

Joint Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Document and Consultation Plan

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 Joint Waste Core Strategy work programme.

2. Context

- 2.1 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 the adequate provision of strategic 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 approved West of England Joint Waste Strategy (for municipal waste), the Sustainable Community Strategies and other key strategies of each constituent Authority.

3. Joint Waste Core Strategy

3.1 Purpose

The four West of England Authorities are working 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 guide the more detailed waste planning policies of each Authority and provide a consistent basis for the Authorities to determine planning applications for new strategic waste treatment facilities from the public and private sectors.

3.2 Current actions

A Preferred Options Consultation Document has been prepared along with a shorter Information Leaflet (available on the www.rubbishresource.co.uk website). The Consultation Document was reviewed at the West of England Partnership Planning and Housing Executive Members Briefing on 11 September 2008 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."

A schedule of the views of the Joint and Scrutiny Committees together with a recommended response has been prepared and is attached to the reports to be considered by the Executive of each constituent Authority between 28 October and 5 November 2008.

3.3 The Consultation Document

The 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.

Further work to support the Joint Waste Core Strategy is being undertaken in the following areas:

- Landfill / landraise sites – completing the report of the study, including the provision of advice on the next steps;
- Appropriate Assessment: the Habitats Directive ensures the protection of European Wildlife Sites within and outside of the plan area;
- A Screening Report on the potential significant effects on any European Wildlife Site. This will be consulted upon alongside the Preferred Options Document and Sustainability Appraisal;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments; and
- Sustainability Appraisal – preparation of the Final Report.

3.4 Consultation Plan

Consultation on the Joint Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options is proposed to commence in early January ending in mid March 2008. The Consultation Plan reflects 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, at least two in each area of the four constituent Authorities, and stakeholder events. The range of activities and events will include:

- Formal Consultation with Statutory Consultees
- Consultation with interested bodies (e.g. environmental organisations)
- Public Exhibitions at Council Offices and other suitable locations
- On-line information, discussion groups and response form
- Publicity and promotion and distribution of documents
- Drop-in events – at least two per Council area
- Respond to invitations from Parish / Town Councils and other groups to attend their meetings
- Stakeholder / Environmental Groups Workshop
- Industry / Landowner Workshop

3.5 Key stages in the Joint Waste Core Strategy

Consultation on the Preferred Options	January / March 2009
Consideration of the representations received on the Preferred Options consultation	March / April 2009
Preparation of the Submission Document	April / June 2009

Representations sought on the soundness of the Joint Waste Core Strategy	November / December 2009
Consideration of the representations received on the Published Submission Document and agree changes	January / July 2010
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

3.6 Next Steps

Following consideration of the views of the public and stakeholders on the Preferred Options Consultation Document, the next step will be to prepare a Submission Document, which in effect will be the Joint Waste Core Strategy itself. This will include:

- A Vision for Sustainable Waste Management;
- Strategic objectives for waste, focussing on the key issues to be addressed;
- Policies and proposals for waste management in line with the Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Sites for the strategic waste management needs of the West of England which supports the pattern of waste management facilities and apportionment set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy; and
- A delivery strategy.

There will be an opportunity to consult the public and stakeholders at a later stage on the proposals to be set out in the Submission Document prior to formal submission to the Secretary of State for Examination.

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 West of England Partnership