

County Councillor Questions for the Cabinet - 17 January 2018

Question from Cllr Clare Sutton to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment in relation to the Council's Waste Plan and Non-Hazardous Residual Waste Treatment

Question

I welcome the detailed Waste Plan currently out for consultation, and note that one of the major issues identified is the emerging shortfall of capacity to treat non-hazardous residual waste. I note too that the draft plan (Policy 6) says:

Proposals for the recovery of non-hazardous waste, including materials recovery, mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment, anaerobic digestion and biomass facilities, will be permitted where it is demonstrated that they meet all of the following criteria: ...

d) where energy is produced, they provide combined heat and power.

This policy does not explicitly include the mass incineration of non-hazardous residual waste in the list in the pre-amble, but nor does it exclude it. Is it the Council's intention to allow mass incineration of non-hazardous residual waste within the County, and if so what criteria would apply to permissible sites?

Answer

The Waste plan is currently going through a formal pre-submission consultation. Once submitted, the plan will be the subject of a public examination by an independently appointed inspector who will consider whether the plan is sound and legally compliant having regard to consultation responses to the current draft plan. It will then come back to Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council to formally adopt the plan. Consequently, policies in the plan are not yet adopted although they are capable of being a material consideration.

The draft plan's approach to residual waste treatment is to promote the most sustainable means of treatment that follow the principles of the Waste Hierarchy, in essence to avoid disposal if waste can be prevented, reused, recycled or recovered/put to other beneficial use. For this reason no new landfill sites are proposed and instead residual non-hazardous waste will require suitable treatment facilities. The plan contains a policy that deals with waste recovery (Policy 6) for circumstances where waste cannot be prevented, reused or recycled. Where treatment generates energy the plan promotes its use and recovery.

The plan is not prescriptive about the technology or process that should be used for waste recovery facilities. This will be a matter for consideration if and when a particular application is submitted, having regard to the suitability of the site in question. In assessing this the Waste Planning Authority will need to consider a suite of planning considerations which will include a range of development management policies in the Waste Plan (including matters such as transport, amenity, landscape, etc.), district/borough local plans and national policies such as those set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. As to which policies or criteria will apply will depend upon the specific proposal that is before us and the particular sensitivities of the location'.

Question from Cllr Nick Ireland to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment in relation to the No. 5 Bus Service between Crossways, Broadmayne, West Knighton and Dorchester

Question

Can the Cabinet confirm what travel provisions are to be provided for the general public by the new bus service which Dorset County Council have contracted Damory to provide from the 22nd January 2018 as a consequence of the termination of the First Bus #5 route?

Answer

The Dorset Travel Service has been working with the Damory to ensure the continued provision of entitled school transport. As part of the communication with the Damory, they indicated the possibility of additional services and opening the school time service. To inform Damory of the potential for additional services, the passenger loading data from the First Wessex #5 was provided. This covered the last quarter of 2017. Dorset Travel have supported Damory with short notice confirmation with the traffic commissioner to allow operation to commence on 22 January. The new #5 is an experimental service and will require the support of the communities it serves to be financially viable and continue. The requirements from Dorset Travel were to accommodate the entitled students only and the route has been designed around this flow with enhancements.