

## OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP – 26 JANUARY 2007

### Waste Sites Development Plan Document Project Update

#### General

1. ERM consultants were appointed by DEFRA in December 2006 to assist with work on the preparation of the Waste Sites Development Plan Document. The project is sponsored by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and DEFRA funding extends to the end of the financial year.
2. The Waste Sites Development Plan Document forms part of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. It will allocate sites that are considered appropriate for development of waste management facilities. Allocation of a site gives a presumption in favour of such development being acceptable, with details to be considered through the submission of a planning application.
3. The Development Plan Document is the subject of detailed consultation before submission to the Secretary of State for approval. It will be subject to an inquiry and is not expected to be adopted until July 2009.

#### Detailed Timescale

4. A list of sites that may be appropriate for development of waste management facilities is being drawn up by ERM. This long list will be subject to a six week period of consultation (as required by Regulations) commencing in the first week of February. The purpose of this consultation is
  - to inform the public of the site options under consideration
  - to gather information which will assist in their assessment
  - to invite any other site options to be put forward, to ensure that all potential sites are considered
5. At the end of the consultation period ERM will undertake a strategic assessment of all sites forming the long list, with a view to reducing the list to a more manageable number. ERM will produce a report on the outcome of this work by the end of March. During this period, ERM will also be undertaking an assessment of waste needs to inform on expected capacity requirements for all three waste streams.

6. Sites that are short listed as a result of this work will be the subject of detailed assessment and a list of preferred site options produced. This list of sites will be considered by Cabinet, and the preferred options will then be subject to a further period of consultation (the detailed timing of this exercise is being finalised). A final report on the preferred options will be considered by Cabinet and Council. Submission of the document to the Secretary of State is planned for February 2008.

### **Details of forthcoming consultation**

7. There are presently 179 sites on the long list; these were sent to District Waste and Planning Officers on 5 January for initial input. It is important that any site thought to have potential for waste facilities development is included on the list for consultation. Subsequent inclusion of a site that has not been the subject of the initial consultation exercise will likely require further justification.
8. The consultation document will give planning details of the long listed sites. It will be sent to a number of statutory bodies, District Councils, Town and Parish Councils, local interest groups, operating companies, members of the Minerals and Waste Stakeholder Forum and all County Councilors. A copy will also be posted on the County web site and made available in local libraries. Other individuals on the Minerals and Waste database will be advised of its availability.
9. The document will advise of the further consultation exercise that is to be undertaken on the short listed sites, with a view to informing on the final list of preferred options. Nevertheless, considerable interest can be expected to be generated by publication of this initial long list. ERM will be recording all relevant comments for consideration at the next stage.

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