

Agenda Item No:

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT UPDATE

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

19th September 2007

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates members on progress made since the meeting on 7th February 2007 regarding a Joint Waste Development Plan Document for North London. The report covers the decision to name the document 'The North London Waste Plan', reports on progress on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan and provides an update on the first stages of public engagement as part of the community involvement strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to note the contents of this report.

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

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Date:

1. BACKGROUND TO THE JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

- 1.1 In North London, the constituent borough councils have been working together for some time as planning authorities to prepare a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (JWDPD) for the area. The JWDPD will create the shared land-use planning framework for sites for all wastes (household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition) in North London up to 2020. The plan will consider how this waste can be managed using a mix of technologies and will safeguard sufficient sites across the seven boroughs to enable this to happen. The plan will also enable the seven boroughs to collectively meet the waste apportionment targets contained within the draft Further Alterations to the London Plan, the Mayor of London's spatial strategy for the capital. (These targets outline how much waste each borough is required to manage, taking account of a range of factors, including both the amount of waste that the borough generates, as well as the borough's capacity to manage waste, in terms of available industrial land, density of roads for transporting it etc.)
- 1.2 It is important that the constituent boroughs deal with the JWDPD separately and independently in their capacity as planning authorities, as opposed to their role as municipal waste collection authorities or as constituent borough councils of the North London Waste Authority. The involvement of the Authority in the JWDPD is as a key stakeholder. The North London Joint Waste Strategy will be an important input into the JWDPD process but the planning authorities must take other considerations into account in coming to their conclusions, particularly as the municipal waste stream covered by the NLJWS may be only a quarter of the total waste stream to be provided for by the JWDPD.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME

Overview and Timetable

- 2.1 Since the last full Authority report on this matter, Mouchel Parkman and CAG Consultants have been appointed to carry out the bulk of the work for the Joint Waste Development Plan Document, including consultation.
- 2.2 A project timetable has been agreed and submitted to the Government Office for London as part of each borough's Local Development Scheme. (Local Development Schemes set out the work programme for planning in each borough). There are a number of statutory stages that the joint waste development plan document must go through. In terms of managing the process across seven boroughs, the key documents at each stage will be considered by the Planning Officers Group and the Planning Members Group and then they will go for ratification to each constituent borough council. Following ratification, that stage of the plan will go out to public consultation and the consultation results then feed into the next stage.

- 2.3 Table 1 below is based on the timetable which has been agreed and submitted to the Government Office for London as part of each boroughs' Local Development Scheme, which sets out the work programme for planning in each borough.

Table 1. Stages in the Production of the North London Joint Waste Development Plan Document

Stage	Council ratification	Public consultation
Issues and Option	October – December 2007	January – February 2008
Preferred Options	October – December 2008	January – February 2009
Submission	June – September 2009	September – October 2009

This is followed by:

Examination by a Planning Inspector	March 2010
Inspector's report published	August 2010
Final plan ratified by councils	By December 2010

- 2.4 It should be noted that as a result of further review, the timetable above is slightly different from the timetable included in the February 2007 Authority report.

Work progress

- 2.5 Work is well underway on capturing waste data for municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous wastes. This will form an important part of the evidence base for the document and will form part of technical background to the plan. Authority officers have provided the most up-to-date projections of municipal waste available to the planning consultants so that there will be consistency between the information being used by the planners and the Authority in assessing future capacity and land-use requirements.
- 2.6 The sustainability appraisal of the joint waste development plan document is being undertaken at the same time as the planning work and will inform the planning work at all times. The sustainability appraisal incorporates the requirements of the strategic environmental assessment. A Sustainability Appraisal Panel has been formed. The panel has been used as a way of consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal as it is 'considered appropriate' that other 'bodies' be consulted about the scope of the sustainability appraisal, in addition to the three statutory consultees. The panel has met twice since its formation and has reviewed the key sustainability issues, sustainability objectives, targets and indicators to be used in the plan.

