

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document. Issues and Options Report for Public Consultation

**WARDS:** All wards in Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St. Helens, Sefton and Wirral

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 In accordance with the agreed governance arrangements for the preparation of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD), Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service has written the attached report in collaboration with officers from the other districts that are part of the joint Waste DPD. The core content and recommendations of the report are the same for all the local authorities involved in the preparation of the joint Waste DPD. This is essential so that each district is following exactly the same statutory planning process.
- 1.2 This report is seeking approval for the Issues and Options report for public consultation purposes as the first stage in the statutory planning process. It is not seeking endorsement of the content of the Issues and Options Report. This will be the subject of a future report to Executive Board, as proposed by the recommendation.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

- (1) It is recommended that the Executive Board
- (i) approve the Issues and Options Report for public consultation commencing 23 February 2007;
  - (ii) prepare a consultation response to the Issues and Options Report by 6 April 2007;
  - (iii) agree to receive further reports on progress of the Waste DPD project including the results of the consultation on Issues and Options, Preferred Options report and financial matters later in 2007.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 On 21<sup>st</sup> September the Executive Board agreed a recommendation that Halton should participate in the Joint Merseyside Waste DPD and Council approval was given 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006. A full explanation of the background to the preparation of the Joint Merseyside Waste DPD is set out in the attached report. This also explains the governance arrangements for the Waste DPD project that are in place and agreed by each of the participating councils.
- 3.2 A portfolio of documents supporting the Waste DPD Issues and Options Report is also described. This includes the Issues and Options Report itself, technical appendices, sustainability commentary and scoping report, 'appropriate assessment' screening report (concerned with impact on European status nature conservation sites) and statements of pre consultation.
- 3.3 The Issues and Options report is being sent out separately to this report. The other documents are available from the Planning and Policy Division and from MEAS, on the website [www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk](http://www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk).

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1.1 The policy implications of approval of this document for public consultation are minimal, as it has not yet progressed sufficiently to have any status for development control purposes. However the Halton UDP has its own set of criteria based policies that will be used together with more up to date government planning policy statements for considering any planning applications for waste disposal and management facilities. These UDP policies will be superseded once the Waste DPD is adopted.
- 4.1.2 As is made clear in the recommendation, the Executive Board will be asked to agree a response to the content of Issues and Options during the period of public consultation that ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. This will contribute to the formulation of a Preferred Options Report for consultation in November to December 2007. Figure 4 of the attached report shows the Waste DPD production process and milestones that anticipates the adoption of the joint Waste DPD by April 2010. Once adopted the DPD will form part of the Halton Local Development Framework that will be the new statutory planning framework for Halton.

### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no other known implications at this stage of the plan preparation process.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 Adopting a joint Merseyside approach to waste planning will reduce many of the risks to individual waste planning authorities in terms of planning risk such as successful appeals against refusal of planning applications and problems of dealing with speculative applications. As part of the Waste DPD a 'project risk register' is being maintained. Some of the more significant risks are set out in paragraph 3.8 of the accompanying report.
- 6.2 No legal risks to the Council can be identified so long as the statutory procedures for the preparation of the DPD are met.
- 6.3. As the Council's financial contribution to the costs of this project are borne by planning Delivery Grant there is a risk that if this grant is not continued beyond the current allocation period ending in March 2008, then the cost will fall to existing revenue budgets. The scale of future costs up to 2007/8 was set out in the report on the Waste DPD on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 The approval of this Issues and Options report does not have any identifiable equality and diversity implications.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document Issues and Options report</li> </ul>	Planning and Policy Division, Rutland House Or	Andrew Pannell
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical appendices to the Issues and Options report including evidence base and baseline information</li> </ul>	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service website: <a href="http://www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk">www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk</a>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability Appraisal commentary report which is supported by the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, review of Plans and Projects, Baseline Review and Sustainability Appraisal Framework.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate Assessment screening report.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statements of pre consultation to comply with each of the Districts Statements of Community Involvement</li> </ul>		