

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

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from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

## **Report**

- 1 Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy – PROGRESS REPORT

### **Purpose of Report**

- 2 This report updates Committee on the imminent publication of 'preferred approach' document which is the next key stage in the preparation of the joint Waste Core Strategy.

### **Preferred approach**

- 3 Progress on the preparation of the Joint Waste Core Strategy was last reported to this Committee at the meeting held on 17 February 2011 (copy attached as Appendix 1). Since then the preferred approach has been approved at the Cabinet meeting of the County Council held on 8 June 2011 and by the City Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation on 9 June and will shortly be published for consultation.
- 4 The preferred approach sets out in broad terms how and where we should manage our waste over the next 10-20 years – this includes all the main waste streams such as those produced by businesses and industry and not just municipal waste which local Authorities have a direct responsibility for managing. The preferred approach is not a draft plan but rather a discussion document that takes account of the outcome of the previous public consultation exercises most notably that carried out last Autumn on 'further issues and options'. The main purpose of this stage is to provide an opportunity to explain the thinking behind the direction we intend to go and to test the validity of the assumptions we have made. The response to this exercise can then be taken into account before a final decision is taken about what should go into the draft Waste Core Strategy.

### **Key proposals**

- 5 The main proposals in the preferred approach are as follows:

A recycling target of 70% for all the main waste streams is to be set. This will be very challenging but should help promote greater recycling and allow for the impact of new technologies and the escalating landfill

tax which have seen rapid changes in recycling rates over the last few years.

Energy recovery is to be the preferred option for waste that cannot be recycled. This is not limited to incinerators as other technologies such as gasification, and mechanical biological treatment are also possible.

Waste disposal could eventually fall to as low as 10% if the 70% recycling target is achieved along with increases in energy recovery. There will still need to be some additional disposal capacity for residual waste.

In terms of where new development is needed the Core Strategy will set out broad locations that will promote the following pattern of development. New strategic facilities are to be built in the Nottingham urban area, Mansfield and Ashfield. Medium sized facilities to be promoted in Newark, Worksop and Retford. Smaller community facilities will serve more rural settlements. For waste disposal the first choice is to over-tip existing landfill sites, then mineral and other voids/ poorly reclaimed colliery tips (if any exist) with land-raising on greenfield land being a last resort. Relying on remote disposal out of the county is not seen as a sustainable long term option.

### **Next stages**

- 6 The proposed public consultation period is expected to begin on 15<sup>th</sup> July and end on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The Draft Core Strategy will require approval at meetings of both Councils and this is scheduled for late 2011. The draft will be subject to a formal public representation period and an independent examination by a Government Inspector. The Inspector will consider the 'soundness' of the strategy taking into account any formal representations received. If the Inspector finds the strategy sound then it can be adopted, if not it will be withdrawn. Adoption is scheduled for December 2012.

### **Current major waste planning proposals**

- 7 **Rufford energy from waste facility** – the Secretary of State has recently refused planning permission for the proposed energy from waste incinerator at Rufford which was proposed to deal with municipal waste collected by the County Council. The County Council and their waste management contractor, Veolia Environmental Services, are now reviewing the situation.

### **Recommendation**

That the progress on the Joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy be noted.

## **Contact Officers**

Wayne Allum

Policy, Planning and Corporate Services – Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 01159774547

Email: [wayne.allum@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.allum@nottscc.gov.uk)

Grant Butterworth

Development Department – Nottingham City Council

Tel: 0115 8763963

Email: [grant.butterworth@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:grant.butterworth@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)