

## **Joint Advisory Committee for Strategic Planning**

Meeting to be held on 4 April 2012

Electoral Division affected: All
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### **Joint Lancashire Minerals & Waste Development Framework: Report Back on Proposed Major Changes Consultation for Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Documents**

Contact for further information:

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report describes the consultation that has taken place relating to the Proposed Major Changes of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies for the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. This took place between 19 January 2012 and 1 March 2012.

It sets out in broad terms the number of responses and the next steps.

A separate report sets out the main issues raised by the consultation.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Joint Advisory Committee for Strategic Planning notes the consultation which has taken place and approves the proposed next steps.

#### **Background and Advice**

Members of the Joint Advisory Committee were previously briefed on the consultation that was to take place on the Major Changes to Minerals and Waste Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Document.

#### **What Happened?**

A briefing note was sent to Chief Executives, Chief Officers, and directly affected Parish Councils to inform them about the consultation and availability of documents.

Officers sent out over 2107 letters to residents and businesses that had previously shown an interest in the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. These letters drew peoples' attention to the consultation, and where documents could be found, the link to the dedicated website, and gave a phone number to call.

Press releases were sent to targeted media contacts. Public notices were put in eight main papers covering the Plan area.

The Schedule of Proposed Major Changes document was put on the dedicated consultation website together with all the supporting documents. During the consultation period this received over 573 hits from 269 visitors.

Paper copies of the documents were also placed on deposit at all the libraries in the County and in Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen libraries, as well as the deposit points of the County Information Centres, Town Halls, District Planning Departments, and County Hall. Additional hard copies of documents were sent out on request.

All those who had been consulted on the Proposed Major Changes were also made aware of the relevant minor changes which had been discussed at the hearings in September and October of last year.

Officers contacted the Land Registry for information regarding land ownership to ensure that the issues of deliverability were explored. However, there were over 400 titles registered to the sites making it unlikely that each of the individual sites were in one controlling the ownership. To have confirmed this by getting detailed records from the Land Registry would have been prohibitively expensive and not proportionate to the consultation. It is your officers' opinion that where the owners of the sites have not made representations relating to the consultation, that it is likely that there are a number of controlling interests of the site, and therefore it would be unlikely that an unwilling owner would prevent the deliverability of the level of waste facilities required in the East Lancashire and Lancaster catchment areas.

### **Success of the Consultation**

The Joint Planning Authorities have taken the approach throughout the development of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework to be as transparent as possible.

The approach of directly contacting the public has been successful in raising awareness. Officers within the Minerals and Waste Policy team were on call to answer enquiries, and help people fill in the Representation form.

In response to a request from Middleton Parish Council for a public meeting, officers held a drop-in session at Middleton Village Hall to provide information on the proposals, explain what will happen next and to help fill in the representation forms. This exhibition was well attended having been well publicised by the Parish Council. Officers from Lancaster City were in attendance to help answer any questions.

Officers have examined over 89 representations from over 73 separate individuals, or organisations. The content of these representations is considered in a separate report.

### **Next Steps**

This Consultation on the Proposed Major Changes took place to allow other parties to express their views on the soundness of the proposals, in terms of the proposal's effectiveness, justification and compliance with national policy; and their reasons for

finding the proposal's sound or unsound. All those who responded to the consultation have been asked if they wish to rely on written representations or to appear in person or be represented at a hearing session during the examination. Where Proposed Major Changes that are subsequently recommended via the Joint Committee to go to the Full Councils of the Joint Authorities, and then to the Inspector for his consideration, these will be accompanied by the relevant representations.

The consultation has provided the opportunity for the Councils to consider the content of representations and to take a view on any matters of significance that may warrant additional work, evidence gathering or partner consideration by the authorities, or any other matter that may warrant small changes that might improve or clarify the content or meaning of the proposals. The matters raised by representations received during this time are reported separately.

It is anticipated that the Proposed Changes, together with supporting information and the relevant representations will be submitted to the Secretary of State in early June. This will recommence the Examination in Public. The Hearing in Public, if it is to take place, is scheduled for 24 to 26 July 2012 with proposed adoption in early 2013.

### **Consultation**

N/A

### **Implications**

There are no specific implications to this report.

### **Risk Management**

Officers are satisfied that they have adequately followed the appropriate procedures relating to the publicity for the Proposed Major Changes.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A