

**THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) LINKED TO THE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN**

To: Cabinet

Date: 29 September 2009

From: Executive Director, Environment Services

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable **Key decision: No**

Purpose: To consider the draft Supplementary Planning Document on the Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan

Recommendation:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. approve the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan (Submission Plan) for the purposes of public consultation**
- ii. delegate to the portfolio holder for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Executive Director, Environment Services, the authority to approve the final draft SPD for public consultation, including any amendments required (that do not materially affect the content of the SPD)**

Note: Due to size draft Supplementary Planning Document has not been included with the printed Agenda. Members can view it in the Members Lounge. It can also be accessed from the Web site from the Development Control Agenda report dated 10th September (item 5)

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is being jointly produced between the County Council and Peterborough City Council and will be linked to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan. It will provide guidance on the location and design of waste management facilities over the Plan period. It is intended to guide the design and location for the waste management facilities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to ensure high quality and to demonstrate how these facilities can be developed in both urban and rural settings.
- 1.2 The purpose of the SPD is to set out a series of development principles based on recognised good planning and design practice and is intended to:
 - Encourage a more cooperative approach by all those involved in the design and development of waste management facilities.
 - Provide a Good Practice benchmark to guide sustainable developments and designs and to speed the evaluation and approval of proposals by the County Council as a regulatory body.
 - Achieve the highest standards of design, in relation to integration, layout, access and environment, as well as making efficient use of materials.
- 1.3 Currently the Location and Design of Major Waste Management Facilities SPD is linked to the adopted Waste Local Plan. The existing document needs updating in order to avoid a policy vacuum when the Core Strategy is adopted and supersedes the Waste Local Plan. The revision will allow us to amend and update its content for example in relation to locating new waste management facilities in urban areas.
- 1.4 The SPD will be an important material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It will be read in conjunction with the relevant planning policies and the existing and emerging development plans and transport plans. It does not replace the policies but will supplement them with good practice standards. The guidance contained within the SPD relates to policy 24 in the emerging Core Strategy covering the design of sustainable waste management facilities.
- 1.5 For too long waste management facilities have been regarded as low quality, poorly designed facilities, often detracting from the area around them. The drive for a step change in our attitude towards waste management requires a corresponding change in the standards of design and management of the associated waste management facilities. This is recognised by the Government in its guidance on Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (Planning Policy Statement 10), which states in Paras 35 and 36 that:
- 1.6 “Good design and layout in the new development can help to secure opportunities for sustainable waste management, including for kerbside collection and community recycling as well as for larger facilities. Planning authorities should ensure that new development makes sufficient provision for waste management, and promote designs and layouts that secure the integration of waste management facilities without adverse impact on the street scene or, in less developed areas, the local landscape. Waste management facilities in themselves should be well designed, so that they contribute positively to the character and quality of the area in which they are located. Poor design is in itself undesirable, undermines community acceptance of waste facilities and should be rejected”.

- 1.7 The draft SPD has been considered by the Development Control Committee and the Growth & Environment Policy Development Group (PDG). The former recommended that the Plan should encourage more innovative design in rural locations and be published for the purposes of public consultation, and members of the PDG agreed the document should proceed to public consultation in February / March 2010.
- 1.8 Cabinet is being asked to approve this draft SPD for the purposes of public consultation, with delegated powers for amendments to the portfolio holder and Executive Director for Environment Services. A link to the document is included at the front of this report.
- 1.9 Due to the timing of meetings comments made by the Section 29 Joint Policy Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet.
- 1.10 A similar process is being followed by Peterborough City Council, to ensure we are able to consult on this SPD in early 2010.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The key difference between this revised SPD and the current SPD linked to the adopted Waste Local Plan is it has been updated to take account of key issues raised during previous consultations for the Plan. Unlike the previous SPD the updated document has a broader scope, extending beyond 'major' waste management facilities to cover important matters such as the location and design of local community facilities, including Household Recycling Centres. The title of the document has been amended to reflect this difference.

3. PREPARATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 3.1 The process of preparing the SPD is governed by planning regulations. This first stage is the preparation of a draft document. Changes in Government planning regulations have added to the requirements needed for the document to become a formal SPD. It has not previously been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which will now be covered in the SA for the Plan documents as a whole. Changes in regulations have also meant that the document has had to be subject to a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The HRA has been written for this SPD and will be published as a background document as part of the consultation in February / March 2010.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Government's emphasis on community involvement and standards set in our adopted Statement of Community Involvement this SPD must undergo a period of consultation. This will be conducted over a statutory 6 week period in February / March 2010, at the same time as the Plan documents.
- 3.3 Representations that are received as a result of the consultation will then be considered and the Authorities must prepare a report saying what the main issues raised were, and how they will be addressed in the final document. The Authorities then make the changes necessary and once the Core Strategy has been found sound and adopted the SPD can also be adopted. It is anticipated that the Core Strategy will be adopted in July 2011.

4. THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

4.1 The SPD provides advice on location and design of waste management facilities. In terms of location the SPD includes advice on:

- Previously Developed land – where possible facilities should be developed on previously developed land, enabling positive re-use and avoiding the need to develop Greenfield land.
- Siting – this will be dependent on the type of facility and processes that will influence the size and the location of any building. However, it should take account of the primary road network and access arrangements, environmentally sensitive locations and whether it is situated within an urban or rural location, or within a new housing development site.
- Co-location of Facilities – may offer significant benefits in reducing the need for transport of waste and the treated product. Bringing more than one facility together can maximise the amount of resource recovery that can take place and provides a more sustainable solution.
- Co-location with Household Recycling Centres (HCVs) – provides guidance on the co-location of waste facilities to provide transport benefits and higher efficiency of separation and recycling.
- Temporary Facilities – major construction sites or development areas should provide temporary waste management facilities to separate and recycle construction and demolition waste. The on-site facilities would encourage re-use of recycled material and also minimise the transport of waste materials from site and reduce the need for importation of new materials, thereby reducing the overall impact on the surrounding road network.

4.2 In terms of design the SPD includes advice on:

- Character – the design of waste management facilities should be specific to the design brief and the context, based on an understanding of the way the local area looks and works, forming part of a strong design process.
- Built Form – this will largely depend on whether the facility is within an urban or rural location. For example, in rural locations it would be appropriate to follow a form reflecting agricultural buildings, although more imaginative schemes should also be considered. In urban settings there is more opportunity for an imaginative bold design approach.
- Local Distinctiveness – all proposals should address local distinctiveness rather than creating anonymous proposals and, where appropriate, can be imaginative in their design.
- Transport, Access, Parking and Circulation – these points should be integral to the design of the site, and access for all users should be considered. Access should be clear and safe, and the site layout should allow the early separation of cars and pedestrians/cyclist from HCVs.
- Lighting – the nature of the facility may mean that some working during the hours of darkness is inevitable. Lighting must be considered as an integral part of the design to meet health and safety requirements and ensure that lighting equipment minimises the spread of light, particularly on sensitive receptors.

- Landscape and Boundary Treatments – the landscape proposals should make use of existing features, protect existing habitats and features of value, and help assimilate the project into its surroundings. With effective boundaries and screening, the external site activities become less visually sensitive.
- Noise – mitigation will comprise sensitive location and sympathetic design as well as best practical means to control noise (noise abatement measures). For example, locating facilities within buildings allows much greater control over noise effects.
- Air Quality – potential effects from dust, odour and emissions from traffic need to be considered. A number of systems are available to minimise problems and should be considered as part of the design.
- Water – all schemes should include measures to ensure water quality and the efficient use of water.
- Pest Control – all developers are advised to include measures in their schemes to deal with pests. Locating the proposals inside buildings allows a high degree of control against vermin, including rodents and birds.
- Security – facilities should be designed to be secure, but not to appear like fortresses. Security should be considered for each of the design elements, whether building construction, boundary treatments or landscape design. The principles in ‘Secure by Design’ should be followed.
- Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction – there are many opportunities for more sustainable methods of construction which should be incorporated into the development proposals. One of the most important issues is to establish adaptable long term facilities that can function over a long period of time.

