

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 7</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>15 APRIL 2010</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>KEVIN EXLEY (EXT 8717) Kevin.exley@south-derbys.gov.uk</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>BIG CHOICES REPORT – PLANNING FOR WASTE</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS17</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the contents of the 'Big Choices' consultation be noted and a response be issued as recommended in paragraphs 4.8, 4.10, 4.14, 4.17, 4.26.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform Members of and formulate a response to a joint consultation from Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council on the 'Big Choices' concerning waste Management within Derbyshire focusing specifically on issues that affect the communities of South Derbyshire.
- 2.2 A copy of the 'Big Choices' report and supporting documentation has been placed in the Member lounges and the District Council's main reception. Copies of the Plan are also available to view on the County Council's website at:  
[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/rubbish\\_waste/big\\_choices/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/rubbish_waste/big_choices/default.asp)

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council are jointly preparing the Derby and Derbyshire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document. The purpose of this Plan will be to provide planning guidance related to waste matters up to 2030 within Derbyshire outside of the Peak District National Park
- 3.2 The Plan, due to its early stage of preparation, does not include waste site allocations but instead seeks comments on a number of strategic issues such the balance between waste treatment and landfill and the broad locations best able to accommodate additional waste facilities.

## **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 Within Derbyshire (outside of the Peak National Park) it is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council to deal with planning matters related to waste.

4.2 Both Authorities are jointly preparing the Derby and Derbyshire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document. The purpose of this Plan will be to provide planning guidance related to waste matters up to 2030. The plan is about:

- The treatment and disposal of waste
- the waste that is produced by everyone in Derby and Derbyshire, in their homes and at work, shopping and leisure
- new sites to deal with waste
- helping to decide where the new sites should be.

4.3 Work on the Plan started in 2009 and as such is still at an early stage of preparation. For this reason the joint Authorities are trying to gather opinions about a number of strategic options or 'Big Choices' which will be tackled in the Plan. In total 5 'Big Choices' are identified for consideration in this consultation (classified A – E). These are considered in turn.

### **BIG CHOICE A – MORE TREATMENT LESS LANDFILL**

4.4 What proportions of recycling & composting and other forms of treatment should the plan aim for?

4.5 In order to deal with this issue the paper identifies two potential options:

1. Aim for the minimum regional and government targets and those recently achieved for recycling, composting and recovery of value.
2. Aim for higher levels of recycling & composting and other forms of treatment.

### **Officer Comment / Suggested Response**

4.6 Regional targets set out in the Regional Plan indicate that Waste Collection and Waste Disposal Authorities should seek to achieve a minimum target for recycling and composting of Municipal Solid Waste of 30% by 2010 and 50% by 2015.

4.7 In 2009 South Derbyshire District Council was already recycling 48% of household waste. This is one of the highest rates in the Country and indicates the Council's existing commitment to divert as much waste as possible from landfill.

4.8 Given the above in order to support our own ambitions of diverting waste from landfill it is recommended that Option A2 (to aim for higher levels of recycling) should be supported.

### **BIG CHOICE B – THE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT**

4.9 What should be the overall pattern of waste management facilities in the plan area?

1. A few, large facilities, mainly in the Derby and Chesterfield areas, with various transfer stations serving them.
2. A more dispersed pattern, with local areas taking responsibility for their waste.

### **Officer Comment / Suggested Response**

4.10 The East Midlands Regional Plan (policy 38) states that within the Three Cities Sub area a centralised pattern of large facilities should be developed. This policy would appear to support Option B1. However, there may be circumstances where locally appropriate small-scale waste treatment sites could form a component of wider development proposals. Such sites could include composting sites or small scale energy from waste on farms etc. The provision of small-scale local sites could ensure that waste is dealt with at, or close to source (and hence support the proximity principle which is regarded as best practice in waste management).

Should option B1 be the County Council's preferred option, there should be some flexibility in the policy to allow the District Council to consider the merits of individual development schemes which could incorporate waste treatment or management especially as part of a wider development scheme or project.

### **BIG CHOICE C – URBAN OR RURAL**

4.11 Should the plan aim for some new facilities to be in rural areas? If so, what types of facilities?

1. Yes. As many types as possible, to minimise impacts on peoples' homes and workplaces.
2. Yes, but restricted to the types of facility that can comfortably be accommodated amongst or near farm or other rural buildings.
3. No. The plan should protect the countryside from the impacts of waste developments.

### **Officer comment / Suggested Response**

4.12 Many rural uses such as farming and forestry can generate significant waste residues and clearly there may be benefits to encouraging on site waste management where appropriate, especially where such management could make a positive contribution to the economic viability of the business or contribute to broader sustainability objectives. This approach is consistent with Policy 38 of the Regional Plan. However, as paragraph 4.16 of the Big Choices Report indicates locating large-scale waste facilities away from urban areas can generate significant traffic volumes and result in more lorries on country roads, which could in turn give rise to significant environmental impacts. For example impacts on noise, air quality, dust, traffic congestion and road safety. As such large-scale facilities in the countryside should be avoided unless it can be demonstrated that impacts on local communities, especially those associated with increased transport movements on country roads can be avoided.

4.13 In respect of small-scale waste facilities a blanket presumption against their development in the countryside should be avoided. Instead a clear policy to restrict the scale of developments to that needed to meet a specific local need or support the viability of an existing or proposed business should be included.

