

<b>NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER PROCESS UPDATE	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> MANAGING DIRECTOR	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> AUTHORITY MEETING	<b>DATE:</b> 12 DECEMBER 2014
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b>  This report provides an update on the Development Consent Order process, including the start of consultation, and ongoing liaison with the planning inspectorate.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>  The Authority is recommended to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the update on the process for the application for a Development Consent Order for a replacement Energy from Waste plant at the Edmonton EcoPark;</li> <li>(b) the intention to bring a report on recycling activity in the north London area to the February meeting of the Authority</li> </ul>	
<b>SIGNED:</b>  <b>DATE:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2014	

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In accordance with Member decisions on the future management of residual waste for north London, the process for applying for a development consent order has started. Formal notification of the Authority's intention to submit an application to was sent on 19 November to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs), and public consultation started on 28 November. The headline timetable for the process to submission is:
- a) the current stage of consultation lasts until 27 January 2015;
  - b) second phase of consultation in May/June 2015;
  - c) submission of the application for consent in the third quarter of 2015;
  - d) once the application is submitted, most of the subsequent timescales are specified by statute, and it is reasonable to work to a decision date in December 2016/January 2017.
- 1.2 The scope of the application is for a replacement Energy from Waste Facility with a capacity of 700,000 tonnes per annum, giving an energy output of around 70MW. Included in the application are the elements of development which are associated with the proposal, as they are required for operation of the plant, such as the replacement bulky waste handling and fuel preparation facility, located in the proposed Resource Recovery Facility, together with a new Reuse and Recycling Centre.
- 1.3 Other elements of the proposal will be developed as the design work progresses, and the responses received in phase 1 consultation are taken into account. The extent of the proposal is set out in detail on the project website, which has been live since 20 November.

## **2.0 CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 As required by the statutory process, formal notices of the start of consultation have been sent to all statutory consultees, which include, by way of example, the GLA, adjoining borough and district council, Transport for London and the Environment Agency.
- 2.2 All properties within the local consultation area have been provided with a newsletter which includes details of the project website and information on how to respond to the consultation. It also includes details of the public events being held in phase 1 of the consultation.
- 2.3 The Statement of Community Consultation has been finalised, following comments from LB Enfield (who is the statutory consultee for the SoCC) . The draft SoCC was also made available to LB Haringey and Waltham Forest. The SoCC is now available through the project website and in several local libraries.

- 2.4 Since despatch of this report, three public events will have been held, and an oral report on those events will be provided to the meeting. The project website went live on 20 November, associated with briefings of local ward members in the LB Enfield, LB Waltham Forest and LB Haringey. Press briefings were also held.

### **3.0 LIAISON WITH PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

- 3.1 Officers are maintaining regular liaison with PINs through a series of regular meetings and teleconferences to ensure that the pre-application phase of the process is understood by both parties, and that the planning inspectorate has an opportunity to raise issues during this stage. The Authority's Environmental Statement Scoping report was submitted to PINS, and a response provided by them following consultation with statutory consultees, on 21 November. While the responses from consultees raise points of detail, no issues of concern are identified.
- 3.2 The Authority has now received from PINs its Scoping Opinion for the Environmental Impact Assessment. While PINs broadly agree with the scope of the EIA and topic areas, there are a small number of matters that are either not conclusive or require further discussion with PINs. These include:
- a) The Code of Construction Practice / embedded environmental design (e.g. ecology, noise and water) and the need to detail mitigation measures to prove that that effects would not be significant;
  - b) Ecology and the adequacy of baseline data; and
  - c) Traffic and transport and the potential duplication of topics such as noise and vibration, and air quality.

It will be necessary to confirm the scope of the EIA with PINs and officers will seek to meet with PINs with a view to clarifying the evidence they are seeking and closing out any issues prior to the assessment of environmental impacts and production of the Environmental Statement.

- 3.3 All communications with PINS including the EIA scoping report, PINS Scoping Opinion and the notes of meetings with Authority officers has been published by PINS on their website.

### **4.0 RECYCLING STRATEGY**

- 4.1 As part of the preparation for the application for the DCO, the Authority has considered the anticipated waste volumes in connection with the proposed sizing of the facility, and this work has taken into account the waste strategy target of 50% recycling by 2020 agreed by the Authority and the seven boroughs.
- 4.2 The eight partner authorities are keen to ensure that we reach the jointly agreed waste strategy target of 50%. Following a workshop on this topic on 24 November attended by both Members and officers from the seven boroughs and the Authority, NLWA officers will prepare a report for the February meeting of the Authority about taking forward further work on joint recycling activity and communications to support this aspiration. That report

may include work packages which will be carried out during 2015/16, the cost of which would be included in the budget for that year.

## **5.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

- 5.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The process set out above for notification of the start of the process leading to the application for the Development Consent Order follows the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Planning Act 2008, which sets out the pre-application procedure.

## **6.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

- 6.1 The costs of the DCO process are estimated to be in the region of £7.3m over a three year period. The budget update report elsewhere on this agenda makes provision for these costs: £3.040m in 2014/15, £3.465m in 2015/16 and £0.790m in 2016/17. The 2015/16 budget forecast also allows £0.305m for Joint Communications activity.

**REPORT ENDS**

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