



OFFICER REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

CONSULTATION ON THE SOUTH LONDON WASTE PLAN 14 OCTOBER 2009

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To consider the consultation response to the South London Waste Plan giving general support for the Plan, but with some concern about possible traffic impact on Epsom town centre.

BUSINESS CASE:

Background

1. The London Boroughs of Croydon, Merton and Sutton and the Royal Borough of Kingston are jointly preparing the South London Waste Plan (SLWP). It will allocate land for the development of waste management capacity and contain development control policies for the determination of planning applications for waste facilities across the four boroughs.
2. Last year there was a consultation on issues and options for the SLWP. This consultation seeks comments on potential waste sites and proposed policies for the SLWP, which will run from 2011-2021.

Proposed Waste Sites

3. In addition to safeguarding existing waste facilities in South London, the Plan needs to allocate at least an additional 20 hectares of land to provide sufficient waste management capacity to meet the requirements of the Mayor's London Plan. 140 sites were identified and assessed. These included existing waste management sites with potential for re-development, new sites and industrial estates. 28 locations have been put forward for further consideration through this SLWP consultation.
4. Few of the sites are close enough to the boundary with Surrey to be likely to result in any material impact. The sites nearest to Surrey are in Chessington and Tolworth. The former coal depot at Chessington South station, adjacent to Barwell Business Park, is considered to have potential for waste development – "site scores well against suitability criteria – deliverability constraints to be identified through consultation". It lies close to the A243, part of the primary route network. The other Chessington/Tolworth locations are the Chessington Industrial Estate, and land at the Kingston Road (A240)/Jubilee Way junction.
5. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council passed on a resident's concern that these sites could generate additional waste traffic through Epsom High Street to and from

Sutton and Croydon. This is possible, more likely for the Barwell site which is closer to the B280 which runs into Epsom, although most of the traffic from these sites is likely to use the A243, A3 and A240 primary routes. It is considered that this concern should be passed on, but given that these sites are well-located in relation to the primary route network and the traffic impact on Epsom is unlikely to be significant, it not considered that an objection could be justified.

Proposed Policies

6. The SLWP has seven draft policies:

- the strategic approach
- waste minimisation
- safeguarding existing waste sites
- proposed sites for new waste management facilities
- waste related development on unallocated sites
- development criteria
- sustainable, modern energy recovery.

7. The strategic approach is for south London to achieve net self-sufficiency in waste management, with priority for recycling and composting on the proposed sites. The final policy is against poor performing, outdated technologies such as old-fashioned mass-burn incineration which is poorly designed, visually intrusive and releases high levels of noxious emissions. Any thermal treatment proposal must generate electricity and heat for use locally.

8. It is considered that their proposed strategic approach be supported. The Cabinet Member may wish to endorse the SLWP views on mass-burn incineration.

Questionnaire response

9. The consultation document includes a questionnaire and this is appended at **ANNEX 1** with proposed responses.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10. None

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11. None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

12. None

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES OR COMMUNITY STRATEGY/LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT TARGETS

13. No direct implications, but responding to this consultation promotes collaboration with adjoining authorities.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

14. There are no direct financial implications arising at this stage.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the County Council:

- (a) supports the proposed strategic approach of net-sufficiency and the general distribution of proposed sites for waste development;
- (b) expresses concern about the potential waste traffic generated through Epsom town centre should the coal depot adjacent to Barwell Business Park (Site 46) be allocated for waste development;
- (c) may wish to consider endorsing the SLWP's views on mass-burn incineration.;
- (d) agrees the questionnaire response in **ANNEX 1**.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) self-sufficiency in south London should reduce potential waste management demand in adjoining Surrey;
- (b) to avoid exacerbating the impact of heavy traffic through Epsom town centre;
- (c) to support common views on waste management technology;
- (d) for completing the consultation process.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

SLWP is revised taking into account responses from the County Council and others. The final version of the SLWP will be published in February 2010, and submitted to the Government for public examination.

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Informed:

Sources/background papers: South London Waste Plan – Potential sites and policies consultation document
