
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 11 JANUARY 2012

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT FROM HEAD OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT: WASTE DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT PREFERRED
APPROACH CONSULTATION**

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That the information set out in this report is submitted as Rochford Council's response to Essex County Council and Southend Borough Council's Waste Development Document Preferred Approach consultation (closing date 19 January 2012). In particular, the Castle Road recycling facility in Rayleigh should not be safeguarded from redevelopment, and that the plan should consider opportunities for the provision of a more suitable site away from the town centre.

2 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Castle Road recycling facility is proposed to be safeguarded from redevelopment in the Waste Development Document and it is considered this restriction could prevent opportunities to find a more suitable site for this facility, freeing up the current site for redevelopment and resulting in a significant environmental improvement for that part of Rayleigh town centre.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.1 Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council are the local Waste Planning Authorities for their respective areas and are responsible for the production of local waste planning policy documents - known as Waste Development Documents - and for determining waste related planning applications in accordance with these policies.
- 3.2 The Councils are working together to produce a new Joint Waste Development Document to replace the existing adopted Joint Waste Local Plan (2001). Work has been ongoing since the first consultation on the Waste Development Document Issues and Options Paper in October 2010.
- 3.3 The next stage in the preparation of the Joint Waste Development Document has now been prepared. The Waste Development Document Preferred Approach is out to consultation between 24 November 2011 and 19 January 2012.
- 3.4 This report considers Rochford District Council's response to this consultation, specifically in relation to the future of the Castle Road recycling facility and options for identifying an alternative, more suitable location.

Castle Road Recycling Facility

- 3.5 The Council responded to the Waste Development Document Issues and Options consultation in December 2010 suggesting that the Castle Road recycling facility in Rayleigh is small and rather constrained and so it should be relocated to a more appropriate site, which is well located on the highway network. An alternative location for the recycling facility was not suggested at this stage.
- 3.6 The Waste Development Document Preferred Approach is the first time that the safeguarding of waste sites has been undertaken. However, the Castle Road recycling facility is identified within Appendix C of the Waste Development Document Preferred Approach as a proposed safeguarded recycling centre for household waste. This facility is considered within the consultation document to be strategic to support the delivery of the Municipal Waste Management Strategies (MWMS). The consultation document also states (page 48) that “Safeguarding is required to ensure that existing and allocated sites for waste management facilities are protected from development that could prejudice the waste management operation”.
- 3.7 This approach to the Castle Road recycling facility is, however, contrary to the response by Rochford District Council through the previous Issues and Options consultation in 2010.
- 3.8 Although the present stage of the document may not be conducive to the submission of new sites *per se*, it is appropriate for the Council to challenge the safeguarding of the Castle Road recycling facility through the current consultation, and to suggest that consideration be given to identifying a more appropriate strategic site that is well located on the highway network.
- 3.9 The Rochford Core Strategy was adopted on 13 December 2011 and sets out general locations for new development, including employment development. The specific sites to be developed within the general locations set out in the Core Strategy are to be identified through preparation of the Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 3.10 The Allocations DPD was subject to public consultation in 2010 and a summary of the consultation responses was published in December 2011. At this stage no decisions have been taken about the sites to be identified, but it is considered appropriate to take the opportunity to promote a site, preferably to the west of Rayleigh, to replace the Castle Road recycling facility. This process could be carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Waste Development Document, allowing for the potential to identify a mixed use employment site that incorporates space for a new recycling facility.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 If the Castle Road recycling facility were not moved to a more suitable location then this could have a negative impact on the recycling potential of

the District in the future given the small and constrained nature of the site. Relocating this facility would also enable more efficient use of the site given its proximity to Rayleigh town centre.

- 4.2 Taking these points into account, it is considered that the alternative option of retaining and safeguarding the Castle Road site as set out in the Waste Development Document is not appropriate.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It will be for the joint Councils to determine whether the Council's suggestion is an appropriate one, but the risks of retaining the current limited and constrained site are as set out in the report.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The identification of a new recycling facility away from Rayleigh town centre and residential properties would have a significant positive environmental benefit.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: _____

Head of Planning & Transportation

Background Papers:-

Waste Development Document Preferred Approach 2010.

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