MWDA Planning Documents

Route Map

Provision of Professional Planning Advisor Services

Merseyside Joint Waste Management Strategy Procurement Project

19 April 2006

Produced for
MWDA and Merseyside Leaders and Chief Executives

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1 Introduction

This “Route-Map” document describes the inter-relationship between each of the various documents which comprise the MWDA planning strategy to be submitted as part of the Outline Business Case (OBC). This suite of planning documents has been developed to detail the methods to determine specific sites which will then be promoted through planning applications and used for new waste processing facilities. These facilities will be delivered in accordance with the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS).

Figure 1: Structure of the suit of planning documents and how they interact with one another.
2 Documents which Comprise the MWDA Planning Strategy

2.1 MWDA Planning Strategy
This strategy document identifies the current European and UK legislation with respect to waste and the waste related targets that are required to be met. The strategy considers the infrastructure required as defined in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). It also identifies the timescales necessary to meet legislative targets and discusses the implications of failure to meet these targets. The Strategy determines the immediate need to identify sites and process planning applications for the treatment of municipal solid waste ahead of the emerging Waste Development Plan Document (Waste DPD) due for adoption in 2010. Related existing national, regional, sub-regional and local planning policies are also considered within this document.

2.2 Interim Position Statement
This document is a position statement prepared by the Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (Waste DPD) Steering Group. It serves as informal planning guidance ahead of the emerging Waste DPD due for adoption in 2010. The document details the existing national and local planning policy documents that will enable a consistent approach to the processing of planning applications for waste facilities in advance of the Waste DPD development.

2.3 Criteria Based Screening Methodology
This document concerns the first phase in the screening process of potential sites for use as Municipal Solid Waste management facilities. The document takes the screening criteria set out in the Broad Site Search report, commissioned by the Waste DPD Steering Group, and through a process of consultation with the Steering Group a modified approach to the screening process was derived which was subsequently approved by the Steering Group. The intention of this document is to screen the large portfolio of potential sites available within Merseyside through a criteria based approach to a more manageable portfolio for the subsequent phase of the screening process.

2.4 Deliverability Assessment
This document describes the second phase in the process of screening potential sites. The portfolio of sites derived from the criteria based screening methodology is assessed further through a series of qualitative criteria. These criteria are assessed using a “red/amber/green” traffic light approach whereby a site which has a positive outcome of the assessment is marked as green, a negative outcome as red and amber where unknown or not significant. The assessment is considered against the individual circumstances relative to the type of process that would be considered on a particular site.
2.5 **Commentary & Maps of Sites within Opportunity Areas of the BSS Report**
For the purposes of the OBC application and due to the on-going development of the sites screening process this document provides details of the numbers of potential sites that are available in the Merseyside area. The document takes the details of the “Opportunity Areas” identified in the Broad Site Search report and considers how many sites of a minimum size suitable for the largest proposed waste treatment facility are available within each map. The results show that there are a large number of potential sites available in Merseyside and it is expected that finding suitable sites for use is not considered to be a significant risk to MWDA.

2.6 **Programme of Key Dates and Milestones for Planning**
This document looks at MWDA’s overall programme for the screening of potential sites and subsequent planning process and makes comparison with the emerging Waste DPD process. The document highlights the key milestones where the MWDA planning strategy aligns itself with the Waste DPD process.

2.7 **Communications Protocol**
Linking all of these planning documents is a MWDA Communications Protocol to ensure the all aspects of the sites selection and planning process are communicated to the relevant stakeholders at the required time and that the details of specific sites are kept confidential until such time as it necessary to make planning applications.