

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

JOINT MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT – SPATIAL STRATEGY AND SITES REPORT - APPROVAL OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has agreed to be a partner in the preparation of a Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document with the Councils for Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Halton. Initial consultation on the issues to be addressed was carried out during March and April 2007. Further consultation is now needed on the spatial strategy and sites for new waste disposal facilities to be contained within the emerging DPD, as part of a Spatial Strategy and Sites Report.

The report recommends that public consultation on the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report should be approved; that the approval of public consultation is not to be taken as an endorsement of the sites or strategy set out in the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report; and that the Council's comments on the content of the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report will be subject to a further report, so that the Council's formal comments can be submitted as part of the public consultation process, which is planned to take place between November 2008 and January 2009.

1 Background

- 1.1 Cabinet on 30 June 2005 agreed to the preparation of a Merseyside Waste Joint Local Development Document in partnership with the Councils for Liverpool, St Helens, Knowsley and Sefton (Minute 80 refers). Cabinet on 19 October 2006 agreed for the partnership to be extended to include Halton Council (Minute 126 refers). The work is managed on behalf of the six districts by a specialist unit within the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), the Council's retained environmental advisors.
- 1.2 Public consultation on an Issues and Options Report for the joint Waste DPD was approved by Cabinet on 14 December 2006 (Minute 185 refers) and was undertaken during March and April 2007. The Council's response to the Issues and Options Report was considered by Cabinet on 28 March 2007 (Minute 316 refers). The next stage in the preparation of the joint Waste DPD is to consult on the spatial strategy and sites to be contained within the emerging joint Waste DPD. MEAS have prepared a Spatial Strategy and Sites Report for public consultation and the Council's approval is requested. A copy of the proposed Spatial Strategy and Sites Report can be viewed at <http://merseysideas-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

- 1.3 The requirement for sites to be identified and consulted upon early in the preparation process is a requirement of the soundness tests introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This does not mean that the sites identified in the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report are the final lists of endorsed sites. The lists of sites are being published for wider consideration, to enable the views of stakeholders as well as the local community to be obtained, before final decisions are taken at a later stage in the preparation of the Waste DPD.
- 1.4 The next stage in the preparation of the joint Waste DPD, following the consideration of the comments received on the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report, will be the publication of Preferred Options, currently scheduled for June 2009, which will require a separate Council approval at a later date.

2 Approvals Process

- 2.1 The approval of public consultation on the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report must go through an approvals process within each partner district. The need for a joint report was agreed by Leaders on 25 July 2008 and the final content of the joint report was approved by Chief Executives on 5 September 2008. A copy of the joint report is provided as an attachment to this report.
- 2.2 The joint report recommends a two-stage process which will allow the Council to approve public consultation without endorsing the detailed content of the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report and which will allow the Council to make a formal response to the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report alongside other stakeholders as part of the consultation process to be approved. This is the same two-stage process as was agreed for the Issues and Options Report (Cabinet 14 December 2006, Minute 185 refers and Cabinet 28 March 2007, Minute 316 refers).

3 Consultation Arrangements

- 3.1 Public consultation on the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report is planned to be undertaken by MEAS over a eight-week period between November 2008 and January 2009, in compliance with the standards set out in the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (December 2006).
- 3.2 Copies of the consultation documents will be placed for inspection, free of charge, in public libraries throughout the Borough and at the public counter of the Technical Services Department, as well as on the internet through the Waste DPD website. A link to the Waste DPD website will also be placed on the Council's website. Notification letters will be sent to all the contacts on the Council's Local Development Framework database and to the neighbours of any site specific proposals. A stakeholder event to provide further information on the Waste DPD will also be arranged by MEAS, to take place within each district.
- 3.3 Comments will be able to be submitted to MEAS, in writing, by letter, fax or e-mail or through the on-line consultation system designed for the process, through the Waste DPD website at <http://www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk/site.do>.

4 Formal Comments on the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report

- 4.1 The joint report recommends that public consultation be approved, that the approval of public consultation is not taken as an endorsement of the sites or strategy set out in the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report, and that the Council's formal comments will be subject to a further report.
- 4.2 It is intended to bring a report of recommendations on the Council's formal response to the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report, including site specific comments and observations, to Cabinet on 27 November, to allow the submission of comments by the end of the statutory deadline in January 2009.

