Application to vary condition 15 of Planning Permission 07/00007/WAS: April 2009

Planning permission 07/00007/WAS was granted on 17 September 2007. The permission was granted subject to condition 15, which states that

All waste materials to be processed at the site shall originate from sources within a 20 mile radius of the site.

The reason given for this permission is that

So as to have regard to the proximity principle and Northamptonshire County Structure Plan policy W1 and the Northamptonshire Waste Local Plan Policies 4, 18 and 19.

This application seeks the following variation:

1. All waste materials to be processed at the site shall originate from sources within a 20-30 mile radius of the site, unless expressly approved in writing by the WPA.

At the time that the decision was made the relevant adopted Development Plan policies were contained in the County Structure Plan and the Northamptonshire Waste Local Plan; this remains the position, although the County Council is progressing its preparation of the Waste Development Framework, which will replace the now out-of-date Structure Plan and Waste Local Plan.

In the Submission document of the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy, are set out a number of Key Principles.

**Objective 1: Developing sustainable communities**

Support the development of sustainable communities in the key national growth area of Northamptonshire by facilitating the provision of infrastructure, facilities and services through ensuring:

- development of a modern network of sustainable waste management facilities which contributes towards achieving regional self-sufficiency and meets community, business and industry needs.

**Objective 3: Promoting a clear investment framework**

Promote a clear investment framework that identifies priorities for future private and public investment in minerals and waste development which gives confidence in delivery and ensures linkages to other growth area investment within and adjacent to Northamptonshire.

The Core Strategy Submission document also sets out the scale of waste management facilities:

- **National** - Facilities receiving waste from a catchment beyond a 100 miles radius (but not including London).
**Regional** - Facilities receiving waste from a catchment of up to 50 miles radius.

**Local/Sub-regional** - Facilities receiving waste from a catchment up to 30 miles radius.

**Neighbourhood** - Facilities which specifically serve ‘neighbourhood development’ such as housing estates and industrial areas.

The Core Strategy Submission document classifies in-vessel composting as a preliminary treatment facility. The strategy acknowledges that some preliminary waste treatment facilities have to be located in rural areas; the existing permission for in-vessel composting is one such.

It is clear from the emerging policy that there is support for the commercial needs of waste developments, recognising that investment must be made to secure the new facilities to serve the existing and future needs of the county and that facilities will be designed to provide capacity at different levels of catchment area.

The suggested catchment for local/sub-regional facilities as set out in the Core Strategy is 30 miles. As the Kirby Lodge facility is defined as a local/sub-regional facility it should be allowed to have a catchment area of 30 miles, which would cover most, although not all, of Northamptonshire, thus enabling the operator to provide a facility to meet the County Council’s own Waste Management Strategy requirements.

Recent waste planning permissions issued by the County Council have included within the catchment area condition a clause "unless expressly approved in writing by the WPA". In the event that this application is successful, the applicant will request the following exceptions to the 30 mile restriction:

Waste which falls into one or more of the following categories:

1) Waste from companies who operate in Northants from operations in counties adjacent to Northants;

2) Waste from Local Authorities within a 30 mile radius from Corby, even though some of that waste would be from outside the 30 mile restriction;

3) Waste from distribution centres in counties adjacent to Northants;

4) Commercial waste from counties adjacent to Northants.

The justification for this request is set out in detail in confidential information separately submitted.