

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 17 February 2011

SUBJECT: Joint Waste Development Plan: Consultation on Preferred Options
2 – New Sites Consultation

WARDS AFFECTED: None

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis, Planning & Development Regeneration Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Matthews
0151 934 3559

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

This report relates to the second Preferred Options stage of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD). The first stage identified a number of sites to accommodate waste management facilities. A number of these were withdrawn or not supported following consultation, including a site in Sefton. A replacement site at Farriers Way was presented to the previous Cabinet meeting but not endorsed.

This report seeks reaffirmation of the Council's commitment to identify a replacement site in accordance with its agreement to support the adoption of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD).

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To reaffirm the Council's commitment to identifying a site in accordance with its agreement to support the adoption of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD).

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet reaffirms the Council's commitment to identify a replacement site in accordance with its agreement to support the adoption of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD).

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following call in after 17 February 2011

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Failure to identify sufficient sites to manage waste would prevent the Merseyside authorities from completing the Waste Development Plan.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:**

There are financial implications for future years in order to complete the preparation of the Waste Development Plan. The funding arrangements were agreed by City Region Cabinet on 22nd October 2010. Delay in the process of preparing and adopting the Waste DPD and in the subsequent development of facilities required to reduce landfill could have significant harmful financial consequences for all the authorities. Corporate Plan Strategic Objective 9 supports the development of a more sustainable waste management strategy.

Financial: There are no direct financial consequences as a result of this report, however Members should be mindful of potential penalties to Sefton (£15,000 per month), if as a result of its actions, the Council fails to agree an alternative site, resulting in the Waste Delivery Plan being delayed. Other more serious financial consequences could arise should the Council fail to comply with the Waste Framework Directive. These issues are raised in section 3 of the report.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: None

Risk Assessment: A separate risk register is maintained for this project. A key

Asset Management:

risk identified is the breakdown of the joint commitment and approvals process required to progress the Waste DPD.
Not applicable

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

LD00049/11 The Acting Head of Legal Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report
FD 648 The Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	✓		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Minutes to Cabinet 27 January 2011

1. BACKGROUND:

1.1 The joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (Waste Plan) is a statutory plan and is a key part of Sefton's Local Development Framework. The Merseyside authorities are required to contribute to this important piece of work which must allocate suitable sites, or preferred locations, to meet future needs for waste management facilities in the most sustainable way.

1.2 A key principle in preparing the Waste Plan is that waste should be disposed of close to where it is generated. It is no longer possible to assume that waste can simply be exported outside the Merseyside sub-region. As such there is a need to provide a balance of sites across Merseyside.

2. SITE AT FARRIERS WAY:

2.1 Following an early consultation stage on the Waste DPD Preferred Options (May – June 2010) Sefton was identified as being short of one 'district' site. As such, a further site was identified at Farriers Way at the Netherton Industrial Site. This was to be subject to an additional consultation stage before it was formally added to the Waste DPD before it is published and submitted to the Secretary of State for examination and approval.

2.2 Members will be aware that the proposed replacement site at Farriers Way was not endorsed at the Cabinet meeting of 27 January 2011 (minute 194).

3. NEED TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE SITE:

3.1 This leaves the future of the Waste DPD in a difficult situation. Sefton has a commitment as a partner in the process to contribute a fair share of sites. Failure to do so would risk the provision of a balanced and sustainable distribution of waste management facilities across Merseyside. If Sefton does not provide an equal share of sites other authorities may question the need to provide their share.

3.2 As Members will know this has been a difficult and costly process and to cancel or further delay the Waste DPD at this stage will have severe financial consequences for Sefton and the other districts. The financial implications for the districts is approximately of £15,000 for each month the Waste Plan is delayed. The other authorities would be unlikely to share this cost and Sefton may have to bear the entire cost. In any case the Liverpool City Region Cabinet has made it clear that the Waste Plan will need to be completed by the end of 2012.

3.3 Failing to find an alternative site could jeopardise the robustness and soundness of the Waste Plan. This could increase the risk of speculative development of waste facilities and remove our ability to resist these.

3.4 Sefton also has a duty to provide for its own waste management needs. Failure to do so would be in non-compliance with the Waste Framework Directive. This is also likely to have significant financial implications.

3.5 In lieu of the decision to not endorse the site at Farriers Way, and the issues set out above, Members are asked to agree another site in due course to reaffirm Sefton's commitment to the Waste Plan process.

3.6 Officers will present further alternative sites along with technical appraisals to Planning Committee in the first instance and then to Cabinet in the near future. One of the sites presented will have to be approved for a six-week public consultation in the summer with the view for its inclusion in the Waste Plan to be published in August.

3.7 Members should note that Sefton has few viable options for finding an alternative site and any replacement site is likely to have significant constraints in terms of planning and deliverability. Notwithstanding this members are asked to consider the wider implications of not identifying a replacement site.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Cabinet agrees to identify a replacement site in accordance with its agreement to support the adoption of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD).