

report

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

date **12th November 2004** agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE LOCAL PLAN - PROPOSED JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREPARING NEW WASTE DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS

Purpose of Report

To seek the approval of the Joint Committee for the preparation of joint waste development documents required under the new planning legislation.

Background

1. The current Waste Local Plan, adopted in January 2002, was prepared as a joint Plan by the two Councils. The review of this Plan now has to be considered under the provisions of new planning legislation which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.
2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all Local Planning Authorities to prepare new development plan documents as part of a new Local Development Framework system. These documents will eventually replace all current Local Plans. Except where existing Local Plans are still being prepared, the new Development Plan Documents must be in place within 3 years of the Act coming into effect, which gives a date of 28th September 2007 to prepare Waste Development Documents.

Joint Waste Planning

3. The current adopted Waste Local Plan was prepared jointly as this was considered the best approach for creating a consistent approach towards dealing with the close interrelationships that exist between the waste management requirements for the City and County. For example whilst much of the waste produced in the City has to be managed in the County, the City also has significant waste management facilities such as the Eastcroft incinerator which take waste from the County.
4. The current plan period ends 31st December 2004 and a monitoring and review report was published in September setting out how the Plan has performed. This report concluded that whilst the Plan's key assumptions remain valid, a whole raft of new waste management legislation and targets all point towards the need to prepare a new plan. In any event under the new procedures noted above a Waste Development Framework will need to be in place by September 2007.

5. The first step in preparing the new Local Development Framework will be for each Local Planning Authority to prepare a local development scheme setting out the proposed timetable and resources available. The local development scheme must be submitted and approved by the Government Office for the East Midlands by 28th March 2005.
6. Both Councils have at officer and member level considered and discussed the benefits of preparing the new waste development documents jointly, as will continue to be allowed under the new system. This approach had been approved in principle at a Cabinet meeting of the County Council's on 21st July 2004 and by the portfolio holder of the City on 9th July 2004. Officers have since met to discuss working and financial arrangements, which again have been, agreed in principle. These broadly follow the previous arrangements whereby the County Council will take the leading role in drafting the plan, with the City contributing 28% of the costs which is based on its relative population of the geographic county (NB normal officer staff time costs are exempt).
7. Once joint working arrangements have been agreed, each Council will then be able to prepare the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which each Authority will need to approve before being sent to the Government Office for the East Midlands in early 2005. Amongst other matters, the LDS will set out that waste planning will be undertaken jointly between the two Councils covering the geographic County. The formal preparation of the various waste developments documents is expected to begin thereafter.
8. The Joint Committee would then act as the mechanism for dealing with issues arising with the Joint Waste Development Documents as it did for the Joint Local Plan. This Committee will remain advisory and there is no need to set up a formal Joint Committee under the provisions of the new act

Recommendation

9. That this Committee endorses action to prepare a joint Waste Development Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

Background Papers

None

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Pt.rl.jc25/19.10.04