

Waste Panel Members:- Sherma Batson, Tony Dodd (Sub), Maria Green, Stan Mills, Sally Newton, Duncan Peek, Stuart Pile (Chairman), Derek Scudder (Sub) .

### **The Waste Local Plan Review – Update on Progress**

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#### **1. Purpose Of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Panel on the Waste Local Plan Review progress / Waste Development Plan preparation.

#### **2. Background and Overview of Activities**

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill received Royal Assent on 13 April 2004. The new Act will come into force via a commencement order two months after this, i.e. mid July 2004. Regulations implementing the parts of the Act reforming development plans will come into force shortly afterwards.
- 2.2 Implications for the Waste Local Plan Review / Waste Development Plan preparation have been outlined in previous panel papers.
- 2.3 County Development Unit staff made a presentation on waste planning in May 2004 as part of a lunchtime series supported by the Development Plans Management Group. This has helped to disseminate information internally amongst various areas of the Department. Copies of this presentation is attached (see Attachment 1).
- 2.4 ODPM and Defra continue to release information on implementation of the Landfill Directive, including implications for hazardous waste disposal and changes that will occur from July 2004. Circular material and website links are provided for reference. (see Attachment 2)
- 2.5 Phase 1 of the SEA/SA on the Waste Development Plan is nearing completion, and a draft Scoping Report is now available, dated May 2004. Key components include:
- Environmental and Sustainability Context for Hertfordshire WLP Review (review of baseline information);
  - Option Development and Appraisal for MLP review Key Issues;
  - Next Steps, including consultation.

(see Attachment 3).

### **3. Development Ideas**

- 3.1 Further thought has been given towards developing a joint communications programme that should be initiated as soon as possible. This initiative could seek to combine the current Wasteaware initiatives of the Waste Management Group and some of the wider considerations involved in review of the Waste Local Plan/Waste Development Plan. In particular it could address the WLP/WDP emphasis on management of all types of waste streams, the importance of finding suitable sites and protecting them from sterilisation, the need for the community to work together on finding solutions etc.
- 3.2 Such an initiative would be over and above the required consultation on the Waste Development Plan. Rather, it would seek to provide an environment whereby community awareness of waste management issues is enhanced prior to detailed consultation as part of the Waste Development Plan and implementation of the Statement of Community Involvement and related communication plan.

### **4. Defra and ODPM advice on Implementation of the Landfill Directive: Implications for Planning for Hazardous Waste Facilities**

- 4.1 ODPM and Defra circulated information reminding RTAB's and Waste Planning Authorities of the changes to waste management from 16 July 2004, namely that the Landfill Directive will prohibit the practice of co-disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste in landfill.
- 4.2 Instead, hazardous waste destined for landfill will have to go either to a landfill dedicated for the purpose, or if waste is stable and non-reactive (e.g. Asbestos), to a separate cell in a non-hazardous landfill. It must also be treated before landfill including reducing the volume or hazardous nature of the waste, easing its handling or aiding recover including through sorting.
- 4.3 Current Environment Agency data on types, amounts and fates of special waste arisings by planning regions were circulated with the letter. Additional information is also available on the Environment Agency 'Special Waste Database' website, and extracts are attached (see Attachment 2). ([http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/315439/321909/361931/322024/?lang=\\_e&theme=&region=&subject=&searchfor=special+waste+database](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/315439/321909/361931/322024/?lang=_e&theme=&region=&subject=&searchfor=special+waste+database))
- 4.4 Information on hazardous waste categories and related material is also available: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/hazforum/index.htm>
- 4.5 Despite concerns about the sufficiency of facilities and sites to cope with the volume of hazardous waste likely to arise, the current expectation is that there will be some 12 merchant hazardous waste landfills in England

from July 2004. There are 28 applications being considered by the Environment Agency (see Attachment 2), although Waste Planning Authorities must also be aware that they might see an increase in applications where operators are seeking to ensure compliance with the Landfill Directive.

- 4.6 There are real concerns about the capability to handle hazardous waste, particularly in the short term. This may give rise to applications for temporary 'holding' facilities until such time as the situation resolves itself. This was discussed at the last East of England RTAB meeting where it was acknowledged that, short term, there was little potential for pro-active responses.

## **5. Phases One and Two in Development of the Waste Development Plan – 'Pre-Production' and 'Production'**

- 5.1 Land Use Consultants have completed a Draft Scoping Report that completes Phase 1 of their commission in assisting with the SEA/SA of the Waste Local Plan Review (now Waste Development Plan).
- 5.2 Work has continued on the Waste Development Plan Key Issues and Options document, although a complete draft is not yet available. As a result, the SEA/SA Scoping Report can not be finalised at this point.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that both the Key Issues and Options document and SEA/SA Scoping Report will be released for public consultation late summer 2004. It is hoped that the documents will be available for consideration at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 13 September 2004.

## **6. Conclusion/Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the Panel:
- Endorse the approach of undertaking a joint communications strategy with the Wasteware programme and Waste Management Team to raise the profile of impending issues for the Waste Development Plan to consider.
  - Note the forthcoming changes in management of hazardous wastes as a result of the Landfill Directive.
  - Review and provide comment on the Draft Scoping SEA/SA Report, Land Use Consultants May 2004.

### **Attachments:**

1. Waste Planning presentation.
2. ODPM / Defra circular material.
3. Draft SEA/SA Scoping Report, Land Use Consultants May 2004.