

Appendix C

Environmental Impact Assessment

Planning applications for some types of major development must be subject to a process known as Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Impact Assessment is intended to ensure that the environmental effects of major developments are taken into account at the earliest possible stage in the planning process. It requires the developer (or applicant) to identify the environmental effects of the proposal and to indicate the steps being taken to mitigate those effects. These matters must be brought together by the developer in an Environmental Statement, which should be submitted to the planning authority at the same time as the planning application but should be a separate document. The planning authority then has to consider and consult on the Environmental Statement alongside the planning application, and must take its content into account when reaching its decision on the application.

Developments which would be dealt with by the County Council and which will always require an Environmental Impact Assessment are listed below:

- An installation designed solely for the permanent storage or final disposal of radioactive waste;
- An installation for the incineration, or chemical treatment or landfill of special waste;
- Waste water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150,000 population equivalent;
- Quarries or open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares.

Developments which would be dealt with by the County Council and which may be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, dependant on the likely significance of environmental effects by virtue of its size, nature and location are listed below:

- Surface mineral working;
- Installation for the processing and storage of radioactive waste;
- Intermodal trans-shipment facilities;
- Installations for the disposal of non-hazardous waste;
- Sludge-deposition site (sewage sludge lagoon);
- Storage of scrap iron, including scrap vehicles;
- Waste-water treatment plants;
- Incinerators.

Developers may write to the County Council requesting an opinion about what information should be included within an Environmental Statement.

Full and details guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment can be found in [Circular 02/99](#).