

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of the Strategic Director for Transformation to the Policy Development and Review Panel 1 – 11th March 2008

NORFOLK MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES PREFERRED OPTIONS AND SITE ALLOCATIONS ISSUES AND OPTIONS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the content of the current consultation on the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework. Norfolk County Council is currently consulting on drafts of its Core Strategy and Development Control Development Plan Document and its Minerals and Waste Site Allocations document. As the Local Planning Authority, Breckland Council is a statutory consultee in the formation of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. It is also important that Breckland is aware of the County's plans for Minerals and Waste development and how this affects the strategy, policies and sites in the Breckland Local Development Framework. This report summarises the content of both documents and provides an officer's recommendation of Breckland's response to the consultation. The consultation documents together sum up to around 500 pages and are not reproduced with this report. However, a series of appendices are attached to this report outlining proposed policies which could affect Breckland and proposed sites for minerals and waste development in and around Breckland. All the consultation documents and supporting evidence can be viewed on-line at www.norfolk.gov.uk

2. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members views are requested and that subject to any amendments that the comments and recommendations listed in Appendices B, C and D of the report form Breckland Council's response to Norfolk County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework current consultation documents.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 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 as provided for in the Regional Plan. The scale of growth is 78,700 new homes (including 15,200 in Breckland) and this will result in a County population growth from 824,200 in 2005 to 871,300 in 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.

- 3.1.2 The County Council started work on its MWLDF in 2005. To date the County have produced two Issues and Options consultations on its draft Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document. The most recent of these was brought to Panel 1 in July 2007. As a result of the Panel meeting Breckland issued a formal response to the consultation. Breckland's response along with Norfolk County Council's analysis of the response can be seen in Appendix A.
- 3.1.3 The results of the July Issues and Options consultation has helped shape the County's current consultation on its Core Strategy and Development Control Preferred Options. Subject to the response of this consultation, Norfolk County Council plan to submit the document for Examination in Public by early August this year.
- 3.1.4 The other document currently subject to consultation is the Minerals and Waste Site Allocations document. This is the first consultation phase on this document and seeks to establish the public and stakeholders views of minerals and waste sites that have been promoted to the County by land owners and the minerals and waste industries.

3.2 Issues

Summary of Norfolk Minerals and Waste, Core Strategy and Development Control Development Plan Document Preferred Options Consultation

- 3.2.1 This document outlines the County Council's preferred over-arching strategy for Mineral's and Waste Development in Norfolk. The document also includes the Council's preferred policies for delivering and controlling minerals and waste development in the county. The East of England Plan requires Norfolk to plan for 2,980,000 tonnes per annum of land won sand and gravel and 200,000 tonnes per annum of land won carstone. The East of England Plan estimates that Norfolk will have to manage the following annual tonnages of Municipal Solid Waste, and Commercial and Industrial Waste:

- 2,080,000 between 2005/06 and 2010/11
- 2,260,000 between 2010/11 and 2015/16
- 2,560,000 between 2015/16 and 2020/21

The Mineral's and Waste Core Strategy sets out the policies to deliver these Minerals apportionments and manage the estimated tonnages of waste.

- 3.2.2 Norfolk County Council's vision is to make Norfolk a leader in recycling waste, reducing waste and recovering energy from waste. They plan to make Norfolk a county where 75% of waste is diverted from landfill. Norfolk County's vision is also to make Norfolk a place where minerals will be sourced increasingly from recycled aggregates and a place where the annual requirement for minerals production is met.
- 3.2.3 In delivering these achievements Norfolk County Council plan to ensure that; climate change is mitigated, natural and cultural heritage is preserved, adverse transport impacts are minimised and the well-being and vibrancy of communities is enhanced.
- 3.2.4 To achieve this vision the document outlines Norfolk County Council's preferred policy options. These policies are split down into 6 areas. These areas are as follows; Preferred Options for the Spatial Strategy, Preferred Options for Mineral Supply, Preferred Options for Waste Management, Preferred Options for Transport and Traffic, Preferred Options for Environmental Protection and Preferred Options for Amenity and Well Being.
- 3.2.5 The Preferred Options for the Spatial Strategy contains the policies surrounding the broad pattern of minerals and waste development across the district. It includes the preferred option for prioritising site allocations which will prioritise allocations that will

meet the minerals apportionments set out in the East of England Plan and drive waste up the waste hierarchy (the principles of reducing, re-using, recycling and recovery). In addition to this, the preferred policy will prioritise sites which have less of an adverse impact or no impact on sites that have environmental or landscape designations. The Preferred Options on the Spatial Strategy also contains preferred policies relating to the spatial distribution of minerals and waste developments, climate change and protection of existing minerals sites. These policies are discussed in more detail in Appendix B.

