

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ISSUES AND OPTIONS DISCUSSION PAPER

Waste management

Over the next ten years there needs to be the biggest change in the way we deal with waste that there has ever been. We have to stop landfilling most of our waste and instead minimise, reuse, recycle, compost and recover benefit from it as much as possible. The new plan will need to help deliver sites for new waste management facilities to bring about this change. It will also need policies to ensure that developments are designed, operated and maintained to standards befitting the 21st century. For waste from households, the amount going to landfill has to be reduced straight away. This will require new facilities to be built as soon as possible. Otherwise, in addition to environmental impacts, Council Tax payers will have to meet the costs of £multi-million “fines” if Government targets for reduced landfilling are not met. Two bids for a long term municipal waste management contract are currently being considered. This contract will determine the types of facilities and technologies that will be developed.

Similarly for commercial and industrial wastes alternative waste management solutions are needed in the near future if economic viability and growth are not to be constrained.

The plan is required to identify sites where the facilities, which are needed to deliver the increases in waste recycling, re-use and composting, can be built. The discussion paper describes the types of facilities and the technologies that may need to be considered. Consideration also has to be given to what happens to the residual wastes after recyclables and compostables have been removed. The possibilities may include energy from waste plants and landfill.

It is suggested in the discussion paper that :-

- Seven of the existing Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) may need to be relocated or extended.
 - In order to increase the number of people with convenient access to an HWRC another five new ones may be needed.
- and based on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy the following treatment facilities may be needed:-
- Two Materials Recovery Facilities.
 - Composting facilities

- Up to fifteen treatment/recycling facilities. This is on the basis of mechanical biological treatment plants or similar technologies with modules of 50,000 tonnes/year capacity
- Two or three Energy from Waste plants, preferably combined heat and power plants.
- Possibly an additional 2 million cubic metres of landfill capacity.

Not all of these facilities are likely to be needed; much will depend on the technologies that are used. A large number of potential sites for waste management developments have been identified in the discussion paper. They are listed on the basis of the size of site that would be large enough to accommodate different types of facilities. These sites are predominantly on existing industrial sites, land allocated for employment or other brownfield land. They have not been examined in detail but have been identified to allow discussion of their suitability and availability and to invite suggestions regarding other possible alternative sites.

Two approaches are suggested for managing all of the wastes that come from within Cumbria. One would be to manage waste as far as possible locally and attempts have been made to identify a full range of sites in each district council area. The other approach would be to have one or two large complexes in the county delivering a range of services for the whole county.

Radioactive wastes are also an issue for the plan. As national policy for the more radioactive wastes is still being debated the extent to which the plan may be able to formulate policy is uncertain at this time. The inclusion of policies for the lower level wastes are considered to be appropriate and there are issues about the role of the present Low Level Waste repository near Drigg in West Cumbria.

Minerals

The location of mineral working is largely determined by where minerals occur in sufficient quantities to make working economically viable. Sites are generally in the open countryside and can give rise to concerns about environmental impacts, particularly lorry traffic on rural roads. As well as ensuring that minerals can be made available to meet society's needs the plan will seek to protect resources for future generations by safeguarding areas from inappropriate developments.

Whilst a variety of minerals are worked in Cumbria the main minerals in terms of the amount extracted annually are crushed rock and sand and gravel, mainly used in construction works. To ensure the supply of these minerals national policy requires that a landbank of planning permissions is

maintained sufficient to meet several years' extraction. The Council's present policy is that these should be sufficient for at least seven years supply of sand and gravel (currently sixteen years) and fifteen years supply of crushed rock (currently forty years).

This suggests that there is no need to release additional sources of material in the immediate future. However, the issue is more complicated than just the size of landbanks. Other matters to be taken into consideration relate to the type of stone, the number of quarries that are necessary to maintain the necessary level and pattern of supply and maintaining employment in traditional local industries.

Other than a current planning application at Roan Edge, near Kendal, no sites have been suggested for extending hard rock quarries. One quarry, near Millom, is the only one in the country that is producing very high skid resistance road stone and it may need to be regarded as a national resource.

All current planning permissions for sand and gravel quarries expire within the plan period. Whilst not all of the sand and gravel within those sites will have been worked the plan will have to make provision for continued quarrying. Sites have been put forward by operators for extending some sand and gravel quarries around Aldoth, near Aspatria and Low Gelt, Brampton. One question that is asked in the discussion paper is how realistic it would be to seek an alternative pattern of sand and gravel quarries given the distribution of the mineral within the county.

It is also necessary to ensure that a greater proportion of these construction materials are supplied from recycled or re-used quarry and construction and demolition wastes.

Other minerals that are, or have been, worked in the county include high purity limestone for industrial uses, slate, local building stones, gypsum for making plaster and plaster board, coal, peat, oil and gas, haematite, lead and zinc and mudstones for making bricks. Recent interest has been expressed in resuming zinc mining in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The brickworks near Askam in Furness has a niche national market for its bricks. Sites have been identified next to High Greenscoe quarry for possible future reserves of the mudstones that the brickworks uses as its raw material.