

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at PELHAM HOUSE, LEWES on WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 1999 at 2.00 pm

68 **Present** Councillor Skilton MBE (Chairman of the County Council in the Chair),
Councillors Bagshawe, Barnes, Birch, Bridger, Clements, Daniel,
De Vecchi Hopper, Dyason, Ellis, Field, Freeman, Glazier, Mrs Healy,
Mrs Hopkinson, Jones, Kramer, Mrs Leigh, Livings, Martin, McPherson,
Michael Murphy, Stephen Murphy, Neighbour, Norcross, Petley DL,
Reid, Rogers, Sinnatt, Skinner, Slack, Roger Stephens, Richard Stevens
(Vice-Chairman), Thomas, Tidy, Tunwell, Tutt, Vickers, Wallis, Webb,
Whetstone, Wilcock and Woodall.

69 **Apology for Absence**

69.1 Councillor May.

70 **Waste Local Plan - Deposit Draft**

70.1 The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for their interest and for the communications which he and other members had received. Copies of the letters of representation which had been received by the officers in relation to the Waste Local Plan had been placed in the Members' Room. He drew attention to the note which had been circulated setting out the petitions which he had received from the members indicated immediately before the meeting, as follows:

Councillors Field and Barnes - Opposing the possible location of an
incineration and recycling plant at
Mountfield

Councillor Rogers - Opposing the proposed incinerator at
North Quay, Newhaven.

70.2 The following motion, moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded, was
CARRIED -

The Council resolves to sit as a committee to consider the report of the Cabinet Committee and the issues contained therein and the motion set out in item 2(b) on the agenda and the recommendations to be made to the Council in relation thereto.

70.3 The Chairman adjourned the County Council meeting, to resume at the conclusion of the meeting of the Council in Committee.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

70.4 The Chief Executive set the need to agree a Waste Local Plan in context and the Director of Transport and Environment introduced his supplementary report which was before the Council.

70.5 The following motion was moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded -

To recommend the County Council to adopt the following:

1. In relation to the wide-ranging issues raised by the preparation of the Deposit Draft Waste Local Plan to commit the Council to the following principles:
 - (a) to maximise recycling levels over the plan period;
 - (b) to investigate the possibility of a single waste authority for East Sussex as a means of achieving this target;
 - (c) based upon the proximity principle that waste should be processed as close as possible to where it arises, to re-examine the balance of proposed sites as between East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, especially in relation to energy from waste facilities for the western area;
 - (d) to exclude from the Deposit Draft all landraising proposals on wholly green field sites such as Veals Farm;
2. In relation to site-specific proposals not covered by the above, to accept the JoSPAC recommendations amended as follows:
 - (a) possible use of the Ashdown Brickworks should be brought forward;
 - (b) energy from waste and materials recovery facilities for the eastern area should be at Pebsham rather than Mountfield;
 - (c) should 1(c) above not be achieved, then energy from waste facilities for the western area should be at Beddingham rather than Newhaven; and
3. To authorise the Cabinet Committee to agree the Deposit Draft of the Waste Local Plan with Brighton and Hove Council in the light of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and, subject to that, to authorise the placing on deposit of the Deposit Draft of the Waste Local Plan.

70.6 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded -

To add at the end of sub-paragraph 1(d) -

“Pookhill Barn, Selmeston and Marley Lane, Battle”

To delete sub-paragraph 2(b)

(the effect of this is to retain in the Plan Mountfield Mine as the preferred area of search for the energy from waste and materials recovery facility for the eastern part of the County as recommended by JoSPAC)

70.7 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Reid and seconded -

To add at the end of paragraph 2 of Councillor Rogers' motion a new sub-paragraph -

“deletion from the Waste Local Plan of Maresfield Camp as a site for a materials recovery facility and the rigorous investigation for an alternative site of Mill Pond Depot, Maresfield and the existing waste sorting site at Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Uckfield”.

70.8 The following amendment was moved by Councillor De Vecchi Hopper and seconded -

To add at the end of sub-paragraph 2(c) in Councillor Rogers' motion -

provided that in the event of Beddingham being pursued as a site for an energy from waste facility, a full independent environmental and health assessment shall be undertaken to assess the potential impact on the environment and population, within a ten mile radius of Beddingham, of the provision of such a facility there as part of the consideration of the suitability of the site.

70.9 There was an equality of votes in favour of and against Councillor De Vecchi Hopper's amendment. The Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the amendment and declared it CARRIED.

70.10 The amendment moved by Councillor Reid was CARRIED.

70.11 The amendment moved by Councillor Jones was CARRIED.

70.12 The motion moved by Councillor Rogers, as amended in paragraphs 7.6, 7.7 and 7.8 above, was CARRIED.

70.13 The Council in Committee having completed its business, the Chairman announced that the adjourned meeting of the County Council was now resuming.

