

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

date **14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007** agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

## Report

### JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

#### Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the position with regard to Joint Waste Development Plan Documents.

#### Background

2. Joint Waste Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are under preparation as part of the Local Development Frameworks of both City and County Councils. The first stage of public involvement was the 'Issues and Options' stage which was aimed at teasing out a genuine choice of options which the final DPD will have to address.
3. The Issues and Options report was published for consultation on 23rd October 2006, with a closing date of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006, supported by a series of background papers. It focused on different waste management methods, and sought views on the most appropriate mix of management options, as well as the scope of future development control policies. It did not consider the location of any future waste treatment facilities. A summary of the consultation responses was reported to Joint Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007.
4. Since undertaking the Issues and Options, further guidance on the content and level of detail expected from Waste Core Strategies has emerged from both the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). The thrust of this advice relates to how specific Waste Core Strategies should be with regard to indicating sites or broad locations of strategic waste treatment facilities. Unfortunately, the guidance is unclear, and Planning Inspectors' reports on recent Core Strategies appear to have been inconsistent in this regard. The outcome has been that the first Waste Core Strategies to go through the independent examination stage have mostly

been declared 'unsound ' by the Inspector and as a result the planning authority has had to go back to square one.

- 5 Officers of the two Councils have requested an urgent meeting with the Government Office in order to try and get a definitive view. However, as stated above, the Issues and Options consultation followed the guidance available at the time, and was not site or location specific with regard to strategic facilities.
- 6 In order to prevent the Core Strategy being found unsound by PINS due to inadequate consideration of these factors, it is considered prudent to undertake a follow up consultation to the Issues and Options, focusing solely on the siting/location of strategic waste facilities.
- 7 Following discussions with GOEM referred to above, a timetable for this process will be prepared, and reported to Joint Committee, together with an update on progress.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 8 It is RECOMMENDED that Members of the Committee note the contents of the report.

## **Background Papers**

Local Development Frameworks: lessons learnt examining development plan documents – published by the Planning Inspectorate in June 2007.

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