
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9(a)
DATE OF MEETING:	5 OCTOBER 2006	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	RICHARD GROVES (EXTN. 5738)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	LEICESTERSHIRE AND LEICESTER WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – PREFERRED OPTIONS	REF: u:\Richard\committees\EDS9
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ASTON, SEALES	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS

1.0 Grounds for Urgency

1.1 The period for receiving responses to this consultation exercise ends on 6 October, 2006.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That objection be made to the proposed allocation of land to accommodate a recycling facility at Swains Park for the reasons described in Section 8 of this report.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To seek a Committee resolution in regard to the Leicester and Leicestershire Waste Development Framework consultation exercise.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council are preparing their Waste Development Framework, which sets out the spatial strategy for future waste development for the area for the period to 2021. The Development Framework comprises the "Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies" and "Waste Site Allocations" documents. In accordance with government requirements an accompanying "Sustainability Appraisal" has been published which assesses the potential social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals.

4.2 Following the consideration of representations made in response to the current round of consultation a final draft document will be published which will be the subject of further consultation.

4.3 The "Waste Site Allocations" document identifies two sites located in close proximity to the South Derbyshire boundary for the development of waste facilities. The first of these is at Swains Park to the north of Spring Cottage Road, east of Overseal (see description and map at Annexe A). The site is identified as being suitable for composting, aggregate recycling and materials recovery. The "Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies" document provides a brief description of these

processes. In regard to aggregate recycling the document refers to potential noise and dust implications. Two alternative composting methods are identified : “open-windrow” composting, which takes place outdoors and “in vessel” composting, which is largely contained within an enclosed space. In regard to the former reference is made to concerns about effects on health from the generation of “bio-aerosols” along with possible odour, dust, vermin and bird impacts. The document does not make clear which of the two alternative processes is envisaged for Swains Park.

- 4.4 The second site is at Hemington Quarry to the east of Shardlow and Great Wilne and south of the River Trent (see description and map at Annexe B). The document identifies the site as being suitable for the continuation of an existing aggregates recycling facility.
- 4.5 The “Sustainability Appraisal” notes that all waste recycling facilities are likely to give rise to negative impacts to a greater or lesser extent, but that this needs to be considered in the context of the strategic need to meet the waste recycling and disposal requirements of the area over the plan period. The sites identified in the document have been included because they are considered to perform relatively well in sustainability terms.
- 4.6 The Swains Park site is found to have potential significant negative affects when considered in relation to the need to protect landscape character and quality and rural distinctiveness from erosion and in terms of the need to minimise any “public nuisance” that might be caused to local residents in terms of such factors as noise, traffic and dust.
- 4.7 The Hemington Quarry site is found to have potential significant negative impacts in relation to the need to protect water quality, safeguard soil quality and avoid increasing the risk of flooding.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 None

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Waste development may have implications for the following Strategic Objectives of the Council’s Corporate Plan:
 - Enhance the quality of life for all South Derbyshire residents
 - Safeguard the environment now and for the benefit of future generations

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 Waste development may have implications for the following themes of the South Derbyshire Community Strategy:
 - Healthy communities
 - A sustainable environment

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 Whilst the precise extent of any negative impacts and the degree to which they could be mitigated cannot be measured at this stage, both the sites considered in this report raise potential concerns.
- 8.2 In the case of Swains Park the recently reclaimed “Towpath” former opencast minerals site immediately to the west of the proposed allocation represents a recreational amenity for local residents. Beyond that the nearest dwellings in South

Derbyshire are at Overseal, some 500 metres from the site. Owing to the topography of the area the site is clearly visible from the eastern fringes of the village.

- 8.3 Measures envisaged to mitigate any significant adverse effects have been proposed on a generic policy basis in the “Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies” document. However, the document indicates that most potential negative effects would need to be considered in the context of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that, where appropriate, would be submitted alongside a planning application for the development of an individual site. The Council’s Environmental Health service highly recommends an EIA for the Swains Park site, should it come forward for development, and advises that the issues and mitigation measures to be considered would comprise a noise survey, measures to prevent odour escaping from the site boundary, suitable pest control measures, the installation of dust suppression and wheel washing facilities and the provision of hard standings and suitable drainage systems to prevent leachate.
- 8.4 A Transportation Assessment would also be necessary. Vehicle routing would be needed to prevent traffic associated with the site from using unsuitable roads or passing through areas where harm might be caused to local amenity, such as Overseal or Woodville.
- 8.5 Whilst acknowledging the necessity to accommodate this type of facility and the challenges associated with identifying suitable sites, it is considered that it would be prudent for the Council to submit a objection to the proposed allocation at Swains Park on the basis of the considerable uncertainties relating to the nature and extent of potential impacts and the degree to which these could be addressed through mitigation measures. Should Leicestershire County Council later produce evidence to satisfactorily address these concerns there will be an opportunity to withdraw the objection at a later stage in the Development Framework preparation process, subject to Council approval.
- 8.6 In the case of Hemington Quarry, the impacts are less likely to have direct implications for this Council but rather are matters for consideration by the Environment Agency and the Leicestershire local authorities. It is therefore considered unnecessary to object to this proposal.

9.0 Background Papers

Leicestershire and Leicester Waste
Development Framework – Waste Core
Strategy and Development Control Policies

Leicester City Council and
Leicestershire County Council
June 2006

Leicestershire and Leicester Waste
Development Framework – Waste Site
Allocations

Leicester City Council and
Leicestershire County Council
June 2006

Waste Site Allocations Sustainability
Appraisal Main Report

Leicester City Council and
Leicestershire County Council
June 2006