

Devon Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Report of the Deputy Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.

1. Introduction

Devon County Council is the minerals and waste planning authority for Devon, excluding the unitary areas of Plymouth and Torbay and the national parks of Dartmoor and Exmoor, within which the unitary/national park authority exercises this role. The County Council's current policy framework is provided by the Minerals Local Plan, which was adopted in 2004, and the Waste Local Plan (2006).

In the same manner in which district authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Framework, Devon County Council has a duty to prepare appropriate development plan documents within a Minerals and Waste Development Framework. When adopted, these will replace the existing Local Plans and will have a timescale to 2031.

The County Council is currently developing separate Core Strategies for minerals and waste, with each undergoing, or shortly to undergo, consultation.

2. Minerals Core Strategy

An Options Consultation Paper was published on 1 March 2011 and sent to a wide range of organisations and individuals, including district and parish/town councils. The consultation period extends to 29 April 2011, although provision will be made for district councils to defer their response until after the local elections.

The key issues for which options are provided in the consultation paper are:

- ◆ securing a spatial strategy that minimises the distances that minerals are transported by road, supports the county's economy and protects its environment;
- ◆ providing a strong policy context for the continued supply of Devon's minerals of national importance, i.e. ball clay, china clay and tungsten;
- ◆ maintaining the supply of aggregate minerals, including the use of secondary and recycled materials;
- ◆ enhancing the supply of distinctive local building stones; and
- ◆ safeguarding key mineral resources for the long term from sterilisation by other development.

For South Hams, the key issue in the Options Consultation Paper is the potential need for working of tungsten at Hemerdon beyond the expiry of the current planning permission in

2021. The option put forward advocates that the supply of the mineral is maintained beyond 2021 at the scale currently allowed for, subject to a review of working arrangements to reduce, if feasible, the impacts of the tipping of waste materials.

China clay working at Lee Moor has reduced in recent years, and the Minerals Core Strategy envisages that the restoration of non-operational areas should contribute to the green infrastructure network.

South Hams currently has no quarries supplying the locally-distinctive materials used in the past. The re-opening of old quarries on a small-scale to supply these stones will be encouraged to ensure the availability of suitable stones for the repair of historic buildings and for sympathetic new development.

It is proposed that existing quarries within South Hams should continue to be safeguarded from other development, while one option also proposes the safeguarding of additional limestone resources referred in the district.

3. Waste Core Strategy

Work on the Waste Core Strategy started in 2010 and has since focused on progressing to the Issues and Options consultation stage. Work undertaken so far has concentrated on technical assessments to establish an accurate understanding of the current waste situation in terms of how much waste is currently generated, how it is managed and how much existing waste management capacity there is in Devon. Other work has focused on engagement with the public, Local Authorities, the waste industry and environmental groups.

These two main areas of work have allowed a series of strategic waste issues to be identified which the Waste Core Strategy should address. These issues, and the options for addressing them, have been written into a Consultation Report which was presented to Development Management Committee on 16 March. Members approved the report as the basis for public consultation. This is planned for between 28 April and 22 July 2011.

The key issues which the Waste Core Strategy will address include:

- ◆ How much additional waste management capacity will be needed in the period up to 2031;
- ◆ How this capacity should be planned to maximise sustainability and deliverability;
- ◆ How to address future waste management requirements in accordance with the waste hierarchy;
- ◆ How to consider future waste management requirements in terms of Devon and the wider sub-region;
- ◆ How to consider suitable technologies; and
- ◆ Where additional waste management facilities should be located and distributed.

The Issues and Options Consultation Report contains three spatial approaches for addressing future waste management requirements. These are based on centralised, localised and mixed approaches. The centralised approach would include a small number of larger-scale facilities, the localised approach would include a larger number of smaller, community oriented facilities, and the mixed approach could include facilities of a variety of scales across Devon.

The centralised, localised and mixed approaches include areas of search for future facilities in South Hams. Depending on the outcomes of the consultation and further assessments, one of these approaches will be developed in more detail to form the spatial element of the strategy. Once this work is undertaken, the potential implications for South Hams will become clearer in terms of potential facility size and location.

One of the implications of the strategy could be the identification of potential areas for facilities in the South Hams according to the preferred spatial approach. This could affect the areas around the A38 and around the main market towns. Depending on which of the spatial approaches is taken forward as the preferred approach, a further implication for South Hams could be regarding the potential need for additional waste transfer capacity in the Borough.

Once adopted, the Waste Core Strategy could affect the policy status of sites allocated in the current Waste Local Plan. This includes strategic sites in the South Hams. It should be noted however that the Waste Local Plan remains as the principal waste planning policy document covering the Devon County Council area against which current waste planning applications will be determined. The Waste Core Strategy will become a material consideration once a clear Strategy direction has been developed.

The County Council will work with South Hams District Council in the development of the Waste Core Strategy to ensure that policy and site considerations are seen in the context of the Local Development Framework.

Ian Harrison

Electoral Divisions: All in South Hams

Local Government Act 1972

List of Background Papers

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Background Papers	Date	File Ref.
1. Issues & Options Consultation Paper	November 2007	-
2. Waste Local Plan	June 2006	-

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