

4 INTRODUCTION TO THE CORE STRATEGY

INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

- 4.1** This plan does not need to repeat policies that are already included in national Planning Policy Statements (PPS) or in the Regional Spatial Strategy. It should integrate the objectives of a wide range of other plans and programmes, some of which are described below.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

- 4.2** There are six Strategic Partnerships in the county. These are the one for the whole of Cumbria and five for the Local Strategic Partnerships for district council areas (Allerdale and Copeland are included as West Cumbria). There are clear and direct links between these Community Strategies and the Minerals and Waste Development Framework, particularly with regard to waste. This is not surprising bearing in mind the common focus on sustainable development.

Sustainable Cumbria 2004 To 2024

- 4.3** The most direct link between the MWDF and the Community Strategy is found within Priority 1 - Sustainable communities and well-being. This is the over-arching priority for the whole Community Strategy. The objectives that are listed for Priority 1 include "1.9 Implement sustainable waste programme".
- 4.4** Within Priority 2b – West Cumbria is objective 2b.5 – "Maximise the benefits from nuclear decommissioning and site conversion". This is relevant to the MWDF's considerations relating to radioactive waste.
- 4.5** Within the Community Strategy's Cross-Cutting Themes Theme 1- Sustainable Development is also directly relevant to the MWDF.
- 4.6** The above paragraphs set out the direct references or links between the Community Strategy and the MWDF. However, the wider background picture which the Strategy sets out is perhaps even more important than these specific points. This background is of a county that has to confront enduring problems of social and economic decline that are unrivalled in the UK.
- 4.7** Large parts of the county have a ravaged and vulnerable economy and it is the only county in the UK that is experiencing economic decline. As stated in the Community Strategy this is brought into sharper focus by comparison across the recently extended EU. Only Berlin, one subdivision in each of the Czech Republic and Bulgaria and parts of Romania show economic declines as fast as Cumbria.
- 4.8** The Community Strategy's priorities for regeneration and diversification in Furness and West Cumbria, for releasing the potential of Carlisle and the M6 corridor and for delivering high-end commercial activities in South Lakeland and Eden, may all have implications for minerals and waste developments.

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Carlisle And Eden Community Strategy

Environment

- 4.9** Under the aim of protecting and enhancing the environment specific reference is made to the need to reduce, reuse and recycle all forms of waste and also to use energy recovered from waste. An example is given of the recent partnership to improve kerbside recycling across Carlisle and Eden.
- 4.10** The Strategic Partnership has now split into separate ones for each district but the strategy has not yet been revised.

Furness Partnership

Environmental Sustainability

- 4.11** Under this heading reference is made to increasing the proportion of waste recycling in the Borough to meet statutory targets and to developing and implementing a new strategy for managing waste including seeking alternatives to landfilling wastes.

South Lakeland

- 4.12** Priority environmental issues that are stated in this Strategy include reducing waste and recycling. In its "Vision for a quality environment" are:-
- A clean and healthy environment which includes reducing the environmental impact of waste production, encouraging consumers and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle, and.
 - Better engagement with the community on environmental issues which includes encouraging businesses, residents and visitors to take responsibility for their own impact on the environment. One example that is given for this is by using recycling facilities.

West Cumbria Partnership

- 4.13** West Cumbria Live identifies priorities under Built Environment to reuse previously used buildings and sites rather than developing in Greenfield locations and to involve as many people as possible in decisions about change in the built environment. These fit with this plan's site search sequence and its Statement of Community Involvement.
- 4.14** Under Natural Environment the proposals to measure the number of homes composting; the number of fly tipping and littering offences and the proportion of household waste going for recycling are directly relevant to this plan.
- 4.15** Under Business Development the Strategy seeks the development of West Cumbria as a Centre of Excellence in growth sectors where there are significant strengths and proven capability including nuclear decommissioning.

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CUMBRIA BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

- 4.16** The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) seeks to protect, enhance and restore Cumbria's priority habitats and species. It is an important delivery mechanism for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and achievements in Cumbria contribute to the national biodiversity monitoring scheme.
- 4.17** Local Authorities are identified as important key deliverers and delivery though the planning system is highlighted in a specific action plan – Legislation and Planning. Cumbria County Council is committed to helping to achieve the targets in the CBAP.
- 4.18** The Minerals and Waste Development Framework will contribute through habitat and species protection, enhancement of existing habitats, and restoration/re-creation of habitats to repair habitat fragmentation and species isolation.

DRAFT OBJECTIVES FOR THE PLAN

- 4.19** Bearing all these community strategies and other government objectives in mind, a set of draft objectives are set out below and comments are invited on these.
- to seek to minimise the impacts of minerals and waste developments on climate change;
 - to make provision for the supply of the minerals needed by society from environmentally acceptable sources;
 - to make provision for the waste management facilities that Cumbria needs to increase the amount of waste reused, recycled or composted to meet national targets and to minimize the disposal of waste to landfill;
 - to seek maximum local economic benefits from minerals and waste developments;
 - to promote efficient use of minerals and the reuse / recycling of suitable materials in order to minimise the need for new primary extraction;
 - to help secure the management of waste as near as possible to where it is produced without endangering human health and without harming the environment;
 - to secure sound working practices so that the environmental impacts of minerals and waste developments, including traffic, are kept to a minimum,
 - to protect and, where possible, to enhance the overall quality of the environment including high standards of restoration once developments are completed;
 - to help to conserve and safeguard mineral resources
- 4.20** Two of the most important and over-riding objectives for mineral production and for waste management generally are to minimise waste and to break the link between economic growth and waste production. Whilst the plan can have policies relating to these matters it is considered that effective progress will mostly depend on Government action and publicity/education campaigns largely outside the scope of this plan.

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QUESTION 1

- A. Should the plan adopt these objectives?***
- B. Should any of them be deleted or amended?***
- C. Do you think any have been missed out?***