RESUMED MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

70.14 The following motion moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded was CARRIED -

To approve the following recommendation of the Council in Committee:

1. In relation to the wide-ranging issues raised by the preparation of the Deposit Draft Waste Local Plan to commit the Council to the following principles:
 - (a) to maximise recycling levels over the plan period;
 - (b) to investigate the possibility of a single waste authority for East Sussex as a means of achieving this target;
 - (c) based upon the proximity principle that waste should be processed as close as possible to where it arises, to re-examine the balance of proposed sites as between East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, especially in relation to energy from waste facilities for the western area;
 - (d) to exclude from the Deposit Draft all landraising proposals on wholly green field sites such as Veals Farm, Ripe, Pookhill Barn, Selmeston and Marley Lane, Battle;

2. In relation to site-specific proposals not covered by the above, to accept the JoSPAC recommendations amended as follows:
 - (a) possible use of the Ashdown Brickworks should be brought forward;
 - (b) should 1(c) above not be achieved, energy from waste facilities for the western area should be at Beddingham rather than Newhaven, provided that in the event of Beddingham being pursued as a site for an energy from waste facility, a full independent environmental and health assessment shall be undertaken to assess the potential impact on the environment and population, within a ten mile radius of Beddingham, of the provision of such a facility there as part of the consideration of the suitability of the site;
 - (c) deletion from the Waste Local Plan of Maresfield Camp as a site for a materials recovery facility and the rigorous investigation for an alternative site of Millpond Depot, Maresfield and the existing waste sorting site at Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Uckfield; and

3. To authorise the Cabinet Committee to agree the Deposit Draft of the Waste Local Plan with Brighton and Hove Council in the light of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and, subject to that, to authorise the placing on deposit of the Deposit Draft of the Waste Local Plan.

8.13 In respect of landfill targets, the consultation draft Plan's optimum diversion rate of 81% for household waste by 2011 is significantly higher than the Government's recently announced targets. Achieving diversion rates from landfill/landraise will be dependent on other methods of treatment coming forward and achieving high rates of recovery. The landfill diversion targets in the Plan are to be reviewed with the aim of achieving the highest realistic diversion rate.

8.14 It is recognised that end markets for re-processed material are vital to the achievement of high rates of recycling including composting. It is important to assess options in the light of the BPEO and what is realistically achievable over the Plan period. The targets for recovery in the draft Plan are also significantly higher than those recently announced by the Government. The Plan's targets are to be less prescriptive with the recently announced Government targets for the recovery and recycling of municipal waste representing a minimum goal. Higher rates of recycling and composting will be sought for the Plan area.

Site Selection

8.15 Objections were received in relation to every site identified in the Plan, in particular sites that are identified for landraising and EfW. Account is being taken of these detailed responses as part of the ongoing site selection process, the results of which will be reported to JoSPAC on 22 September.

8.16 The Committee has considered the focus of the work programme. The identification of preferred areas is to concentrate on strategic waste facilities only. These are the major facilities which will deal with significant amounts of waste arisings (including energy from waste, landfill/landraising and major recycling facilities) or play a key strategic role in delivering the waste strategy (such as road to rail facilities). Where appropriate, smaller scale facilities will be dealt with by criteria-based policies.

8.17 Many of the objections related to the detailed wording of particular policies or supporting information. Consideration will be given to these comments when the Plan is redrafted later this year as part of the ongoing work.

Waste Awareness and Education Campaign

8.18 The County Council and Brighton & Hove Council have carried out environmental education and awareness programmes in their communities. Waste awareness and education activities will in future be co-ordinated under an umbrella programme. Officers from both authorities have discussed the more immediate publicity needs in respect of the Waste Local Plan and the waste contracts process. These will be developed further into a longer term waste education and awareness programme.

9 Closing of Accounts 1998/99

9.1 The Committee reported to the last meeting of the County Council on the expected outturn position. The outturn figures have now been finalised and capital spending is unchanged. Revenue spending is marginally lower, resulting in balances at 31 March 1999 being £6.6m rather than the anticipated £6.5m. The estimate for balances at 31 March 2000 is now £4.1m - only marginally less than the minimum level recommended by the District Auditor (2% of the revenue budget, excluding the amount delegated to schools).

9.2 The draft statement of accounts has been approved by the Committee and is available, on request, from Keith Stacey (01273 481587). A new requirement this year was to disclose 'transactions with related parties' as a note to the revenue account. This brings local authority accounts more closely into line with company accounts in which transactions

