

Committee: Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 26 November 2015

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**Title: Waste Local Plan – Additional
Consultation: Newport Quarry**

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Summary

1. Work by Essex County Council to prepare a Replacement Waste Local Plan has been ongoing for a number of years. The most recent public consultation on the Revised Preferred Approach took place in June-July 2015. The consultation was considered by this working group on the 13 July 2015 and by Cabinet on the 23 July.
2. Essex County Council received more than 1,000 comments and these can now be viewed on their online consultation portal at <http://consult.essexcc.gov.uk>.
3. During the consultation in June-July, an additional waste site was proposed at Newport Quarry, Newport. Essex County Council (ECC) and Southend-on Sea Borough Council (SBC) are undertaking public consultation on the proposed site at Newport Quarry for a period of six weeks from Thursday 15 October and closing at 5pm on Thursday 26 November 2015. Details of the consultation can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/WLP.
4. The purpose in undertaking this additional consultation is to ensure that all sites have been subject to a comparable and appropriate degree of stakeholder and public consultation. It is necessary to give consultees and those living and working in the vicinity of the sites opportunity to comment and bring information about the sites to the attention of ECC.
5. As this working group takes place after the closing date of the consultation, this report has been sent as an officer's response to be followed up with any additional points made by this group. The comments of the Members for Newport have been sought in the preparation of this report and none have been received.

Recommendations

6. That Members endorse the officer comments submitted to Essex County Council as set out below in paragraph 17.

Financial Implications

7. None

Background Papers

8. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

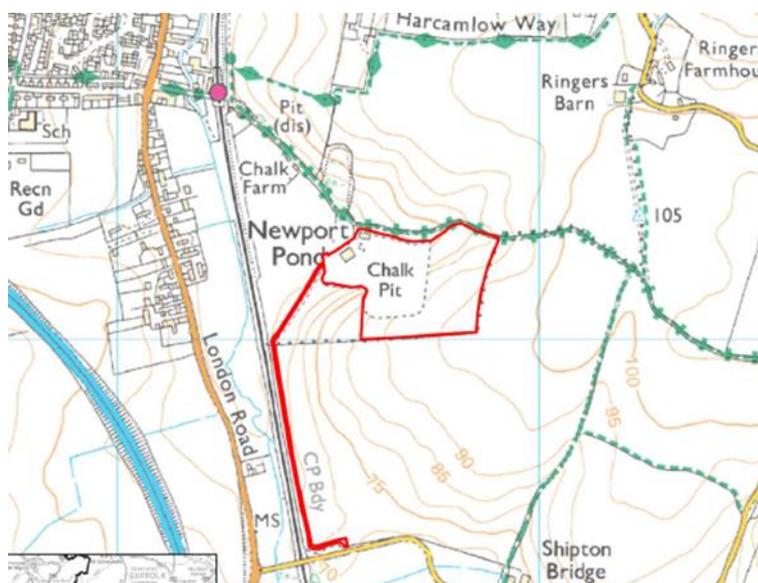
Impact

- 9.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation of the document is being undertaken by ECC
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	A sustainability appraisal accompanies the Local Plan
Ward-specific impacts	Newport
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

10. Newport Quarry (L(i)17R



11. In response to the recent consultation on the Waste Local Plan Revised Preferred Approach, the land owners and operators of the site have proposed this 8.40 ha site for Inert Recycling and landfill. The site is an existing void associated with mineral extraction works.
12. ECC are seeking views on the potential inclusion of Newport Quarry as a site for recycling and disposal of inert construction and demolition waste in the Replacement Waste Local Plan. As with all sites proposed for consideration, Newport Quarry has been subject to assessment by independent consultants. The results of this assessment are set out in a Site Assessment Proforma. ECC has not yet made any judgement as to whether the site should be included within the Replacement Waste Local Plan. Any such judgement will be informed by the responses received to this consultation.
13. The site has been assessed by the same method as all the sites in the June-July consultation. The stages were summarised in the report to this working group on 13 July.
14. The site passes stage 1 of the assessment as it is not excluded due to site size, area and shape; availability; flood risk; Ground water vulnerability; International and national ecology, heritage and landscape designations.
15. The second stage assesses the site against Green Belt policy and highway suitability. This site is not in the Green Belt. The site is accessed from the B1383 which is provided with a right turn lane, and a short section of minor road. Travelling north on the B1383 necessitates going under a low bridge. This bridge is already used by HGV traffic and the operator confirms that the height restriction is not an issue for mineral or waste related HGVs. The site is considered feasible in the opinion of the Highways Authority but note that a transport assessment and potential routing agreement would be required at planning application stage.
16. The third stage assesses the site against 12 site selection criteria. Significant issues relating to the site are that it lies within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone 3 and sits adjacent to the River Cam to the west. The Local Wildlife Sites Review 2007 identifies the site as a potential Wildlife Site as chalk quarries can give rise to scarce base-rich habitats. A Public Right of Way runs along the northern border of the proposed site. The assessment considers that the use would have neutral landscape and visual effects as the restoration of the mineral extraction site by landfill will make the chalk quarry conspicuous in the landscape.
17. *Draft response by Uttlesford District Council*
When members considered the sites in the initial consultation there was concern whether, in order to minimise the impact on the surrounding areas and prevent the loss of greenfield sites, the most efficient use was being made of mineral sites for waste management purposes. Essex County Council is therefore asked to consider this site in the light of this view and consider if it is more preferable to greenfield sites elsewhere in the District.

Risk Analysis

18.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Council's views are not taken into account.	1. The county council will take into account all duly made representations	3. That the Waste Local Plan includes policies which have not taken the District council's views into account	Ensure that comments are presented in line with the requirements set down in the consultation material

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.