

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 20 November 2007

Report Title: North London Waste Plan – Issues and Options

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: Niall Bolger, Director of Urban Environment.

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Key Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To approve for public consultation the North London Waste Plan Issues and Options. The Plan is a joint waste development plan document which is being prepared jointly with the other boroughs of the North London Waste Authority (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest).

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1 This report is brought to the board for members to note the arrangements for consultation and consider the Issues and Options report for the North London Waste Plan.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Members consider and approve the Issues and Options report for the North London Waste Plan for public consultation.
- 3.2 That Members note the consultation arrangements as set out in this report.
- 3.3 That Members agree that the Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Regeneration in consultation with the Director of Urban Environment make any necessary minor changes to the Issues and Options report prior to public consultation.

Report Authorised by: Niall Bolger, Director of Environment

Contact Officer: Jill Warren, Planning Policy Officer, 020 8489 2741

4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 The NLWA area currently has enough waste management facilities to meet the 2010 requirements of the borough level waste requirements. However, new facilities will be required to manage waste projection targets up to 2020. This report considers the planning implications of identifying and safeguarding waste management sites in North London. It does not directly impact on the NLWA Procurement Strategy and the significant costs for constituent boroughs associated with that. Current indications are that constituent boroughs will face substantial cost increases, via the NLWA Levy arrangements to meet these targets. Detailed proposals are being developed by the NLWA to progress the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The Head of Legal Services supports the recommendations.

5.2 The Government Planning Policy Statement 10 and Companion Guide on implementation of policy moves the management of waste up the “waste hierarchy” of reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, using waste as a source of energy, and only disposing as a last resort.

5.2 The London Plan, with which the North London Waste Plan must be in general conformity, (Waste Policy 2) apportions to individual London Boroughs municipal solid waste and commercial waste to be managed. The London Plan also has a waste hierarchy with reference to the Mayor’s Municipal Waste Management Policy – Waste Policy 4A2.

5.3 The issue of self-sufficiency and sustainability in accordance with national and regional policies require planned management to meet targets for 2010, and the recommendations in the report made in conjunction with other boroughs in North London Waste Authority are appropriate and necessary

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 The following documents were used in the preparation of this report:-

- Memorandum of Understanding between London Boroughs. (2006)
- Sustainability Appraisal of the North London Waste Plan. Scoping Report and Commentary (2007).

7. Strategic Implications

7.1 The North London Waste Plan will identify and safeguard waste management sites in North London and will address the issue of waste self-sufficiency as required by the

London Plan. It compliments the North London Joint Waste Strategy 2004-2020 which is used to facilitate the procurement of new waste services. The authority's current main waste disposal contract comes to an end in 2014.

8. Executive Summary

- 8.1 The seven boroughs in the North London Waste Authority are working together to produce a North London Waste Plan. The Issues and Options report is the first consultation stage and will be followed by public consultation on 'preferred options' before the document is submitted to the Government for independent examination.
- 8.2 The North London Waste Plan is a statutory planning document which will identify future sites for waste management facilities. It is a site allocations development plan document which will form part of the Council's Local Development Framework.
- 8.3 The arrangements for the production on the Plan have been agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding and Full Council has approved its preparation as a joint development plan document. The Memorandum of Understanding sets out a project management and decision-making arrangements which include a programme manager, employed by the London Borough of Camden, as lead authority, a planning officers group and a planning members group to steer the process.
- 8.4 A considerable amount of preparatory work has already been undertaken by consultants, including community awareness raising and initial consultation. The North London Waste Plan process has been launched through public advertising in local papers, a travelling exhibition and a mail out by each borough. A dedicated website www.nlwp.net has been developed and launched.
- 8.5 A number of supporting documents are being undertaken as part of the process, including a sustainability appraisal, a strategic flood risk assessment, a habitats assessment and an equalities impact assessment. A copy of the supporting technical report and the sustainability appraisal report has been placed in the Members' room.

9. Background

- 9.1 Work on the North London Waste Plan formally began on 17th January 2007 when the contract was awarded to Mouchel Parkman. Since that time the following has occurred:
 - A timetable for the North London Waste Plan has been agreed and submitted as part of each borough's Local Development Scheme.
 - The Plan has been launched through public advertising in local papers, a travelling exhibition in most boroughs and a mail out of an introductory leaflet by each borough.
 - A dedicated website www.nlwp.net has been developed and launched.
 - A Sustainability Appraisal Panel has been established and has met twice.
 - The scoping report for the Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared and consultation with the statutory bodies has finished.
 - Assessments on flooding, habitats and equalities have been commissioned.

- 9.2 Work on the Issues and Options report and a background technical report has developed in liaison with the planning officers group and the planning members group. A number of amendments have been agreed and incorporated in the final report.
- 9.3 The project management and decision-making arrangements for the preparation of the North London Waste Plan have been agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding, and are as follows:
- A programme manager is employed by the London Borough of Camden as lead authority and manages the consultants and the overall budget and organises key meetings.
 - A Planning Officers Group is composed of representatives from each borough, and meets every six weeks with the consultants and the programme manager to steer the preparation of the Plan.
 - A Planning Members Group is composed of cabinet members responsible for planning in each borough and reviews progress on the Plan and other matters referred by the Planning Officers Group.
 - A Heads of Planning meeting composed of chief planning officers will meet occasionally to oversee the process and resolve any difficulties, such as the budget.
 - A risk management workshop has been held and an active programme of risk management is underway.
 - A Communication group has been established with one communication officer in each borough identified to work on waste planning related work.

