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1 FOREWORD

- 1.1** The Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) is one of the new types of plan arising from changes in planning legislation in 2004. It will secure more sustainable ways of providing supplies of minerals and managing wastes within Cumbria, outside the National Parks. This paper invites comments about the main issues that are raised and the main options that need to be considered in planning for these developments over the period up to 2018. It is also a call for suggestions of sites that would be appropriate for development.
- 1.2** In its final form the MWDF will consist of four documents; the Core Strategy, Site Specific Allocations, Generic Development Control Policies and a Proposals Map. All of these are being prepared at the same time, and all except the Proposals Map are included in this discussion paper.
- 1.3** Any planning applications for developments such as quarry extensions or waste management plants will be considered against the policies and site allocations of the MWDF, together with the Regional policies that make up the Development Plan. The local framework has to conform to National and Regional policy including the National Waste Strategy, Planning Policy Statements (PPS), Minerals Policy Statements (MPS) and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).
- 1.4** Some of the principles of National and Regional Policy are:
- ensuring an adequate supply of minerals, with
 - a greater emphasis on alternatives to using primary land-won aggregates;
 - a focus on regarding materials not as waste but as a resource;
 - a presumption against landfilling,
 - much greater rates of re-use, recycling and composting,
- 1.5** Securing these principles will provide additional jobs and infrastructure that is essential for the economy. Chapters 2 and 3 include some of the detailed targets and objectives arising from National and Regional Policy and the effect that these will have on options available in Cumbria.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 1.6** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that this plan is prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. It is important to understand what this means, the ideas about what sustainable development is have developed over the years.
- Man doesn't inherit the earth he borrows it from his children
Old 1970's campaign soundbite.

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- Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
World Commission on Environment and Development 1987
- The Government's aims of sustainable development are:-
 1. social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
 2. effective protection of the environment;
 3. the prudent use of natural resources;
 4. the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering sustainable development. (2005).

WHAT SHOULD THE PLAN TRY TO DO?

- 1.7** The aims and principles above can be summarized into a main purpose for the plan. "It should contribute to the aims of sustainable development by achieving more sustainable ways of supplying essential minerals and of providing for the management of wastes". More detailed objectives are suggested in Chapter 4 paragraph 4.19 , and your views on these draft objectives are welcomed.
- 1.8** The plan must also integrate the objectives of a wider range of plans and programmes, some of which are also described briefly in Chapter 4.
- 1.9** Work on a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is under way and will be incorporated into later stages of the consultation and engagement process.
- 1.10** There are some things that the plan cannot address, that other agencies are primarily responsible for. Minimising waste is essential but raises issues of influencing behaviour that are largely outside the scope of a planning authority. Options and ideas to incorporate this will be discussed where relevant in the document.
- 1.11** The County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority, together with the District Councils, are already delivering big increases in recycling and composting, and are developing a new Municipal Waste Management Strategy that will shortly result in a new 25 year waste management contract for the whole county. Investment in modern facilities will be required, for which planning permission will be sought.
- 1.12** The biggest challenge for the plan will be to enable this radical change in attitudes to and management of waste, by identifying sites for the full range of waste management facilities that could be needed for composting, recycling and recovery of value from waste. Choices of technologies, and the technical regulation of facilities are not matters for the planning system.

- 1.13** The plan should also address considerations about employment and the economy. Keeping a sufficient number of quarries open could maintain levels of production and employment in traditional industries in parts of the county experiencing continuing economic decline.

