

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

Spatial Distribution of Development

Breckland Comments	Norfolk County Council Response
<p>Minerals - The scale of growth in Breckland and the proposed distribution of development needs to be reflected in the MWLDF. The Thetford Growth Point represents both an opportunity and a challenge in respect of both minerals and waste. The scale of growth in the town will require significant aggregates and generate additional household and commercial waste. It is therefore appropriate that the MWLDF make provision for aggregate sites in Thetford. Solutions could include the use of a railhead either in the town or nearby to deliver aggregates or a facility that can be accessed from the A11. Additionally, the sustainable growth agenda presents the opportunity to encourage the use of recycled aggregates in the town. Dereham and Attleborough are also earmarked for significant growth to 2021 which will require aggregate. Both towns are served by rail and adjoin the strategic road network and it would be appropriate to encourage mineral handling facilities close to these centres. On this basis Breckland Council should support the County Councils option for a more decentralised approach to mineral development. In respect of Thetford the options for growth within environmental limits are already defined. The town is encircled by nature conservation sites of European importance leaving the options for urban extensions to the north and east, the capacity of these extensions is currently being determined by Masterplan work and infrastructure studies. Given the finite amount of developable land available, primary mineral extraction close to Thetford would potentially limit the expansion of the town and undermine the Growth Point status and objective to accelerate housing growth at a sustainable location. This issue needs to be recognised in the development in the MWLDF. Thetford will also need strategic waste infrastructure to deal with waste within the town. There is already a household recycling centre and weighbridge on Burrell Way Industrial Estate, but further capacity and solutions should be investigated. Additionally there is a strong need to provide a household waste facility in the Dereham area for the existing community in and around the town and the future population growth. Again on this basis Breckland Council should support the County Council's option of a more decentralised approach to waste</p>	<p>Thetford had been made a key area around which development will be focused. Both Dereham and Attleborough have also been included for more modest development. The use of railheads will be promoted but</p>

<p>developments. The MWLDF needs to reflect the role of rural areas as part of the strategy for minerals and waste. In Breckland parts of isolated former airfields have accommodated minerals developments (aggregate recycling) and waste transfer and sorting operations. The relative remoteness of these sites avoids direct conflict with local communities although the access to these sites requires careful consideration. Additionally, the MWLDF should give greater support to the potential of suitably located agricultural buildings for waste and minerals purposes.</p>	
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Protection of potential minerals and waste sites

Breckland Comments	Norfolk County Council Response
<p>The vernacular in Breckland is sustained by many local minerals including flint, chalk and carstone, some of which are still extracted in Breckland (e.g. Newton quarry near Castle Acre). It is important that future supplies of these materials are recognised and protected in the Norfolk MWLDF.</p>	<p>Agree</p>

Comments on Waste Management

Breckland Comments	Norfolk County Council Response
<p>The options for the proposed waste hierarchy should be supported, although more consideration needs to be given to the environmental impact around the thermal treatment of waste. Proposals to reduce landfill and the transportation of waste out of the County should be supported provided there is no net increase in the carbon footprint.</p>	<p>No Comment</p>

Protection and enhancement of landscape, core river valleys

Breckland Comments	Norfolk County Council Response
<p>Norfolk County council wishes to seek the protection of core river valleys (although these are not defined). A number of river valleys in Breckland have already been exploited for minerals development including the Wensum, Thet, Wissey and Yare valleys. Breckland Council should strongly support that all river valleys in Breckland are identified as core river valleys and given appropriate protection. This would include the Wensum, Wissey, Nar, Yare, Thet and Little Ouse valleys.</p>	<p>The Core River Valley has been spatially defined and a map will be included in the preferred options report.</p>

Comments on environmental protection

Breckland Comments	Norfolk County Council Response
Issues 19, 20 and 21 - The strong emphasis on environmental protection is supported given the significant number of SSSIs and local wildlife sites in Breckland. The presence of a large number of International nature conservation sites in Breckland needs to be noted in the MWLDF and addressed through Appropriate Assessment.	Appropriate assessment is and has been undertaken on the DPD. The plan will rely on existing national and international policy regarding these sites and as such will not include a local policy, in accordance with PPS12.