

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 13th September 2011
Report of: Head of Planning and Housing
Subject/Title: Waste Needs Assessment Report
Portfolio Holder: Cllr David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report informs members about the Cheshire East Waste Needs Assessment, explaining its aims, objectives and implications of findings for the production of the Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 A Waste Needs Assessment was jointly commissioned by Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils to provide an up to date evidence base on which to form judgements and prepare planning policies concerning future waste management in the borough.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee notes the content of the Waste Needs Assessment Report and its use as an evidence base in the formulation of planning policy concerning waste and determining the range of facilities needed deal with waste arisings in Cheshire East up to 2030.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The LDF Core Strategy will need to contain policies on waste and the need for waste management facilities during the plan period. To allow policy development to progress with a credible evidence base, a Waste Needs Assessment has been undertaken by independent consultants to provide the most up to date information available relating to current and future waste arisings.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate Change - Health

- 6.1 Findings presented in the Waste Needs Assessment have been developed in accordance with the principles of sustainable waste management and in adherence to the waste hierarchy which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Planning policy for waste management must help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The cost of commissioning the report has been shared with Cheshire West and Chester Council with no further implications beyond the existing Spatial Planning budget.

8.0 Legal implications (authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 The production of an LDF Core Strategy that includes policies for waste and waste management infrastructure is a statutory duty for waste planning authorities and such policies must be based on national policy and guidance and backed up by a strong and credible evidence base. Failure to address these issues in the Core Strategy will lead to the plan being found unsound at submission or examination and ultimately rejected by the Secretary of State.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There is the potential for waste planning policies to be controversial and generate considerable attention in the press and significant representations from the public and their local representatives. It is therefore important that any policies are backed up by a robust, transparent, and up to date evidence base.

10.0 Background

- 10.1 The LDF Core Strategy is required to contain policies on waste in accordance with national policy backed up by up to date evidence. Policies and proposals should ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations including for waste disposal and needs to look forward for a period of at least ten years from the date of adoption.
- 10.2 A pre-requisite of setting policy is identifying the types and quantity of waste generated, predicting the pattern of future waste growth (or decline) and identifying the types of facilities that would be appropriate to handle this waste.
- 10.3 To obtain this level of information, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils jointly commissioned Urban Mines to produce Waste Needs Assessment (WNA) with the aim of providing a transparent, future-proof assessment capable of predicting future waste arisings under a number of scenarios and simulate future waste capacity and facility requirements

10.4 Through comprehensive analysis of the most up to date published information on waste arisings, the report:

- Assesses the amount of waste arisings likely to be produced and managed in Cheshire East in the period up to 2030. (Including municipal; commercial and industrial; construction, demolition and excavation; hazardous; low level radioactive; sewage sludge; and agricultural waste)
- Identifies existing and planned waste management facilities and identifies any gaps that may exist between the capacity of existing facilities and future arisings

10.5 A summary of the report's findings and conclusions are detailed in the report's Executive Summary included in Appendix 1. They are based on the outcomes of running a computer model capable of creating waste management scenarios of which the optimum has been presented in the report. This reflects what was considered at the time to be the most likely scenario with respect to the waste hierarchy and the aspirations of the Council as waste collection and disposal Authority.

10.6 As an output of the work, a computer model is to be made available to officers to generate new scenarios to reflect future dynamics as new facilities are built and become operational.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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