

Equality Impact Assessment of Waste Development Plan Document (preferred options) – April 2007

The purpose of this report is to set out the vision, objectives and preferred options of the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document and to assess these for the likely impact they will have on the six equality groups. Data collected from public consultations is used to inform this analysis and to identify the planning issues of most importance to equality groups. This report, together with the matrix, concludes that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document will not have any negative impacts on any of the equalities groups and will have many positive impacts. Because no negative impacts are identified there is no need for an Equalities Action Plan.

1. Background

1.1. Context

This document represents the second stage in preparing Plymouth City Council's Waste Development Plan Document. It has been produced for public consultation, and builds on an earlier issues and options document (February 2005).

This Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document forms part of a portfolio of documents called the Local Development Framework (LDF). The central document in the LDF is the Core Strategy which provides a strategic planning framework for the city, guiding development to 2021 and beyond. The Core Strategy sets out Plymouth's spatial vision – to turn Plymouth into 'one of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone'. The Waste Development Plan Document will provide a cohesive planning framework for the city's future waste arrangements. This Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document does not repeat the policies contained within the Core Strategy but the two plans should be read together to aid decision-making.

The LDF Core Strategy has been prepared in line with national planning policy and is in general conformity with regional planning guidance (RPG10) and the Devon Structure Plan 2001 – 2016. The Core Strategy adopts the overall vision and aims of the City Strategy and of the Corporate Plan, and will support their implementation. The Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document is in conformity with the Core Strategy and thus with the City Strategy and Corporate Plan.

1.2. Aims and objectives

This document adopts the following vision for Waste:

In 2016 Plymouth will be a city with a socially, environmentally and economically responsible approach to waste management, where everyone can play a role in delivering long term sustainable waste

management, which will show a positive trend in waste minimisation, significant increases in recycling, composting and energy recovery and a dramatic decrease in the amount of waste being sent to landfill. Facilities for waste management will be provided in accordance with the proximity principle, enabling Plymouth to be as self-sufficient as possible in terms of managing its waste.

2. Data relating to equalities issues

Three specific consultations have been undertaken to identify the views of the groups subject to this assessment:

Preferred Options consultation

The general public consultation on the Preferred Options of the Core Strategy and the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options (July/August 2005) showed general public support for the preferred options for waste management. No specific equalities issues were identified in relation to waste, although there was some concern over the location of waste treatment sites and possible impacts on the amenity of the city's neighbourhoods.

There was a consultation with hard to reach groups (in conjunction with the consultation for the Local Transport Plan) in addition to the general public consultation. This was carried out in August/September 2005. Presentations and workshops were held for:

- members of Black and ethnic minorities (contacted through FATA HE) – 4 attended
- disabled (contacted through the Guild of Voluntary Services) – 6 attended
- young people (contacted through the Plymouth Youth Parliament) – 4 attended
- elderly (contacted through old people's organisations) – 9 attended.

Plymouth Pride were contacted but declined the offer of a workshop. They requested copies of the reports instead.

The hard to reach consultation for the preferred options has been written up as a report.

Gender Audit

A Gender Audit of the Local Plan Review was carried out in 2001. The aim was to 'gender proof' the plan in order to ensure that all strategies, policies and proposals openly and actively take into account their effects on the respective situations of women and men, and where necessary use specific policies to promote equality. Preparation of the audit involved focus group discussions with women and men and consultations with planning staff.

Community Planning Studies

Community Planning Studies were undertaken in 1998 as part of the Local Plan review consultation programme to inform the development of a new planning strategy and policies. These studies involved holding stalls

at fetes and fun days; a schools consultation exercise and community planning workshops. They covered the whole city to include over 6,500 residents. Hard to reach groups were contacted as follows:

- Race – contacted through the annual RESPECT Festival and by letter.
- Travellers – group contacted by letter.
- Faith groups – places of worship informed of events; Muslim and Jewish groups contacted by letter.
- Age – old people through the Senior Citizens Forum (presentation and workshop). Young people (at primary and secondary level) through the schools consultation exercise.
- Disability – workshop together with the Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service.
- Gender – women's groups contacted by letter.
- Sexual orientation – groups were contacted by letter.

The data collected from this exercise were written up as 21 Community Planning Studies (published in 2000) and one general study covering city-wide issues. In relation to waste, the need for more recycling sites to be provided throughout the city for easier access was identified.

