

Minerals and Waste Joint Plan: Issues and Options Consultation

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability of the current position with regard to the progress of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for North Yorkshire, York and North York Moors and to seek approval in respect of the Issues and Options consultation documents (attached at Annex A) for the purposes of public consultation.

Background

2. The City of York Council as a unitary authority is also a waste and minerals planning authority and to satisfy the provisions in Planning Policy Statement 10 and the National Planning Policy Framework, it must develop the necessary policies for minerals and waste. This statutory responsibility effectively involves identifying all waste arising in the area from all sources, such as, household, commercial, hazardous and agricultural, and demonstrating how this is dealt with spatially. With regard to minerals it is necessary to identify the requirement for minerals including aggregates and how these will be sourced. Both these tasks have to be addressed for the lifetime of any development plan.
3. City of York is currently preparing a Local Plan with strategic policies on minerals and waste and a separate joint minerals and waste development plan document with North Yorkshire County Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority. This is known as the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan.
4. The Minerals and Waste Joint Plan involves a number of key public consultation stages to ensure there is every opportunity for community involvement. The key stages include:

- First Consultation (completed May/June 2013)
 - Issues and Options Consultation (Scheduled for February/March 2014)
 - Preferred Options Consultation (Scheduled to commence October 2014)
 - Pre-Submission Publication stage (Scheduled to commence early 2015)
 - Submission stage (Scheduled for Spring 2015)
 - Examination in Public (Scheduled for Summer 2015)
 - Adoption (Expected late 2015)
5. The First Consultation stage took place in May and June 2013. This stage presented initial information about the Plan and sought views on what the Plan should contain. The comments received were assessed, along with relevant evidence, and fed into the forthcoming Issues and Options consultation documents. A summary of the responses is contained at Annex B.
 6. The Issues and Options stage is a key stage of the process involving the identification of realistic and reasonable options to address the issues identified and to give other parties an opportunity to suggest alternative options. Each potential option has also undergone a sustainability appraisal to aid the selection of the most suitable option; this information is included in the Issues and Options documents (Annex A)
 7. The options which are selected following the Issues and Options stage will be presented in a Preferred Options consultation before a draft plan is produced.

Key Issues

8. The Plan addresses key issues relating to future minerals supply, particularly aggregate minerals (sand and gravel and crushed rock) and potential future waste capacity requirements. The Plan also deals with protection of amenity and the environment in relation to minerals and waste activity, as well as related social and economic issues.
9. It contains a vision and objectives to help give direction to the policies. The vision provides a picture of what the Plan hopes to achieve by 2030 in terms of minerals and waste development activity. Essentially it

seeks a balance between meeting needs for minerals and waste development and protecting and enhancing the economy, environment and communities. The objectives provide a means of taking the vision forward to help ensure it is achieved within the timeframe of the Plan.

10. The Plan may also allocate minerals and waste sites to support minerals supply and provide adequate waste management capacity up to 2030. A range of sites were submitted for consideration by interested parties as part of the First Consultation. An outline plan and simple proforma for the sites in York is included for information at Annex C. The sites are not proposed by the Council and are just included for information at this stage. These will be assessed in detail against a site methodology and will undergo a Sustainability Appraisal before being put out for formal consultation at the Preferred Options stage later in 2014.
11. Three sites have been submitted in the York area:
 - Harewood Whin, Rufforth
Retention of following facilities beyond 2017 – landfill, open windrow composting, recycling, energy from waste, kerbside recycling and waste transfer operation.
 - North Selby Mine, Escrick
Anaerobic digestion and horticultural glasshouse project including CHP units.
 - Dutton Farm, Upper Poppleton
Extraction of clay followed by landfill with inert material.

Financial Implications

12. The production of a Joint Plan is expected to lead to an opportunity for some cost savings over the total life of the project, arising partly from merging minerals and waste issues into a single plan and, particularly, through the holding of a joint Examination in Public, which provides an opportunity to share legal, administrative and certain other costs between the three authorities. The sharing of costs is detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the three authorities. Table 1 below shows a break down of the costs over the period of the plan production. Costs will need to be contained within budgets across the directorate that support the Local Plan and Waste Strategy.

Table 1

Year	Description	Cost
2013/14	Evidence base	£22,700
2013/14	Waste and Minerals Specialist	£4,977
2013/14	Consultation (Initial and Issues & Options)	£5,000
2014/15	Consultation (Preferred Options and Pre-submission)	£10,000
2014/15	Waste and Minerals Specialist	£5,000
2015/16	Examination (will depend on split between authorities)	£30,000
		£77,677

Consultation

13. The comments received from the First Consultation have been taken into account and relevant points taken forward into the Issues and Options stage. A summary of the responses is contained in Annex B and is also available on the County Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwjointplan . County Council is hosting the joint webpage; there will be a link from the City of York's Local Plan page to this.
14. Informal consultation with relevant internal service areas has taken place during preparation of the draft Issues and Options consultation documents.
15. Public consultation on the Issues and Options document is expected to take place during February and March 2014. The comments received will be considered and used to help decide the most appropriate or preferred option or options for each issue.
16. A detailed consultation strategy will follow setting out specific dates, documents to be circulated and consultation methods. This report requests that the approval of this strategy (as one of the consultation documents) be delegated to informal discussions with the Cabinet Member.

Option Choices

17. The following options are available for the Cabinet Member to consider:

Option 1 – note the content of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Issues and Options documents and approve them for the purpose of public consultation.

Option 2 – note the content of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Issues and Options documents and, subject to a number of changes in response to discussion at this session, approve them for the purpose of public consultation.

Option 3 – reject the Joint Mineral and Waste Plan Issues and Options and defer consultation.

Analysis

18. It is considered that the best option is to approve the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Issues and Options documents for consultation in February/March. This will ensure that the key milestones are achieved and the industry and public are given the opportunity to view the contents of the document and the potential sites for minerals and waste operations at the earliest date. This will also mean that the document can have an influence of the strategic waste and minerals policies in the York Local Plan publication draft.

Implications

19. **Financial** – The cost of the Plan can be contained within budgets across the directorate that support the Local Plan and Waste Strategy.

20. **Human Resources** – None.

21. **Equalities** – None

22. **Legal** –None

23. **Crime and Disorder** – None.

24. **Information Technology** – None.

25. **Property** – None.

26. **Risk Management** – None

Recommendations

27. The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

Note the current position of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan and to:

- i) Approve the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Issues and Options consultation documents for the purposes of public consultation.
- ii) Give authorisation to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability to make non-substantive editorial changes to the draft consultation documents prior to publication.

Reason: So that the Plan can progress to public consultation.

Contact Details:

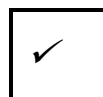
Authors

Rebecca Harrison
Development Officer
Tel No: (01904) 551667

Chief Officer Responsible for the report

Mike Slater
Assistant Director for Strategic
Planning & Transport
Tel No: 01904 551300

**Report
Approved**



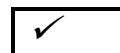
Date 03/01/2014

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Patrick Looker
Finance Manager
(01904) 551491

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the authors of the report.

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes:

Annex A – Joint Waste and Minerals Plan Issues and Options

Annex B – Summary of consultation responses from the Initial Consultation

Annex C – Sites submitted in York

Please note, due to the size of the above annexes they will be available online only or paper copy on request.