

SCG-07

Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Waste Plan Examination

Statement of Common Ground between the Waste Planning Authority, Dorset Councils Partnership and Dorchester Town Council

Issue

During the examination hearings Dorchester Town Council raised a concern about the proposed site for a household recycling centre at Loudsmill (Inset 5), stating that there could be an opportunity to find a more suitable site as part of options for the expansion of Dorchester that is being considered as part of the review of the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan. The Waste Planning Authority (WPA) maintains that various options had been considered as part of the preparation of the Waste Plan but were discounted. The WPA is of the view that at present the Loudsmill site remains the only viable option and that the options for growth in the emerging West Dorset Weymouth and Portland Plan review are not sufficiently advanced to provide any realistic certainty of delivery at present.

Notwithstanding this, the WPA has since reflected on the situation and acknowledges that, during the life of the Waste Plan, it is possible that a suitable alternative site for an HRC could emerge given the options for expansion that are currently being considered by Dorset Councils Partnership as part of the Local Plan Review. If this review results in an opportunity to find a possible suitable site for an HRC then it might be considered a realistic alternative if the Loudsmill site has not been developed. The WPA is content that this could be recognised in text within the Waste Plan without compromising the allocation of the Loudsmill site.

Dorset Councils Partnership is content that the Waste Plan could make such a reference without prejudice to the due process of preparing the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Review.

Proposed Modification:

The following paragraph is proposed by the WPA for inclusion in the Waste Plan and this is supported by Dorset Councils Partnership and Dorchester Town Council:

Insert additional text (to follow para. 6.9 in the section 'Sites not allocated in the Waste Plan'):

'It is noted, for example, that West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan is currently under review and options are being considered for the growth of Dorchester, including provision for employment land. This plan was not at a sufficiently advanced stage at the time of preparing the Waste Plan for the WPA to explore the possibility of finding another alternative site option for a new household recycling centre (HRC) to serve Dorchester. The Waste Plan has instead allocated a site at Loudsmill (Inset 5) close to the existing facility which offers the only realistic opportunity of delivery (as at June 2018). However, the WPA recognises that in future it is possible that a suitable alternative option for an HRC could emerge once the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan reaches a sufficiently advanced stage. This could support the overall approach in the plan of providing a sufficiently flexible strategy to cope with changing needs or circumstances over the plan period such as in the event that the allocated site does not come forward'.

Signed:

Hilary Jordan, Corporate Manager – Planning (Community and Policy Development), West Dorset District Council

Mike Garrity, County Planning, Minerals & Waste Team Leader, Dorset County Council

Cllr Robin Potter, Chairman - Planning and Environment Committee, Dorchester Town Council

Date: 3 July 2018