- 2.7 The Sustainability Appraisal Panel is comprised of representatives from a range of stakeholders including: the seven constituent borough councils, British Waterways London, Friends of the Earth, the GLA (Waste Policy), Health Protection Agency, Lee Valley Regional Park, London Rail, Middlesex University, North Finchley LA21 Group, North London Business and Transport for London. It also includes both member (Councillor Chris Knight) and officer representation from the Authority.

Sustainability appraisal scoping report

- 2.8 The sustainability appraisal scoping report for the joint waste development plan has recently been published and issued to the statutory consultees for review. This scoping report is being issued on a similar timetable to the North London Joint Waste Strategy retrospective strategic environmental assessment scoping report. This means that the statutory consultees; Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Heritage, will be receiving scoping reports from the North London Waste Authority on behalf of itself and its seven borough partners in their capacities as waste collection authorities and from the seven boroughs as waste planning authorities also.
- 2.9 Following the production and consultation on the scoping report and the data modelling work, the planning information will be distilled into an 'Issues and Options' report that will be finalised by the end of September. This will report on work to date and will seek views on key emerging issues. As set out in table 1, the Issues and Options will go to each borough for ratification this autumn and then out to public consultation in January and February 2008.

Project management

- 2.10 The work is being supervised by the Planning Officers Group which meets approximately every six weeks. An authority officer sits as an observer on the planning officers' group, attending the non-confidential parts of each meeting only.
- 2.11 A Planning Members Group (PMG) has been established and has met twice since its formation. The chairman of the planning members' group is Cllr Terence Neville from Enfield, with Cllr Alan Laing from Hackney and Cllr Terry Stacy from Islington as the vice chairmen. The PMG is not a formal decision making body because each borough must ratify the plan at each statutory stage. However, the PMG exists to give member direction to the plan-making process and to act on POG recommendations where appropriate. The PMG is due to meet again in September. The Authority is not represented on the PMG.

Table 2 - Members of the North London Planning Members' Group

Borough	PMG rep	Back up	PMG position
Barnet	Cllr Melvin Cohen	Cllr Matthew Offord	
Camden	Cllr Mike Greene	Cllr Chris Knight	
Enfield	Cllr Terence Neville		Chairman
Hackney	Cllr Alan Laing	Cllr Christine Boyd	Vice-chairman
Haringey	Cllr Kaushika Amin		
Islington	Cllr Terry Stacy		Vice-chairman
Waltham Forest	Cllr Terry Wheeler		

Communication and Community Involvement Strategy

- 2.12 One of the first steps that the consultants proposed was to change the name of the North London Joint Waste Development Planning Document or JWDPD, to something which was shorter and more user friendly. The joint waste development planning document is now called the North London Waste Plan or 'NLWP'. All future Authority reports will be issued under this name.
- 2.13 A new identity has been developed for the plan as shown below:



- 2.14 A website has been established at www.nlwp.net.
- 2.15 The email contact for any consultation responses is feedback@nlwp.net.
- 2.16 An introductory exhibition display stand about the plan was put up in each borough during July. The locations were generally shopping centres and other places of 'high footfall'. Mail outs were sent from borough planning departments to organisations and individuals on their existing lists alerting people to the exhibition and advertisements were placed in relevant local media to similarly promote the events. An introductory leaflet was produced and given out to interested residents who visited the display. Residents were able either to provide their contact details to staff at the event, so that they could be notified about forthcoming stages of the north London waste plan, or they were invited to provide this information at a later date by either writing to the north London waste plan programme manager or sending an email to the address above. Full details were provided on the introductory leaflet.

