

SOUTH LONDON **WASTE PLAN**

Executive Summary of the response
received to the Issues and Options
Consultation

February 2009

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COUNCIL**
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1. The Issues and Options consultation on the South London Waste Plan took place in September and October 2008. Over 100 people provided written comments and over 80 people provided their views in the series of public workshops which were held during the consultation period. Some written comments were from individuals and some were from representatives of large organisations including local residents associations and environmental groups, government bodies and the waste management industry. Some respondents filled out questionnaires whilst others wrote letters or e-mails that covered some or all of the questions raised.

Thanks to all of you who responded to the Issues and Options consultation on the South London Waste Plan.

2. The main issues consulted on and a summary of feedback is provided below. A full report providing a summary of responses received, a schedule of *all* comments received and a write-up of the public workshops held during the consultation, is available from the South London Waste Plan Project Manager, using the contact details which appear at the end of this report.

Issue 1: The Vision and Objectives of the South London Waste Plan

3. Most respondents agreed with the draft Vision and Objectives proposed in the consultation document, though a number of suggestions were made for amendments and additions. One key issue which many would like to see the Plan address is that of waste reduction.

Issue 2: How much of our waste should we deal with?

4. Most respondents believe the Plan should aim to facilitate the development of sufficient facilities to deal with as much waste produced within the four boroughs as possible. Many thought this would result in the greatest environmental benefit (in terms of reduced travel for waste and the greatest diversion of waste from landfill). A minority still feel that it is not appropriate to develop waste management facilities within the Plan area and would prefer waste to be dealt with 'elsewhere,' no matter the environmental consequences.

Issue 3: Distribution of waste management sites

5. Most respondents believe a 'clustered' approach (i.e. a number of medium-sized sites dispersed across the Plan area) is the best approach. However, all spatial options proposed were seen to have some benefits. It was also recognised that the development of sites is more likely to be based on availability of suitable sites which is dependent on a range of factors relating to the development, rather than whether they fit in with a particular distribution pattern.

Issue 4: Where should the new facilities go?

6. Most respondents believe that existing waste management sites and industrial land across the Plan areas is a sensible area of search. In terms of what issues and

criterion should be used to assess whether potential sites are suitable for waste management facilities, respondents identified that *all* of the draft criteria presented in the consultation documents have some importance and indeed, some criteria may be more important at certain sites than others. For example, flood risk is an important consideration for some sites, but not an important consideration at sites which are not at risk of flooding. Local stakeholders are particularly keen to ensure that physical, environmental and social impacts are properly considered to prevent any negative impacts on their health and well-being.

7. A number of respondents suggested additional criteria which should be considered when assessing whether sites are suitable for waste management facilities, such as impact on local nature conservation sites, the size of the potential site and positive impacts for the area, such as job creation.

Issue 5: Should the Waste Plan specify what waste development is suitable for each site eventually identified?

8. There were mixed views on this question. Some believe that being too prescriptive at this strategic planning stage may be inappropriate. There is a due process which involves not only the development of the South London Waste Plan, but also the assessment of proposals at the application stage. Some respondents feel that the planning application stage is where the detail of the proposals is best discussed. Others note that if the Plan is too prescriptive, it could stifle development and also restrict the development of more sustainable waste management options which could be emerge in future.

9. The discussion of technology types inevitably lead to discussion and receipt of comments about some types of thermal treatment facilities, notably incinerators, about which there appears to be mixed views. Some comments received suggest that waste to energy facilities should be ruled out of the Waste Plan, citing negative health implications, whilst others suggest that new types of energy from waste facilities could be suitable; particularly citing the benefits of a secure and affordable supply of heat and power which a number of residents feel is becoming increasingly important. Most respondents feel that the Waste Plan should provide a supportive framework for the production of renewable energy from waste management facilities.

Issue 6: Implementing the Plan

10. The majority of respondents were satisfied with the draft monitoring indicators detailed in the consultation document. In addition, a number of additional indicators or amends to indicators were also suggested.

Conclusions

11. The response from stakeholders for most issues raised during the consultation is generally mixed. For most issues, further discussion is required with key stakeholders to clarify a way forwards. The work now being progressed to assess

each potential site will also help develop the Waste Plan as will further development of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan.

12. A number of concerns were raised during the consultation around the need to minimise the amount of waste produced in the first instance and health concerns over some treatment types. There are a number of partners involved in the successful delivery of the Waste Plan and some of these issues are being addressed by these Partners. It will therefore be important for the draft Waste Plan to identify, for example, the work which the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) are doing with retailers and supermarkets to reduce packaging and the role of the Environment Agency in pollution prevention and control. The development of policies for the Waste Plan is also key because it will be the Waste Plan's policies which the suitability of any future application for waste management development will be assessed against.

Next steps

13. Work is underway to assess each site contained within the 'broad locations' identified in the Issues and Options Consultation Document. Additional sites within the Plan area suggested during the consultation will also be assessed. Each site will be assessed against the locational criteria identified in the Issues and Options consultation document, which have been amended in light of feedback.

14. A further Sustainability Appraisal and an assessment of the deliverability of sites will be undertaken over the coming months. These will also be important in informing the Plan's development.

15. Policies are now being developed in light of the feedback received. These policies, once finalised and adopted, will be used to assess future applications for waste management within the Plan area.

Next consultation period

16. Consultation on Preferred Sites and Policies for the South London Waste Plan is due to take place from late July to the end of September 09.

Get involved

To be involved in future consultations, or to receive the full consultation summary report including the schedule of *all* comments received and the write-up of the public consultation workshops, please contact the Waste Planning Project Manager:

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Email: southlondonwasteplan@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Write: The Project Manager, The South London Waste Plan, Planning Policy Team, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1EU