



THE SURREY WASTE PLAN LOCAL COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

**Local Committee for Mole Valley
15 December 2005**

BACKGROUND:

Members of the Local Committee met with officers at an informal workshop on the 20 October to consider the issues relating to the Surrey Waste Plan in more detail. This report summarises the LC discussions to date on the waste plan and the outcomes from the informal workshop. Copies of background reports and a presentation on the waste plan are included in the annexes.

KEY POINTS OF NOTE:

The committee is asked to note:

- (i) **that members were encouraged to respond individually as part of the consultation by the deadline of 12 December**
- (ii) **that this report be submitted as part of the consultation process**
- (iii) **that officers be thanked for the information provided at the informal workshop session**

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Lynne Martin, Area Director

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01737 737694

BACKGROUND PAPERS: See Annexes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS:

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As a statutory waste planning authority, Surrey County Council has prepared a waste plan, setting out a policy framework, and has consulted on this from 31 October – 12 December 2005, according to government guidelines.
- 1.2 On the 16 December 2004 Members agreed to invite an officer to the next meeting of the MVDC /SCC Partnership Group (February 2005) to discuss the current waste consultation paper, and agree a joint county / district response if appropriate.
- 1.3 A summary of discussions at the Partnership Group were as follows:

The Chairman welcomed Hilary Herbert from SCC. The Group noted and discussed a paper which explained that SCC had launched a consultation around four Issues Papers on the future approach to waste management and the identification of sites at which waste management activity could be undertaken. The Group acknowledged that the issues discussed at this item would be the same as for item 8.

Hilary Herbert outlined the key issues and the approach to waste management set out in the papers, and encouraged the group to respond via the on-line consultation mechanism.

She explained that the process was at the information gathering stage and that the consultation has been extended to the end of February. Following responses to the Issues Papers, a Development Plan Document would be published in October that would explain the County's preferred approach to the provision of waste related development in Surrey.

- 1.4 Members agreed that, as the current proposals only affect the three southern divisions, individual Members would make representation.

2.0 CURRENT CONSULTATION

- 2.1 At the last Local Committee meeting on the 28 September a summary of the report on The Waste Plan – The Preferred Plan 2005 to the Executive was included on the agenda for information. At that meeting Members agreed:
- (i) to note the implications for sites in Mole Valley
 - (ii) to meet informally to be able consider and prepare a Local Committee response during the public consultation period on The Surrey Waste Plan.
- 2.2 The Waste Plan provides for the sustainable management of all Surrey's waste in a 'waste hierarchy', reducing waste, re-using/ recycling and

composting, energy recovery and landfill. The waste plan is an enabling plan putting forward proposals for this process.

- 2.3 It needs to work within a locational strategy, which prioritises industrial and urban sites rather than green belt. 73% of Surrey is in green belt. The plan supports civic amenity sites, identifies sites for a wide range of waste facilities and thermal treatment sites.
- 2.4 The initial consultation schedule finishes on 12 December 2005, but a further six- week consultation period will follow this in June 2006. The plan is scheduled for adoption by September 2006.

3.0 WORKSHOP SUMMARY

3.0 Members of the Local Committee met with officers at an informal workshop on the 20 October to consider the issues relating to the Surrey Waste Plan in more detail. Hilary Herbert (Minerals, Waste and County Council Development Manager) attended on behalf of Surrey County Council. Jack Straw (Planning and Housing Policy Manager) and David Searle (Director of Services) attended on behalf of Mole Valley District Council. Cllr Tony Moore also attended in his capacity as Chairman of Mole Valley District Council's Environment Committee. The following issues were raised:

3.1 Consultation

Concern was expressed regarding the consultation process, particularly in areas close to identified sites. Parish councils have received the relevant documentation and this has been delivered to local households.

3.2 Processes

Members queried the effect of 'mass burn facility' under flight paths eg around Gatwick, though the officer present was not aware of any relevant research on this issue. Landfill issues were identified, with 80% of waste currently ending up in landfill and Surrey will soon become a net exporter of residual waste. This would require payment for thermal treatment sites outside the county to dispose of Surrey waste. There is likely to be a period of trading between authorities receiving waste on Surrey's behalf.

3.3 Household and Commercial Waste

Only one fifth of waste comes from households, of this Mole Valley currently recycles about one third of all household waste. Concern was expressed that more action was needed to deal with commercial and industrial waste.

3.4 Sites

Only six thermal treatment sites have been identified. If more are identified through the consultation process they will need to be evaluated. Concern was expressed that only two incineration sites had been identified, particularly when, of the two sites, one was at the southern tip of the county furthest from the source of waste and the other had been identified as a thermal treatment site. There was a view that it may have been preferable to have a different methodology for site identification.

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- 3.4.1 In relation to Capel, members felt that site-specific information had been hard to ascertain.
- 3.4.2 In relation to the Randalls Road, Leatherhead site, the development was queried and the officer present informed members that Thames Water had been asked to give their commitment in writing.
- 3.4.3 In relation to the Randalls Road site, Mole Valley District Council owns 50% of the site and there are aspirations for it as a civic amenity and composting facility, rather than a thermal treatment site, which is believed, could have an adverse environmental impact on the River Mole.
- 3.5 Mole Valley District Council considered the Surrey Waste Plan at the Environment Committee on 8 November 2005, and will be expressing concerns relating to location, impact on green belt and sustainability of sites.

ANNEXE A – SCC officer report to the Executive, 27 September 2005

ANNEXE B – MVDC officer report to their Environment Committee, 8 November 2005

ANNEXE C – PowerPoint Presentation by Hilary Herbert, 10 November 2005