

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE

16 OCTOBER 2007

**MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – MINERALS AND
WASTE SITE ALLOCATIONS PREFERRED OPTIONS**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Executive to undertake public consultation on preferred sites for inclusion in the North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (Site Allocations) Development Plan documents.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Work on production of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) for North Yorkshire commenced in 2005. When complete, the MWDF will comprise a group of documents which, collectively, will set out the local Policy Framework for Minerals and Waste for those parts of the County which fall outside the National Parks. The MWDF will initially cover the period to 2021.
- 2.2 In particular, the MWDF will include:-
- i. Separate **Core Strategies for Minerals and Waste**, setting out the overall approach to Minerals and Waste Planning in the County, together with specific policies to help guide the determination of individual planning applications.
 - ii. Separate **Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Documents**, identifying particular sites or areas within the county where minerals and/or waste development will be regarded as acceptable in principle, subject to planning permission being obtained.
- 2.3 The production of the various elements of the MWDF is proceeding simultaneously in accordance with statutory processes established in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and a Local Development Scheme, which identifies the range of documents which will form the MWDF and the indicative timetable for their preparation. The Local Development Scheme has been agreed with Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber. In July 2007, County Council approved the draft Minerals and Waste Core Strategies for submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination. A brief summary of the key past and future stages of MWDF preparation is shown in the following table:

Document	Initial consultation	Preferred Options Consultation	Submission for Examination	Examination in Public	Adoption
Minerals and Waste Core Strategies	Summer 2005	Winter 2006 - 07	Autumn 2007	Spring 2008	Summer 2008
Minerals and Waste Site Allocations	Summer 2005 Summer 2007	Autumn 2007	Spring 2008	Winter 2008/9	Spring 2009

Whilst work to date has been focusing on Core Strategy preparation, initial consultation has also been taking place on a range of sites put forward by industry, landowners and other interested parties for potential identification as Preferred Areas in the Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Documents. More information about this consultation process is set out later in this report.

- 2.4 The Executive now needs to determine which sites should go forward as “preferred” sites for further consultation. This is in line with a statutory requirement to carry out consultation on draft MWDF documents.
- 2.5 The purpose of the preferred options consultation is to allow the Council to receive further feedback on sites, and carry out further assessment, before determining which sites should ultimately be included in the final Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Documents to be submitted for examination in public. Submission of the Site Allocations Document is currently scheduled to take place in May 2008.
- 2.6 The following documents are available to Members via the County Council website:-
- Draft Waste Site Allocations Preferred Options document
 - Draft Minerals Site Allocations Preferred Options document
 - A summary list of preferred and discounted sites
 - Plans showing the location of submitted sites
 - A summary of the views of the seven area committees received during initial consultation on the submitted sites
 - A summary of responses to external consultation

3.0 THE SUBMITTED SITES

- 3.1 In total, 28 submissions for potential development for Waste Management purposes have been received and 34 submissions for potential minerals development. A number of the site submissions for minerals development contain more than one discreet area.

Since submission, two sites for potential mineral development (Pallett Hill Quarry and Black Quarry, both in Richmondshire District) have been withdrawn by the submitter, leaving 32 submissions for consideration.

- 3.2 A series of plans showing the sites is appended to this report. These are referenced to relate to the sites identified in the draft consultation documents.
- 3.3 The nature of the submissions range from relatively small scale inert waste recycling, through to major new sites for potential mineral extraction or large scale waste management. Summary details of the various submissions are set out in the draft consultation documents.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Initial public consultation has taken place on all sites submissions received to date, through publication of three separate Site Allocations Issues and Options Consultation documents. Consultation has included sending copies of the documents to all Parish Councils in the County and those immediately adjoining its boundary, District Councils and a wide range of statutory and non statutory bodies. Copies of all the documents have also been available in all libraries in the County and on the Council's website. **A substantial number of responses to consultation have been received, and summaries of these are available for members to access and view on the County Council website, within Minerals and Waste Development Framework / Site Allocations and under the title Site Allocations Summary Response Reports.**
- 4.2 Reports on all relevant sites have also been brought to the appropriate Area Committees, in line with the wishes of the Executive expressed during earlier reporting. Where an Area Committee has expressed a particular view on a site or sites, these views are summarised in the attached Appendix.

