

Saxon Pit - Public Health Oversight Group

To: Adults and Health Committee

Meeting Date: 5th March 2026

From: Executive Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning

Electoral division(s): Whittlesey North and Whittlesey South

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not Applicable

Executive Summary: The Public Health report on Saxon Pit made a recommendation on increasing trust and collaboration between the community, operators, and regulators. This included setting up a Public Health group to oversee the delivery of the recommendations within the report. This is the proposal to set up this group, with leadership and representation from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Recommendation: The committee notes the establishment of this group, following consultation with Spokes, and agrees the appointment of the Cambridgeshire County Council representatives.

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1. A healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 The proposal supports Cambridgeshire's ambitions to "Enable full, healthy lives for all" and "Support a green and sustainable county". The Public Health Report on Saxon Pit has highlighted concerns from residents about potential impacts on their health and wellbeing due to dust, noise and odour from the processing of waste and other industrial activities.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following concerns from the local community about potential impacts on their health, Public Health instigated a multi-agency public health risk assessment. The findings from the risk assessment are part of a wider Public Health report that can be found [here](#).
- 2.2 There were five recommendations made in the Public Health Report. Recommendation 1 is: *Increase trust and collaboration between the community, operators, and regulators.*
- 2.3 One of the actions under Recommendation 1 was: *Public Health will establish a system-wide group that includes local authorities, Environment Agency, community representatives, and operators to continue work on public health impacts. This group would oversee the implementation of other recommendations from this work. Regulators would be there in an advisory capacity.*

3. Public Health Oversight Group for Saxon Pit and surrounding area

- 3.1 This is the proposal for the setting up of a new internal advisory group: "Public Health Oversight Group for Saxon Pit and surrounding area".
- 3.2 The terms of reference will need to be formally agreed by the group once it is established but in short, the group will oversee the delivery of the five recommendations set out in Public Health Report.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the following county councillors attend this group:
- (a) Councillor Graham Wilson, lead for adults and health – chair
 - (b) Councillor Luis Navarro, deputy lead for adults and health – deputy chair
 - (c) Councillor Chris Boden, Whittlesey North (Cambridgeshire County Council)
 - (d) Councillor Michael Fisher, Whittlesey South
- 3.4 Other members of the group have not yet been confirmed but are intended to include political membership from Fenland District Council and Whittlesey Town Council, as well as members of the local community and with their agreement, site operators.
- 3.5 Officers will attend from Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health, the Waste Planning Authority, and Communications; Fenland District Council Environmental Health; and the Environment Agency.
- 3.6 Support and administration of the group will be undertaken by Public Health.
- 3.7 To note, that the council already has two internal advisory groups for Saxon Pit. These

liaison groups have been set up as part of planning conditions for specific operations on the site. They have a narrowly defined scope – to ensure that the operation is operating within the conditions of the planning consent. Due to their limited scope and limited number of attendees they cannot be used for the public health purpose and public health do not attend.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 There is a need to set up the Public Health Oversight Group for Saxon Pit and surrounding area to oversee the implementation of the recommendations from the Public Health Report on Saxon Pit.

6. Significant Implications

6.1 Finance Implications

Public Health will resource the administration of the group from existing staff time given the need to establish whether there are potential harms to health to those living near the pit.

6.2 Legal Implications

None.

6.3 Risk Implications

The main risk is from lack of timely action if there are harms to health to the Whittlesey community. Given that residents' complaints of dust, noise and odour occur mainly over the spring, summer and early autumn, there is a need to get this group set up to be able to ensure delivery of the recommendations from the Public Health report for the spring/summer of 2026.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

7. Source Documents

- 7.1 [Public Health Report on Saxon Pit](#)