4.14 In short this approach would be most similar to option C2, but with restrictions on the type and scale of appropriate facilities, which could be accommodated in rural areas unless it can be demonstrated that impacts on local communities, especially those associated with increased transport movements can be avoided.

### **BIG CHOICE D – PROMOTING DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE**

4.15 Should the plan try positively to attract waste management firms to Derby and Derbyshire, for example by providing for the development of specialist technological sites or resource recovery parks?

1. Yes, as much as possible.
2. Yes but not to the extent that it would make Derby and Derbyshire a net importer of waste.
3. No, because any economic benefits would be outweighed by the problems it would bring.

### **Officer comment / Suggested Response**

4.16 The significant increase in recycling rates across the District have been achieved because the necessary waste management sites exist to separate, and process the

various waste streams collected from the kerb side, or from bring sites. As we seek to further increase recycling or recover value from waste there will be a need to ensure that facilities exist to allow this to happen close to where waste is generated.

- 4.17 It is considered that across Derby and Derbyshire adequate capacity should be provided to allow waste to be processed or treated close to where it is generated (as indicated in 'Big Choice B'). However in bringing forward new sites it is considered that these would be best located in urban areas as considered previously (see 'Big Choice C' comments) and at a scale to meet immediate local needs. This approach, which is most similar to Option D2, would be consistent with the proximity principle of treating waste close to where it is generated.

## **BIG CHOICE E – THE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT**

4.18 How and where should the plan make the necessary provision to address the local challenges?

1. Despite the challenges, make the provision locally.
2. Rely on other areas to make the provision.
3. For City and Southern Derbyshire, plan for enough treatment facilities to deal with more waste than is produced in this part of the plan area.
4. For North-Western Derbyshire, plan for enough landfill provision to take more waste than is produced in this part of the plan area.

### **Officer comment / Suggested Response**

- 4.19 It is noted that the 'Big Choices Report' states that "in the City and Southern Derbyshire there may be a major and perhaps impossible challenge to find sufficient landfill space".
- 4.20 Whilst it is recognised that there is no mechanism for dealing with domestic and commercial waste which can not be used for composting, recycling or recovery within South Derbyshire, there is nonetheless a significant landfill site (the New Albion) located immediately adjacent to South Derbyshire's boundary in Albert Village (North West Leicestershire).
- 4.21 Initially it was required that the importation of waste into the New Albion site would cease by the 31st December 2014 or 13 years after the commencement of importation whichever was earlier. However due to difficulties in issuing the Waste Permit by the Environment Agency and various legal challenges, the importation of waste did not actually commence until the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005 – almost seven years after planning permission was granted.
- 4.22 In addition to this, the site has experienced lower waste inputs from local authorities including South Derbyshire where recycling rates have increased from 12% in 2002 to 48% in 2009 and North West Leicestershire (where recycling has increased from 6% in 2002 to 43% in 2009). Further reductions in non-domestic waste have also arisen as a result of the landfill tax.
- 4.23 Given the above, it is perhaps not surprising that the company, which operates the Albion Landfill site (Veolia ES Landfill Limited), has previously sought to gain the relevant agreements it needs to submit an application to amend a planning condition to extend the life of the site. The Council's Environmental and Development Services Committee formerly considered this issue in August 2008. (Minute ref 28. 08. 2008 EDS/ 14)

- 4.24 Should the life of the New Albion site be extended (which is considered likely), given that the agreed scheme for the restoration and after-use of the site cannot properly be achieved until the void has been filled to the capacity permitted; communities surrounding New Albion (including those in South Derbyshire) will continue to be impacted by operations at this site.
- 4.25 Further, it is also worth reporting that this site is an important element of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation's vision for a 1000-acre forest park. In responding to a previous consultation by Leicestershire County Council regarding the potential for extending the operational life of the site the Foundation requested that all reasonable efforts be made to achieve completion within the shortest extended period possible.
- 4.26 Given the likely difficulty in finding a suitable site capable of accommodating further landfill in the City and Southern Derbyshire area, coupled with falling volumes of residual waste and need to ensure the timely restoration of the New Albion Site to secure environmental and social benefits to the local communities in South Derbyshire and North West Leicestershire it is considered that there are compelling reasons to support Option E2 in respect of landfill in the City and Southern Derbyshire.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 The Waste Core Strategy will contribute towards Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, which is included as a theme within the South Derbyshire District Council's Corporate Plan (2009-14). Specifically it will assist with the Council's priority to provide an appealing, easy to use and comprehensive system for waste collection and recycling to help residents to recycle higher proportions of their waste.

## **7.0 Community Implications**

- 7.1 The Waste Core Strategy could have implications for a number of themes included in the South Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy including Healthier communities which seeks to Improved access to services for all and particularly older communities and Vibrant communities which includes the priority to increase in the percentage of people who feel South Derbyshire is an attractive place to live.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

- 8.1 This report sets out a number of officer recommendations regarding future waste site provision. Specific conclusions are set out in Section 5 of this report and consider the scale, nature and location of future waste site provision in the context of South Derbyshire's waste needs.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

- 9.1 Big Choices Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document
- 9.2 Big Choices Back Ground Paper 1 – Needs
- 9.3 Big Choices Back Ground Paper 1 – Types

