

**West of England Partnership
Joint Scrutiny Committee**

JOINT WASTE CORE STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members and make a presentation on the preliminary outcomes of the consultation on 'soundness' of the Joint Waste Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (Publication version) prior to submitting the Strategy to the Secretary of State and the examination procedure.

Background

2. Following the Preferred Options consultation and Progress Updates on the Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS) in 2009, the four authorities considered the representations received. These representations informed the preparation of the Joint Waste Core Strategy Draft Submission Document considered by Councils Cabinets and Councils during the Autumn of 2009. At these meetings the Councils approved the publication of the Joint Waste Core Strategy Pre-submission document (publication version).
3. Subsequently in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12), the JWCS was published for consultation on 'soundness' prior to its submission to the Secretary of State. There are three tests of soundness; whether the plan is considered to be justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
4. Representations on 'soundness' are therefore not an opportunity to comment on the general content, approach or inclusion/omission of particular sites. These have already been subject to considerable consultation. Representations must outline the particular policy or feature of the JWCS to which their comments relate and specify the grounds for any objections.

'Soundness' Consultation Process

5. The West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Pre-Submission document was published on 4th January 2010 for representations to be made by 1st March 2010.
6. In addition to the Joint Waste Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document there are three other proposed submission documents:
 - The non technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal.
 - The full Sustainability Appraisal report and supporting Sustainability report Annexes. In summary the Sustainability Appraisal assess the social, environmental and economic impacts and whether proposed plans and policies meet sustainable development objectives.

- The Statement of Consultation which explains who has been consulted during the preparation of the Core Strategy, how this was carried out and how comments have been taken into account.
7. In addition to the above the four authorities have undertaken and commissioned a range of studies and assessments to provide a robust evidence base for the preparation of the Joint Waste Core Strategy. These are listed at the Appendix.
 8. In accordance with Authorities Statements of Community Involvement and PPS 12, this stage of consultation has been publicised in the local press covering the whole plan area. Copies of the JWCS Pre-submission document and supporting information have been made available to view at a number of locations, and stakeholders and consultees have received information on how to make a representation.

Timetable

9. In addition to this the Joint Committee representations on 'soundness' will be considered by Officers and Members of the Planning, Housing & Communities Board and Partnership Board. Timetable is as follows.

Consultation on Submission document	January/February 2010.
Officers consideration of outcomes from consultation	February/March 2010.
Waste Officers meeting	2 nd March 2010
Joint Scrutiny Committee	5 th March 2010
Planning, Housing & Communities Board	18 th March 2010.
Partnership Board	25 th March 2010.
Submission to Secretary of State	April/May 2010.
Examination in Public	TBC- anticipated July or September 2010

Next steps

10. The Joint Committee will receive a presentation on the preliminary outcomes of the consultation.
11. To assist the examination process the Authorities are required to appoint an independent Programme Officer prior to the end of the Consultation period. After agreement with Heads of Planning a Programme Officer has been appointed on self employed consultancy basis. Their role is critical to ensuring the examination runs smoothly since they liaise between the Inspector, the authorities and the public. They are required to remain impartial throughout the process and keep everybody informed of progress.
12. Provided that there are no significant issues identified during the consultation period that would require significant changes to the Joint Waste Core Strategy, the JWCS Submission document will be submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2010.
13. The representations on the JWCS consultation will be considered by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out a Public Examination of the Joint Waste Core Strategy. The Inspector will decide which issues will be discussed at Public Examination and who will be invited to take part.

14. The Public Examination usually takes place within 12 weeks of the submission date. On this basis an examination could take place in either July or September 2010, the month of August will be avoided.
15. Members and all stakeholders and consultees will be kept informed of progress, and of any Public Examination dates.

Recommendation

That Members note the report, receive a presentation on the preliminary outcomes of consultation which closes on 1st March 2010 and give their views.

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Appendix A- Evidence Base Documentation

1	Preferred Options Document
2	Preferred Options Leaflet
3	Summary Sustainability Appraisal Report for the West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Submission Version, September 2009.
4	Sustainability Appraisal Report for the West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Submission Version, with Annexes, September 2009.
5	Consultation Statement, December 2009.
6	Equality Impact Assessment Report, September 2009.
7	Detailed Site Assessment Report, Final Report v3, September 2009.
8	Progress Update January 2010: Site Allocation Process
9	Appraisal of Spatial Options Report, August 2009.
10	Joint Waste Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment, August 2009.
11	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Addendum, Submission Draft, & Annexes, August 2009.
12	West of England Waste Management Capacity Needs Assessment, June 2009.
13	General Areas Report, August 2009.
14	Feasibility Study- potential for exporting non-hazardous waste to landfill June 2009.
15	Recycling, Composting & Transfer Station Briefing Paper, August 2009.
16	Inert Landfill Briefing Paper, August 2009.
17	Summary Consultation reports and schedules of representations.