

Joint Waste Management Strategy and Joint Waste Core Strategy Progress and Implementation Report

1. Purpose of this Report

The West of England Partnership Board is asked to note the current progress, actions and implementation timetable required for the two work streams of Waste Management and Strategic Waste Planning.

2. Context

- 2.1 As a result of European Directives the UK is expected to meet strict targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill and thus reduce methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas. The government has introduced a Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) which will fine local authorities who send more than their permitted allowance of biodegradable waste to landfill. The Waste Strategy for England, published in 2007, also provides direction for councils in relation to recycling targets, self sufficiency and co-operation with neighbouring authorities. It expects councils to meet or exceed a recycling rate of 50% by 2020.
- 2.2 The Joint Waste Core Strategy is being prepared in the context of national and regional policy, which emphasises diversion of waste away from landfill. It is a spatial plan to ensure adequate provision for municipal, commercial and industrial waste facilities. It is required to be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy and will need to have regard to the emerging West of England Joint Waste Strategy (for municipal waste), recently approved the Sustainable Community Strategies and other key strategies of each constituent Authority.

3. Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWS)

- 3.1 The West of England authorities have been working together for the last three years to prepare an 'enabling' Joint Waste Strategy.
- 3.2 The key policy areas are:
- Strengthening waste reduction, reuse and recycling
 - Diverting waste from landfill in the short and long term
 - Obtaining value for money
- 3.3 Briefly, the JWS is planned in four phases as follows:

Phase 1

On-going waste reduction, reuse, recycling and source segregation to help reduce the tonnage of residual waste needing treatment.

Phase 2

Interim treatment to meet short term LATS allowances. The procurement of treatment capacity for all four authorities' residual Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) for a minimum five year period with the option to extend for a further 4 years.

Phase 3

Long term treatment for 160,000 tonnes per annum of residual Municipal Solid Waste to meet LATS targets. This is proposed to be procured by a Competitive Dialogue procurement process leading to a 25 year contract carried out in partnership by Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Councils.

Phase 4

To be developed and procured once Phase 3 is operational, this phase will look to the future beyond 2020 and allows new and evolving treatment technologies to be fully assessed, and will use lessons learned from previous phases to continue to meet targets.

3.4 Current Action Phase 2

The amount of waste to be dealt with in Phase 2 to achieve LATS compliance during the 5 year period rises to approximately 126,000 tonnes of residual municipal waste per annum. A procurement and contract package is in preparation, to follow the timetable below.

3.5 Phase 2 procurement process timetable

Approval to commence procurement of interim treatment capacity	June – September 2008
Settle Evaluation Criteria	September 2008
Advertise (OJEU notice)	October 2008
Submission of tenders	February 2009
Bid evaluation	March/April 2009
Contract award	April/May 2009
Planning permission secured plus construction period	2009-2011
Facility Operational	Spring 2011

3.6 Current Action Phase 3

Work is underway to prepare an Outline Business Case (OBC) for PFI credits for the Phase 3 procurement. This is to be presented to DEFRA on 31st October 2008. It follows on from a successful 'Expression of Interest' which was submitted to Defra in March and approved in May this year.

The OBC must include a Reference Project which will be used as a benchmark against which the Partnership will assess potential solutions submitted from the market in response to an EU Competitive Tendering Procedure. It also includes a rigorous assessment of affordability and value for money.

The Technology Options Appraisal determined that the 'reference technology' should be Energy from Waste (EfW), with a preference for combined heat and power for the benefit of local energy users. However, whilst Energy from Waste will be the reference project, this will not exclude interested parties coming forward with other forms of treatment including other forms of thermal processing.

3.7 Key Phase 3 timetable dates

Outline Business Case submission deadline	31 st October 2008
Refine and improve evaluation criteria with Joint Waste Committee and Joint Scrutiny Committee involvement	Nov/Dec 2008
Receive response from Defra re OBC	February 2009
Receive response from HM Treasury Project Review Group	March 2009
Approve Output specification and Evaluation Criteria	March 2009
Advertise in Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)	April/May 2009
Decision to invite bidders to participate in Phase 3	Late 2009
Approval to submit Outline submissions	Early 2010
Approved Preferred Bidder	Late 2010
Approve Final Business Case	Mid 2011
Award Contract	Late 2011
Residual treatment facility operational	2015/16

3.8 The Joint Scrutiny Committee, set up to cover all areas of the West of England Partnership's work, has been engaged in recent months to provide comment and feedback on these areas of work.

4 Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS)

4.1 Purpose

The four West of England Authorities have agreed to work together to prepare a Joint Waste Core Strategy in recognition of the strategic benefits that such an arrangement offers. When adopted, the Joint Waste Core Strategy will become part of the Local Development Framework of each Authority. It will provide a framework to guide the more detailed waste planning policies of each Authority.

4.2 Current actions

A Preferred Options Consultation Document (Draft) has been prepared along with a shorter information leaflet. Both are to be reviewed at the West of England Partnership Planning and Housing Executive Members Briefing on September 11th

with a recommendation to note the views of the Joint and Constituent Scrutiny Committees and to give its views on the proposals for a recommendation to the constituent Authorities that they agree to consult the public and stakeholders on the Preferred Options Consultation Document."

The draft Preferred Options Consultation Document focuses on four policy areas relating to waste. These are: Waste Minimisation; Recycling and Composting; Recovery and Landfill.

In relation to Recovery, three spatial options are presented with a preferred option identified and explained.

4.3 Further work to support the development plan is being undertaken in the following areas:

- landfill/landraise sites
- Appropriate Assessment: the Habitats Directive ensures the protection of European Wildlife Sites within and outside of the plan area.
- A Screening Report on the effects on any European Wildlife Site. This will be consulted upon alongside the Preferred Options Document and Sustainability Appraisal.
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments
- Sustainability Appraisal.

4.4 Consultation on the Joint Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options is due to take place starting in November 2008 and ending in January 2009. The Consultation Plan will reflect the requirements of the Statements of Community Involvement of the constituent Authorities.

As part of the Consultation Plan, it is proposed to hold public events, one in each area of the four constituent Authorities.

4.5 Key stages in the Joint Waste Core Strategy

Consultation on the Preferred Options	November 2008 / January 2009
Consideration of the representations received on the Preferred Options consultation	February / March 2009
Preparation of the Submission Document	April / June 2009
Consultation on Published Submission Document	November / December 2009
Consideration of the representations received on the Published Submission Document and agree changes	January / July 2009
Consultation on Published Submission Document	November / December 2009

Submission of the Joint Waste Core Strategy to the Secretary of State	September 2010
Examination period	September 2010 - August 2011
Adoption of Joint Waste Core Strategy	September 2011

4.6 Overview and Scrutiny

The West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee, comprising 3-member Scrutiny Committees established by each authority, plus some other individual authority Scrutiny Committees, have been very active in scrutinising proposals for both Phases 2 and 3 of the Joint Waste Strategy and the pre-consultation material of the Joint Waste Core Strategy. Their views are being taken into account by officers and Executive Members.

Terry Wagstaff
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 West of England Partnership

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