
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 23rd February 2010
Subject: Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation
Report of: Director of Sustainable Communities
Summary: The report proposes that the Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options document be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval to undergo consultation.

Contact Officer: Lester Hannington, Principal Minerals and Waste Planning Officer (0300 300 6219)
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Waste Core Strategy will contribute to the agreed Council priority for “Managing Growth Effectively”, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2009-11.

Financial:

Consultants will be used for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Waste Core Strategy, including Strategic sites. The costs for those are set out in the existing budget for 2009-10, and are shared between three Councils (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton). The costs of consultation are expected to be insignificant. The most significant phase of costs will arise from the Examination in Public which will be held in 2011 or 2012.

Legal:

The Council is obliged to develop planning Policy documents for the control of Minerals and Waste Developments, according to a Local Development Scheme. This is a requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Risk Management:

In order to be broadly in line with the contents and timetable of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme adopted in 2009, a further stage of consultation on the Waste element of the Core Strategy must be undertaken, so that a Combined Core Strategy can be prepared and submitted by the end of 2010, or the beginning of 2011.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

There are no implications or changes to existing staff resources. The Waste Core Strategy is being prepared directly by the existing staff of the Minerals and Waste Planning Unit, a shared service funded by Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, (and Luton Borough Council, for the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework).

Equalities/Human Rights:

The Consultation document will be equally accessible to individuals and communities regardless of age, gender, race, ability, or sexual orientation. There are no Human Rights implications.

Community Safety:

There are no implications for the safety of communities.

Sustainability:

The consultation document will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal, the results of which will be published with the consultation document.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
 - i. endorse the Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options document; and**
 - ii. recommend that the Executive delegate authority to the Director of Sustainable Communities to make any necessary minor amendments.**
- 2. That the Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options document be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for Planning**
- 3. That the Executive be recommended to undergo public consultation on the Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation document according to statutory procedures.**

Where does this consultation document come from?

1. The Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme adopted in 2009 sets out an intention to create a combined Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, for submission to the Secretary of State. There have been two previous stages of consultations on the Minerals Core Strategy and Minerals Site Allocations Plans, and only one stage for the Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan. Before a Combined Core Strategy, (which will only include Strategic sites), is created for submission to the Secretary of State, a further stage of public consultation is to be undertaken on the Waste element of the Core Strategy (the "Waste Core Strategy").

2. The Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options document sets out a strategy for waste planning over a 15 year period, based upon the circumstances of three Councils who “own” the Minerals and Waste Development Documents (Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, and Luton Borough Council). It considers alternatives in respect of the future growth of waste to be managed; alternative spatial distributions for waste facilities; and alternative possible Strategic sites.

Key Messages

3. The Waste Core Strategy sets out a preference for:
 - a lower rate of growth in wastes of all kinds, compared to the 3% per annum growth rate set out in the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy 2008, and because of more recent information and studies;
 - a Spatial Distribution of waste facilities, which will provide most Strategic facilities centrally, and smaller scale facilities more widely distributed;
 - identifies **Rookery Pit South**, and **land at the former Brogborough landfill site**, as the principal Strategic sites.
 - Identifies Land at **Elstow North** and **Thorn Turn** as Reserve Strategic sites.
 - identifies the need for additional landfill space for Non-Hazardous wastes,
 - identifies both **Rookery Pit South** and **Elstow Pit South** as necessary in order to provide sufficient void space for the disposal of Non-Hazardous wastes to Landfill..
4. It should be noted that this consultation document is at present awaiting finalisation in respect of presentation, such as internal images. Of most importance, it focuses on planning for the future provision of land for waste disposal, as well as facilities for the recovery of materials from waste, in respect of wastes arising from households, businesses, and industry within the Plan area. The Plan area includes Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton, and the Plan relates to a period of 15 years post adoption. The only exception is that amount of waste requiring landfilling, which includes an amount of waste from London, agreed through the Regional Spatial Strategy. After 2015 waste from London to be landfilled will be restricted to post-treatment residues following the treatment of waste to recover the maximum of materials and energy, and will therefore have significantly less impacts on neighbours, in respect of their volume, odour, litter, and settlement following completion of landfilling.

Conclusion and Next Steps

5. Following the approval by each of the three Councils who own the Minerals and Waste Development Framework, the Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options document will undergo public consultation, and undergo Sustainability Appraisal. The responses received from consultation, and the results of the Sustainability Appraisal, will inform the development of a combined Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, for its submission to the Secretary of State later in 2010, or early 2011. The consultation document will be accompanied by a series of Technical Evidence Papers and an Evidence Base of supporting information. It is hoped that, subject to approval from all three Councils, consultation will begin on 12th April for a period of six weeks.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation document
Waste Core Strategy Technical Evidence Papers
Waste Core Strategy Evidence Base
Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme 2009

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands