

Agenda Item No:

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:
HERTFORDSHIRE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

REPORT OF:
HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING	DATE: 11th APRIL 2007
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:
This report summarises the relevant key aspects of a new draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire and provides a draft response to the same.

RECOMMENDATIONS
The Authority is recommended to approve the attached response to the draft Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

**Signed by: Head of Waste Strategy
and Contracts**

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Date:

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A joint waste strategy was produced for Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and the ten constituent District and Borough Councils¹ in 2002. The local authorities involved in the Strategy, collectively comprising the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) have now decided to update it.
- 1.2 As the North London Waste Authority area adjoins Hertfordshire and because there are flows of waste between the two areas, it is important to consider the new draft Hertfordshire Strategy in order to identify any impacts or opportunities for joint working which might be beneficial.
- 1.3 The Authority was sent a copy of the public consultation summary consultation document on the new draft Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy, and the report which follows outlines the key aspects of the new Strategy which are relevant to the Authority and provides a draft response to the public consultation.
- 1.4 This report and the accompanying draft response draw upon the following documents:
- Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Draft Core Strategy
 - Draft Action Plan, Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, 2006
 - Environmental Report for the Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy, January 2007
 - Your waste. Your future. Your say. Web and hard copy survey/public consultation document for residents
- 1.5 The full set of consultation documents also includes background review papers, a baseline report, a waste prevention report, collection report, residual report and partnership options report. The consultation documents also suggest that reviewers refer back to the 2002 Joint Waste Strategy as well.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUES

- 2.1 Last year Hertfordshire residents produced more than half a million tonnes of household waste, and it cost around £40 million to collect and dispose of it. Currently 60% of this waste is sent to landfill sites for disposal. Given the need to reduce waste to landfill disposal there is a need to develop alternative disposal facilities.

¹ Borough and District Councils are not distinct types of entities and, legally speaking, can all be referred to as 'districts'. The Hertfordshire consultation documents and this Authority report follow that form.

2.2 Hertfordshire's county and district councils (the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership) have to make some key decisions on how to manage the County's waste in the future and the key issues, as identified in the public consultation document are as follows:

1. We're running out of space

Most of Hertfordshire's landfill contracts run out by 2009 and there is a lack of suitable sites to create further landfill facilities.

2. Waste is damaging the environment

Even if it was possible to find suitable sites; the Partnership recognises that it would still need to look at alternatives. Landfill is harmful to the environment. Buried rubbish produces a liquid called leachate, which has to be controlled to prevent it polluting the groundwater, and methane, a potent greenhouse gas which contributes significantly to global warming.

3. The cost of landfill is increasing

In recognition of the problems associated with landfill; the government is continually increasing landfill taxes and has imposed stricter environmental controls. Local authorities have been set limits for the amount of waste they can send to landfill and will face a fine of £150 for every tonne by which the target is exceeded. Without new disposal facilities, efforts to minimise waste and increased recycling, the Partnership will be facing millions of pounds in extra costs, which will impact greatly on council tax bills.

3.0 DRAFT STRATEGY PROPOSALS

3.1 The Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy has an Action Plan that is divided into three individual plans which are:

- Waste Awareness which includes work on waste prevention.
- Recycling and Composting which considers how to further improve recycling and composting rates that are already 33% on average, working towards a target of 50% by 2012. This includes investigations into expanded kerbside collection services (both geographic expansion and expansion in the range of materials collected, specifically the potential to collect mixed food waste), alternate weekly collections, compulsory recycling and restrictions on the amount of residual waste.
- Residual Waste Management which recognises that there will always be residual waste to deal with and that the options are principally landfill disposal, mechanical and biological treatment (MBT), energy-from-waste incineration (EfW) or gasification/pyrolysis.

4.0 PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION ISSUES FOR THE AUTHORITY

4.1 The draft response to the consultation, attached to this report, focuses upon three key aspects of the consultation:

- Firstly, sharing progress on waste prevention.
- Secondly, Hertfordshire's plans for composting source-separated bio-wastes.
- Thirdly, Hertfordshire's plans for residual waste treatment.