5.0 SITE ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 Each submitted site has been appraised as relevant against a range of site selection criteria, which have themselves been subject to consultation during preparation of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies. The Site Allocations Documents are required to be in conformity with the Council's Core Strategy approach for Minerals and Waste Development and this is a key factor helping to determine selection of sites. The draft Site Allocations documents have been prepared using the site selection criteria, the Core Strategy context, feedback from consultation and professional analysis by officers.

6.0 **KEY ISSUES**

6.1 **Minerals**

Key issues informing the selection of sites for potential minerals development include:

- Ensuring that the Council can meet expected future requirements for minerals, as identified in national and regional planning policy. In particular, there are specific national and regional guidelines relating to the provision of aggregate minerals (sand and gravel and crushed rock) which, in terms on volume, are the most significant minerals worked in the County. The requirements of these guidelines have been reflected in turn in the Minerals Core Strategy.
- Further to the above, identifying new sites for sand and gravel extraction in the county to meet a potential shortfall in supply of between 15 and 16 million tonnes over the period 2021. The Minerals Core Strategy indicates that the County will seek to meet this shortfall through the identification of preferred areas for future sand and gravel extraction in a way which reflects separate northwards and southwards distribution areas for sand and gravel production.
- Securing the maintenance of production of other minerals, including clay and silica sand, which are also worked in the County and whose continued supply is also supported by national guidelines.
- With respect to crushed rock aggregate, the scale of existing reserves indicates that large scale new permissions are not required at this stage and the core strategy approach is to support the principal of extending existing sites where appropriate, rather than permitting new “green field” sites.

6.2 **Waste**

Key issues informing the selection of sites for potential waste development include:

- The need to identify a range of site opportunities to facilitate more sustainable waste management. In particular this will require identification of sites which support a shift in waste management practice away from landfill and towards other forms of waste management, including re-use, recycling, composting as well as treatment processes such as thermal treatment or mechanical and biological treatment.

- Identifying sites which could meet requirements for a range of waste streams, as required by national and regional policy for waste management and planning. It is expected that the waste site allocations document will be a key mechanism to support delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for York and North Yorkshire, as well as waste management objectives for other waste streams such as Commercial and Industrial and Construction and Demolition waste.
- The precise nature of proposals brought forward will be determined partly in response to market influences, developments in technology and the evolving national and regional policy position relating to waste management and planning, including expected revised policies in Yorkshire and Humber regional Spatial Strategy. It is anticipated that a substantial number of new sites will be required in the County in order to provide a range of appropriate opportunities. The position will need to be kept under review through the monitoring and review mechanisms to be incorporated within the MWDF.

7.0 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The preferred sites identified in the draft consultation documents are considered to represent the most appropriate combination of sites to meet potential minerals and waste development requirements, taking into account the core strategy approach, site selection criteria, consultee feedback, sustainability appraisal and professional judgement. It is important to emphasise that the final decisions on which sites the Council should put forward for public examination are not scheduled to be taken until May 2008, at the “submission” stage of the process. The requirement at this stage is to undertake consultation on a range of preferred sites to help inform the final choice of sites next year.
- 7.2 Any sites approved to go forward as preferred options will be subject to a six week period of public consultation, provisionally scheduled to commence on 12 November 2007. It is intended that views of the Area Committees will once again be sought, this time during the November/December round of meetings.
- 7.3 The Executive is therefore asked to approve the appended draft Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Preferred Options documents for the purposes of public consultation. A further report to Executive, reporting on the outcome of consultation and seeking a recommendation to County Council on the final choice of sites for submission for examination, will be brought in due course.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That the Executive:-

- i. Approve the draft Minerals and Waste Site Allocations Preferred Options documents for the purposes of public consultation
- ii. Authorise the Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services, to finalise the text of the draft documents prior to the commencement of the consultation exercise.

GORDON GRETTY
Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services

List of attached documents:

Draft **Waste** Site Allocations Preferred Options Document

Summary list of Preferred and Discounted waste site Allocations

Key plan showing distribution of submitted waste sites

Plans showing location of Preferred and Discounted waste site allocations

Summary of Area Committee responses to consultation on proposed waste sites

Draft **Minerals** Site Allocations Preferred Options Document

Summary list of Preferred and Discounted minerals Site Allocations

Key plan showing distribution of submitted minerals sites

Plans of showing location of Preferred and Discounted minerals site allocations

Summary of Area Committee responses to consultation on proposed minerals sites