- 2.17 The next major phase of consultation is the issues and options consultation period, anticipated for January 2008. Public meetings will be held in each borough during this stage. In addition it is intended to hold a series of targeted meetings with groups to ensure that a wide and representative range of views is canvassed. However, at any point stakeholders are invited to send comments to the above email address or to contact Archie Onslow, the Programme Manager with any queries. Contact archie.onslow@camden.gov.uk or phone 020 7974 5916.
- 2.18 The North London Planning Officers' Group, with the London Borough of Camden as the lead authority on behalf of the group, has been awarded £100,000 over 2007/08 and 2008/09 for additional consultancy support to help deliver some of the specific aspects of communication and community involvement associated with the north London waste plan. This work is running alongside and is complementary to the remainder of the north London waste plan consultation process.

Planning Resource

- 2.19 Separately and independently, the Government Office for London and the Government Office for the East Midlands have been jointly awarded some money from Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to produce a planning e-learning package and associated DVD.
- 2.20 This project aims to provide a complete e-learning package, which will provide training for council members on waste technologies and waste planning, to be undertaken online. It will include a DVD aimed at a target audience of planners, council members and the public, who are involved in the decision-making processes for providing new waste facilities in their area.
- 2.21 The DVD is primarily an educational tool. Its objective is to use case studies of well-designed, modern waste facilities in urban and rural areas to inform people involved in making decisions on planning applications for new facilities and to provide information to the general public where there are proposals for such facilities.
- 2.22 It aims to explain in non-technical terms:
- Why there is the need for new facilities in general, e.g. landfill diversion, climate change, using waste as a resource
 - The processes involved in each technology.
 - The land-use and wider environmental impacts of the various technologies.
- 2.23 Additional funding has recently been secured to hold a formal launch event for this new resource. The Programme Manager for the North London Waste Plan has been involved in the development of this resource and both Authority and Planning Members' Group members will be notified when the resource is due to be launched.

3.0 ISSUES FOR THE AUTHORITY IN THE NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN PROCESS

- 3.1 As the Authority embarks on its procurement strategy, the commencement of the North London Waste Plan poses both potential benefits and risks for the Authority. As stated, the north London waste plan will provide a planning framework for sites for waste facilities. This will be of considerable benefit to the Authority. However as the timetable in table 1 shows, the north London waste plan will not be adopted until the end of 2010. Because of the long lead times required to commission facilities, this means that procurement of and planning applications for some facilities will have to be completed before the north London waste plan is adopted. This raises the risk that such applications may be considered premature, but any delay to the Authority's procurement timetable will have significant implications for whether the Authority has proper successor arrangements to its current contract and whether it achieves its LATS targets.
- 3.2 The Authority needs to engage in the north London waste plan development process as a key stakeholder and has an important role to play. National, London and the North London Joint Waste strategies are key considerations for the planning authorities in drawing up the north London waste plan and in planning adequate waste facilities as part of sustainable communities policies across North London. In the early stages of the JWDPD the Authority will need to consider a site strategy that minimises the risks of applications being premature in advance of the adoption of the plan.
- 3.3 The Authority already has its own Valuation Adviser for property matters from the London Borough of Haringey through whom site survey and identification work is being carried out. In recognition of this, the Authority has also obtained its own planning consultants to support the procurement process. The work of the boroughs as planning authorities must at all times be kept separate from the Authority's role as procurer and provider of new waste facilities for which planning approval will be sought by the Authority and/or its contractor(s) through the relevant borough planning development control departments. This work will be funded from the budget approved for procurement consultants at the December 2006 Authority meeting.
- 3.4 It may be that the Authority needs a Planning Adviser (similar to the current Financial, Legal, Technical and Property Advisers from within Camden and Haringey) to be added to its management structure, at least until planning permissions have been secured for new waste facilities under the successor arrangements to the current main waste disposal contract. Any proposal for this would come to a future Authority meeting.
- 3.5 Progress on the North London Waste Plan is usually reported on a six monthly basis, with the next full report due in February 2008.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Authority is recommended to note the contents of this report.

5.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

5.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

6.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Documents used: Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan (Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London), Mayor of London, September 2006

North London Joint Waste Strategy, Mayor's Draft, September 2004

Sustainability Appraisal of the North London Waste Plan, Scoping Report, Mouchel Parkman, 29th June 2007

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