4.2 It recommends exploring options for co-ordinating our work or sharing experience in all cases.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Authority is recommended to approve the attached response to the draft Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

6.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

6.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

7.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

7.1 The Legal Adviser has reviewed this report and has no further comments to make.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Documents used: Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Draft Core Strategy, Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

Draft Action Plan, Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, 2006, Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

Environmental Report for Hertfordshire MWMS, Hertfordshire Waste Management Partnership, January 2007

Your waste. Your future. Your say., Hertfordshire Waste Partnership available at www.wasteaware.org.uk , 2007

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APPENDIX 1.

Waste Management
2nd Floor
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County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8TJ

12th April 2007

Dear Sir,

Public Consultation on the Draft Action Plan and Core Strategy for the Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, 2006

Thank you for providing the North London Waste Authority with the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the above.

As one of the waste disposal authorities adjacent to Hertfordshire the North London Waste Authority is interested to hear about the forthcoming plans of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership.

The Authority's response is restricted to comments on the Draft Action Plan and is organised as requested. Our response is primarily focused upon potential opportunities for joint working which might result from the implementation of the North London Joint Waste Strategy, which guides the work of the North London Waste Authority and its seven constituent borough councils (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest) and the implementation of the Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Please find the Authority's full comments attached, but please also note that you may receive separate comments from our constituent borough councils.

If you require clarification on any of the points raised, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr. Brian Coleman
Chairman, North London Waste Authority

Draft Response from the North London Waste Authority to the Draft Hertfordshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy, April 2007

1. Responses on the 'Core Strategy'

- 1.1 The Authority has read and reviewed the Draft Core Strategy, the contents of which are noted, however, the main comments from the Authority are on the Draft Action Plan, which follow.

2. Responses on the 'Action Plan'

- 2.1 Action Plan: Section 2. 'Waste awareness action plan'

2.1.1 The Authority supports the inclusion of a communications campaign within the draft Action Plan and the Partnership's commitment to prevention and re-use initiatives contained within it.

2.1.2 The Authority would like to have an ongoing dialogue with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership regarding your progress on waste prevention, particularly in relation to the draft Strategy's Core Policy number 10 targets for:

- A maximum amount of residual household waste per person of 315 kg in 2008,
- 300kg in 2010
- 285 kg in 2012

2.1.3 The North London Waste Authority approved a Joint Waste Prevention Implementation Plan for North London in December 2006, although approval from the constituent borough councils is still in progress. This sets out a series of initiatives to reduce waste growth in North London. The Authority would like to compare progress on the same with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership and recommends a joint meeting between the Partnership and the North London Waste Prevention Officer Groups in the first instance.

- 2.2 Action Plan: Section 3. 'Recycling and composting action plan'

2.2.1 The Authority notes the plans for the Partnership to provide infrastructure necessary for the transfer of recyclables and to develop further facilities for treating collected food waste. Specifically, the Authority notes the development of a further in-vessel composting facility within the county to treat 45,000 tonnes of organic kitchen waste which is currently underway.

2.2.2 As there may be available capacity in such a facility during the early months as new district food waste collection services are expanded and the facility is not working at full capacity, the Authority would like to hear if there would be any opportunity for the acceptance of 'third party' organic waste from elsewhere. If so, the Authority recommends that the Partnership contacts officers at the North London Waste Authority to discuss any such opportunities which may be available.

2.2.3 Clearly, any such arrangement could be reciprocal as the next such facility in North London is developed. This worked well with the West London Waste Authority delivering to our first such facility in 2005-06.

2.3 Action Plan: Section 4. 'Residual Waste Action Plan'

2.3.1 The Draft Action Plan notes that the minimum residual treatment needs of the Partnership, 'depend(s) upon how the situation at Edmonton unfolds', a reference to the availability of the Edmonton energy-from-waste facility in the medium to long term.

2.3.2 The Partnership might wish to note that the North London Waste Authority has recently embarked upon its plan for procuring services post 2014 when its 'main waste disposal contract' with LondonWaste Ltd., which owns and operates the site at Edmonton, ceases. The Authority's procurement is similarly based upon an assumption that continuing availability of the Edmonton facility cannot be relied upon.

2.3.3 When and if new waste treatment is developed at Edmonton, the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership might also like to have looked at planning restrictions likely to be imposed under the London Plan.

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