

Report considered by Cabinet – 19 January 2006

Key Decision	Yes
Listed on Forward Plan	Yes
Within Policy	Yes
Policy Document	Waste Development Plan Document

WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Accountable Cabinet Member: Councillor Williams

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Waste Development Plan Document for Submission to the Secretary State

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council be recommended to approve the Submission Draft of the Waste Development Plan Document set out in **Annex A**, for submission to the Secretary of State.

3. Issues and Choices

Background

- 3.1 The Waste Development Plan Document, a statutory plan, is a spatial planning document, covering not only municipal waste but also commercial and industrial. The current Waste Local Plan was adopted in 1997 by Buckinghamshire County Council, the Waste Planning Authority at that time. This Plan provided the basis for waste planning decisions made by Milton Keynes Council. Since becoming a unitary authority in 1997, Milton Keynes is now the Waste Planning Authority for its area. The Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document will replace the existing Waste Local Plan.

Timetable and Stages

- 3.2 Below are the stages for the Waste Development Plan Document. There have been two consultation stages to draft the final plan to the Submission stage.

Issues and Options	August/September 2005
<i>Identifies the issues which the development plan document needs to address and the options which are available to deal with those issues.</i>	
Preferred Options	August/September 2006
<i>Statutory 6-week consultation. Sets out the preferred options, together with alternatives that were considered.</i>	
Submission to Secretary of State	January 2007
<i>Submit Development Plan Document for independent examination to Secretary of State. Statutory 6-week consultation of the document. Representations sent to the Secretary of State.</i>	
Pre-examination meeting	July 2007
<i>To discuss the procedures and process of the examination. Independent Inspector runs the meeting.</i>	
Examination	September 2007
<i>The purpose of independent examination is to consider if the development plan document is sound. Inspector's report will be binding.</i>	
Estimated Adoption	February
2008	

- 3.3 The Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State and will then be available for public consultation for a six-week period. All comments received during this period will be considered at a Public Examination by an Independent Inspector. At the Public Examination, the Inspector will test the 'soundness' (See **Annex C**) of the document. The Inspector's Report will be binding. The Plan will then be formally adopted.

Results to the Preferred Options Consultation

- 3.4 The consultation of the Waste Development Plan Document Preferred Options took place from 17 August 2005 to 28 September 2006. The Preferred Options responses have been taken into account in the preparation of the Submission Draft document. **Annex B** contains the results of the survey. A total of 655 responses were received. Out of these responses, 620 filled in a survey form via:

- MKNews Wrap around 287
- Submitted online 221
- Online form downloaded and submitted by post 13
- Submitted by post 94

3.5 Some responses were received by email (18) and letter (22). Some of these also included a survey form. The majority (over 80%) of survey responses either strongly supported or supported preferred options 1 – 9 and 12 (see **Annex B** for further details of the survey):

- 1. Preferred Guiding Vision for the Plan;
- 2. Preferred Strategic Option;
- 3. Sustainable Waste Management;
- 4. Working with neighbours/partners;
- 5. Development Control Criteria;
- 6. Environmental Objectives;
- 7. Transport;
- 8. Restoration;
- 9. Sustainable design, construction and resource recovery;
- 12. Other waste facilities.

The highest objection to the questions (1-9 and 12) was to preferred option 2 with just 5.2 % objecting or strongly objecting.

3.6 A Strategic Site at Old Wolverton was identified as a site for a waste management facility for final treatment. This site could also have other waste facilities, such as recycling. The majority of the responses supported this option (75.6%). Eleven responses were received from residents in Old Wolverton: 1 person strongly supported the option and 10 people objected or strongly objected. Eleven responses were received from residents in Wolverton: 7 strongly supported or supported the option and 4 people strongly objected.

3.7 A reserve site was identified to be safeguarded for a waste management facility if the strategic site at Old Wolverton did not come forward. The majority of responses strongly supported or supported this option (60.9%) and 8.6% objected or strongly objected. Nineteen residents in Two Mile Ash (closest residential area to the site) responded to the survey. Out of these 4 supported it and 13 strongly objected or objected.

3.8 One preferred option was to safeguard existing strategic waste sites, in particular Bletchley Landfill Site for future disposal of residual waste. The site's life should not be dramatically reduced by imports from outside Milton Keynes, leaving Milton Keynes looking for an alternative facility sooner than 2022. The Majority of responses strongly supported or supported this option (85.2%). There were 94 responses received from residents in Bletchley and 80 of these supported this option.

3.9 The main comments from the surveys, emails, letters and from exhibitions and presentations are listed in **Annex B**.

