



Environment & Infrastructure Select Committee
5 October 2017

**Review of the Surrey Waste Local Plan: Reconvening of
 Member Reference Group**

Purpose of the report: Policy Development and Review

Surrey County Council is the Waste Planning Authority. As the Waste Planning Authority the County Council is required to demonstrate that sufficient land is available for the delivery of waste management infrastructure. The current Surrey Waste Plan was adopted in 2008 and now needs to be reviewed.

A new Surrey Waste Local Plan (SWLP) is required to go through several stages of public consultation. The second stage of consultation, Draft Plan Consultation, is due to commence shortly. A third stage of consultation, Pre-submission Consultation, is due to commence Spring 2018.

Prior to County Council elections, officers preparing the Surrey Waste Local Plan benefited from member engagement via a Member Reference Group convened by the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways (EPEH) Board, now the Environment & Infrastructure (E&I) Select Committee.

The Committee is asked to consider reconvening the Member Reference Group to provide oversight and scrutiny as part of the preparation of the new SWLP.

Introduction:

1. Surrey County Council is the Waste Planning Authority (WPA). In its role as the WPA the County Council needs to demonstrate that enough land is available for waste management infrastructure to be delivered. It does this through producing a Local Plan for waste management facilities.
2. The Local Plan for waste should address the need for land for a range of facilities to manage all major waste streams: Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste, Construction, Demolition and Excavation waste (C, D & E), as well as waste produced by households.

3. The County Council's role as the WPA is distinct from its role as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). As the WDA the county council is responsible for a) the disposal and treatment of the waste collected by Surrey's 11 district and borough councils (mainly household waste) and b) for the operation of the Surrey's Community Recycling Centres (CRCs).
4. The WDA works with 11 district and borough councils through the Surrey Waste Partnership. The Surrey Waste Partnership aims to enable all partners to work together to manage household waste in Surrey in the most efficient, effective, economical and sustainable manner.
5. The current Local Plan for waste, the Surrey Waste Plan, was adopted in 2008. The new Surrey Waste Local Plan (SWLP) will cover the period from 2018 to 2033. There are several stages in preparing a new SWLP. These are outlined in **Figure 1**.
6. Key stages of public consultation include the Issues and Options Consultation, the Draft Plan Consultation and the Pre-submission Consultation prior to the plan being submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS).
7. The Issues and Options Consultation was held between September and November 2016. The results of that consultation were reported to the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board at the meeting on 12 January 2017.
8. Due to changes in the scheme of delegation since the Issues and Options Consultation the Leader will agree the commencement of the Draft Plan Consultation. Details of the Draft Plan Consultation will be agreed at the Leader Decisions Meeting on 18 October 2017.
9. Subject to Leader approval, the proposed Draft Plan Consultation will run from 1 November 2017 until 7 February 2018 which is based on the 12 weeks recommended in the WPA's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and allowing additional time due to the Christmas period. The consultation will be available online via Surrey Says with printed copies available at District and Borough Offices.
10. A report will be brought to the E&I Select Committee setting out the results of the Draft Plan Consultation and details for how the SWLP might be amended and progressed to the next stage at the Committees meeting on 10 May 2018.

