

## **JOINT WASTE CORE STRATEGY- PROGRESS UPDATE**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To inform the Board about the progress of the Consultation on the Preferred Options document of the Joint Waste Core Strategy.
2. To advise the Board of the next steps required to progress the Joint Waste Core Strategy to submission stage, and to seek their views.

### **Background**

3. The Joint Waste Core Strategy will meet the authorities duty to prepare a Development Plan that will set out policies to help make decisions about where waste facilities could be located, for the disposal of municipal, industrial and commercial waste. It will complement each authorities own spatial planning core strategies.
4. The Joint Waste Core Strategy Consultation ran from 15 January to 12 March 2009 and consisted of stakeholder workshops, 12 public drop-in sessions, stakeholder events, attendance at Neighbourhood Partnership meetings and a wide range of correspondence with individuals and organisations. Written invitations were sent to more than 2,400 individuals and organisations, advertisements for the drop-in sessions were placed in local newspapers and a number of press releases were issued. All publicity directed people to the website as well as giving the address for postal comments. The consultation was managed by an external company and their schedule of consultation responses was received on 3 April; the evaluation of these responses is underway.

### **Progressing the Joint Waste Strategy to Submission stage**

5. ERM Consultants are project managing and providing technical support to the remaining stages of preparation of the Joint Waste Core Strategy. Part of their commission was to undertake an appraisal or 'health-check' of the work undertaken to date. This identified the further work to be undertaken in order to progress the strategy through to adoption.
6. Because Government changed the rules in June 2008, the Preferred Option consultation is no longer a mandatory stage in the consultation process. Nonetheless consultation on the Preferred Options went ahead since this intention had been made public before government made the change.
7. At the time of consultation, the work of technical consultants was continuing on some of the evidence base - a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). ERM also identified further work required on a Waste Capacity Assessment and a Landfill Site Review, and the sites allocations in the light of these assessments when completed. ERM also advised that there was a need to clarify the scope of the Joint Waste Core Strategy to include a framework which will assess the provision of local waste facilities.
8. This additional work is required to inform the preparation of the JWCS submission document so that the Joint Waste Core Strategy is 'sound' (based upon justified and evidenced information). ERM have advised, and responses to the consultation have requested, that this further work is made available to Stakeholders in the form of a

'Progress Update' to give them the opportunity to provide any further views, prior to the drafting of the Submission Document. The next formal consultation stage, in November/December 2009, will consult on the soundness of the strategy and will not provide an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the spatial option.

9. A report was presented to the Planning Housing and Communities Board on 24 April to inform Members of the proposal to publish a Progress Update on 5 June. The Members of the Board have been kept informed of the correspondence with Stakeholders and Consultees and the further technical reports by Consultants, which Officers have yet to consider.

## **Progress Update**

10. The 'Progress Update' to Stakeholders and consultees on 5 June provided:
  - a summary of responses received to the consultation,
  - a statement on the scope of the Joint Waste Core Strategy, and
  - the completed reports prepared by ERM on the additional/revised elements of the evidence base.

The Progress Update explains that the technical reports prepared by ERM have yet to be considered by officers. The Progress Update is available on the Partnership website: <http://www.westofengland.org/waste/planning/progress-update->

11. The stakeholders and consultees are being given the opportunity to provide their further views between 5<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009. A workshop will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> July to continue engagement with the waste industry. Any further views will be combined with the outcome of the recent consultation on the Preferred Options document and considered when preparing the submission draft.

## **Timetable**

12. On 16<sup>th</sup> July the Planning, Housing and Communities Board (PH&CB) will receive a report on the outcome of the consultation; a further report on 3 September will bring together both the consultation responses and any further views provided in response to the Progress update.
13. It is proposed that the PH&CB meeting on 16 July will be followed by a Member Workshop to consider further the Joint Waste Core Strategy.
14. Reports to Cabinets in October will set out the outcome and response to public consultations and seek approval for the Submission Document.

15. In summary, the key actions and milestones up to the Submission of the Strategy to the Secretary of State are as follows:

5 <sup>th</sup> Jun-17 <sup>th</sup> July 09	<b>Progress Update to stakeholders and respondents</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2009	<b>Planning Housing &amp; Communities Board</b> The outcome and response to Public consultations and the proposed Submission Document.
October 2009	<b>Council Cabinets</b> The outcome and response to Public consultations and approval for the Submission Document.
Nov-Dec 2009	<b>Publication of Submission Document.</b> Seek representations on soundness of Submission Document (Regulation 28)
Dec 09-Feb 2010	Consideration of representations received on published Submission Document.
Feb-Mar 2010	Council Cabinets to approve the final Submission Document
April 2010	Submission of Joint Waste Core Strategy to Secretary of State (GOSW)

## RECOMMENDATION

That the note the progress and next steps in the preparation of the Joint Waste Core Strategy, and provide their views.

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