

# CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



## PREFERRED OPTIONS PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT- SUMMARY

The four full documents are available to view or download at:

[http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals\\_waste/mwdf](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/mwdf)

All comments by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007** to The Environment Unit, County Offices, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4RQ.

### Introduction

The Minerals and Waste Development Framework is a new kind of plan which will set out Cumbria County Council's spatial planning policies for minerals and waste developments over the period up to 2018. This plan will guide decisions by the County Council on planning applications for minerals and waste developments.

Following consultation on Issues and Options in the summer of 2006 the County Council wants your views about its first draft of the plan. Four draft Preferred Options documents have been prepared. These set out a Core Strategy; Site Allocations; Development Control Policies and illustrative Preferred Options Maps. In addition Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal reports have been prepared.

Alternative strategies have been considered, the preferred overall strategy is to minimise the impacts of minerals and waste management developments on climate change and the environment; and to optimise local economic benefit from the investment in minerals and waste management developments.

### Delivering the Strategy

The first three of the documents discuss the options considered and put forward the County Council's Preferred Options in the form of recommendations for policies. Core Strategy policies provide a cohesive framework for all the other documents and policies. The Site Allocations policies refer to specific sites, where that is relevant, whilst the Generic Development Control policies suggest detailed criteria and issues that will need to be taken into account when considering planning applications. The Maps show all the areas where development is being considered, and indicate what kind of development could be located somewhere within the identified sites.

### Key Options

The documents propose that sufficient sites should be provided to manage all Cumbria's wastes. They give estimates of the quantities of waste to be managed and the number and size of sites required. Proposals to manage wastes from outside the county would only be permitted in limited circumstances where there would be local benefit. Actual sites are suggested in the Site Allocations document for a decentralised network of different sizes and types of modern facilities intended to

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increase recycling, divert waste from landfill and reduce carbon emissions from transporting waste.

Three types of site are identified – for household waste recycling centres, energy from waste gasification or incineration plants and 2 ha sites for other enclosed waste management facilities. The Preferred Option for landfill is for additional capacity at two existing sites, Lillyhall near Workington and Bennet Bank near Barrow.

For radioactive wastes, the Core Strategy includes a contingency policy for any proposals that may come forward for High and Intermediate Level radioactive wastes management before national strategy for these wastes is finalised. A second Core Strategy policy explains the policy criteria for Low Level radioactive wastes : essentially to cater for wastes arising from Sellafield/ Windscale and also waste from small users that has traditionally been stored at the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg.

Providing for the need for minerals from Cumbria that is set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is one of the Core Strategy Preferred Options. These RSS apportionments relate only to crushed rock and sand and gravel used as aggregates. For general crushed rock no additional provision would be made within the plan period, as the current reserves with permission are sufficient. High specification roadstone would be considered separately, with Areas of Search for further extensions suggested adjacent to Roan Edge quarry, near M6 junction 37 and to Ghyll Scaur quarry, near Millom.

The Preferred Option for sand and gravel is to maintain the level of reserves with planning permission sufficient for 7 years production at 700,000 tonnes per year, as required by national and regional policy. This approach would be refined to relate the reserves to local patterns of supply. It is not proposed to identify any Preferred Areas or Areas of Search at this time. A review of the Development Framework would be started as soon as possible. This would assess remaining reserves at all of the sand and gravel quarries and examine issues related to lorry traffic, geographic location, and the aim of reducing “mineral miles”.

The only other Areas of Search that are suggested are at Long Marton, Kirkby Thore (for open cast gypsum extraction), and High Greenscoe Quarry near Askam-in-Furness (for brick making mudstones). Both these minerals serve a national need and support local industries.

In addition to the policies and proposals for minerals and waste developments policies are included for protecting and enhancing Cumbria’s environmental assets. These include its landscape and historic environment and its wildlife and geological conservation resources. Other policies are for reducing flood risk and for protecting water resources.

**Please see the separate response form for more information about how you can make your views known or email [mwdf@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:mwdf@cumbriacc.gov.uk) or telephone 01539 773548 or 773425**