Involving elected members

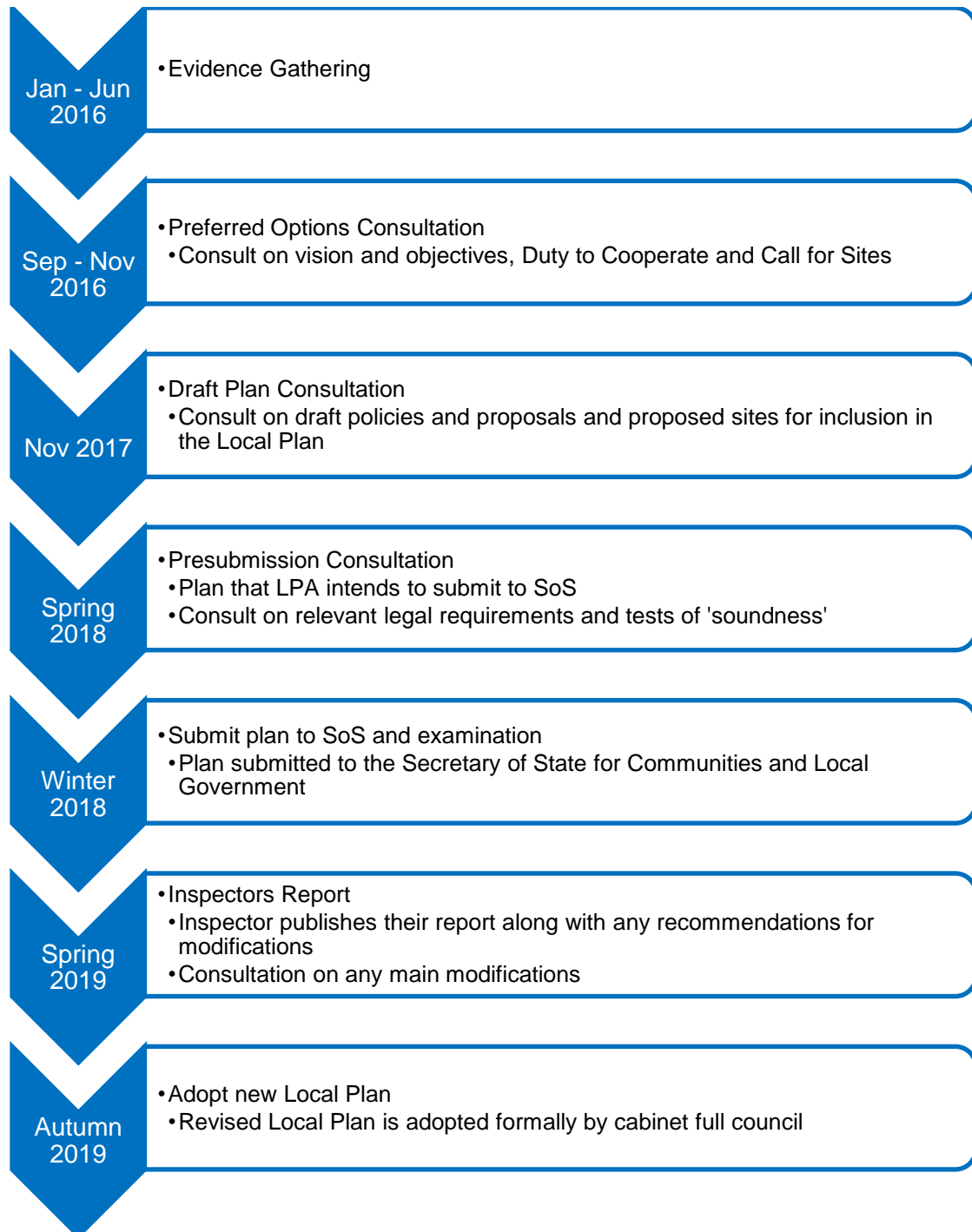
11. Should the Leader agree to the Draft Plan Consultation, a letter will be sent from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to all elected members and councillors at county and district and borough level to notify them of the consultation. The letter will include details of proposed site allocations where elected members and councillors have sites in their area.

12. Officers recognise that an important part of preparing the new SWLP is working with elected members. Prior to the county council elections in May 2017 the SWLP had a Member Reference Group formed from the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways (EPEH) Board, now the E&I Select Committee. It is recommended that this group be reconvened.
13. The current Terms of Reference (ToR) for the SWLP Member Reference Group are attached as **Annexe 1**. The Member Reference Group was primarily requested to:
 - Act as champions for the new SWLP with Member colleagues and community organisations;
 - Give officers the perspective of members and other stakeholders, including residents, on draft proposals developed as part of the emerging SWLP;
 - Advise on proposals, reports and other documents to be taken before E&I Committee and Cabinet;
 - Provide feedback on the approach taken for engagement with the public and stakeholders.
14. Officers consider that the current ToR broadly covers those areas of plan preparation which elected members could provide significant benefits and are keen for the group to continue.
15. The SWLP Member Reference Group typically met after Select Committee meetings approximately once per month, however, this group has not met since the elections. It is proposed that future meetings of the Member Reference Group could continue on this basis with any additional meetings agreed by the group as required.
16. It is recommended that the SWLP Member Reference Group remain in place until the 10 of May 2018 when the result of the Draft Plan Consultation and options for progressing are reported back to the E&I Select Committee.

Conclusions:

17. The Surrey Waste Local Plan is an important statutory document and a Member Reference Group is an important part of preparing the SWLP. Elected members provide oversight and scrutiny through a range of functions as set out in the ToR.
18. Officers are keen for the Member Reference Group to continue to support the preparation of the new SWLP and for the Select Committee to have the opportunity to discuss the SWLP once the results of the consultation have been assessed.

Figure 1 Key stages of plan preparation and broad types of engagement that may occur



Recommendations:

19. It is recommended that the Environment and Infrastructure Committee:
- a. Note the proposed timings for the preparation of the Surrey Waste Local Plan and for the forthcoming consultation.
 - b. Reconvene the Surrey Waste Local Plan Member Reference Group.
 - c. Consider any revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Surrey Waste Local Plan Member Reference Group (**Annexe 1**).

Next steps:

If it is agreed to continue a Member Reference Group for the preparation of a new SWLP the membership and chairperson will need to be confirmed. Once membership has been confirmed officers will organise meetings as required.

The SWLP Member Reference Group will report back to E&I Committee, with the support of officers as necessary. The Member Reference Group will be kept informed of the outcomes of the Draft Plan consultation and report back to E&I Committee.

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Sources/background papers:

- Annexe 1- Current Terms of Reference for the Member Reference Group for the preparation of the SWLP.

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