

# ***Press Release***

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### **PLANNERS LISTEN TO CONCERNS OVER WATER TREATMENT WORKS MOVE**

County Council planners have listened to concerns over proposals to move the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Works to make way for housing development.

Cambridgeshire County Council planners are now awaiting the results of a feasibility study on whether proposals to redevelop the works for housing can be made viable. If not, then there would be no case for relocating the works.

Concern had been raised through a public consultation on an option to move the works, from near Milton, to Honey Hill which lies in the parishes of Fen Ditton / Horningsea near Stow cum Quy, north of the A14.

Development on the Cambridge Northern Fringe (East) had been proposed by Cambridge City Council. The City Council initially proposed that the area should be developed for housing. However, a more recent consultation by them has suggested greater use for employment might be considered as an alternative.

If the study, due out by the end of next month, shows that housing led redevelopment is not feasible then the Works are unlikely to move and no alternative site for it would be put forward. The study has been commissioned by Cambridgeshire Horizons on behalf of the County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

If the facility remains in its current location, County Council planners will want to make sure that it is expanded and improved to meet the needs of a growing city while reducing its impact on the local environment in line with Environment Agency guidelines.

The announcement comes as a report outlining the Council's initial response to the public consultation on mineral and waste facilities in the County will be debated by the Development

Control Committee. The report is the latest stage in the drawing up of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan.

It follows a public consultation where around 1,400 people made their views known. This latest report is the Council's initial thoughts following that consultation on what the preferred options for mineral and waste facilities should be.

After next Monday's meeting of the Development Control Committee the proposals will go to Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet on 15 April

A comprehensive public consultation will then be held in September on the new preferred options.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Matt Bradney, Lead Member for Planning and Regional Matters, said: "Managing housing growth and where it should go is one of the greatest challenges faced by Cambridgeshire. We must make sure our proposals are both realistic and sustainable. I am also a firm believer that public consultations are not a paper exercise and play a crucial part in forming our plans. The feasibility study for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East was commissioned to ensure the next consultation will be based on the best evidence available. It has involved local councils working together to resolve this issue. If the study says that the area should be used for employment and therefore the treatment works should stay then we would be looking to support that view."

The plan will not be adopted until 2010.

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors**

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