- 3.2.6 The Preferred Options for Minerals Supply section contains preferred policies to ensure that the minerals landbank is kept above 7 years of supply of sand and gravel and 10 years of supply of carstone. For other Minerals development, the county council's preferred approach is to rely on national policy. Other preferred policies in this section include promoting the use of secondary and recycled aggregates and encouraging district council's to include policies in their local development frameworks requiring the use of secondary and recycled aggregates in new development.
- 3.2.7 The Preferred Options for Waste Management include Norfolk's approach to managing waste. Their preferred approach is to move waste up the waste hierarchy (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Recover, Disposal) so that less waste has to be managed and disposed of. The section includes policies on how to achieve this. These are discussed in detail in Appendix B.
- 3.2.8 The Preferred Options for Transport and Traffic outline the County Council's approach to transport which relates to minerals and waste development. Their preferred approach is to safeguard freight sites and routes in accordance to national policy, promote the use of alternative sustainable transport modes, ensure new development does not add to congestion and ensures new development does not result in a decrease in road safety. Norfolk County Council's preferred approach suggests issues outlined above would be addressed through Transport Assessments accompanying development proposals.
- 3.2.9 Minerals and waste development can have a significant impact on the environment, including habitat loss, archaeological damage, landscape alteration and water pollution. The County Council's Preferred Options for Environmental Protection include policies on the protection of areas with biodiversity value, landscape value, and heritage value as well as policies relating to flood risk and water protection. The County Council's preferred approach includes:
- Relying on international policy to protect internationally designated sites such as SPAs, SACs, and Ramsar sites.
 - Relying on national policy to protect nationally designated sites such as SSSIs or National Nature Reserves
 - Restricting development on locally designated sites unless there the benefits of the development outweigh the costs.
 - Rely on national policy to protect National Landscape designations
 - Restrict development in Core River Valleys unless the development acts as flood storage which would mitigate flood risk to nearby development or offers restoration possibilities which will enhance the landscape character or biodiversity.
 - Ensure that new development respects and enhance local landscapes
 - Restrict development in Ground Water Protection Zone 1
- 3.2.10 Minerals and waste development can also have a significant impact on amenity and well being. Norfolk County Council's Preferred Options for Amenity and Well Being

include preferred policies on air pollution and noise and light pollution. The County Council's preferred approach includes:

- Restricting development in Air Quality Management Areas
- Rely on national policy to make assessment of noise, vibration and light pollution.

3.2.11 The Norfolk County Council Preferred Options on its Core Strategy and Development Control Development Plan Document also includes a framework for monitoring the performance of proposed policies.

3.2.12 The policies in the document which are of most importance to Breckland have been reviewed in Appendix B. Appendix B includes officer recommendations for Breckland comments on the consultation.

Summary of Norfolk Minerals and Waste, Site Allocations Development Plan Document Preferred Options Consultation

3.2.13 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.

3.2.14 The document which is currently subject to consultation is the first phase of consultation on Site Allocations and seeks to establish the public and stakeholders views of minerals and waste sites that have been promoted to the County by land owners and the minerals and waste industries.

3.2.15 The document is split in to two volumes, one which deals with proposed minerals site allocations and the other which deals with proposed waste site allocations.

3.2.16 The documents show all the sites promoted to Norfolk County Council by land owners, developers and their agents.

3.2.17 A total of 104 mineral sites have been put forward to the County Council, 36 of these sites are located in Breckland. Breckland has the most number of minerals sites promoted in the county.

3.2.18 A total of 64 potential waste development sites have been promoted to the County Council, of these 20 are located in Breckland.

3.2.19 The comments that Norfolk County Council receive on these sites will help formulate their preferred selection of minerals and waste site allocations, which will be consulted on in November/December 2008.

3.2.20 Appendices C & D include the maps of all proposed sites in the Norfolk County Council Minerals and Waste Site Allocation Issues and Options Consultation Document, together with Norfolk County Council's comments on the site and Breckland officer comments and recommendations.

3.3 Options

3.3.1 Respond to Norfolk County Council's consultation documents using the Officer comments in Appendices B, C and D of the Report subject to any additional comments from the Panel.

3.3.2 Do not respond to Norfolk County Council's consultation

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 To enable Breckland Council's views as the Local Planning Authority to inform the

preparation of further drafts of the Minerals and Waste Strategy for Norfolk.

4. Risk and Financial Implications

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 I have completed the Risk Management questionnaire and this report does not require a risk assessment because the changes/issues covered by the recommendations are not significant in terms of risk.

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 None

5. Legal Implications

5.1 None

6. Other Implications

a) Equalities: None

b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None

c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: Where there is a conflict with the integrity of statutory protected sites and the amenity of rural communities this has been raised in the responses provided in Appendices B, C and D to the Report.

d) Human Resources: None

e) Human Rights: None

f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004]

7. Alignment to Council Priorities

7.1

- A safe and healthy environment
- A well planned place to live which encourages vibrant communities

8. Ward/Community Affected

8.1 All Wards are affected.

Background Papers

Norfolk County Council Minerals And Waste LDF Core Strategy and Development Control Preferred Options and Site Allocations Issue and Options and supporting evidence (available at www.norfolk.gov.uk)

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Non-Key Decision

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A - Breckland's Comments on the Norfolk Mineral's and Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation July 2007.

Appendix B – Evaluation of Policies contained in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Development Plan Document Preferred Options.

Appendix C – Minerals Site Allocations Issues and Options. Sites in and adjacent to Breckland

Appendix D – Waste Site Allocations Issues and Options. Sites in and adjacent to Breckland