

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 9th September 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Environment and Economy

SUBJECT: Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document – Preferred Options: Interim Feedback Report

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Halton Borough Council is involved in producing a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (referred to in this report as the Waste DPD) for the Merseyside sub-region. It was reported to this Board in February, earlier this year, that the DPD had reached the 'Preferred Options' stage and at that meeting the Board agreed to consult on the preferred options document.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise Members that the consultation exercise has now been completed and to provide an early flavour of the feedback received.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the draft findings are noted; and**
- (2) a further report to be brought back to the Board, once the MEAS full analysis of the consultation exercise has been completed**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Waste DPD is being produced by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Services (MEAS) on behalf of the six greater Merseyside districts (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton, and Wirral). This will be the land-use planning document for waste-related development in the Merseyside sub-region. It deals with the scale, location and type of facilities required to manage all waste streams (commercial, industrial, municipal, agricultural, hazardous, construction, demolition and excavation). It will set out the spatial strategy for new waste development and includes site allocations for new waste facilities. Criteria-based policies provide a consistent approach for dealing with waste planning applications across the six relevant authorities.

- 3.2 Throughout the preparation of the Waste DPD there has been on-going consultation with Government Office and the Planning Inspectorate to ensure procedural compliance. In addition, the process and evidence base has also been subject to independent quality assurance checks involving legal advisors, private consultants and Planning Officers' Society. The Waste DPD has been prepared through a multi-stage process. Three public consultation stages have been completed:
- Issues and Options took place in March and April 2007.
 - Spatial Strategy and Sites stage took place between December 2008 and January 2009.
 - Preferred Options
- 3.3 The results of the public consultation, engagement with stakeholders, industry (including Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA)) and the Local Authorities and, detailed technical assessments at stages 1 and 2 were all used to inform the preparation of this third public consultation stage, Preferred Options –May to July 2010.
- 3.4 The Preferred Options consultation exercise was undertaken over a six week period during May – July 2010. Attached to this report (Appendix A) is a draft report, which explains the full extent of this exercise and which also provides some analysis of the results of the process. A final report will follow later in the year.
- 3.5 In response to the total Merseyside wide exercise 139 response questionnaires were submitted of which, 64 were from organisations rather than individuals. In addition a number of petitions were also submitted in relation to specific site allocations.
- 3.6. In relation to sites identified within the consultation document for possible future waste related uses, there were 3 within Halton's boundaries.

Ditton Sidings, Newstead Road (Widnes)
Johnsons Lane (Widnes)
Manor Park Road Waste Water Treatment Works (Runcorn)

- 3.7 The draft report shows that for the sites within Halton:-

Ditton Sidings-23 submissions were made, which agreed /strongly agreed with the sites proposed allocation, whilst 20 disagreed / strongly disagreed.

Johnsons Lane-18 agreed/strongly agreed, whilst 2 disagreed/strongly disagreed.

Manor Park Road-12 agreed/strongly agreed, whilst 2 disagreed/strongly disagreed.

In respect of the Ditton site 2 petitions (containing 158 names) were also received opposing the sites draft allocation.

- 3.8 Having considered the various representations and taking into account the locations and characteristics of the three sites in Halton included in the Waste DPD, it is the view of officers that the Council should not object to the inclusion of any of these sites for the specific purposes identified in the consultation document.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

4.1 Children and Young People in Halton

- 4.1.1 This report has no direct implications for children and young people in Halton. Indirectly, the Waste Development Plan Document (Waste DPD) places sustainability at its very core, protecting valuable resources for future generations and promoting the most sustainable methods of waste handling and treatment (Sustainability Appraisal – Phases 2 & 3 (Scott Wilson 2007-2009)).

4.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

- 4.2.1 Each developed site will generate employment benefits for the surrounding area. The estimated total number of direct jobs to be created as a result of development of the Waste DPD allocated sites is 500-700 with additional indirect jobs estimated at up to twice this number. Temporary jobs related to construction of facilities are expected to total 25-400 per site, depending on the scale of the facility being built.

4.3 A Healthy Halton

- 4.3.1 There are concerns about environmental nuisance, odours, emissions and the effects that waste facilities may or may not have on the health of residents. The Preferred Options Report has been supported by an independent review of this matter. Scientific and medical consensus is that there are no direct health issues arising from the normal operation of modern waste facilities.

