

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th February, 2012
3.	Title:	Adoption of BDR Joint Waste Plan (Development Plan Document)
4.	Directorate:	Forward Planning, Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

The Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham (BDR) Joint Waste Plan has been produced by the three authorities in order to provide policies to determine planning applications for waste management facilities until 2026. This is a formal Development Plan Document (DPD), which forms part of the Local Development Framework for the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham. It also allocates four strategic sites to accommodate major waste facilities in the future:

- (1) Sandall Stones Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster
- (2) Hatfield Power Park, Stainforth, Doncaster
- (3) Bolton Road, Manvers, Rotherham
- (4) Reserve Site at Aldwarke Steel Works, Parkgate, Rotherham (in the event that the others are not developed).

The BDR Joint Waste Plan was formally submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2011, for the purpose of an Examination in Public completed by an independent Planning Inspector. The outcome of the Examination is that the BDR Joint Waste Plan has been found to be 'Sound' (fit for purpose and meets statutory requirements), subject to making a number of accepted changes.

This report seeks approval to adopt the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (Development Plan Document).

6. Recommendation

That Cabinet recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (Development Plan Document).

7. Proposals and Details

Background

The BDR Joint Waste Plan is a formal Development Plan Document which has already been subject to statutory public consultation and other stages of consultation with public and private bodies, to assist in its development. In addition to providing policies to inform the determination of planning applications, it also proposes to allocate four strategic sites of up to 5 hectares (12 acres), for the development of larger scale waste management centres and to encourage the co-location of similar facilities from the waste industry.

Waste management is a significant issue facing Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Councils. Approximately 1.3 million tonnes of waste are generated annually by households and businesses and we need to plan for future projections. A large proportion of BDR's municipal waste is currently sent to landfill sites but this cannot continue because:

- Landfill is generally harmful to the environment and human health because as it decays it releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Valuable resources such as plastics, metals and liquids, that could potentially be recycled, are being lost.
- The government has set challenging targets to increase recycling and send less waste to landfill. Severe financial penalties will be incurred by Councils if these targets are not achieved.
- More environmentally friendly waste management practices are emerging, such as waste minimisation, recycling, composting and energy recovery.

Proposal

As a Local Planning Authority, we are required to develop policies to help deliver sustainable waste management by providing sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities: of the right type, in the right place, and at the right time: (National Planning Policy Statement 10).

The Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham Joint Waste Plan has been developed by the three authorities working together to produce designated sites and policies to deal with planning applications for all types of waste management facilities. Central government encourages joint working in this matter, particularly where cross-boundary movement of waste occurs.

The BDR Joint Waste Plan provides criteria based policies for the determination of planning applications for all types of waste operations, including recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal up to 2026.

It also proposes the designation of 4 sites for strategic waste management facilities at the following locations:

1. Sandall Stones Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster. – This site already has planning permission for waste facilities.
2. Hatfield Power Park, Stainforth, Doncaster. – This site already has planning permission for waste facilities.
3. Bolton Road, Manvers, Rotherham. – The site is proposed by the BDR Waste Management Departments for the siting of a Private Finance Initiative funded (PFI) municipal waste treatment plant. This will require planning permission from the Council.
4. (Reserve site in the event that the others are not developed): Tata (formerly Corus) Engineering Steels, Aldwarke, Rotherham. – The total area of the Tata Steels Complex is around 150 hectares, and Corus have proposed an area of 5 hectares to the rear of the working plants, for a waste management facility. This will require a full planning application and be subject to planning permission from the Rotherham Council Planning Board.

The four sites have been chosen on the basis of their performance against a range of criteria, such as, proximity to urban areas, transport routes, deliverability and sustainability appraisal. These brownfield sites are located on industrial or employment land with access to the main transport network.

The BDR Joint Waste Plan also proposes to safeguard important existing facilities to protect them from being changed to other uses. The aim is to prevent the loss of waste management sites and to guard against the loss of treatment capacity in BDR, (e.g. Sterecycle Ltd at Templeborough which currently takes 70,000 tonnes of municipal waste from BDR).

Next stages

When adopted by all three authorities, the Joint Waste Plan will form part of the statutory development plan of each of the three authorities, and will sit alongside each of the Core Strategies. It is proposed that the Joint Waste Plan will be formally adopted at Full Council in each of the three authorities. The anticipated dates are: Barnsley 1 March 2012, Doncaster 8 March 2012 and Rotherham 7 March 2012. It is proposed that the agreed formal adoption date will be the date of the last Full Council approval, as this will be the date on which it is considered to be formally adopted across all three authorities.

The Joint Waste Plan takes a comprehensive view of the full range of strategic waste management developments to 2026. It covers all types of waste, not just municipal waste produced by households. The key points to note are the four strategic waste management sites: (1) Hatfield Power Park; (2) Sandall Stones Road, Kirk Sandall; (3) Bolton Road, Manvers; and (4) Tata Steelworks Complex, Aldwarke Lane, Parkgate. Whilst these four sites have been retained throughout the examination process, a significant change is that the Aldwarke site is now to be shown as a reserve site. Whilst the Inspector understood our wish to retain four sites to ensure flexibility, they could not all be referred to as strategic sites as the term 'strategic'

implies that all four must come forward in order to achieve the strategy set out in the Joint Waste Plan. In addition to the four strategic sites the Joint Waste Plan “safeguards” a number of important existing sites. It also has policies for waste related development, including development on non-strategic sites, against which future waste management proposals will be assessed.

Bolton Road, Manvers, located in Rotherham near the Barnsley and Doncaster boundaries, is the preferred site for the joint authorities’ municipal PFI waste project (Private Finance Initiative). The planning application for this site has been submitted to Rotherham MBC recently. The Joint Waste Plan does not carry full weight as a material consideration in determining the planning application until adopted. However significant weight can be given as the Inspector’s report has been received and is favourable.

8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- (a)** The adoption of the Joint Waste Plan is intended to update the Council’s policies for waste management planning applications, which currently rely on the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). It will also provide strategic sites for the provision of waste management facilities during the timeframe of the Local Development Framework to 2026. It will attempt to avoid the uncertainty of waste planning applications in other areas, by promoting the potential for waste facilities at the strategic sites, subject to the policies in the BDR Joint Waste Plan.

The waste management departments of Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham (BDR), have a history of working together and are currently involved in a project to deal with the municipal waste from the three authorities. This proposes to use Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding, to procure the management of municipal waste by a commercial operator at the Bolton Road Site, Manvers, Wath-upon-Deerne. The BDR Joint Waste Plan will provide the framework for determining a waste planning application on this site, but if not adopted, any planning application would be determined in accordance with the UDP.

- (b)** The government has embarked upon a review of the current planning system and the regulations for determining planning applications may be subject to change. However, recent guidance to local planning authorities is that: *“The abolition of Regional Strategies will provide a clear signal of the importance attached to the development and application of local spatial plans, in the form of Local Development Framework Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents.”*

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The adoption of the BDR Joint Waste Plan will contribute to the Council’s cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development by increasing the recycling and recovery

rates for waste and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. This will ultimately reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere and reduce the negative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out at each stage of the development of the BDR Joint Waste Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

BDR Joint Waste DPD Issues and Options (Mar 2008)

BDR Joint Waste DPD Towards the Publication (Oct 2008)

BDR Further Consultation Report (Jan 2009 – Dec 2009)

BDR Joint Waste Plan – Pre-publication Consultation (June 2010)

BDR Joint Waste Plan – Submission (July 2011)

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