

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 Torrige, it is envisaged that no new major mineral development will occur, other than the potential for high-specification sandstone to be supplied from the eastern or southern

fringes of the district. There is scope for smaller-scale working to supply local needs for aggregates and building stone, while the ball clay operation at Peters Marland has sufficient reserves within its current planning permission.

It is proposed that existing quarries within Torridge, together with mineral wharves at Bideford and Appledore, should continue to be safeguarded, while one option also proposes the potential sandstone resources on the edge of the district for safeguarding.

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, local 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.

Both the local and mixed approaches include areas of search for future facilities in Torridge. Depending on the outcomes of the consultation and further assessments, one of these approaches will be developed further to form the spatial element of the strategy. Once this work is undertaken, the potential implications on Torridge will become clearer.

One of the major implications on the strategy related to Torridge is likely to be the future of Deepmoor landfill site. This has an existing planning permission and is allocated in the current Waste Local Plan as a strategic site. The Waste Core Strategy may consider how

the role of Deepmoor could evolve in the medium term in terms of its status in planning policy.

Chris McCarthy

Electoral Divisions: All in Torridge

Local Government Act 1972

List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Dave Black

Room No: AB3 Lucombe House

Tel No: (01392) 383247

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

gm180211trc
sc/cr/devon minerals and waste development framework
03 hq 250211