

18 July 2012**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING****JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
CORE STRATEGY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on progress with the preparation of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy which is the first of the three development documents which will eventually replace the adopted Joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan 2002.

Information and Advice

2. The preparation of the Waste Core Strategy has gone through a number of key stages to gather and present evidence and put forward the issues and establish the options that been considered as part of developing the final Plan. This has included several stages of informal consultation and a recent publication stage to allow for formal representations from the public and other stakeholders. The key stages of this process are identified in Appendix 1.
3. The Draft Waste Core Strategy (Proposed Submission Document) was published for a formal period of public representations between 5 March and 30 April 2012. Responses have been received from a total of 30 different organisations and individuals including statutory bodies, local district and parish councils, neighbouring county councils, the waste industry, utility companies, interest groups and members of the public.
4. Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Councils have established a Joint Members Working Group to oversee the process of preparing the Plan. That group will consider these responses and what actions are required as a result, including any changes to the Plan prior to submitting it for Examination. As part of that process councillors will receive a summary of all responses, and links to more information and be advised on actions arising.
5. There may be changes made to the Plan arising from the responses to the representations period during March and April. There will be some changes to policies arising from discussions with nearby waste planning authorities under the Councils' 'Duty to Co-operate', which is a requirement of the Localism Act. Further changes will be needed as a result of the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012.

6. Following consideration by the Joint Members Working Group the two authorities will need to approve any changes through their own appropriate decision-making bodies. For the County Council this will be the full Council meeting scheduled for September when Council will be asked to approve a schedule of changes to the Core Strategy for a further six week period for representations. This will give approval for the Plan to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination as soon as this process has been completed.
7. Once the Plan is formally submitted this will be the start of the Examination and an Independent Inspector will be appointed to consider the representations that have been made and to test the overall soundness, and legal compliance, of the Plan. Part of this process will involve a public hearing where the Inspector will hold round-table sessions to discuss specific issues. Participation in these sessions will be at the discretion of the Inspector.
8. A Programme Officer had been appointed to manage the day to day running of the examination process. Although employed by the Council, they will maintain an independent role and will be the main point of contact between Council officers, the Inspector and members of the public before and during the Examination.
9. Other work being undertaken by officers has included a meeting with the Planning Inspectorate in June to advise on procedural and other matters. This will help to ensure that the Councils submit a legally sound plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination that reflects the local perspective and conforms to National Planning Policy. Other, on-going work includes refining the evidence base of the Plan and completing the Sustainability Appraisal.

Brief Review of the Issues Raised in Representations

10. From analysis of the responses considered so far, issues have ranged from the accuracy of the underlying waste data, and the scale, type and location of facilities, to whether there is a need for an additional policy on hazardous waste and the detailed wording of the policy on climate.

Other Options Considered

11. This work is part of the process to prepare the Plan for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination. The Examination of the Plan by an independent inspector is anticipated to take place in the autumn. No other options need to be considered as preparation of the Waste Core Strategy and other development plan documents is a statutory function of the authority.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. To ensure that members are aware of the progress of the Waste Development Framework and updated on the latest implications for the timetable.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) To note the progress on the preparation of the Waste Core Strategy.

Sally Gill
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For any enquiries about this report please contact: Suzanne Moody, Planning Policy Team, ext. 72108

Background Papers

None.

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Constitutional Comments

1. Because this report is for noting only no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (DJK 03.07.2012)

2. There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report, with the work being undertaken by existing resources. Costs will be incurred subsequently as part of the Examination of the Plan by the independent inspector, and a reserve of £325,000 for such Examination's is available accordingly.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

Appendix 1 – Key Stages in the Preparation of the Waste Core Strategy

Issues and options

An informal consultation on the key waste issues facing Nottinghamshire and what reasonable choices we have. Responses to this stage helped us to decide which options to take forward.

Preferred approach

Having looked at all the options, we consulted again on those that we thought were most suitable for Nottinghamshire. This has helped us to produce our draft Waste Core Strategy.

Submission

In response to formal representations on the draft Waste Core Strategy we will publish a schedule of proposed modifications before submission to the Secretary of State for Examination.

Examination

This is an independent examination by a Government Inspector who will look at whether the Waste Core Strategy is sound and takes account of any representations made at the submission stage. This usually involves a public hearing.

Adoption

This is the final stage if the Waste Core Strategy is found sound. The Inspector may make minor changes to the strategy but if serious problems are found he/she will declare it 'unsound' and it will have to be withdrawn.