

West of England Partnership
Planning, Housing and Communities Board
7th September 2009

Joint West Core Strategy: Approval of Draft Submission Document
VIEWS OF/ RESPONSES TO THE JOINT SCRUTINY AT ITS 4 SEPTEMBER MEETING

1. In engaging and consulting with communities it is essential to draw a clear distinction between the partner authorities planning responsibilities, in drawing up the Joint Waste Core Planning Strategy, and its role in managing the disposal of municipal waste.
2. The independent planning application by EON for a biomass timber disposal facility at Royal Portbury Dock is nothing to do with the Joint Waste Core Planning Strategy.
3. Provision of district heating schemes, based on heat from waste facilities, in urban extensions would not necessarily have to be adopted by developers.
4. It is important to continue to emphasise to the public the practical local impact of the Joint Waste Core Planning Strategy as it determines the potential, preferred location of waste recovery facilities.
5. Joint Scrutiny Members should continue their scrutiny work in the four forthcoming workshops, one in each of the partner local authorities in September.

The outcomes of these meetings will be circulated to the Joint Scrutiny Committee, and an additional meeting of the Committee organised as necessary, prior to the dispatch of papers to the first Council Cabinet.

The views of Scrutiny will be put to the Planning Housing & Communities Board and the Partnership Board. The workshops in Councils will supplement the views from Scrutiny and the two Boards at the subsequent Cabinet Meetings.

6. The Draft Submission Document could be considered as a material consideration when assessing planning applications. More weight would be given after it has been approved by Councils for Publication.
7. The Draft Submission Document is technology neutral although it has been necessary to add relevant conditions based on the various technical assessments of the specific sites now recommended as potential locations for residual waste facilities. These conditions are contained in the JWCS as "Key Development Criteria" and must be addressed in planning applications.

8. The Draft Submission Document sets out criteria for assessing non-residual waste sites. In common with the strategic waste sites these criteria once adopted, would be part of each local authorities planning framework.
9. The Draft Submission Document is required to make available sufficient locations for the recovery of residual municipal, industrial and commercial waste – as specified by the Regional Spatial Strategy. Capacity requirements will be monitored and reviewed to ensure over-provision of locations is not made.
10. When in future authorities receive planning applications against the sites included in the final Joint Waste Core Strategy the usual planning criteria, including impact assessments, will be applied.
11. One member of the Joint Scrutiny Committee expressed disappointment at the low response to some parts of the public consultation.
12. The same member welcomed the progress that had been made with the proposals as a means of ensuring better and proper control of waste disposal on existing and future sites.
13. Demographic factors taken into account in planning appropriate waste sites capacity include population and household projections. A breakdown of population by age/particular groups has not specifically been considered. The total capacity to be provided will meet that required by the Regional Spatial Strategy.
14. Overall, engagement and consultation with the public will have been in three phases:
 - consultation to develop the Preferred Options.
 - the most recent consultation on the Preferred Options to develop the Draft Submission Document.
 - consultation on the fit for purpose soundness of the Draft Submission Document once approved by Cabinets/Councils in October/November.
15. The outcome of the first phase of consultation directly influenced the development of the Preferred Options.
16. Today's report and background documents set out how consultation and 'Progress Updates' have influenced the scope of the Draft Submission Document.
17. The Development Management Policy will be amended to include de-commissioning of facilities, alongside the scope for limiting the duration of use.