2.1. Gaps/inadequacies in the data

The Community Studies and the preferred options hard to reach consultations showed that contact by letter is not necessarily sufficient to engage with equalities groups, especially those that traditionally have had little engagement with the planning process. As a result, no specific consultation was carried out with faith or sexual orientation groups, and many of the hard to reach workshops were poorly attended. Other means of communication will be needed in future in order to build all groups' capacity to engage. Future consultations will be guided by the Statement of Community Involvement.

2.2. Issues raised by the consultations

The following general issues of concern to equalities groups throughout the city have been identified in relation to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy:

- Lack of affordable and special needs housing.
- Difficulty in travelling to work and accessing services.
- Lack of accessible streets and buildings.
- Need for socially inclusive neighbourhoods with a range of facilities and amenities.
- Safety concerns - fear of crime but also road safety and personal safety.
- Need for opportunities to learn and to work.

Waste was not identified as a particular area of concern by any of the equalities groups.

The Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document identifies the following issues:

- The need to find alternative ways of dealing with waste given the planned closure of Chelson meadow in mid 2007.
- The requirement for the City Council to be as self-sufficient as possible in its ability to deal with waste.
- The requirement for the City Council to manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recover and, lastly, dispose.

3. Key findings

In order to assess whether there are any equalities issues raised by the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, the preferred policy options have been mapped against the issues of most concern to equalities groups, and the results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 –Preferred policy options against equality issues

Policy	Housing needs	Travel/ access	Accessibility	Inclusivity	Safety	Economy
1: Sustainable waste management	-	-	-	-	-	-
2: Strategic waste management facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
3: Sites for local waste management	-	x	-	x	-	-
4: Interim solution for waste management	-	-	-	-	-	-
5: Waste managed outside the city	-	-	-	-	-	-
6: New waste facilities	-	-	-	-	-	x
7: Environmental objectives	-	-	-	-	-	-
8: Transport objectives	-	-	-	-	-	-
9: Public awareness	-	-	-	x	-	-
10: New development and waste	-	-	-	x	-	-
11: China Clay works, Coypool	-	-	-	-	-	x
12: Chelson Meadow	-	-	-	-	-	x
13: Prince	-	-	-	-	-	x

Policy	Housing needs	Travel/ access	Accessibility	Inclusivity	Safety	Economy
Rock						
14: Moorcroft Quarry	-	-	-	-	-	x
15: Land at Ernesettle	-	-	-	-	-	x

Most of the policy options put forward in the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document do not relate specifically to equalities issues. Policy Option 3, however, relates to inclusive neighbourhoods and improving access to facilities, as it will increase the number of local recycling facilities. Policy Option 6 seeks to prevent unacceptable impacts on residential neighbourhoods from the location of new facilities, and may provide new employment opportunities, as may policy options 11 - 15. Policy Options 9 and 10 should benefit all residents of Plymouth, but particularly those who are not currently recycling, which may include some of the equalities groups. It is important that this policy is implemented in an inclusive way that recognises the needs of the different equalities groups.

This table shows that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document is not anticipated to have any specific positive or negative impact on the housing needs or on safety or physical accessibility concerns of the equalities groups. It may have a positive benefit for inclusiveness in that it will result in improved opportunities for local recycling. Travel/ access to local recycling opportunities should also be improved. Many of the policy options for new waste management facilities may result in new employment opportunities being created.

The impacts have also been assessed by equality group:

3.1. Race

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document will have a positive impact by promoting equality of opportunity. The Waste Development Plan Document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on race groups – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities. New employment opportunities will also be provided by the new waste treatment plants.

It is considered that this preferred options document will have no adverse impacts on promoting good race relations or eliminating unlawful discrimination.

3.2. Faith and belief

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on faith and belief groups – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities. New employment opportunities will also be provided by the new waste treatment plants.

3.3. Disability

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on people with a disability – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities. New employment opportunities will also be provided by the new waste treatment plants.

3.4. Gender

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on men and women – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities. New employment opportunities will also be provided by the new waste treatment plants.

3.5. Sexual orientation

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on sexual orientation groups – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities. New employment opportunities will also be provided by the new waste treatment plants.

3.6. Age

Young people

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on young people – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities. New employment opportunities will also be provided by the new waste treatment plants.

Older People

It is considered that the Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document, in conformity with the Core Strategy, will have a positive impact on older people – especially in relation to better social inclusion and access/travel to recycling facilities.

Recommendations

It is considered that this Waste Development Plan Document preferred options document will have no adverse impacts on any equality group, therefore no further actions are required.