

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Member for Planning and Environmental Services

To: Cabinet – 19 June 2012

Author: (Sarah Robertson, Planning Policy Officer)

Subject: Norfolk Minerals and Waste Site Specific Allocations – Pre Submission Publication

Purpose:

To inform members of the publication of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Documents. These documents allocate sites for minerals extraction and waste recycling across the County, including sites within Breckland. This report summarises the content of the documents and provides a recommendation as to Breckland's proposed response to the consultation. The consultation documents and supporting evidence can be viewed on-line at www.norfolk.gov.uk

Recommendations:

It is recommended that soundness objections are raised to the Minerals and Waste sites as outlined within Appendix A and subject to the views of Cabinet, the comments and recommendations listed in the proposed response column of Appendix A will form the basis Breckland Council's representation.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 County Councils retain the role of Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. Part of this responsibility is to prepare a Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (MWLDF) which has two functions: (1) to plan for how much waste is produced in the County and how it is dealt with; and (2) how much mineral extraction is needed. Both these issues are critical in the context of the growth in Norfolk up to 2021. At one end aggregates will be needed as raw materials to deliver the new homes and infrastructure and at the other end waste production needs to be carefully managed and dealt with.
- 1.2 As part of the MWLDF the County Council has adopted the Core Strategy which sets out the policies to deliver the minerals and manage the estimated tonnages of waste. The Minerals and Waste Site Allocations document will identify what areas of land will deliver the annual mineral requirements outlined in the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and what areas of land will manage the waste that the county will produce as outlined in the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. The publication of the site allocations DPD offers the final opportunity to comment on the proposed sites, prior to a public examination into the document with an independent Government Inspector. The site allocations DPD has been subject to three previous rounds of public consultation, which Breckland has responded to. Members are reminded that at this stage comments are limited to the "tests of soundness" outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2 Summary of Norfolk Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document Pre-Submission Publication

- 2.1 This document outlines 6 sites proposed for minerals extraction within the Breckland administrative area. These sites are located at East Bilney (site references: MIN10 and 51), Snetterton (MIN102) and Shropham (MIN108, 109 and 110) and represent a further consolidation of minerals extraction within the

District despite a dispersal approach being taken across the County. In considering the sites proposed, Breckland has previously provided comments on these sites objecting to their allocation.

- 2.2 At East Bilney, site MIN10 was previously classified as “not acceptable for allocation” by the County Council, on highways grounds, however the site is now considered acceptable. The site covers 44.4 hectares and is adjacent to properties to the west and north-west of the site. Breckland has previously objected to this site and MIN51 due to the cumulative impact continued extraction has on the landscape and local community.
- 2.3 The sites at Snetterton and Shropham represent the extension of the existing extraction. For these sites there is also concern of the potential impact on the landscape. Site MIN102 is adjacent to Swangey Fen SSSI which forms part of the European protected Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. Site MIN109 adjoins the existing quarry and is currently subject to a planning application, which Breckland have not objected to.

3 Summary of Norfolk Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document Pre-Submission Publication

- 3.1 A number of waste sites have been proposed across the District, including at: East Bilney, Carbrooke, Ashill, Snetterton, Thetford and Attleborough. The sites proposed for allocation within this document, remain the same as previously consulted on through the preferred options consultation in 2011. In 2011 Breckland commented on these sites, and whilst the Council had no objection for the sites at Ashill, Carbrooke, Attleborough and Thetford, objections were recorded for the other sites.
- 3.2 Breckland has previously not objected to the waste site within Ashill (WAS14) as it is a former pit adjoining the existing recycling centre. The site at Carbrooke (WAS 06) is a former quarry proposed for inert waste recycling, adjoining a historic landfill. The sites at Thetford (WAS32) and Attleborough (WAS47) both have existing uses, for recycling and as a demolition business. The allocation of these sites is considered appropriate.
- 3.3 Sites WAS01 and WAS87 at East Bilney are allocated for composting, inert waste recycling and inert fill. Objections to the sites were previously submitted on the basis of the continued use of these sites and the impact this has on the community. The allocation at WAS87 is in conjunction with the minerals allocation discussed previously. However, site WAS01 forms part of an existing quarry. As the allocation is proposed to be temporary and not prejudice the final restoration of the existing quarry, it is considered that in balance Breckland should not object to the allocation.
- 3.4 One of the sites at Snetterton (WAS19) is located on the Snetterton Heath General Employment Area, as defined in the adopted Breckland Proposals Maps, and is proposed for allocations for a potential variety of uses. The use of the employment area for waste site, has the potential to impact on the wider strategic vision for the area, which is included within the Breckland Core Strategy and to be further determined through the Attleborough and Snetterton Heath Area Action Plan. Furthermore the site is within 400m of Eccles Road settlement, and due to the close proximity, it would be more appropriate to have greater certainty over the types of uses proposed for the site.
- 3.5 The other site at Snetterton (WAS79) is located on the same site as the minerals allocation MIN102. The Council has previously objected to the allocation of this site due to the potential impact on the adjoining Swangey Fen SSSI, which would need to be mitigated. It has been questioned previously whether a site which requires mitigation is necessarily the most suitable site.

4. OPTIONS

1. Respond to the pre-submission publication as contained within appendix A
2. Provide an alternative response to the pre-submission publication
3. Do nothing

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council respond to the pre-submission consultation as outlined within appendix A by way of written representation. This will see Breckland's views being recorded and inform the public examination into the soundness of the Site Allocations DPD

6. EXPECTED BENEFITS

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Legal

7.2 Risks

7.3 Financial

7.4 Timescales

The pre-submission publication runs until 29th June 2012.

7.5 Equality and Diversity

7.6 Stakeholders / Consultation

7.7 Contracts

7.8 Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998:

7.9 Other

8. WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

Taverner, East Guiltcross, Templar, Thetford Saxon, Queens, Wissey and Wayland Wards are all affected by the Minerals and Waste Site Allocations.

Background papers:-

- Minerals Site Specific Allocation Development Plan Document: Pre-Submission
- Waste Site Specific Allocation Development Plan Document: Pre-Submission

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Key Decision – Yes/No

[use for Cabinet/Council reports or delete]

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A: Proposed Response to the Pre-Submission Minerals and Waste DPD