

**DELEGATED**

**AGENDA NO**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: TEES VALLEY JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE CORE STRATEGY AND SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS (DPDS) FIRST PUBLICATION DRAFT AND SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL.**

**SUMMARY**

This report updates members on progress in the production of the Joint Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents and Sustainability Appraisal. It seeks endorsement of the First Publication Draft Reports and Sustainability Appraisal for a six-week period of public consultation beginning in August 2009. The reports are attached for information.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Members are recommended to: -

1. Endorse the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents First Publication Draft and Sustainability Appraisal for public consultation.
2. Delegate to officers amendments to the document of an editorial nature prior to the public consultation period.

**DETAIL**

1. Members will recall that the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit is preparing Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents on behalf of the Tees Valley Local Planning Authorities. In setting up the arrangements for this joint working, it was agreed that each authority would separately approve any consultation documents.
2. Two DPDs will provide the policy framework for determining planning applications for minerals developments for the period to 2024 and waste developments to 2021, these are:-
  - The Core Strategy DPD which sets out overall strategy and generic development control policies for determining applications for minerals and waste developments,
  - The Site Allocations DPD which identifies specific sites for future development and which contains detailed policies for assessing planning applications.

Both documents are accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal of the options considered and selected.

3. The First Publication Draft Report is a key milestone in the preparation of a development plan document and represents the final stage in the production process prior to submission of the documents to the Secretary of State . The first stage was the Issues and Options Report, which was consulted on in May-June 2007. The second phase of this process was the Preferred Options report, which was consulted on during February – April 2008. It is intended to publish the Core Strategy and Site Allocations First Publication Documents and the associated Sustainability Appraisal for a six-week consultation period beginning in August 2009. Following this the documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2009, with an examination into the soundness of the documents occurring during 2010.
4. The documents have three overarching purposes:
  - To ensure the production of sufficient quantities of minerals in the sub-region to support anticipated levels of growth expected to 2024,
  - To support the development of a network of waste management facilities, which will be able to deal with the waste generated in the sub region in a sustainable manner.
  - To ensure that the environment and amenity of the residents of the Tees Valley are protected.

### **Core Strategy DPD**

5. This document sets out the overall vision and strategic objectives for minerals and waste policy in the Tees Valley. In summary, the vision states that in 2025 the Tees Valley sub-region will be a place where:
  - Priority is given to the production of secondary and recycled aggregates for the construction industry. Whilst the limited extraction of primary aggregate minerals is carefully managed, with the remaining resources and infrastructure safeguarded.
  - The specialist industries which re-use, recycle and recover value from waste are thriving. By taking advantage of the Tees Valley and the opportunities for symbiotic relationships with existing petrochemical, steel and environmental industries, the waste management industry in the Tees Valley forms a centre of excellence
  - Local communities, industry and local authorities can identify and access the waste management facilities they require.
6. The Core strategy also sets out twelve strategic objectives:
  - To provide an agreed and appropriate contribution from sources in the Tees Valley towards the provision of a steady supply of minerals to the construction and other industries;
  - To minimise the use of primary aggregates and prioritise the use of secondary and alternative materials for construction use;
  - To safeguard minerals resources from unnecessary sterilisation;
  - To support the implementation of the Tees Valley Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in particular in seeking to minimise waste production;
  - To promote the re-use, recycling and recovery of value from waste;
  - To provide a network of small scale waste management facilities which is accessible to local communities;

- To promote the development of resource recovery parks where symbiotic relationships between industries can flourish;
- To promote the management of waste close to its point of production;
- To safeguard sustainable minerals transport infrastructure and promote the use of sustainable transport, in particular the existing rail and port facilities in the Tees Valley;
- To protect and enhance the quality and diversity of the natural, historic and cultural heritage of the Tees Valley through minerals and waste development;
- To ensure the highest standards in the operation, environmental management and restoration of existing and new minerals extraction and landfill sites;
- To ensure the highest standards of design, operation and environmental management of waste management and minerals processing facilities.

### **Minerals**

7. Evidence indicates that no new sites need to be allocated for sand gravel and hard rock extraction in the Tees Valley, as there are sufficient resources at existing sites, which includes Stockton Quarry within the Borough.
8. With regard to recycled and secondary aggregate, whilst a number of facilities already exist, it is considered that opportunities should be taken to provide additional facilities where possible.
9. There are limited reserves of coal in the sub region but no interest has been expressed by operators in its extraction.

### **Waste**

10. Tees Valley has more than sufficient existing and planned capacity to deal with recycling and recovery of predicted municipal waste arisings. However by 2020/21, it is predicted that extra capacity will be needed for composting and that this could be accommodated by one additional site.
11. Additional capacity will be needed to deal with commercial and demolition and hazardous waste. In particular additional capacity is required for incineration, physical and chemical treatment and solvent, oil, oil/water and metal recovery.
12. With regard to the spatial distribution of sites, it is proposed that a combined approach involving clusters of related waste management facilities and small individual sites should be taken. Clusters would be located in traditional industrial areas around the river Tees and should make use of existing rail and port infrastructure. Small sites would be more widely distributed throughout the Tees Valley and well related to the urban area. All sites should seek to use previously developed land.
13. When sites are allocated for waste management purposes, the type of waste to be handled on the site will be clearly defined. Site boundaries will be clearly identified and preference will be given to the use of existing sites and extensions to them.

14. Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear are the two significant producers of hazardous waste in the northern region. The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) requires that each make provision for additional capacity to handle the predicted growth in hazardous waste arisings over the plan period. These predictions are only undertaken on a regional basis and it is forecast that by 2010/11 hazardous waste arisings will have increased to 567,000 tonnes and that by 2021/22 the increase will be to 671,000 tonnes. For comparison, the northeast dealt with 733,062 tonnes of hazardous waste in 2006. For the region as a whole, it is estimated that there is already sufficient capacity for hazardous waste management in the North East Region. However there are 202,000 tonnes of hazardous waste which is landfilled or transferred for disposal every year. There is potential to move manage this waste in a more sustainable manner through the provision of additional facilities.
15. The DPDs concentrate on providing sufficient facilities to allow the sustainable management of the waste which will arise within the Tees Valley area over the plan period. However, the documents also recognise that some waste companies in the Tees Valley import waste from outside the sub-region to be dealt with at their sites. This provides a source of economic success which is expected to continue.

#### **Site Allocations DPD.**

16. As well as identifying specific sites where mineral and waste activity will be acceptable, this document previously included general development control criteria, which applications were to be assessed against. During the production of this latest version of the document these criteria were deleted as they were considered to be repetition of existing planning policy. It is envisaged that this deleted information will be used to develop a Supplementary Planning Document on Minerals and Waste Developments following adoption of these DPDs.
17. With regard to the site allocations:
  - No new sites are allocated for mineral activity but sites submitted by operators for Haverton Hill and Augean Waste for the Port Clarence site do contain elements that will produce alternative aggregates materials.
  - With regard to the allocation of sites for waste handling, the following sites are proposed for allocation in Stockton:
    - Port Clarence (proposed by Augean Waste) for a range of advanced waste, treatment technologies focused primarily on the treatment of hazardous waste
    - Haverton Hill (proposed by SITA) proposed expansion of existing facilities (energy from waste, household waste recycling and green composting facilities) for treatment of municipal solid waste and commercial and industrial waste.
    - Household Waste Recycling Centre (proposed by Stockton Council) – a previous site at Bowesfield is considered to be unviable. However, the document contains a policy identifying an area of search for sites for this development.
18. Billingham Anhydrite Mines are not discussed within this document. NPL Estates submitted the former anhydrite mines at Billingham for consideration as a site allocation for waste management purposes for the storage of hazardous waste, such as ash and other residues, from energy from waste facilities. The proposal was to store 100,000 tonnes a year for a 20-year

period. However the Preferred Options document supported the Port Clarence site for this in preference to the anhydrite mines because it was considered that it takes a more sustainable approach to the management of waste than simple storage. Therefore, it is not considered necessary at this stage to include reference to the Anhydrite mines within the document.

## **Next Steps**

19. Following the Publication stage, the DPDs will be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2009. The DPDs will then progress to an independent examination in March 2010 before adoption in July 2010.

## **Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services**

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**Financial Implications** – Any financial implications will be accommodated within normal budgetary provisions.

**Environmental Implications** – These documents have been subjected to a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment in order to identify and mitigate any impact that proposed policies may have on the environment.

**Legal Implications** - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce Local Development Frameworks, which consist of a portfolio of local development documents (LDDs) setting out spatial planning policies for a defined area. LDDs may be produced on an area or subject basis and joint working, on issues such as minerals and waste, which frequently involves strategic issues that cut across local authority boundaries, is particularly encouraged under the new system. All spatial planning documents must be subject to a sustainability appraisal.

## **Community Safety Implications -**

### Economic Regeneration and Transport

These documents are intended to assist in the development of sustainable planning policies for the production of minerals and the handling of waste and seek to protect and enhance the quality of the Borough's environment.

### Safer Communities

The documents will provide a policy framework for the determination of planning applications for minerals and waste development in the Borough, which will seek to minimise or remove any potential negative impacts on the health and well being of the community.

### Children and Young People

No direct implications.

### Healthier Communities and Adults

See above.

## Liveability

One of the overarching objectives of these documents is to meet the need for minerals resources and facilities for the handling of waste in a sustainable manner which contributes to the Tees Valley being a place where present and future generations have a high quality of life and where all members of the community have the opportunity to realise their full potential through the provision of a vibrant economy, a safe and healthy environment and dynamic educational and cultural resources.

### **Human Rights Implications -**

#### **Background Papers –**

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004  
Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals  
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management  
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning

**Ward**                      **N/A**

**Ward Councillor**      **N/A**