

Kirklees Local Plan Examination

Stage 2 - Minerals and Waste Sections

MATTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS (MIQs)

Council Response

MATTER 14: WASTE ALLOCATIONS

1.1 This statement sets out the council's responses in relation to the Inspector's matters and issues Matter 14 –Waste Allocations. All the documents referred to in this statement are referenced within the main body of the statement.

Issue: Whether the provision in the Plan for allocated waste sites and their safeguarding is justified, effective and consistent with national policy and the policies of the Plan

- a) Is the allocation of the waste site in the plan justified, effective and consistent with national policy? Explain the general site selection process for waste sites and the influence that the SA has had on the selection of sites.
- 1.2 Following the conclusion of the waste needs assessment capacity gap analysis (LE106, pages 52-54, paragraphs 7.1.1 – 7.1.9) it was concluded there would be a significant gap in recycling capacity for LACW, the plan therefore needed to positively respond to this. Subsequently a review of council assets was undertaken to identify appropriate options for the Council to consider in making provision to address this capacity gap. This exercise concluded that only one viable option was available, and subsequently, following the site appraisal work, resulted in the allocation of one strategic site. This approach was undertaken in accordance with the site selection methodology (BP23 chapter 3 paragraph 3.1 page 5). It was recognised the site option took advantage of established infrastructure and included sufficient vacant land to enable the re-modelling of the facilities. Weight was afforded to this due to the site characteristics being able to assist in the potential introduction of new technologies, accommodate more efficient and effective recycling operations and assist the Council in driving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy.
- 1.3 This approach is compliant with NPPG (Waste) paragraphs 011 ID: 28-011-20141016, 013 ID: 28-013-20141016, 014 bullet point 3 ID: 28-014-20141016.
- 1.4 This site was subject to SA and the findings were presented to the Council prior to preparation of the Draft Local Plan, so that the SA findings could inform the Draft Local Plan. No further reasonable alternative waste site options were identified and subject to SA following consultation on the Draft Local Plan; therefore the SA Report for the Publication Draft Local Plan includes only the appraisal of that one waste site option (SD5, Annex 6). The SA did not make any specific recommendations with regards to the selection or rejection of that waste site option, but identified its likely sustainability effects so that this information, along with other factors, could inform the Council's decision making.
- 1.5 Appendix 5 of the SA Report (SD5) states that this waste site was included as an allocation in the Local Plan because half of the site is already in use as a materials

recycling facility and, based on the projected waste arisings in the District, an additional materials recycling facility is required to address future waste arisings.

- 1.6 With regard to other waste streams the need will be met through area allocations as this provides more flexibility for the industry to identify where they feel there is a need for new facilities rather than this being prescribed by the authority. It also allows for a range of facility types to come forward.
- b) Site WS16, Clayton Hall Farm, has been allocated as a safeguarded waste site under policy PLP45 and comprises an Anaerobic Digestion Biogas facility. How does the allocation fit with the existing agricultural uses?**
- 1.7 The Kirklees Waste Needs Assessment – Growth Forecasts and Assessment of Future Capacity Requirements (LE106, Appendix 1) includes the waste capacity of Clayton Hall Farm Bioenergy Plant, accounting for an annual treatment capacity of 5009 tonnes. This site represents the only anaerobic digester facility in the district and is important in facilitating green energy through waste.
- 1.8 Policy PLP45 Safeguarding Waste Management Facilities (SD1) seeks to safeguard existing waste management facilities and surrounding land, unless there is a justified reason for not doing so, and prevents adjoining land uses from impinging on or conflicting with the existing waste operation. This approach will assist the council in working towards net self-sufficiency, continuing to meet the long-term waste management needs of the district and prevent the emergence of conflicting neighbouring uses that may hinder the continuation of established waste operations.
- 1.9 The council recognise that the Anaerobic Digestion Biogas facility at site WS16, Clayton Hall Farm, assists in the generation of electricity and provides a useful by-product – slurry – to be used on the farm. However, it is also important to note that waste is an integral part of the process and it is this element that has resulted in the need to safeguard the treatment facility. This reflects the ‘other recovery’ stage of the waste hierarchy as established in the Waste Management Plan for England (BP26, Figure 1).
- 1.10 Because waste is an integral part of the process, the allocation of WS16 under policy PLP 45 seeks to safeguard the existing Anaerobic Digestion Biogas facility on the site at Clayton Hall Farm. This will also help ensure the existing waste management capacity is effectively monitored.
- 1.11 Any current and future farm operations would remain unaffected since the policy is not intended to prevent agricultural uses from continuing on the farm or inhibit future development of the farm operations.
- 1.12 There is sufficient flexibility in Policy PLP45 to allow for any change of use should the facility no longer be required provided this can be clearly justified in terms of the policy.
- 1.13 The safeguarding approach is a critical element to ensure the effective monitoring of waste capacity. This is particularly important in relation to understanding the implications of the potential closure of a facility on the districts capacity to deal with each waste stream – closure could result in a gap. This would assist in understanding what provision needs to be made and aid discussions on a DTC level regarding external capacity impacts. Its inclusion therefore is consistent with all other

waste facilities and ensures a comprehensive monitoring database can be maintained for the Kirklees district.

c) Sites WS27, WS33, WS34 and WS36 in the Dewsbury/ Ravensthorpe areas have been safeguarded in the Plan. Explain how the safeguarding of these sites can be integrated with the regeneration of areas in Dewsbury Riverside.

- 1.14 The safeguarding of such sites has been applied consistently across all identified existing waste management infrastructure within the district. The designation of these sites does not preclude their development for non-waste related uses subject to policy requirements set out in policy PLP 45. Therefore should there be an overriding need to utilise space currently operated by waste facilities then the policy would accommodate this. However, recognition should be afforded to the fact that these facilities may have a potential role to play in supporting the waste management needs associated with the regeneration of the area.
- 1.15 The regeneration of this area is likely to produce significant quantities of waste. The existing waste infra structure located within this area could therefore be a valuable resource in meeting the demand for managing this waste.
- 1.16 In the event that these safeguarded waste facilities need to be relocated then the Council would support this and seek to establish their relocation as part of the wider regeneration scheme. This would be achieved through ongoing discussions with the developer.