4.3 Much of the advice can be applied to all types of waste management facility. However, Facility Profiles are also included within the SPD that provide additional advice specific to the different types of facilities.

5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resources and Performance:

The Council is committed to consultation on the SPD. There would be financial and other risks in not fulfilling the Council’s statutory requirements according to the timetable in the Local Development Scheme. The guidance in the SPD takes account of the Council’s intention to promote high standards of design for waste facilities across the County.

5.2 Statutory requirements and partnership working:

The preparation of this SPD has been conducted jointly with Peterborough City Council and has been updated by consultants. Peterborough City Council will need to go through member processes to approve the document and confirm its acceptance for stakeholder consultation in early 2010. Procedures are in place to ensure this is achieved.

5.3 The preparation of this SPD is subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment in line with Government guidance. This process is progressing, and advice is currently being obtained from Natural England.

5.4 Climate Change:

One of the key objectives of the SPD is to provide guidance on the development and design of new waste management facilities to address the challenges of climate change. This guidance is produced in line with the climate change supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) adopted in December 2007.

5.5 The selection of waste management sites and the design of facilities will be guided with climate change in mind and are strongly linked to guidance contained within PPS1. In particular the proposals will need to set out how the objectives will be achieved, which may include:-

- Quantifying the reduction in carbon dioxide and other relevant greenhouse gases e.g. methane, that will be achieved as part of the proposal, and how this will be monitored and addressed in future;
- Demonstrating how the location, design, and transportation related to the development will limit greenhouse gas emissions;
- Demonstrating carbon off-set measures which will be put in place, and how these will be delivered / implemented;
- Setting out how the proposal will make use of renewable energy e.g. opportunities for energy from waste (waste proposals only), use of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy;
- Incorporation of sustainable drainage schemes to minimise flood impacts.
- The creation of carbon sinks formed by habitat creation e.g. through restoration / landscaping schemes.

5.6 Access and inclusion:

There are no significant implications for any of the headings within this category.

5.7 Engagement and Consultation:

In accordance with the Government's emphasis on community involvement and standards set in our adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) this SPD will undergo a period of statutory consultation including appropriate publicity and engagement with stakeholders. This consultation will be undertaken at the same time as the Minerals and Waste Plan documents in early 2010.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 This updated SPD will cover a wider range of issues than the current version which is linked to the adopted Waste Local Plan. By updating it and adopting it at the same time as the emerging Core Strategy we will avoid a policy vacuum and will be able to continue to raise the standard of design and assist in the delivery of high quality waste management facilities in Cambridgeshire.

6.2 Public consultation is due to take place for a six week period in February / March 2010. Public consultation must conform to the Council's adopted Statement of

Community Involvement which sets out a range of consultation activities to be included in any consultation. These include:

- consulting / informing all statutory consultees
- consulting / informing all other relevant parties, including the public
- placing proposals on the web site
- placing documents on deposit at Councils offices and other locations (normally main libraries)
- displays and exhibitions
- press releases / media interviews
- attending town and parish council meetings (on request)
- attending mineral and waste liaison forums

6.3 The Development Control Committee has emphasised the need to ensure guidance within this document encourages innovative design where appropriate, particularly in the rural locations. Some members thought this could be strengthened. However, it was confirmed the document already contains this level of detail so no further changes were pursued. The Growth & Environment PDG were also happy with the content of the SPD and that Cabinet should endorse it for consultation in February / March 2010.

6.4 Following public consultation the SPD will then be revised before returning for Member consideration for adoption in 2011.

Source Documents	Location
Draft Supplementary Planning Document for the Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities.	Members Lounge, Shire Hall