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Feedback on the Waste Development Plan Issues and Options Paper Consultation

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1. Purpose Of Report

1.1 To feedback the initial responses received after the pre-submission consultation on the Waste Development Plan Issues and Options paper.

2. Background

2.1 The Waste Development Plan Issues and Options paper was approved for public consultation in September 2004. The document produced outlines the main issues for Hertfordshire surrounding waste.

2.2 The consultation lasted for a period of six weeks from 11 October to 26 November 2004. Copies of the document were sent to all those listed in appendix A. A total of 306 responses were received and the information received will be passed on to Entec (the County Council's consultants) to inform the site selection process.

3. Detail of Responses

3.1 Approximately 650 documents were initially sent out, with another 90 requests for documents once the consultation was under way, giving a total of 740 documents sent out. Copies of the documents were also available on the County Council's web site and at the Household Waste Recycling Centres, as well as being available for inspection at county and district offices and libraries.

3.2 From the total of 306 responses, 158 were submitted electronically via the County Council's website and further details of the responses are shown in appendix B.

3.3 From those responses to the consultation document, 97% of the residents within Hertfordshire agreed that we all need to do our bit to reduce the amount of waste produced within the County and that 'we should plan ways to reduce and minimise the amount of rubbish produced in Hertfordshire'. (Question 1 appendix B)

- 3.4 It is notable that 51.4% did not wish to have details kept on a mailing list or chose not to answer the question with only 41.5% wishing to receive material in the future, and 7.4% not answered. (Question 14 appendix B). This does not necessarily indicate a lack of concern over waste management planning within Hertfordshire, but could be taken as an indication of the alternative means of accessing information through the on-line facilities such as Herts Direct/Herts OnLine.
- 3.5 Many respondents were unclear about the role of the County Council as the Waste Planning Authority and the District Councils as the Waste Collection Authority, with many comments associated with the collection of Municipal Waste and Recyclates from domestic properties.
- whilst 80.9% found the information on the Waste Development Plan clear and helpful, 12.6% did not know whether the information was clear and helpful with 3.5% not answered. (Question 13 appendix B)

The figures indicate the need for further consideration to be given to the Consultation process, to ensure that information is in a format that is at an appropriate level to all groups within the community.

- 3.6 The area with least support was in relation to the location of waste management facilities within Hertfordshire.
- 11.97% of the responses to the question ‘we should locate sites in the County for rubbish to be recycled and disposed of as close as practicably possible to the origin of the waste’ (the Proximity Principle), were unsure with 2.82% not answering and 2.11% disagreeing. (Question 11 appendix B).
 - 9.86% of respondents were unsure that ‘we should plan to provide sufficient waste management facilities in Hertfordshire to deal with all the rubbish we produce in the County’. 2.11% disagreeing and 2.11% not answered (Question 9 appendix B)

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Pre-submission consultation process as set out in Regulation 25, requires local authorities to consult with community and stakeholders during the preparation of Preferred Options.
- 4.2 After discussions with GO-East it is envisaged that this Issues and Options stage be treated as an initial stage of engagement with the stakeholders. The task now is to establish the ‘Issues and Preferred Options’ for dealing with them.
- 4.3 In order for this to be carried out effectively, further consultation is needed with stakeholder groups and it is envisaged that further involvement in the

process be sought from stakeholders such as District/Borough Councils, Parish/Town councils and through the Local Strategic Partnerships.

- 4.4 Proposals are in hand to set up a joint planning advisory group involving District Portfolio Holders with responsibility for Planning supported by district officers responsible for planning and waste management (See Appendix C). It is proposed that the initial meeting will take place in February/early March 2005.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The results of the consultation period on the Waste Development Plan Issues and Options show that there are specific areas that need to be targeted within the consultation process. These areas are particularly linked to the siting of Waste Management facilities within Hertfordshire and clarifying the differing roles of the District Councils and the County Council in providing waste services.
- 5.2 It is proposed that work on the Preferred Issues and Options Paper continue, taking into consideration representations made on the Issues and Options Paper, together with any comments from the proposed Joint Planning Advisory Group (referred to in paragraph 4.4 above) who will assist with the development of the Hertfordshire Waste Development Framework.