STRUCTURE AND USE OF THIS DOCUMENT

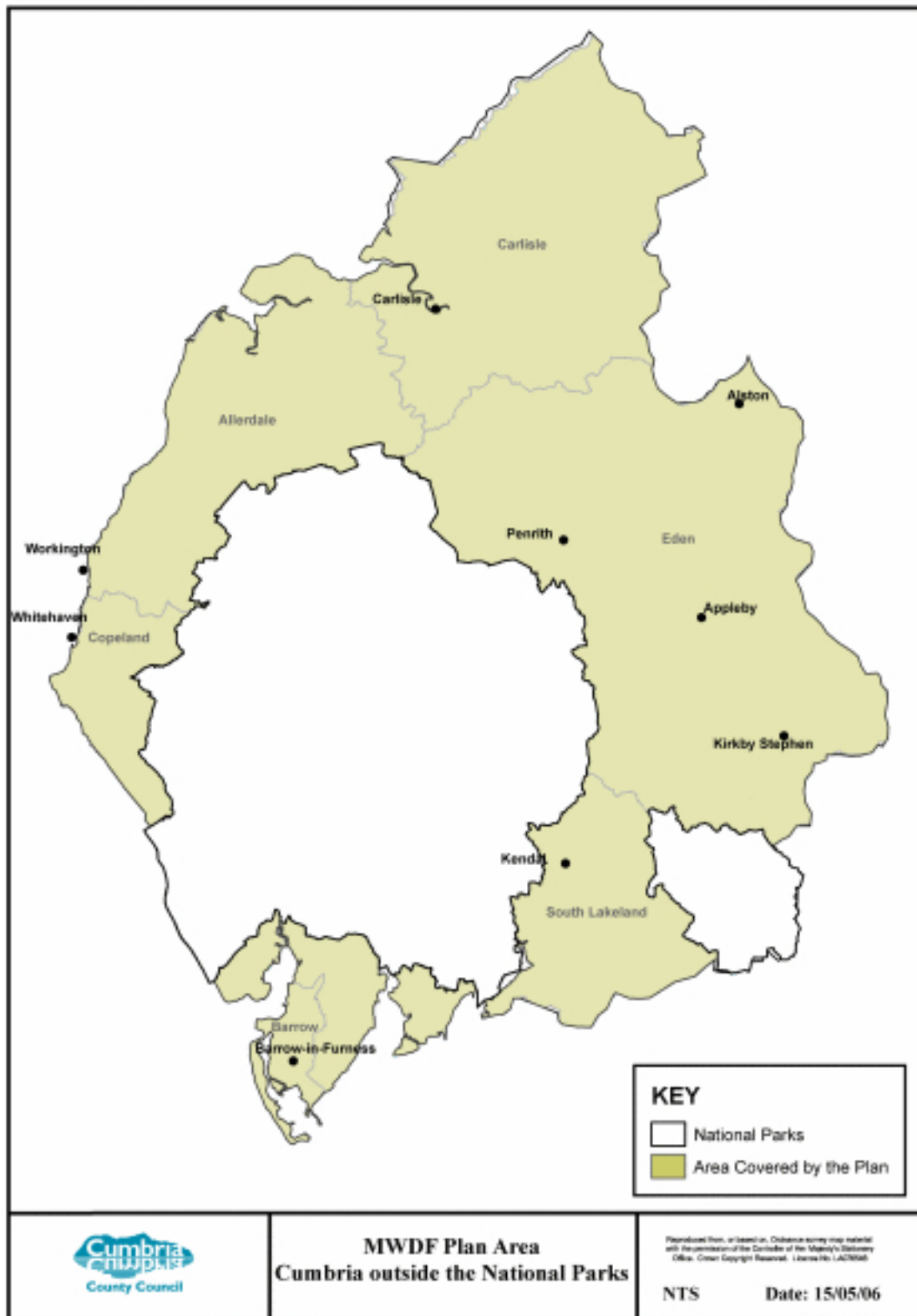
- 1.14** This document is in four parts: Background Information; Core Strategy; Site Allocation Policies; and Generic Development Plan Policies. There is no Proposals Map in this document as this will be developed at a later date.
- 1.15** The Background Information section, explores “where we are now” and “where do we need to be” on a wide range of waste types, Chapter 2, and different minerals, Chapter 3. The key options are presented in the Core Strategy section, Chapters 4 – 6, and all aspects relating to sites are in Chapters 7 and 8. Chapter 9 looks at the existing Development Control policies, and asks how they might need to be amended for the new plan.
- 1.16** The response form lists the questions in the text and can be used alongside the text to record your views. If you are looking at the document on–line you are encouraged to use the consultation module which both tells us your views and also makes them available for others to consider.
- 1.17** After this Issues and Options stage, and comments have been considered, a Preferred Options document will be prepared (containing all four documents as mentioned earlier). This will be made available for comment during November 2006 to January 2007. A further round of amendment and consultation continues well into 2007.

THE LIKELY CONTENT OF THE NEW PLAN

- 1.18** As discussed above, the plan will include policies and sites for waste management. The sites listed in this document have been identified using criteria in line with the principles of National and Regional Policy, focusing first on previously developed sites and those already identified for employment sites. They are only a snapshot of sites thought to be available and possibly suitable for consideration. More detailed work on them would be necessary before they went forward for allocation and your views on these sites will be welcomed.
- 1.19** Nationally, there will be major challenges for how radioactive wastes are managed, particularly as progress is made with nuclear decommissioning. As West Cumbria has, by far, the largest concentration of nuclear facilities in the country, proposals and policies for managing such wastes will be among the most important matters for this plan. However, we may not be able to deal with matters relating to all of these wastes now because the national policy context is unlikely to be determined in time. It is likely that there will be policies on Low Level Waste, and the site near Drigg, in the plan.
- 1.20** Because of existing planning permissions there may be little change in the county's pattern of mineral workings over the plan period. Permitted reserves of sand and gravel are healthy and for crushed rock are very large. there seems little need, at present, to make provision for additional areas of extraction.

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- 1.21** However, all of the sand and gravel planning permissions and some of the crushed rock ones expire during the plan period. It is not clear, at the moment, whether the pattern of sand and gravel working could be influenced by alternative locations of quarries.



Picture 1.1 Map F1 Plan Area