

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH MINERALS & WASTE PLAN:
CONSULTATION ON PREFERRED OPTIONS
(Report by Planning Policy Manager)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet of proposals for minerals and waste planning published by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, and recommends a response on behalf of the District Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are responsible for minerals and waste planning in the County. In June / July 2005 they consulted on options for a new planning framework covering these matters, looking ahead to 2021. The Council submitted comments on these options which were approved by Cabinet on the 21 July 2005.

- 2.2 Following this consultation a number of additional locations were proposed and a further consultation took place in March 2006. The Council submitted comments on these options which were approved by Cabinet on the 19 March 2006.

- 2.3 Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have now prepared their preferred options in terms of policies which will guide minerals and waste development up to 2021 and site specific proposals. The consultation period runs from 6 November 2006 to 18 December 2006.

- 2.4 The documents included in the mineral and waste plan are:

- A Core Strategy setting out the overall vision, objectives and policies
- A set of site-specific proposals
- An 'Action Plan' for the Mepal/Earith area, which will examine this area in more detail in view of the numerous sites located there and the many associated issues such as highway impacts, flood protection and restoration
- A Proposals Map

- 2.5 The proposed timetable for producing these documents is as follows:

- Consultation on preferred options (Present stage) – November/ December 06
- Submission to Secretary of State – September/October 2007
- Examination – May 2008
- Adoption – February 2009

3. IMPLICATIONS AND POTENTIAL RESPONSES

Appendix 1 sets out the suggested response to the preferred options identified in this document.

4. RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is recommended to submit observations to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council along the lines set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council (June 2005)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Development Plan: Issues and Options Paper

Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council (November 2006)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Development Plan Document: Preferred Options

Cabinet Reports of 19th March 2006 and 21st July 2005

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APPENDIX 1: SUGGESTED RESPONSES TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

The Council previously commented on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Issues and Options consultation in June/July 2005 and the subsequent consultation on additional sites in March 2006. At these stages the Council raised a number of general concerns which included the process of site selection which relied solely on sites put forward by the minerals and waste industry and the limited information provided on the sites. The sites have now been assessed against a set of criteria and these assessments have been used to select the preferred options.

The Council also responded to a number of questions set out in the Issues and Options paper relating to policy approaches which were of most concern to Huntingdonshire, and the preferred approaches set out in the Core Strategy are generally in line with the comments the Council made.

In particular the Council is supportive of the acknowledgement of the need for any further extraction of river valley deposits to contribute towards an enhanced recreation and biodiversity afteruse and of the policies relating to the protection of residential amenity and wildlife sites. The Council is also supportive of the use of recycled or secondary aggregates and the use of borrow pits where they provide the most sustainable option. The Core Strategy also highlights the need for a Household Waste Recycling Centre in the St Neots area which reflects the Council's previous comments.

The Council also commented on a number of sites which had been put forward for minerals and waste in Huntingdonshire and the immediate surrounding area.

Minerals Extraction:

The document only identifies one site for mineral extraction in Huntingdonshire at Little Paxton. The Council supports the extension of the quarry at Little Paxton which when completed will become a large nature conservation area. However the Council would like to draw the minerals and waste authorities' attention to the comments previously made by the Council on this site at the Issues and Options consultation regarding impact on historic and environmental features and on the village of Diddington.

A mineral safeguarding area has been identified at Needingworth. This area is located on the south eastern edge of the existing quarry. Within a safeguarding area there will be a presumption against any development which would prejudice future extraction of an identified mineral resource. The Council supports the identification of mineral safeguarding areas to ensure there are supplies of mineral available in the County in the future.

Kings Delph, Whittlesey has also been identified as a preferred location for sand and gravel and brick clay extraction and the Council would like to highlight its previous comments made regarding the need to examine the impact on the B1040 and the B1095.

Earith/ Mepal Area Action Plan

The report recommends the phasing out of extraction in Earith/Somersham due to access difficulties which reflects the comments the Council made on proposals in this area. The report now focuses mineral extraction in the north east section of the Earith/ Mepal Area Action Plan area. This approach is supported by the Council.

Waste recycling and recovery:

The report identifies new waste recycling and recovery plants, seven of these sites are located in Huntingdonshire. The sites at ADAS, Woodhurst/ Adjacent A1, Alconbury/ Needingworth Quarry, Needingworth and Station Farm, Buckden are acceptable provided the Council's previous comments relating to impact on road networks, landscaping, timescales and relocation of the A14 are taken into account.

The site at Puddock Hill, Warboys was previously assessed by the Council as unacceptable for hazardous landfill due to impact on human health, the water environment, stress on the social and economic fabric and impact of odours which do not apply to waste recovery and recycling, however the issue of poor road infrastructure was also raised and this concern remains with the proposed allocation.

There are two areas, Alconbury Airfield, Alconbury and St Neots, which have been identified as areas for search where the precise location for a facility will be determined through masterplanning or the planning application process. At Alconbury Airfield, a facility would be supported provided there are no adverse impacts on historic or environmental features or the amenity of surrounding villages. In St Neots the proposals map highlights three areas within the industrial areas to the east and south west of St Neots. The Council would like to reiterate that this is an area where there is an identified need and it is important that work on identifying a suitable location continues to be progressed particularly bearing in mind the desire of the District Council to encourage the redevelopment of the existing facility through an Urban Design Framework.

Inert Landfill:

The Council objects to the identification of the site at Woolpack Farm, Hemingford Grey for inert waste disposal. In previous comments the Council assessed the site as unacceptable due to visual impact and access issues.

Hazardous Waste disposal:

The report suggests an extension to the existing hazardous waste landfill site taking stable and non-reactive waste as part of the quarry restoration near Thornhaugh, Peterborough. The Council previously assessed this site as unacceptable for a major non-landfill waste management facility (incorporating energy from waste), but in view of the need for sites for stable non-reactive hazardous landfill this would seem an appropriate location. The Council support the exclusion of the site at Puddock Hill, Warboys for hazardous waste disposal.