

FD.EVR11

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Policy 11: Water Recycling Areas (WRAs)

(was part of Policy 12: Water Recycling Allocation Areas and Water Recycling Consultation Areas at the Preliminary Draft stage)

March 2019

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1. Introduction and National Policy Context

Introduction

- 1.1. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are reviewing their joint adopted Minerals and Waste Development Plan and supporting documents. These comprise the following documents (with adoption date):
 - Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) (July 2011)
 - Site Allocations DPD (February 2012)
 - Block Fen and Langwood SPD (July 2011)
 - Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities SPD (July 2011)
 - RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD (February 2012)
- 1.2. The above Local Development Documents are to be replaced by a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan covering the period to 2036. The new Local Plan will set the overall spatial framework and development management policies for sustainable mineral and waste management development across the plan area.
- 1.3. This Evidence Report provides a narrative on the development of and justification for Policy 11: Water Recycling Areas (WRAs) in the emerging new Local Plan.

National policy

- 1.4. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provide the basis of national planning policy. Of specific relevance to Policy 11 is the following paragraph of the NPPF:
 - Paragraph 20 “Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for:
 - b) infrastructure for...wastewater...”
- 1.5. A number of paragraphs from the NPPG are also relevant, as follows:

“Plan-making may need to consider:

 - *Identifying suitable sites for new or enhanced infrastructure. In identifying sites it will be important to recognise that water and wastewater infrastructure sometimes has particular locational needs (and often consists of engineering works rather than new buildings) which mean otherwise protected areas may exceptionally have to be considered where consistent with their designation. Plan-making will also need to take into account existing and proposed development in the vicinity of a location under consideration for water and wastewater infrastructure. In 2-tier areas there will need to be close working between the district and county councils.*
 - *Considering whether new development is appropriate near to sites used (or proposed) for water and wastewater infrastructure (for example, odour may be a concern).*

- *Phasing new development so that water and wastewater infrastructure will be in place when needed.* (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 34-005-20140306)

“Plan-making may need to consider:

- *The sufficiency and capacity of wastewater infrastructure.*
- *The circumstances where wastewater from new development would not be expected to drain to a public sewer.* (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 34-007-20140306)

2. Local Context in Relation to Policy 11: Water Recycling Areas (WRAs)

- 2.1. Common with all areas, the plan area has a large number of water recycling areas, of considerable variety in terms of scale. Many are located in or close to urban areas, and whilst of vital importance to serve such areas, they also can be a ‘nuisance’ if neighbouring development is located close by.
- 2.2. One particularly sensitive WRA is in an area known as Cambridge Northern Fringe East. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are preparing an Area Action Plan for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East, which will provide a more detailed policy framework for development in this area. Various policy options are being considered, one of which includes the potential relocation of the Cambridge Water Recycling Centre.
- 2.3. The Councils have also taken into account a recent Anglian Water (AW) document ‘Local Plans: An Anglian Water perspective’ (Nov 2018) which intends to set out AW position in respect of good practice for plan making. It is available here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YrCO5HXc4oqUu4XoYN2QdBkcZWF5J2Yh/view>

3. Minerals & Waste Local Plan Policy

- 3.1. The Preliminary Draft Plan was published on 16 May 2018 and consulted on over a six week period to 26 June 2018.
- 3.2. Within the Preliminary Draft was Policy 12: Water Recycling Allocation Areas and Water Recycling Consultation Areas which was generally a carry over of adopted policy CS17 Waste Water Treatment Works and Policy CS31 Waste Water Treatment Safeguarding Areas. The two councils consider it necessary to include a comprehensive policy which reflects the authorities proposed approach, and provides a policy framework for developers and decision makers.
- 3.3. During the Preliminary Draft Consultation, there were 4 representations made on this policy, most of which were in support to it, but some limited objection. In summary, the main issues raised were:
 - Suggested rewording to second paragraph to make the policy more positive in enabling the continued operation and development of existing water recycling centres) to enable

Anglian Water to fulfil statutory obligations and for development of complementary waste management uses (where appropriate).

- The plan should contain a clear policy to presume against expansions or relocations into high flood risk areas, particularly where existing works are in flood zone 1

- 3.4. All representations were carefully considered.
- 3.5. As a consequence of the representations, as well considering any new evidence which may have emerged, the Councils have merged several policies created a single overarching Consultation Area policy (Policy 16). As a consequence, a stand alone Water Recycling Areas policy has now been formed for the Further Draft.
- 3.6. The revised policy primarily comprises the first half of the Preliminary Draft policy 12. However, some limited changes have been made.
- 3.7. The second paragraph of the policy has been reworded predominantly as suggested to be clearer and to ensure that it is possible for statutory obligations to be fulfilled.
- 3.8. An additional criterion has also been added to the policy, in response to comments made, relating to Flood Zones.
- 3.9. Other rewording of the policy, for clarity and effectiveness, have been made.

4. Alternative Reasonable Options

- 4.1. The following alternative options have been considered (including in the Sustainability Appraisal Report):
 - Option 1: A policy which identifies and protects Water Recycling Areas and provides criteria supporting proposals for new and extensions to existing Water Recycling Centres. This is the preferred option as it ensures that existing Water Recycling Centres are protected. It also ensures that new water recycling development takes place in a sustainable manner and does not affect the amenity of nearby users of buildings.
 - Option 2: To not have a policy in relation to Water Recycling Areas, and rely on other local and national policy to ensure appropriate development takes place in appropriate locations. This has been rejected because it does not sufficiently protect existing water recycling facilities nor does it ensure that future water recycling development occurs in the most sustainable manner whilst protecting the amenity of nearby users of buildings.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. This evidence report demonstrates the rationale for the inclusion of this policy in the Further Draft Plan, and also demonstrates a summary of the issues raised at the earlier Preliminary Draft stage, and how the Councils have considered those issues raised.
- 5.2. Any representations received at the Further Draft consultation stage will be carefully considered, and this Evidence Report will be updated prior to the third and final consultation stage due in late 2019.