

Meeting: **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Date: **18 SEPTEMBER 2009** Agenda item number:

From: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROGRESS

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform the Committee on the progress of the preparation of the Joint Waste Development Plan and current waste management proposals.

The Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations

- 2 An informal consultation on the Issues and Options for the Waste Core Strategy took place in late 2006. This was intended to underpin a broad strategy that set out future waste management needs, what types of new facilities would be required and where, in broad terms, these should be located. In line with Government guidance at the time, individual sites were not to be included in the Core Strategy as this was to be the role of a separate site specific document to follow the Core Strategy. In response to widespread problems implementing the new planning system the Government issued new guidance in 2008 which appeared to now favour the allocation of strategic sites in Core Strategies. As a result both authorities undertook considerable further evidence gathering to assess the feasibility of allocating strategic sites in the Waste Core Strategy. consultation on possible sites for inclusion with the Core Strategy was planned for October 2009 this year.
- 3 However, this approach was recently scrutinised as part of a 'Critical Friend' assessment carried out by the Planning Officer's Society. Alongside more recent advice from the Planning Inspectorate, this recommends retaining a separate site-specific document and using the Core Strategy to identify the broad locations within which future sites will be sought. Strategic sites may still be allocated especially where there is little choice but it is considered few sites will fall into this category. This is, in effect, a return to our original approach, albeit the improved evidence base that has been gathered should help achieve a more robust and sound strategy. As a result of this guidance the authorities are currently in discussions with the Government Office for the East Midlands and will seek member advice from both authorities on the course of action to take. The goal will still be to consult on a revised Issues and Options consultation but not until November of this year.

- 4 The East Midlands Regional Plan was adopted in March of this year and looks forward to 2026, however, a partial review of this document looks to extend the life of the document to 2031 which the Waste Core Strategy will seek to mirror.

Current major waste proposals

- 5 Following a public inquiry and an investigation by the Secretary of State, the Eastcroft Incinerator third line has now been permitted on appeal. The development will add 100,000 tonnes of capacity per annum.
- 6 The County Council resolved to permit the Rufford Energy from Waste Incinerator in January 2009, however, this was referred to the Government Office for the East Midlands as a departure from the Waste Local Plan. The proposal has been called in for the Secretary of State's determination. A public inquiry will take place during October 2009.
- 7 A planning application was submitted in October 2006 to create a new landfill site that will reclaim the Bentinck colliery tip and former opencast workings. This site is allocated within the Waste Local Plan. A request for further information has been made to the applicant which is due to be submitted to them in September of this year before further consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.

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