

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

Date: **13 December 2013**

agenda item number:

From: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE CORE STRATEGY UPDATE

Purpose of report

1. To inform Committee of the outcome of the independent examination into the soundness of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy and to outline the formal adoption process.

Information and Advice

2. The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy has been prepared jointly with Nottingham City Council. It is the first in a series of new waste policy documents which will progressively replace the existing joint Waste Local Plan which was adopted in 2002. When adopted, the Waste Core Strategy will set the strategic direction for all future all proposals for waste development such as recycling plants, energy from waste plants and landfill. Subsequent policies will deal with site allocations and development management issues.
3. In line with European and national legislation and policy, the Waste Core Strategy sets out the overall vision and strategic planning policies for the development of future waste management facilities across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. Key principles are the need to manage waste according to the 'waste hierarchy' which promotes waste prevention and re-use followed by recycling, recovery and finally disposal; and the 'proximity principle' which seek to ensure that waste is managed at one of the nearest, most appropriate facilities. The strategy therefore seeks to encourage the movement of waste away from landfill with an ambitious target of 70% recycling for all waste by 2025. This is supported by a moderate increase in energy recovery where appropriate, and a reduction in landfill disposal to approximately 10% or less of all waste arisings.
4. The Waste Core Strategy identifies broad locations where future development is likely to be acceptable but does not allocate any specific sites as this will be carried out in separate, supporting, policies that will be subject to further consultation and public examination. In broad terms facilities for the sorting, processing and treatment of waste are supported in, or close to, the main urban areas of Nottingham, Mansfield/Ashfield, Newark, Worksop and Retford. Within these broad locations development will be focused on existing or proposed employment sites and other derelict or previously developed land in order to minimise environmental impacts. Limited provision is also made for small-scale recycling or recovery facilities in rural locations where these can meet a specific local need; especially where this would allow for the re-use of existing farm or forestry buildings.
5. Although the Waste Core Strategy aims to minimise future waste disposal as far as possible, it is recognised that there will still be a need for the disposal of residual

waste which cannot be further recycled or recovered. Where there is a proven need for disposal, the strategy promotes a sequential approach which favours the extension of existing sites where this would be environmentally acceptable, followed by the restoration and/or re-working of old colliery tips and other mineral voids.

6. The Waste Core Strategy has been through a number of stages of consultation and was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14th January 2013. The Planning Inspectorate subsequently appointed Inspector Susan Holland to undertake the independent examination of the Core Strategy to determine whether or not the Strategy is legally and procedurally sound. This included public hearing sessions held at the National Water Sports Centre between 8th May and 17th May 2013. These resulted in three main modifications to the Waste Core Strategy in relation to Green Belt policy and clarifying the basis of the plan estimates. These modifications were approved by both Councils in June 2013 and subsequently advertised for public consultation. A number of other minor modifications were also made for reasons of clarity which did not need to be advertised or consulted on but were published at the same time for information.
7. Shortly after the hearing sessions, the Government published a new Waste Management Plan for England, and updated national waste planning policy, for consultation. These were reported to both Councils in October 2013. In light of this national consultation the Inspector invited those who had previously made representations to submit further comments on possible implications for the Waste Core Strategy. Two additional responses were received at this stage and passed to the Inspector.
8. The Inspector's final report was received on 7th October 2013 and concludes that the Waste Core Strategy is sound and provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the area over the next 15 years, subject to the inclusion of the main modifications referred to above. A copy of the Inspector's Report is appended to this report and has been published on the Councils websites and made available for inspection. All those who made formal representations, or who have asked to be kept informed, have been notified of separately.
9. The two Councils can now proceed to adopt the Waste Core Strategy subject to the formal approval of both waste planning authorities. County Council Members will be asked to approve the adoption of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy on 21st November 2013. Similar approval will be sought at the City Council meeting on 9th December 2013. Subject to these final approvals the Waste Core Strategy will be adopted on 10th December 2013. There is then a six week period during which anyone aggrieved by the adoption of the Waste Core Strategy can make a legal challenge on procedural grounds.
10. For reasons of clarity the final Waste Core Strategy document, when printed, will be re-titled as the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Replacement Waste Local Plan Part 1: Waste Core Strategy. The policies within the Plan will also be re-numbered to accommodate the inclusion of the model policy on the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This will be numbered as Policy WCS1 and all other policies will be re-numbered accordingly.
11. Following adoption of the Waste Core Strategy, work will continue with the preparation of the site specific and development management policies

Comment [LB1]: This will need to be updated before Joint Committee to reflect the current situation.

development plan document which will form Part 2 of the Replacement Waste Local Plan. This will again be subject to several stages of public consultation which are due to start early next year.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Joint Committee note the contents of this report.

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