5 Regional Spatial Strategy

- 5.1 The joint report was completed and agreed by Leaders and Chief Executives in early September, to reflect the scope of the ongoing Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy (Cabinet 26 June 2008, Minute 94 refers).
- 5.2 The scope of Partial Review of RSS has recently been changed by 4NW, GO-NW and DCLG to exclude waste amongst other strategic matters. The issues associated with waste, including the development of a more complete evidence base, that was to be addressed by the Partial Review of RSS, will now be addressed as part of the joint work to develop a Single Regional Strategy for the North West. There will continue to be a pressing need for the Waste DPD to engage with NWDA and 4NW to inform the scope and content of the Single Regional Strategy with respect to sustainable waste management.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Waste DPD is being prepared with contributions from the six districts on the basis of the proportion of total waste arisings in each district. The contribution from Wirral for 2008/09, which was agreed by Leaders and Chief Executives on 29 June 2007 and by Leaders on 25 July 2008, is expected to be £78,636, which will be met from existing resources and Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.
- 6.2 The agreed future contribution for 2009/10 is expected to be £48,563 and for 2010/11 is expected to be £35,894, excluding an additional £35,000 as Wirral's contribution toward the cost of the independent examination to be carried out by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, currently scheduled for June 2010. The costs for 2009/10 and 2010/11 will need to be considered as growth items at the appropriate time.
- 6.3 The acquisition of sites is integral to the MWDA Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme. The Merseyside authorities will meet any costs through the annual MWDA levy and a report on the issues highlighted by the MWDA around the additional costs associated with delays in the acquisition of sites was presented to Cabinet on 4 September 2008.

7 Staffing Implications

7.1 There are no staffing implications arising directly out of this report. Consultation will be undertaken by MEAS with the assistance of Council officers using existing resources.

8 Equal Opportunities Implications

8.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

9 Community Safety Implications

9.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly out of this report.

10 Local Agenda 21 Implications

10.1 There are no Local Agenda 21 implications arising directly from this report. The provision of the facilities necessary to secure sustainable waste management is a key objective of the joint Waste DPD. The emerging joint Waste DPD has been subject to an ongoing statutory sustainability appraisal, which has been used to inform the content of the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report.

11 Planning Implications

11.1 The joint Waste DPD, when adopted in February 2011, will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the Borough. In the meantime, the evidence base for the emerging joint Waste DPD will be capable of being a material consideration in the determination of individual planning applications.

12 Anti-Poverty Implications

12.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

13 Human Rights Implications

13.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

14 Social Inclusion Implications

14.1 There are no social inclusion implications arising from this report.

15 Local Member Support Implications

15.1 Consultation on the emerging Spatial Strategy and Sites Report will be of interest to all Ward Members. The sites listed in the Spatial Strategy and Sites Report fall within the following Wards:

(i) Potential Sub-Regional Sites – Large Sites

Site Ref	Site Name	Ward
W0808	Former Graving Docks, Beaufort Road	Bidston & St James

Site Ref	Site Name	Ward
W0360	Former Southern Car Park, Cammell Lairds	Rock Ferry
W0343	Old Workshops, Cammell Lairds	Rock Ferry

(ii) Potential Other Sites – Smaller Sites

Site Ref	Site Name	Ward
W2215	Mersey Waste Holdings, Wallasey Bridge Road	Bidston & St James
W0180	George Major, Wallasey Bridge Road	Bidston & St James
W0191	Cleared site, Tees Street, Beaufort Road	Bidston & St James
W0339	Old Joiners Shop, Cammell Lairds	Rock Ferry
W0322	Global Environmental Recycling, Maritime Business Park, Campbeltown Road	Rock Ferry
W0270	Former Tip, Oakdale Road	Seacombe
W0240	North West of Old Gorsey Lane	Seacombe

(iii) Potential Landfill Sites

Site Ref	Site Name	Ward
MIN031	Irby Quarry, Irby Mill	Greasby Frankby and Irby
MIN027	North Wirral Brickworks, Carr Lane, Moreton	Hoylake and Meols
EAS0018	Moreton Landfill, Old Brickworks, Tarran Way, Moreton	Moreton West & Saughall Massie
MIN030	Prenton Quarry, Prenton Dell	Prenton
EAS0282	Lower Farm, Roman Road/Prenton Dell Road, Prenton	Prenton

16 Background Papers

- 16.1 Cabinet 30 June 2005 – Merseyside Waste Joint Local Development Document, can be viewed at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/public/envcs050620rep1_16766.pdf
- 16.2 Cabinet 19 October 2006 – Local Development Framework for Wirral – Local Development Scheme – Amendment to Waste DPD, can be viewed at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/public/cabcs061030rep1_21930.pdf

- 16.3 Cabinet 14 December 2006 - Joint Waste Development Plan Document &c – Issues and Options Report for Public Consultation, can be viewed at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/public/cabcs061214rep4_22585.pdf
- 16.4 Cabinet 28 March 2007 - Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report for Public Consultation – Wirral Response, can be viewed at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/public/cabcs070328rep1_23553.pdf
- 16.5 Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document – proposed consultation document Spatial Strategy and Sites Report – can be viewed at <http://merseysideeas-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That Cabinet agrees to the commencement of an eight-week public consultation process on the Waste DPD Spatial Strategy and Sites Report in order to meet project deadlines and those set by the Secretary of State for the completion of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

(2) That Cabinet's agreement to the commencement of public consultation should not be taken as an endorsement of the sites or strategy set out in the consultation report and that the Council's formal comments on these will be the subject of a further report and decision during the consultation period. The Council's Investment Strategy requires that the most effective use is made of key development sites to provide for uses in accordance with the vision and aspirations of the Investment Strategy.

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This report has been prepared by the Forward Planning Section who can be contacted on 691 8218.