

Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/final responses/Leeds Material Recycling Building Aug 07

22 August 2007

Clive Saul
Planning Services
Leeds City Council
Leonardo Building
2 Rossington Street
Leeds
LS2 8HD

Dear Clive

Planning Application Number: P/07/04398/FU/MIN

Laying out of access road and erection of a new waste recycling building with associated weighbridge and site office at Pennine Industrial Estate Carr Crofts Armley.

Thank you for consulting the Assembly on the above. The Assembly, as the Regional Planning Body, has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS for Yorkshire and Humber (based on the Selective Review of RPG12) was issued by the Secretary of State in December 2004. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Circular 08/2005 make it clear that a draft RSS submitted to the Secretary of State is a relevant regional policy against which strategic applications can be considered. This Assembly response therefore also highlights relevant issues that arise from the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (draft RSS) December 2005 – the RSS submitted to the Secretary of State.

The Panel Report of the Examination in Public of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan has now been published (May 2007). This contains recommendations to Government that may or may not be reflected in the Proposed Changes to the Plan that are due to be published for consultation in the summer. The Panel Report backs the Plan's overall approach and strategy. It also includes recommendations for changes or additions to policies. Any points from the Panel Report that are particularly relevant to the Assembly's comments on this application are noted in this response. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan should be published in early 2008.

Both the existing and draft regional spatial strategies aim to achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of development, investment and activity across the region, putting a greater emphasis on matching needs across the region with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource. Policies R5, R6, R8 and R9 of current RSS and policies ENV12 and ENV13 of draft RSS encourage waste facilities that will lead to the reduction and reuse of materials and take into account the principles of the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency at the regional and local level, the proximity principle and the Regional Waste Management Strategy.

In seeking the implementation of these policies across the region, the Assembly therefore offers the following comments on the proposed material recycling facility.

The most recent published data from the Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB) supplements the data set out in Annex C of the draft RSS. The document "Revised Waste Data RTAB Document & Strategic Messages" (August 2006) was formally submitted as the 2006 RTAB Data Report during the RSS Examination in Public.

This report sets out forecasts for the production of municipal solid waste and industrial & commercial waste. It shows that there is currently a shortfall of total treatment capacity in West Yorkshire of more than 200,000 tonnes/yr, which is forecast to rise to 700,000 tonnes/yr if there is not an urgent provision of facilities. The proposed development would be a positive step forward in alleviating these pressures.

Policies R5, R6, R8 and R9 of current RSS (2004) and policies ENV12, ENV13 and ENV14 of draft RSS (2005) are also relevant when considering this proposal.

It should be noted that the Panel Report (May 2007) recommends changes to Policies ENV12, ENV13 and ENV14 (see pages 115-123 and recommendations 6.11).

These policies encourage facilities that will lead to the reduction and reuse of materials and take into account the principles of the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency at the regional and local level, the proximity principle and the Regional Waste Management Strategy.

The proposed material recycling facility will support the implementation of both current and draft RSS waste policy. It will assist in:

- moving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy

- achieving the statutory waste management targets
- achieving local and regional self sufficiency in terms of waste management
- compliance with the 'proximity principle' by providing a management facility close to the source of waste
- achieving the objectives and targets of the Regional Waste Management Strategy.

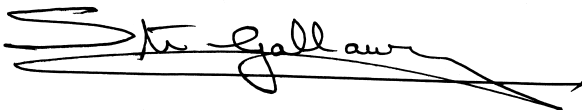
Conclusion

Given the comments set out above, it has been concluded that:

- The Assembly SUPPORTS the application, on the basis that there is a proven need for facilities in West Yorkshire and the proposal will assist in implementing both current and draft RSS waste policy.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Poxon on 01924 331555.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Galloway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Galloway
Chair, Regional Planning Board
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly