

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:

7th February 2007

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates members on progress made since the meeting on 20th September 2006 regarding a Joint Waste Development Plan Document for North London.

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 into the future.
- 1.2 All seven boroughs in the North London Waste Authority area have now ratified a joint Memorandum of Understanding which sets out arrangements for project management, decision making, dispute resolution and budgets for the development of the JWDPD.
- 1.3 A Programme Manager has been appointed to carry out the day-to-day implementation of the development work. His work programme is steered by a Planning Officers' Group. This group meets on a six weekly basis and consists of senior planning policy staff from each of the constituent borough councils and an observer from the North London Waste Authority.
- 1.4 A Planning Members' Group will also be established shortly to guide the process at a more strategic level. In line with views expressed at the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) Strategy Implementation Board meeting in March 2006, the Planning Members' Group will be established as a separate group, rather than incorporating waste planning into the remit of the NLJWS Strategy Implementation Board.
- 1.5 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.

Additional Liaison

- 1.6 The Planning Officers Group and the Authority liaise on other relevant matters of mutual concern such as when responding separately to planning-related consultations. The Planning Officer's Group, represented by the Programme Manager and supported by an Authority representative, gave oral evidence to the Examination in Public (EiP) of the Draft Alterations to the London Plan in June 2006 and borough officers from the Planning Officers Group, the Programme Manager and the Authority have also jointly attended meetings on borough level waste apportionment. Continued liaison between officers is anticipated as the JWDPD development process continues.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME

Stages in the Development of a Joint Waste Development Plan Document

- 2.1 The development of the JWDPD consists of a number of statutory stages. An indicative timetable is set out below but it will be reviewed in the next few months in conjunction with the successful consultancy appointed to carry out much of the work:

	Key Decision Stage	Predicted Timing
1.	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	May 2007
2.	Issues and Options DPD & Sustainability Appraisal	March 2008
3.	Preferred Options DPD & Sustainability Appraisal	September 2008
4.	Submission DPD & Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	February 2009
5.	Examination	July 2009
6.	Adoption	February 2010

- 2.2 The remainder of this section details the progress against this timetable and subsequent sections provide information about external factors and plans which potentially influence or affect the JWDPD's development.

Award of Consultancy Contract

- 2.3 At the September 2006 Authority meeting, it was reported that the Planning Officers' Group had drawn up a shortlist of consultancy companies who could produce the JWDPD, following an advertisement and pre-qualification process. The shortlisted consultancies were subsequently invited to tender for the work during the autumn and all Planning Officer Group meetings during this period were focussed upon the tender evaluation process. The Authority's observer on the Planning Officers' Group was not involved in this process.

- 2.4 The contract was offered by London Borough of Camden as lead borough to Mouchel Parkman on 16th January. Mouchel Parkman's partner for the communication and community engagement part of the work is CAG Consultants. The contract has been offered subject to legal challenge and call in for scrutiny. It is intended to confirm the contract on 29th January 2007 if neither of these things happens in the meantime.
- 2.5 The consultancy appointment process has been carried out by the Planning Officer's Group representing all the boroughs but the contract is being let by the London Borough of Camden as the lead borough on the JWDPD.
- 2.6 Now that the consultancy contract is awarded, the next stage in the process is to plan the launch of the JWDPD. As part of this a website will be developed and an introductory leaflet will be produced. Contacts will be made with key stakeholders, leading to an initial meeting of the Planning Members Group and a public launch event.

Communication and Community Involvement Strategy

- 2.7 Communication with residents and other stakeholders is a key part of the process of producing a JWDPD. Residents and other stakeholders need to be consulted about key principles such as those upon which potential sites for waste facilities will be identified. Residents and other stakeholders are likely to have concerns or questions that need to be addressed about the types of facility being considered or about the sensitivity of certain sites. Many of these issues can be discussed and addressed through a communication and community involvement strategy.
- 2.8 Some earlier consultants' work carried out locally for the North London JWDPD and funded by DEFRA, provided an outline communication and community involvement strategy for the North London JWDPD. The Planning Officers' Group did not have the budget available to include all the elements of the suggested communication and community involvement strategy within its tender documentation. However, as many of the elements were still judged to be valuable, a separate bid for additional funding from DEFRA's Waste Implementation Programme was submitted by the Planning Officers' Group to enable these to be delivered.
- 2.9 This bid for funding from DEFRA was successful and the North London Planning Officers' Group, with the London Borough of Camden as the receiving authority on behalf of the group, has been awarded £100,000 over the next two years for additional consultancy support to help deliver some of the specific aspects of communication and community involvement associated with the JWDPD.

- 2.10 DEFRA approached a shortlist of consultancy companies on its approved 'roster' of Waste Implementation Programme (WIP) consultancies with the appropriate expertise to quote to deliver the work. The DEFRA funded work has subsequently been awarded to Mouchel Parkman in partnership with CAG Consultants. The Boroughs expect to benefit from the fact that the same consultancy has won both the waste planning contracts.
- 2.11 Officers have recognised that the consultation on the JWDPD will be happening at the same time as the Authority is embarking on its procurement of new facilities. There is scope therefore for some shared communication work across the boroughs. As a result heads of communication from each of the constituent borough councils have been invited to a meeting on 9th February. The purpose of the meeting is to:
- Meet the communications consultants appointed by DEFRA and agree a workable framework with them that will allow borough communications departments to co-ordinate communications effectively.
 - Receive an update from the Programme Manager for the JWDPD who is leading the planning process.
 - Have an update from Authority officers about the Authority's procurement process for the next contracts which will highlight any communication issues resulting.

3.0 ISSUES FOR THE AUTHORITY IN THE JWDPD PROCESS

- 3.1 As the Authority embarks on its procurement strategy, the imminent start of the JWDPD poses both potential benefits and risks for the Authority. As stated, the JWDPD will provide a planning framework for sites for waste facilities. This will be of considerable benefit to the Authority. However as the timetable in paragraph 2.1 shows, the JWDPD will not be adopted until 2010. The procurement strategy presented to members at the last meeting showed that a number of facilities were required to be in place by 2014 when the current main waste disposal contract ends.
- 3.2 The Authority's Procurement Manager presented the then draft procurement strategy to the Planning Officers' Group at its meeting on 7th December 2006. There was a discussion about problems that might arise from the procurement and JWDPD processes going on simultaneously.
- 3.3 Members will recall that the presentation at the last Authority meeting on the procurement strategy emphasised that there had been clear advice given to the Authority that bearing the risk of getting planning permission for sites as part of the procurement of the new contract would improve value for money.. Because of the long lead times required to get facilities up and running this means that procurement of and planning applications for some facilities will have to be completed before the JWDPD 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.

- 3.4 The Authority needs to engage in the JWDPD 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 JWDPD and in planning adequate waste facilities as part of sustainable communities 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.
- 3.5 The Authority will be able to fully and formally engage with the JWDPD process at different consultation stages, so that it can stress the importance of being able to procure and commission the facilities and services necessary to meet its statutory obligations.
- 3.6 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 is obtaining 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.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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 further 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: None

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Report Ends