

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

date 23 September 2011 agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

Report

JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT & OTHER WASTE PLANNING ISSUES

- 1.1 The County and City Councils are preparing a new Waste Core Strategy that will replace the existing Waste Local Plan.

(A) Waste Core Strategy progress

- 1.2 Progress on preparing the Waste Core Strategy was last reported at the meeting of 24 June 2011. That report discussed the outcome of a major public consultation on further issues and options carried out at the end of 2010 and how this would be used to inform the next and final consultation stage known as the 'preferred approach'.
- 1.3 The preferred approach document sets out the Councils' proposals for how and where we should manage all of the waste produced in Nottinghamshire. It is a discussion document, not a draft plan, and provides a final opportunity for our consultees and local communities to support or challenge what is proposed before a final decision is made about what should go into the draft plan that will be submitted to Government for an independent examination.
- 1.4 In summary the key proposals in the preferred approach are
- An ambitious target of 70% recycling of municipal, commercial and industrial waste by 2025 (current recycling stands at just under 50%).
 - The balance to go to energy from waste plants with disposal being reduced to around 10%.
 - To meet these targets large facilities will be built in the main urban areas of Nottingham, and the Mansfield/Ashfield with smaller scale facilities being built in the main market towns of Newark, Worksop and Retford. No site specific sites have been identified due to the lack of sufficient evidence that would support any specific site over another. Resource recovery parks are also encouraged.

- 1.5 The preferred approach went out to public consultation for an 8 week period ending on 16 September 2011. The main findings will be reported orally at this meeting insofar as they have been assessed.

Next stage - the Submission Draft Waste Core Strategy

- 1.6 The Councils will take account the response to the preferred approach consultation when preparing the final draft Waste Core Strategy which will require approval at full council meetings of both Authorities. The draft will be subject to a public representation period and all representations received along with the draft strategy will be examined by a Government Inspector. If the Inspector finds the Core Strategy sound it can be adopted, if not then it has to be withdrawn.
- 1.7 The intention is to seek member approval of the Submission Draft before the end of this year. This is to avoid the possible risk of fines linked to compliance with the EU Waste Framework Directive as discussed in the last report.

(B) Other waste issues

The Environment Agency - Working Better Together Local Agreement

- 1.8 The County and City Councils have recently signed a Local Working Agreement with the Environment Agency Regional office. This follows on from a series of national protocols agreed with the Local Government Association.
- 1.9 This agreement aims to support sustainable waste management. It sets out what each body will do to improve co-ordination and the sharing of relevant information and expertise in relation to the following key areas:
- **Development management** – pre-application advice and consultation responses plus involvement at appeals and technical advice on Environmental Impact Assessment
 - **Planning policy and municipal waste management strategy (MWMS)** – involvement in Local Development Framework and MWMS preparation and site selection/appraisal including technical advice and provision of waste data and input to Sustainability Appraisal process
 - **Monitoring & enforcement** - sharing information on possible breaches, updates on exemption applications and co-ordination of investigation/enforcement activity to avoid duplication
 - **Waste crime** – sharing data and intelligence and co-ordinating responses/prosecutions where appropriate

- 1.10 It formalises existing working arrangements and ensures there is better and more regular liaison on these issues. One of the first outcomes is that a waste liaison group has been established to bring together Environment Agency waste planning and technical officers along with local authority representatives on planning policy, development control, monitoring and enforcement, waste management and environmental health.

Current major planning proposals: Rufford energy from waste facility Public Inquiry –legal challenge

- 1.11 Subsequent to the Secretary of State's refusal to grant planning permission for the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at the former Rufford Colliery, Rainworth, a legal challenge has been lodged by Veolia Environmental Services Nottinghamshire Ltd against the Secretary of State's decision. Veolia argue that the ERF should have been classified as a renewable facility rather than a low carbon energy source. Veolia also cite inconsistencies with how other similar schemes have been treated for which planning permissions have been granted.

Recommendation

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

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