

18 September 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

Mr Whittington (Chairman), Mrs Coleman, Mr Coomber, Mr Doyle, Mr R B Dunn, Mr Hellawell, Mrs Mills, Mrs Mockridge, Mr Quirk, Mr Rogers, and Mr Waight.

Apologies:

Mr Blampied and Mr B Hall.

Declarations of Interest

30. In accordance with the code of conduct: Mr Waight declared a personal interest in agenda item 4, West Sussex Waste Local Plan, as a member of Worthing Borough Council and the Cabinet Member for Resources whose portfolio included Decoy Farm; Mr Hellawell and Mr Quirk declared personal interests in agenda item 4 as members of the Minerals and Waste Task Force; and Mrs Mills declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 as a member of the Planning Committee of Lancing Business Estate.

Minutes

31. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

West Sussex Waste Local Plan

32. The Committee received a report from the Strategic Planning Manager which set out the draft Waste Local Plan for the consideration of the committee (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Strategic Planning Manager introduced the report and advised the committee of an additional response on the draft Waste Plan received from Worthing Borough Council (WBC) following the despatch of papers for the committee meeting (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The response from WBC, as the landowner of Decoy Farm, asked that the location be removed from the allocated sites listed in the Plan. A schedule of changes incorporating the deletion of Decoy Farm from the list of allocated sites and other minor amendments to the Plan was circulated to the committee (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

33. The Vice Chairman provided clarification on the role of the committee in respect of the draft Waste Local Plan; to consider the strategic principles on which the Plan was based and to assess its practical viability. As individual members however county councillors on the committee would be aware of the concerns of local residents in their electoral divisions relating to those allocated sites in the Plan. The Vice Chairman sought reassurance in respect of Hobbs Barn and Ford Waste Water Treatment Works (two allocated sites in the Plan within the Vice Chairman's electoral division) and on behalf of all members of the committee that the concerns of local residents of all allocated sites had been taken into account at this stage of the preparation of the Plan. It was requested that a full assessment of the concerns of local residents be taken into account if any of the allocated waste sites were the subject of formal planning applications after the final approval of the Plan.

34. The Strategic Planning Manager acknowledged that a key concern of local residents to allocated waste sites, in particular Hobbs Barn and Ford WWTW, was the increase of HGV movements on local road and the impact on health and safety and residential amenity. Technical work by consultants had been undertaken on transport assessments to evaluate the potential capacity of sites in the Plan and the likely increase in HGV movements. The likely impact of HGV movements was not felt, at this early stage in the allocation of sites, to be unacceptable. The Plan referred to the capacity of sites which was currently theoretical; capacity of sites and HGV movements would be subject to detailed analysis in formal applications submitted for allocated sites in the Plan. Work with local community groups, landowners and local residents in relation to the allocated sites in the Plan would be ongoing.

35. The Committee raised those points below in the discussion that followed, with responses from the Strategic Planning Manager in italics:

- The impact of the removal of Decoy Farm on the capacity of all sites in the County to deal with waste. *The corrections to Chapter 2 of the Plan showed a forecast decrease in required capacity and it was felt that the Plan survived even with the deletion of Decoy Farm. Sufficient sites existed across the County with the potential to meet the capacity and land take shortages created by the removal of Decoy Farm;*
- The addition of allocated sites to the Plan in the future and the potential for Shoreham Cement Works to be a waste facility. The committee emphasised the suitability of Shoreham Cement Works as an allocated waste site in the Plan. *The County Council was not looking to add sites to the Plan as the 5 sites listed were deemed to provide sufficient capacity to deal with waste in the County. To add allocated sites after approval of the Plan by County Council would require a formal review of the Plan. The potential allocation of Shoreham Cement Works for waste uses would be addressed by the South Downs National Park Authority in their emerging local plan for the National Park as it was appropriate that the future use of site be considered within a park-wide context;*
- The accuracy of waste forecasts used to inform the Plan. *Work had been undertaken by consultants to project waste arisings over the lifespan of the Plan. The projections took account of house building rates and potential changes in economic growth. The Plan included contingencies for economic growth and potential increases in waste arisings;*
- Consultation conducted with other authorities beyond West Sussex. *There was a duty to cooperate with other local authorities in the preparation of Waste Plans. The County Council had fulfilled this duty by cooperating with second tier authorities in West Sussex and local authorities adjoining West Sussex and elsewhere as necessary;*
- Doubt was expressed regarding the status of Decoy Farm in the Plan. The site had been deleted from the Plan as an allocated site but reference to the site remained in the section of the Plan relating to allocated sites. Concern was expressed that the removal of paragraph 7.3.16 in the Plan but retention of paragraph 7.3.15 (in amended form) meant a loss of the development principles and safeguards associated with the site. *The paragraph relating to Decoy Farm in the allocated sites section remained as there was the potential for the site to be used for waste management in the future. The Decoy Farm site was still allocated in the Worthing Core Strategy but the land owner did not want the site allocated specifically for waste uses in this Plan; therefore it had been deleted. In the future, if part of the site was proposed for use as a waste*

management facility a planning application would need to be submitted which would take account of the safeguards and statutory requirements contained in the application procedure.

- Tribute was paid to the officers for producing a creditable Plan. The committee was satisfied that the Plan was robust with adequate provision identified for the management of waste over the lifespan of the Plan.

36. Resolved – That the committee notes the Plan and agrees that a summary of the points raised be submitted to the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Enterprise.

Update on Mineral, Waste and Regulation 3 Planning Applications

37. The Committee received and noted a report by the County Planning Manager on applications awaiting determination (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

Report of Delegated Action

38. The Committee received and noted a report by the County Planning Manager (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes) advising of the uses of delegated powers to grant permission for development proposals under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 since the Planning Committee meeting on 19 June 2012.

Non-Material Amendments to Approved Schemes and Conditions April 2012 – June 2012

39. The Committee received and noted a report by the County Planning Manager relating to non-material amendments to approved schemes and conditions during the quarter April 2012 – June 2012 (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

Date of next meeting

40. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 16 October 2012.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.

Chairman