

## **Devon Minerals and Waste Development Framework**

Report of the 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 Teignbridge, one of the key issues is the need to maintain supply of ball clay to supply a range of industries in Britain, Europe and elsewhere. While substantial reserves of ball clay

with planning permission to 2042 are present, there are specific grades of high quality clays that are expected to run out within existing planning permissions prior to 2031. The Minerals Core Strategy will therefore need to make provision for new supplies of these clays, having close regard to the environmental constraints within the Bovey Basin, including nature conservation designations and flood risk.

The Newton Abbot area currently produces sand and gravel for local markets, but the existing quarries have limited reserves remaining. To avoid the need to transport these materials longer distances from eastern Devon in the future, the consultation paper seeks views on providing for continued supply of sand and gravel from the Newton Abbot area.

The Teignbridge area has provided a range of building stones in the past that have been used in the construction of buildings within the district and elsewhere in Devon. To allow for the sympathetic maintenance of these buildings, and to allow for new development to contribute to the area's character, the Minerals Core Strategy seeks to encourage the enhanced supply of these stones, many of which are no longer quarried, through the re-opening of old quarries for small-scale working.

It is proposed that existing quarries within Teignbridge, together with the whole of the ball clay resource, should continue to be safeguarded from other development. One option also proposes that larger areas of mineral resource in the district should be safeguarded, including limestone to the north-east and south of Newton Abbot, key sand and gravel resources and potential building stone resources. Some of these resources extend up to the existing built-up area of Newton Abbot and nearby settlements, and the safeguarding of mineral resources therefore has the potential to limit options for the future development of those settlements.

### **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 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 options have been written into a Consultation Report which is to be presented to Development Management Committee on 16 March. Subject to approval, a formal public consultation is planned between April and June.

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 varied 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 varied 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 Teignbridge. 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 on Teignbridge will become clearer in terms of potential facility size and location.

One of the implications of the strategy related to Teignbridge could be the future of Heathfield landfill site. This has an existing planning permission and is allocated in the current Waste Local Plan as a site for 'strategic waste facilities'. The Waste Core Strategy may consider how the role of Heathfield landfill could evolve in the medium term with regard to its status in planning policy as a landfill site and host to an in-vessel composting facility.

A further implication for Teignbridge could be regarding whether the Waste Core Strategy identifies the need for additional waste management capacity for waste arising in Torbay as well as Devon. This issue will be discussed as part of the Issues and Options consultation.

Chris McCarthy

**Electoral Divisions: All in Teignbridge**

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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 sc/cr/devon minerals and waste development framework  
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