

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH WASTE LOCAL PLAN  
PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS  
(Report by Planning Policy Manager)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the Waste Local Plan produced jointly by the Waste Planning Authorities of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council for the period 1998 to 2011 inclusive.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Deposit stage of this Local Plan took place in two phases. Phase One Public Consultation occurred in August/September 2000 and Huntingdonshire District Council submitted **objections** in respect of waste facilities at Alconbury Airfield and Meadow Lane, St Ives.
- 2.2 Following the first phase consultation that took place on the Deposit Local Plan the Meadow Lane site at St Ives was deleted as a preferred site for a major waste management facility under policy WLP17.
- 2.3 To prevent a consequent shortfall within the area a site on the western side of Station Farm, Buckden was included in the second phase in the revised Deposit Local Plan.
- 2.4 No modifications were made in respect of the proposals to allocate Alconbury Airfield as an area of search for a major waste management facility. Therefore Huntingdonshire District Council maintained its objection to this allocation and subsequently contracted RPS Consultants to submit written representations on behalf of HDC at the Public Inquiry held between 16 July 2002 and 18 November 2002.
- 2.5 The grounds for HDC's objections to the Alconbury airfield site are twofold. Firstly, the inclusion of the airfield as an area of search is inconsistent with, and inimical to, the exercise of strategic choice through the mainstream development plan process of the Structure Plan and District Local Plan.
- 2.6 Secondly it is considered that the inclusion of the Airfield in the area of search will be harmful in its own right due to a range of ecological, archaeological and other interests. It was argued that the nature of development to which this allocation would lead would be inherently more harmful to these interests than the high quality employment development which the District Council would favour through the structure and local plan process. Indeed the constraints of the site may lead to the developable area of the airfield being reduced such that a waste facility and a high quality development could not be

simultaneously accommodated. The relevant timescale of the plans may result in waste development going ahead before the District Local Plan has reached a stage where employment development can proceed, reducing the chances of such employment development going ahead at all.

### **3. INSPECTORS REPORT AND THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Inspectors report on the Inquiry into Objections to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan was received in December 2002 and the proposed modifications were received in May 2003.
- 3.2 The Inspector concluded that the allocation of the Alconbury Airfield site would not have an inimical effect on strategic choice. In effect, an additional land use is being promoted where there are a limited number of suitable sites in the Huntingdon area. It is the role of the waste local plan to identify new sites sufficient to make adequate future provision for waste and this allocation is in accordance with those objectives. The Inspector considered that strategic considerations are not being prejudiced or undermined in any significant way through this allocation and recommended that no modifications be made to the waste local plan in this respect.
- 3.3 With regard to the site itself the Inspector concluded that whilst development at Alconbury Airfield would be affected by a variety of constraints, given that an area of search is proposed any unacceptable conflicts could be avoided. In any event, it would be necessary for any proposal for a major waste management facility to be considered in the light of specific environmental policies.
- 3.4 Protection of the surrounding uses both currently and through whatever development may take place at the airfield site would be considered under Policy WLP 9 (*Protecting Surrounding Uses*) of the Waste Local Plan. This would enable the quality of the business development to be safeguarded. In addition, any major waste management developments would be expected to accord with proposals for the layout and design of the airfield as a whole including land use allocations and traffic effects. Therefore in this respect the Inspector recommended that Policy WLP 9 be added as a policy issue in respect of the Alconbury Airfield (Area of Search) allocation.
- 3.5 The proposed modifications follow the recommendations of the Inspector with regard to the Alconbury Airfield Area of Search and as such it remains as an allocation within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan. The only modification regarding the proposal is the inclusion of Policy WLP 9 – Protecting Surrounding Uses, as an issue for consideration.
- 3.6 There are no other proposed modifications to the second Deposit Plan that are considered to be of significant relevance to Huntingdonshire in addition to those noted above.

- 3.7 This stage of the plan process allows for a round of consultation on the proposed modifications to the plan only. As no significant modifications have been made in respect of the Alconbury Airfield allocation HDC is unable to make further comment on this issue. As there are no other modifications of significant consequence for Huntingdonshire it is not considered appropriate to make any further representations on the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the Cabinet note the comments of the Inspector with regard to the Council's outstanding objection and the Proposed Modifications to the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan.

#### **Background Papers:**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan: Proposed Modifications  
May 2003

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan: Inquiry into Objections –  
Inspectors Report December 2002

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan: Revised Deposit.  
October 2001

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan: Deposit. August 2000  
Cabinet 1 November 2001 (Agenda Item )

Development Control Panel 18 September 2000 (Agenda Item 2)

Cabinet 28 September 2000 (Agenda Item 8)

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