4.4 A Safer Halton

- 4.4.1 The main implication, aside from the health aspects noted above, is the consideration of increased traffic movements in the vicinity of any developed site.

4.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

- 4.5.1 A great deal of effort has been directed by the Council into changing perceptions about Halton that stem from its industrial legacy. A prime

concern is the impact on inward investment in the Borough. Waste facilities must be designed to a high standard of quality and mitigate against all environmental nuisance that is associated with waste facilities.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 Due to pressing timescales for the preparation of a Single Regional Strategy, the increasing number of private sector planning applications for waste treatment facilities, the urgent progress needed with the Merseyside Waste Disposal (MWDA) procurement process and the pressing need for Merseyside and Halton to secure new infrastructure for sustainable waste management it is vital that rapid progress is maintained with the Waste DPD. Advancing the Waste DPD to a stage where it can start to influence planning decisions will greatly assist the Districts in making those decisions.

5.2 Delay to the Waste DPD will:

- Increase costs to the Districts in the future through the cost of landfill disposal and financial penalties.
- Reduce Merseyside's ability to influence the waste policy content of the emerging Single Regional Strategy.
- Have a knock on effect on Waste DPD project timescales with resultant increases in costs of plan preparation.
- Potentially have a knock on impact on the MWDA planning and procurement processes by increasing uncertainty.
- Have very serious implications for the soundness of each of the District's emerging Core Strategy documents.
- Result in a continuation of an industry-led approach to the location of new waste facilities rather than the pro-active plan-led approach proposed within the Waste DPD.
- Reduce the Council's ability to resist applications of the wrong type and in the wrong places

5.3 These risks are mitigated by a monthly review of all significant risk factors highlighted by the project's risk assessment.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for this project and is available at www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk. Where appropriate, action has been taken on the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

7.1 The Joint Merseyside Waste DPD is scheduled to be adopted by all the six partner Districts in April 2012.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Broad Site Search Final Report (SLR Consulting September 2005)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Initial Needs Assessment (Land Use Consultants September 2005)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Agricultural Waste Survey (Merseyside EAS April 2007)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
North West Commercial and Industrial Waste Survey Final Report (Urban Mines May 2007)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
North West Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Final Report (Smith Gore July 2007)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Revised Needs Assessment Report (SLR Consulting December 2007) [Needs Assessment Version 2]	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Merseyside Radioactive Waste Arisings Review (Merseyside EAS December 2007)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Planning Implications Report (Merseyside EAS January 2008) [Needs Assessment Version 3]	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Review of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Waste Management Facilities (RPS April 2008).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Review of Health Impacts from Waste Management Facilities (Richard Smith Consulting June 2008).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Equality Impact Assessment (Merseyside EAS July 2008).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea,	Tim Gibbs

North West Regional Broad Locations Nov 08	Runcorn. www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Survey for Landfill Opportunities in Merseyside (Merseyside EAS - 2008).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Built Facilities Site Search Methodology	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Sustainability Appraisal – Phase 1 (Mouchel Parkman (2006-7)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Capita Symonds 2008-9).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Habitats Regulations Assessment (Scott Wilson 2007-present).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Sustainability Appraisal – Phases 2 & 3 (Scott Wilson 2007-present).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Review of Relative Sustainability of Waste Management based on Mass- Burn or Two-Stage Recovery of Energy from Waste (Juniper Consulting 2009).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Risk Assessment for EfW Options for MSW in Merseyside & Halton November 2009	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Revised Needs Assessment (Merseyside EAS November 2009) [Needs Assessment version 4].	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Issues and Options Report (March 2007).	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
The Halton Council, Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Council, Sefton Council, St Helens Council and Wirral	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea,	Tim Gibbs

Council Joint Waste Development Plan Document Spatial Strategy and Sites Report. (Merseyside EAS November 2008)	Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Spatial Strategy and Sites Q and A Document	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
Spatial Strategy and Sites Summary Report	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs
The Halton Council, Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Council, Sefton Council, St Helens Council and Wirral Council Joint Waste Development Plan Document Preferred Options Report (MEAS December 2009)	www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk or Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn.	Tim Gibbs