

Meeting:	<b>JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT</b>
Date:	9th December 2022
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report informs committee of progress with preparing the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The County and City Councils are preparing a single joint Waste Local Plan to replace the Waste Core Strategy adopted by both Councils in December 2013. An initial consultation on the new Local Plan, including a 'Call for Sites' was completed in May 2020 . Underpinning the Plan is a Waste Needs Assessment which assesses the pattern of waste likely to be generated by households, commercial/industrial and construction/demolition sectors over the period to 2036, looks at available capacity and what is needed in terms of future capacity.
- 2.2 The Draft Waste Plan was approved by Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Council in January 2022. The Draft Waste Local Plan was consulted on between the 7<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and included an online "Waste Summit" which was well attended.

### **3 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 Officers from both Councils are analysing the representations we received on the Draft Waste Local Plan and looking at where there is a case to amend the Plan and its policies as a result. We have arranged with AECOM for additional support to help respond to technical comments made in respect of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Needs Assessment and to update the Assessment by reference to the latest data on waste flows and also existing capacity. This commission began in October and will conclude before Christmas.
- 3.2 A total of 275 representations were received on the Draft Waste Local Plan from a total of 40 respondents, including statutory bodies, members of the public, environmental groups, other Nottinghamshire Districts and Boroughs and Parish Councils.
- 3.3 In general the Draft Waste Local Plan was well received and many of the Objectives and Policies have been supported. The key issues that arose related to:
- ensuring the Waste Plan is based on the most up to date data on all waste streams

- ensuring the Waste Plan is informed by a Needs Assessment based on accurate capacity information.
- whether our recycling assumptions are realistic given historic trends and whether the Waste Plan should provide for a scenario in which they are not met
- whether our assumptions about expected landfill and recovery to land are realistic, based on the absence of capacity
- whether the forecasts of need for energy recovery facilities (incineration for heat and power) are therefore appropriate

#### **4 Next Steps**

- 4.1 AECOM are currently completing their re-assessment of the Waste Needs Assessment, and this is feeding into potential revisions to the Waste Local Plan along with other changes considered necessary. Central to the issues being re-assessed are the assumptions made about future proportions of waste to be sent to landfill, the future level of need for energy recovery facilities in light of existing capacity and approaches to future recycling rates.
- 4.2 Nottingham City Council are currently consulting on a Municipal Waste Management Strategy. This strategy will need to be taken into account when finalising the Waste Local Plan.
- 4.3 In accordance with the new governance system within Nottinghamshire County Council it is proposed that one of the Scrutiny Panels should consider the issues raised during consultation and the likely direction of travel for the final Plan. A meeting of the Place Select Committee has been arranged for Wednesday 25 January.
- 4.4 A Joint Waste Local Plan Member Working Group will also be arranged to allow officers to discuss the Final Draft of the Waste Local Plan with the Cabinet leads at the County and City Councils prior to it being submitted to the Executive's of both Councils for approval to publish. This is the final stage of preparing the Plan which should be considered "sound" when published so will require all supporting evidence documents to be prepared and available and thus requires appropriate time to finalise.
- 4.5 Arrangements for approval of the final Waste Local Plan are being discussed by both Councils in order to align our processes and agree a timetable. It should be noted that the City Council holds elections in May 2023 which may affect our timetable.
- 4.6 The Plan will be published for formal representations to be made and subject to approval of each Council will be submitted for independent examination thereafter.

## **5. Other Matters**

- 5.1 Councillors have expressed an interest in viewing a waste management facility. It proved difficult to obtain convenient dates last year. Officers will explore dates for a future visit to an energy from waste operation and a private sector recycling company.
- 5.2 A visit to the Amazon Fulfilment Centre at Summit Park in Ashfield District was carried out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. This provided a fascinating insight into the operations of a large warehouse, particularly in connection with the arrangements for packaging products for despatch and the way Amazon has to balance the demands of their vendors with the company's desire to reduce packaging and become net zero in their operation. Councillors were able to question Amazon senior managers closely about how they operate and what more they might do to reduce the level of packaging which needs to be recycled and assist the Councils in promoting recycling. The whole operation at Sutton Park which only opened in August 2020 showed how a major new employer in Nottinghamshire is managing its waste and becoming "net zero" in its operation. We learnt a great deal and were able to suggest ways in which Amazon might promote better recycling. The company representatives offered further liaison as needed.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 That the Joint Committee note the progress on the production of the Waste Local Plan.
- 5.2 That a joint letter be sent to Amazon on behalf of both Councils to thank them for the visit and set out ways in which Amazon as a leading online retailer might assist waste authorities by reducing the level of packaging used in their shipments and encourage customers to recycle all packaging received.

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 6.1 None.

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