

**MINUTES of a meeting of the WASTE PLANNING PANEL held on Thursday, 18 September 2003**

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Members of the Panel:** M Green, S Mills, S Pile, S Quilty (Chairman)

**Officers:** Anne Fisher, Sue Davidson, Julie Reeve, Richard Brown, Ray Greenall

**Member of the Public:** Ian Malone  
**Administrator:** Joyce Brooks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Waste Planning Panel.

1. **Apologies** were received from S Batson.
2. **Waste Local Plan Review – Introduction and Remit of the Panel**

Sue Davidson introduced the officers and advised the Panel that its remit, as set up by Cabinet, was to undertake a Review of the Waste Local Plan. The current Waste Local Plan was adopted in 1999 and runs to 2005. The County Council has a responsibility to keep Plans up-to-date and there have been significant changes since its adoption. The role of the Panel is to oversee the process, advise the Executive Member and Cabinet on progress, and see the Waste Local Plan through its various stages of Review to Adoption.

The report was noted.

3. **The Waste Local Plan Review – Background and Review Process**

The paper set out background information and the statutory basis of the Plan, which is part of the Development Plan for the County. The Development Plan, which forms the development framework of all land use planning, is made up of the Structure Plan, Minerals Local Plan, Waste Local Plan and District Local Plans and it is the responsibility of the County Council as Strategic Planning Authority to keep them up-to-date.

One of the issues facing the Panel will be the identification of sites that can cause tension in both residential and industrial areas. A number of sites were identified in the current Plan, but for various reasons very few have come forward.

The Government's new Planning and Compulsory Bill seeks to modernise planning and is due to re-commence in November. The Review of the Waste Local Plan will seek to follow its proposals and will eventually be replaced with Waste Development Documents.

The stages of the Review are set out as:

- Stage 1 – The Pre-deposit consultation
- Stage 2 – The Deposit Plan
- Stage 3 – The Pre-Inquiry Document
- Stage 4 – The Public Local Inquiry
- Stage 5 – The Inspector's Report
- Stage 6 – The Adoption of the Plan

In addition, a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out. Consultants have been employed to carry out a scoping exercise of the current Plan, which will involve comparing it with other relevant documents. The scoping report is expected to be completed in January 2004 and will be used to inform the key issues paper.

A Stakeholder Workshop will take place on 24 October at the Fielder Centre to identify issues that need to be addressed.

A draft timetable was set out in the paper commencing with the Pre-Deposit Consultation (Key Issues) paper in February 2004 through to formal adoption in mid 2005.

The Panel was advised that in 1998/99 the County Council dealt with 1.1 million tonnes of commercial/industrial waste and 550,000 tonnes of municipal waste. Management of municipal waste can be directly controlled but industrial/commercial waste is down to the markets. Although some waste is imported from North London and it is recognised that there are some cross border benefits to be had, the thrust of the Regional Strategy is that we should be planning to manage the equivalent of our own arisings.

Ray Greenall advised the Panel of the contract we now have for exporting fridges to Germany for recycling and disposal.

A list of the Strategic Consultees was set out in Appendix A. The consultation would run for 6 weeks.

#### **4. Regional Waste Management Strategy (RWMS) – Implications for Hertfordshire**

This report advised the Panel of the implications for Hertfordshire in implementing the East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy, which will be incorporated in the Regional Planning Guidance (RPG14), and which sets a strategic framework for the Waste Local Plan. The RWMS draws out the key themes and policies that have to be taken account of in shaping the Waste Local Plan. The County's

Municipal Waste Strategy is a key driver for this and emphasises the move away from landfill.

The County currently recycles 18.19%, 5% (26,000 tonnes) is composted and 19.8% (90,000 tonnes) is landfilled. 65% of our waste is exported and 43,000 tonnes goes to incineration.

The report was noted.

## **5. Waste Local Plan Review – Proposed Next Steps**

The Panel was advised of the following proposals:

- Site visits to existing and working sites in the adopted plan;
- Briefing papers on new technologies and processes and their development implications on Hertfordshire;
- Land Use Consultant's report at the end of the process looking at the range of legislative changes and advising on which areas of the plan need to be addressed/updated.

It was agreed that Sue Davidson would circulate a list of what is available for Members to choose what they would like to see.

### Dates for the Diary

Stakeholder Workshop – 24 October at the Fielder Centre  
Site Visits - 22 October and 4 November 9.30 a.m.

**6. A.O.B.** – There was none.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

6 November at 2.00 p.m. in Committee Room C.