

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 11 JULY 2000

NOTE: Full copies of the reports mentioned below have been sent to all members of the Environment Committee and other members who have requested it. Any queries on this report to: Joan Blake, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Tel: 01992 555560)

1 WEST OF THE A1(M) AT STEVENAGE - LOCAL AUTHORITY MASTERPLANNING PRINCIPLES

In November 1999 the Joint Member Group set up by the three local authorities with principal interest in the West of the A1(M) at Stevenage development agreed to the preparation of a document setting out a common view for the form of any development to the west of the motorway.

The group reviewed a list of selected Principles to set the tone for the preparation of the final document, stressing the need for them to be concise and follow a logical form, be well focused in terms of their priorities, avoid being over-prescriptive, and be clear and precise in their meaning.

Public consultations on the Principles took place in February/March of this year. The consultation programme used a range of techniques and a variety of events designed to give the maximum possible exposure to the Principles and encourage people to respond either at the events or afterwards on a consultation form. Some 300 representations were made, resulting in a total of 81 changes to the draft document.

Following a number of further amendments and editorial changes, in May 2000 the group endorsed the final draft version of the Local Authority Masterplanning Principles and referred them to the individual authorities with the recommendation that they be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the relevant development plans. In the case of the County Council, this was the Structure Plan.

The Committee were advised that North Hertfordshire District Council was seeking advice from Counsel on the implications for their Local Plan of the recently published PPG3 on Housing.

The committee agreed that, before considering whether to adopt the Principles, a members' study tour of developments recognised as being based on principles of sustainable development be organised. In addition, consideration should be given to legal opinions obtained on the possible implications of PPG3 for the North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Local Plans.

2 A MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE - PROGRESS REPORT AND NEXT STEPS

The County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, is required to make arrangements for the management of all the waste being collected, currently more than 530,000 tonnes per annum. A number of cost effective, long term disposal contracts have been secured which, for the time being, provide sufficient capacity to meet the county's needs. However, these arrangements are not sustainable in the long term with all of the disposal contracts involving landfill due to expire as soon as 2008.

In 1998, all eleven Hertfordshire waste authorities signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work jointly on the development of a municipal waste management strategy for the whole of Hertfordshire. Each authority was subsequently requested to make a financial contribution of £5,000 to fund the appointment of consultants to investigate the various waste management options for a strategy and make recommendations on a preferred model. The need to engage consultants was seen as essential in order to retain a degree of impartiality and independence as well as drawing upon specialist professional help and advice.

The consultants (Enviros Aspinwall) presented their report at the fourth annual WasteAware seminar in April and there was general support in principle for using their findings as a starting point for further discussion between the eleven authorities in developing a joint waste management strategy for the county. The committee agreed that consultants' report should be the starting point for further discussion with the District Councils, but indicated that there should be no incineration in Hertfordshire before 2005 and only then if there is 'clear and unequivocal' evidence of its safety.

A joint members' Waste Strategy Development Group (WSDG) has been established with the district councils to take the project forward.

**Jane Pitman
Chairman
County Hall
Hertford**

11 July 2000