CUMBRIA
MINERALS AND WASTE
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CORE STRATEGY

This Development Plan Document was formally adopted by Cumbria County Council on 23 April 2009
PREFACE

This document is the Core Strategy of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework. The document sets out the County Council's policies for minerals and waste management developments up until 2020 and relates to those parts of Cumbria that are outside the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. There will be further consultations in 2009.

A web-based version of this document is available on the web site www.cumbria.gov.uk
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Where we need to be

3.30 Bearing in mind the very serious social and economic problems experienced by large parts of Cumbria, it is particularly important that best local advantage is taken of investments in minerals and waste management developments. This can include jobs in the construction/development stage as well as when a development is operational.

3.31 Very little actual waste recycling takes place within Cumbria; this should present development opportunities. Research carried out by NorthWest Remade has demonstrated the potential to "add value" to the Cumbria economy by handling and processing recyclables and compost. The County Council is considering whether a "Materials Marketing Organisation" should be set up, which would be responsible for marketing all recyclables, with a view to maximising the economic benefit to Cumbria. The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy includes an initiative with the private and voluntary sectors to establish a Resource Recovery Park. At this park, materials would be reprocessed on site, producing Cumbrian products for sale made from recycled materials.

3.32 One of the problems with regard to waste management is that some of the technologies that are likely to be used are new to this country. This can mean that waste management facilities are purchased as complete modules that have been manufactured in other countries rather than locally. There is limited scope for this plan to influence purchasing decisions, but it is within the power of other stakeholders to require local sourcing where practicable.

3.33 There is also scope for local industries to take advantage of reduced energy costs through combined heat and power plants using fuel that has been derived from waste. Several companies have already expressed interest in using fuel that would be produced as an end product of the management of the county's municipal waste. So much of the solid recovered fuel could be taken by these companies that it seems unlikely that a purpose built Energy from Waste plant will be needed for the municipal waste stream.

3.34 For some major facilities, it is appropriate for planning policies to seek planning contributions or other packages of benefits which offset their implications for local communities. This is particularly relevant to developments by the nuclear industry. West Cumbria's role in hosting the Low Level Radioactive Waste Repository has been recognised by the provision of a Community Fund by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

3.35 Economic and community benefits could, therefore, include :-

- jobs provided in, or supported by, mineral extraction, processing and utilisation;
- jobs provided at waste management facilities;
- jobs provided during the construction or lead-in stages of minerals and waste management developments;
- enhanced viability of local industries through supply chain benefits and due to reduced fuel costs by using combined heat and power energy from waste plants;
- off-set packages of community benefits related to major developments and their host communities.

Policy

3.36 The policy seeks to optimise economic and community benefits, which implies a balancing exercise with other interests. This approach has been used for the Waste and Minerals Core Strategies.
Core Strategy Policy 2

**ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

Proposals for new minerals and waste developments should demonstrate that they would realise their potential to provide economic benefit. This will include such matters as the number of jobs directly or indirectly created or safeguarded and the support that proposals give to other industries and developments. It will also be important to ensure that minerals and waste developments would not prejudice other regeneration and development initiatives.

3.37 It is acknowledged that measuring the success of this policy may be difficult. The Annual Monitoring Reports will be able to record the details relating to employment and support for other industries that are given in planning applications and assess any need to review the policy. At this stage no alternative contingency policy has been identified that would achieve the same strategic objective.

**Community benefits**

3.38 Community benefits packages will be expected to contribute to the sustainable development of an area and the well-being of its local communities. They can be secured through the provisions of the Local Government Acts, the Planning Acts or other legislation. An example of one that has been delivered through the planning system is the unilateral undertaking for a Community Fund that was negotiated in relation to development at the Low Level Radioactive Waste Repository near Drigg.

3.39 At the present time such off-setting packages of community benefits have been considered only in the context of the nuclear industry but could become relevant for other regional or national waste management facilities. It seems unlikely that any mineral development within Cumbria would be of such a scale as to merit such packages, even at those sites that supply regional or national markets. This situation will be kept under review.

3.40 The West Cumbria Spatial Masterplan highlights the problems that the area’s concentration of nuclear facilities causes, and will continue to cause in the future. Two main impacts can be demonstrated, the over-reliance on one industry and the effect that the negative perception of that industry has on other investment.

3.41 There will be considerable increases in radioactive wastes management associated with nuclear decommissioning, and this will have social and economic impacts that need to be mitigated. In these circumstances the Cumbria local authorities consider it is reasonable to expect that proportionate benefits packages should be secured in order to offset the consequences of hosting such a large proportion of the country’s nuclear legacy. The authorities will continue to work jointly on such matters.
DELIVERING THE OVERALL STRATEGY

Core Strategy Policy 3

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Where large national or regional waste management facilities are proposed, particularly for the nuclear industry, the County Council will expect that packages of community benefits will be provided to help to offset the impacts of hosting such facilities.

3.42 The numbers of off-setting benefits packages that are secured will be set out in the Annual Monitoring Reports. The more important matter, however, is how successful these are in achieving their objectives. Details of this should be available from the monitoring reports that the individual "delivery vehicles" produce. Any need to review the policy would take account of the relative success that the different ways of providing and managing the packages may demonstrate and of any additional opportunities provided by new legislation.

CUMBRIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

Where we are now

3.43 Cumbria's environmental assets include the normal residential and work place amenities, or quality of life, that people enjoy and the natural and man made features for which the county is renowned. As stated in the Structure Plan, "Cumbria is richly endowed with fine landscapes, wildlife, buildings and features of archaeological and historic importance. These resources are valuable assets that underpin the tourism industry, attract business and investment into the area, and contribute to the quality of life of local communities. Environmental conservation can also generate significant economic activity." The health of the eco-system is of vital importance to everyone, it provides outputs or outcomes that directly and indirectly affect human well-being. These services that benefit people, which are provided by the natural environment, are known as ecosystem services. The Economic Plan and the West Cumbria Spatial Masterplan also highlight the economic importance and potential of the urban and rural environments.

3.44 The environmental assets are listed in the Boxes below. They include ones that have been formally designated in accordance with European and national legislation and others that are identified for their regional or local importance. The international and national sites are shown on the Key Diagram. Some of these extend into adjacent counties; for example, nearly half of Moorhouse and Upper Teesdale SAC is within County Durham.

BOX 3

The areas and features within Cumbria (outside the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks) which are formally identified as being of national and international importance are:-

- **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty** - Solway Coast; North Pennines; and Arnside and Silverdale.
- **Ramsar sites and/or Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas** - Upper Solway Flats and Marshes/Solway Firth; South Solway Mosses; Border Mires,