.
13. In order for the Guide to become SPD it will be linked to relevant policies in the Minerals and Waste Plan and will then follow a formal preparation procedure, including a public consultation period, after which it must be revised to take into account comments made.
14. An essential element of the Guide is the completion and submission by the developer of the Design Guide Toolkit along with the planning application. The Toolkit will allow a developer, in consultation with the Local Authority, to make an effective evaluation of the waste management requirements placed upon them and to demonstrate compliance as necessary.

Implications

15.	Financial	No financial implications have been identified at this time
	Legal	The Guide cannot be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under this Council's new Local Development Framework (LDF) as the LDF cannot make waste policy. Waste policies can only be made under the County Council's emerging Minerals & Waste Plan. Adopting the Guide as Council policy, until it can be adopted as SPD under the Minerals & Waste Plan in 2010, will enable it to be taken into account now as a material consideration when determining planning applications.
	Staffing	There are no SCDC staffing implications that have been identified at this time.
	Risk Management	If the Guide is not adopted as Council Policy, there is a greater risk that the Council will be unable to ensure a more consistent waste management centred approach is adopted at the planning and design stage of developments resulting in the lack of provision of integrated waste management infrastructure, which supports sustainable growth and development
	Equal Opportunities	There are no Equal Opportunities implications that have been identified at this time.

Consultations

16. Extensive consultations have been carried out as detailed in this report and in Appendices A and B.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

17.	Affordable Homes Customer Service Northstowe and other growth areas Quality, Accessible Services Village Life Sustainability Partnership	Adoption of the Guide will help ensure that a more consistent waste management centred approach is adopted at the planning and design stage of developments resulting in the provision, as far as practicable, of integrated waste management infrastructure, which supports sustainable growth and development.
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Conclusions/Summary

18. The Waste Design Guide addresses the issue of waste management in new developments and redevelopments of a residential, commercial or mixed (residential and commercial) nature. It is to be used by:
- Developers and designers to ensure effective segregation, storage and collection of waste materials; and
 - Planning Authorities in assessing each planning application
19. The Guide helps to address unique waste management problems presented by, for example, high-density developments. It highlights requirements for developer contributions to waste management infrastructure and the financial implications of

waste management upon developers, whilst also providing examples of good practice and demonstrating what can be achieved.

20. The Guide puts significant emphasis on timely consultation with the Local Authority to ensure effective waste management design and offers a significant opportunity for innovation in waste management design, actively welcoming proposals from developers for alternative waste management solutions.
21. As Council policy the Guide will help to ensure that a more consistent waste management centred approach is adopted at the planning and design stage of developments resulting in the provision, as far as practicable, of integrated waste management infrastructure, which supports sustainable growth and development.

Recommendations

22. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (a) Adopts the RECAP Waste Design Guide as Council policy
 - (b) Recommends that in the longer term, the RECAP Waste Design Guide should be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under Cambridgeshire County Council's new Minerals and Waste Plan once approved.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

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