- 3.9 A number of responses addressed recycling, packaging and collection issues. These have been forwarded to the Waste Strategy team to consider in their policy development and activities. A number of responses addressed 'Incineration', which received a mixed response. These issues are not considered to be part of the Waste Development Plan Development. However, they will be fed back to inform current Council policy.
- 3.10 The Citizens Advice Group on Waste attended a workshop in September 2006 to discuss the survey. They generally supported the policies and some members of the group raised the following comments (the Council's response is in *italics*):
- Rail should be used for the Old Wolverton site (*This would be addressed in the Transport Assessment with any submitted planning application*)
 - Supported safeguarding the Materials Recycling Facility, especially when linked to the strategic site.
 - Wymbush site needs direct access from the A5 (*This would be addressed in the Transport Assessment with any submitted planning application*)
 - Sites at Denbigh West could be joined together for a suitable site (*The sites are close to sensitive receptors*).
- 3.11 There were 30 responses, which were received after the consultation period had closed. The majority of the survey responses were in support of the preferred policy directions. The comments that no other respondent had raised were: locate the strategic site at the Cotton Valley Sewage Works; and developer contributions are required to fund habitat enhancement and creation with the restoration of sites. The Cotton Valley Sewage Works is safeguarded for future expansion of waste water and sewage. The supporting text to the restoration policy in Development Control Policies considers that restoration must provide a positive enhancement to wildlife habitats.

Submission Draft

- 3.12 The comments received from the Preferred Options consultation have been considered (see **Annex B**) and the final document has incorporated these comments where appropriate. It is considered that the document should continue to include the Old Wolverton site for a strategic waste management site. As well as the site being used for final treatment, it could also include other waste facilities: such as an in-vessel composting system, or vehicle depot, or waste transfer station. The site could be delivered through public and private sector investment, separately or potentially in partnership. The site could also be delivered by compulsory purchase powers. It's potential to accommodate strategic waste uses are safeguarded through a separate safeguarding policy. It is anticipated that the site will come forward for use as a residual waste treatment facility in 2012/13. This date could be brought forward if an alternative or simpler waste plant was proposed. The reserve site

at Wymbush is included, as previously in the Preferred Options, in case the Old Wolverton site does not come forward.

3.13 The format of the document has been changed from the Preferred Option stage to show a final form of the plan and to respond to comments from Government Office for the South East:

- To split the document into sections so there is clear separation between the Core Strategy, Allocations and Development Control Policies sections.
- To be in accordance with regional policy, the emerging SE Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy).
- To give a clear demonstration of how anticipated volumes of waste are to be managed, including figures on waste arisings, existing capacity and required capacity and also a waste trajectory showing the impact of delivering housing growth on waste volumes.
- The Plan period to cover the period, in accordance with the SE Plan, to 2026.

3.14 The Submission Draft text is contained in **Annex A**.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

The Waste Development Plan Document is a key document under the constitution. The Plan works alongside the Council's Municipal Waste Strategy to provide joined up policy direction for waste for Milton Keynes.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Financial: The Waste Development Plan Document Submission Draft will be funded from the Development Plans budgets. The identified Strategic Waste Site at Old Wolverton is connected to the Waste Procurement project.

Staffing: There is an urgency to move forward the Waste Development Plan Document to meet changing government and regional policy. A post for a Planning Officer, funded by Planning Delivery Grant will be advertised in December to help with the delivery of the Development Plan Document. Office accommodation requirements are allowed for in the future accommodation plans.

No
No

Capital

IT

No
No

Revenue

Medium Term Plan

Yes
No

Accommodation

Asset Management

4.3 Legal

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has changed the statutory basis for drawing up development plans in England and Wales. When adopted, the Waste Development Plan will have the status of a development plan document within the meaning of section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to which regard must be had so far as it is relevant to any decision made by the Council.

4.4 Other Implications

Equality: Equality considerations will be taken into account when engaging the community in Submission Draft consultation and these will be in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

E-govt: The Waste Development Plan Document will be made available on the Council's website, together with the facility to submit responses online and by email.

The Waste Development Plan Document will continue to develop e-government for community involvement and information, including an online comments form.

Users, partners and stakeholders: Parish Councils, neighbouring authorities, technical bodies, Council Members, Members of Parliament, the waste industry and other interested parties will be consulted. Community engagement techniques will be used to involve the residents of Milton Keynes as stated earlier in this report.

Sustainability: A Sustainability Appraisal has been completed through the stages of the document.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Equalities / Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Human Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	E-Government	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Crime and Disorder

Annexes

A Waste Development Plan Document Submission

B Responses to the Preferred Options Survey

C Test of Soundness

Background Papers:

Waste Consultation documents (August/September 2006)

Waste Local Plan for Buckinghamshire (1997)

PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM, 2005)

PPS12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, 2004)

SE PLAN Submission Draft March 2006