

**Cabinet**

**16 December 2014**

**Report of the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning and Sustainability**

**Minerals and Waste Joint Plan: Interim Sites Consultation**

**Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members 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 Additional or Revised Sites consultation document (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 (Completed March/April 2014)
  - **Additional or Revised Sites Consultation (Scheduled to commence December 2014)**
  - Preferred Options Consultation (Scheduled to commence June 2015)
  - Pre-Submission Publication stage (Scheduled to commence November 2015)
  - Submission stage (Scheduled for March 2016)
  - Examination in Public (Scheduled for Summer 2016)
  - Adoption (Expected late 2016)
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 Issues and Options consultation documents.
6. The Issues and Options stage was consulted on in March/April 2014 and was 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. 2405 responses were received at this stage and these will influence the Preferred Options stage which will be consulted on in June/July 2015.
7. The Issues and Options consultation ran for eight weeks from 14th February to 11th April 2014. The Issues and Options consultation was publicised through a range of means consisting of:
- Press release issued jointly by the three authorities, plus an additional 'reminder' press release two weeks prior to the close of the consultation:
  - Article in the NYCC electronic newsletter NY NOW (4,014 subscribers);
  - Posters displayed in libraries and on parish council notice boards;
  - Twitter and Facebook announcements by all three authorities;
  - Information on the Joint Plan webpage.
8. A wide range of consultees were contacted either by letter or by email. All consultees were sent details of the consultation along with either a paper or electronic copy of the summary leaflet. Details of how to access other documents on the Joint Plan website and how to make comments were

provided in the letter or email, with an option of receiving paper copies also given if requested. A reminder email or postcard was sent to each of the 'specific' consultees and Parish Councils two weeks prior to the close of the consultation.

9. The summary leaflet, background paper and comments forms were also made available in libraries throughout the Plan area and in the offices of each of the three authorities.
10. A number of drop-in sessions were held in 10 libraries across the Joint Plan area and in the City of York Council's main headquarters. These were advertised in the press releases, on posters, on the consultation page of the Joint Plan website and within the letters and emails sent directly to consultees. The drop-in sessions were held from either 1pm – 6pm or 2pm – 7pm (depending on library opening times). The drop-in events were visited by a total of 92 individuals.
11. A total of 2,408 comments were received from 332 respondents. The breakdown of respondents is:
  - 13 Local Authorities
  - 37 Environment and amenity groups, consultants / Agents or other organisations
  - 231 individuals or local businesses
  - 24 minerals and waste industry
  - 19 parish councils
  - 7 statutory bodies
  - 1 Internal department
12. A full summary of responses document (350 pages) is available on the Joint Plan website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwjointplan](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwjointplan)

### **Consultation on Additional or Revised Sites**

13. The Issues and Options Consultation document Appendix 1 provided initial details of minerals and waste sites submitted to the authorities for consideration as to whether they were suitable for inclusion in the Joint Plan.
14. This update comprises a supplementary consultation in respect of new sites received and amendments to existing proposals received as a result of the Issues and Options Consultation. We will be seeking views on these

additional sites/ revised information prior to the next stage of preparation of the Joint Plan, the Preferred Options, anticipated June 2015.

15. Three sites in the York area were included in the Issues and Options stage:
- 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.
16. This consultation indicates that Harewood Whin, Rufforth has a revised area. The site area has been amended to include the current Materials Recycling Facility and Waste Transfer Station application area following discussions with the operator.

### **Financial Implications**

17. 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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
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	Additional or Revised Sites Consultation	£2,000
2015/16	Consultation (Preferred Options and Pre-submission)	£10,000

2015/16	Waste and Minerals Specialist	£5,000
2015/16	Examination (will depend on split between authorities)	£30,000
		<b>£79,677</b>

## Consultation

18. The comments received from the First Consultation were taken into account and relevant points taken forward into the Issues and Options stage. A summary of the Issues and Options consultation responses are available on line: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwjointplan](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwjointplan). These will feed into the next full stage of the Joint Plan; the Preferred Options.
19. Ongoing informal consultation with relevant internal service areas has taken place during preparation of all stages of the Joint Plan consultation documents.
20. Public consultation on the Issues and Options document took place during February –April 2014. The comments received will be considered and used to help decide the most appropriate or preferred option or options for each issue.
21. A detailed consultation strategy is being prepared 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

22. The following options are available for Cabinet to consider:

**Option 1** – note the content of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Additional or Revised Sites documents and approve them for the purpose of public consultation.

**Option 2** – note the content of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Additional or Revised Sites 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 Additional or Revised Sites documents and defer consultation.

## **Analysis**

23. It is considered that the best option is to approve the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Additional or Revised Sites documents for consultation in October/November 2014. 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.

## **Implications**

24. **Financial** – The cost of the Plan can be contained within budgets across the directorate that support the Local Plan and Waste Strategy.
25. **Human Resources** – None.
26. **Equalities** – None
27. **Legal** –None
28. **Crime and Disorder** – None.
29. **Information Technology** – None.
30. **Property** – None.
31. **Risk Management** - None

## **Recommendations**

32. In accordance with Option One, the report recommends that Cabinet Members :
- i) Note the current position of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan and to:
  - ii) Approve the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Additional or Revised Sites documents for the purposes of public consultation.
  - iii) Give authorisation to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning and Sustainability to make non-substantive editorial changes to the draft consultation documents prior to publication.

**Reason:** So that the document can progress to public consultation.

**Contact Details:**

**Authors**

**Cabinet Member & Chief Officer  
Responsible for the report**

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 08.12.14

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**Wards Affected:**

All



**For further information please contact the authors of the report.**

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Annexes:**

Annex A – Joint Waste and Minerals Plan Additional or Revised Sites  
Consultation