10.Description

- 10.1 The Issues and Options report represents the first stage of the North London Waste Plan. The report has been drawn up within the framework of national guidance in Planning Policy Statement 10 and regional guidance in the London Plan including the waste policies in the Early Alterations to the London Plan and the proposed apportionment of waste tonnages to London boroughs in the Further Alterations. The North London boroughs will be required to show that they can provide sufficient sites through the Plan to deal at least with the waste that has been apportioned to them.
- 10.2 The issues and options report identifies the amount of waste currently produced in North London, the existing waste facilities, the amount of waste likely to need management in the future and some of the technologies that might be used.
- 10.3 It states that North London currently has 71 active waste management facilities. Of these, 36 are facilities for the bulking and transfer of waste, largely to landfill sites outside of London. The remaining 35 sites treat waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery.

- 10.4 The report states that North London currently has enough facilities to meet the 2010 requirements of the borough level apportionment (441,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste and 1,076,000 tonnes of Commercial and Industrial waste). However, new facilities will be required to manage a further 500,000 tonnes per year to meet targets for 2020.
- 10.5 The issues and options report sets out the aims of the North London Plan to:
- To provide a range of suitable and viable sites to meet the North London borough's future waste management needs and increased self sufficiency. The land use planning policies to support the identified sites will be contained within the North London borough's Local Development Framework Core Strategies and Development Control documents;
 - To maximise the contribution of the Plan to North London's environment, economy and society. The Plan will both reflect and feed into North London's wider needs to ensure an integrated approach to improving quality of life across the area.
- 10.6 The report sets out a number of objectives which will ensure that the Plan is prepared in coordination with the borough's key strategies and community strategies and the North London Joint Waste Strategy, and to ensure that the Plan involves a full programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement.
- 10.7 The report sets out seven issues and, under each issue, options to address them. The issues are:
1. Self Sufficiency for North London
 2. Number, Size and Distribution of Waste Management Facilities
 3. Waste Treatment and Disposal Options
 4. Sustainable Transport
 5. Location and Site Assessment Criteria
 6. Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste
 7. Hazardous Waste
- 10.8 The report seeks comments from the public and stakeholders on the following questions:
- Q1, 2 & 3: Are the aims and objectives of the Plan the right ones?
 - Q4: Should we identify just enough land to meet North London's apportionment under the London Plan or more land for contingency and/or self sufficiency reasons?
 - Q5 & 6: What are suitable locations for where waste facilities might be located?
 - Q7: Should there be a fewer number of larger facilities or a larger number of smaller facilities?
 - Q8: Should sites be allocated for specific waste management technologies?
 - Q9: Should more sustainable transport options such as rail and water be considered for facility locations as well as road access?
 - Q10: What should be the selection criteria for site locations?

- Q11: What provision should be made for construction, demolition and excavation waste?
- Q12: What, if any, provision should be made for hazardous waste?

10.9 Responses to the issues and options will inform the preparation of 'preferred options' which will be subject to a further period of public consultation.

11. Consultation

11.1 Following approval by the seven boroughs, the Issues and Options report will be published for public consultation in January 2008. A programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement will build on the initial consultation undertaken to launch the document. It will include a touring exhibition around the seven boroughs, a series of stakeholder consultation events, publication of information leaflets for distribution, an updated website and targeted consultation with 'hard to reach' groups. The consultation methods and arrangements are consistent with Haringey's draft Statement of Community Involvement.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1 Producing the North London Waste Plan as a joint document between seven London boroughs will be more cost effective for individual boroughs due to economy of scale. The financial implications of the North London Waste Plan are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding which was agreed in July 2006. Since then additional costs have been incurred as a result of necessary work on supporting documents, such as a strategic flood risk assessment and a habitats assessment. All boroughs have agreed to a revised budget, with assurances that the budget had now been set up to 2010. The cost to Haringey of preparing the Plan from 2008/09 to adoption in 2010/2011 will be £105k. Phased as £35K in 07/08, £39K in 08/09 and £31K in 09/10.
- 12.2 A growth bid has been made this year to cover the cost of future planning policy development which will include the cost of the North London Waste Plan.
- 12.2 Officers have sought to minimise the impact of the changes on the budget by successfully attracting £100,000 over two years for additional consultation from Defra's Waste Implementation Programme.

13. Legal Implications

- 13.1 The legal context has been set out at paragraph 5 and there are no other legal implications at this stage

14. Equalities Implications

- 14.1 The North London Waste Plan will address waste capacity and the siting of waste facilities across the seven north London boroughs for the benefit of the whole community. Particular care is being taken to ensure that consultation exercises reach all sections of the community and that national and the Councils equal opportunity policies are complied with.
- 14.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the Issues and options drafting process.

15.Outline Timetable

15.1 The timetable, for the North London Waste Plan is given below.

Timetable for Preparation of North London Waste Plan	
Milestone	Target
Preparation of Draft Issues and Options	Jan 07
Public Participation on Issues and Options	Jan –Feb 08
Publish and Consult on Preferred Options	Jan –Feb 09
Submission to Secretary of State	Sept 09
Pre-Examination Meeting	Jan 2010
Examination	March 2010
Inspectors Report	Aug 2010
Adoption	Dec 2010
Sustainability Appraisal	Jan 07 – Dec 2010

16.Conclusion

- 16.1 The North London Waste Plan will identify and safeguard waste management sites in North London and will address the issue of waste self-sufficiency as required by the London Plan. This report seeks approval for the Issues and Options report to be published for public consultation. Public consultation will begin in January 2008.

16. Use of Appendices

- Appendix 1 - North London Waste Plan Issues and Options report.