

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT - 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**BLACK COUNTRY WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY**

**Purpose Of Report**

1. To advise the Committee of the current status of the Black Country Waste Management Study.

**Background**

2. Committee has previously received a progress report, in the form of a presentation, on the Black County Waste Management Study.
3. The Study was finally completed in the Spring of this year. The parties involved were:-
  - Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils
  - The Black Country Consortium
  - Government Office of the West Midlands
  - Atkins Consultants
4. The outcome of the process was a series of reports detailing the following aspects of the Study:-
  - Baseline Report
  - Options Appraisal
  - Communication Strategy
  - 3 Year Plan Action Plan
  - 30 Year Waste Vision Implementation Plan
  - 30 Year Waste Management Vision
5. The Options Appraisal is the key to determining a satisfactory solution to achieve the Studies objectives. After an exhaustive selection process where outcomes from the process were weighted and ranked according to importance, a preferred waste management Scenario has been identified as the most appropriate for the Black Country.

6. This Scenario comprises the establishment of both 'in-vessel' and open windrow composting facilities for organic and 'green' wastes, with major Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF's) developed to maximise the recovery of collected dry-recyclables from kerbside collection schemes, together with the relevant amendments to current collection practices to improve recycling performance.
7. Use of landfill as a final disposal option will be reduced progressively in line with LATS (Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme) targets, with an increase in the shared use of the existing EfW (Energy from Waste) plants in Dudley and Wolverhampton, and the development of a new thermal treatment plant, utilising combined heat and power recovery, to process the remaining residual household waste not capable of being recycled or composted. A site has been identified in Sandwell as the strategic location for a cluster of these new facilities in the form of a 'Resource Recovery Park'.
8. The Scenario also requires an additional two Household Waste Recycling Sites (Civic Amenity sites), with a major upgrading of the existing network of sites, to achieve a significant improvement in the recovery of materials from these sites for recycling or composting. This component of the Scenario is significant if the Councils are to collectively exceed a combined 40% recycling target. One of the two new sites will need to be located in Dudley, with the other in Sandwell.
9. This preferred Scenario is wholly consistent within the Governments latest position on the role that EfW will have to play in ensuring the UK meets its obligations for landfill diversion imposed by the EU, at the same time as meeting future energy needs from renewable sources.
10. The preferred Scenario provides the Black Country with sustainable waste management solution that meets the needs of rising volumes of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) and commercial waste over the Vision period necessary for supporting the economic growth of the Black Country.
11. This Scenario should deliver recycling and composting performance that exceeds the current statutory targets, and will also achieve the more stretching target of 40% being considered by the Government in the current review of the National Waste Strategy.
12. Presentations on the Study were made, on behalf of the parties involved, in May 2006 to both the West Midlands Waste Forum, facilitated by the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM), and also the Regional Technical Advisory Board for Waste Planning (RTAB).
13. Subsequently on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, and the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006, presentations were made firstly to the Chief Executives, and then to the Leaders Groups of the four Councils and the Black Country Consortium. Leaders have agreed to pursue the Study objectives, and the next reporting phase is to a Chief Executives meeting in September.
14. Further to this the next steps in the programme is the commissioning of additional study work to develop the 'business case', and the financial implications of the studies proposals. In addition Senior Officers will be

meeting to agree the mechanism for taking the project forward in accordance with the 3 Year Action Plan which sets out short term agenda for the realisation of the joint strategy.

15. From the Council's perspective there is a need for the development of additional waste infrastructure, particularly for recycling and composting. Although the Council has continued to improve its recycling performance, and has exceeded its Government set target for the combined recycling and composting of household waste target of 18% for 2005/06, significant increases in the future will be difficult to achieve without the appropriate infrastructure, as described in the preceding paragraphs on the preferred Scenario.
16. From a local perspective there are a number of ongoing initiatives, some of which are existing joint Black Country schemes, which are contributing to the Black Country Waste Management Strategy agenda.
17. Work has been undertaken to analyse and increase participation rates in recycling collection schemes, with a current 'recycle more-throw away less' campaign using posters, leaflets etc. to raise awareness and encourage participation.
18. The first phase of the fortnightly green wheeled bin collection scheme has generated a big increase in the amount of 'green' organic waste collected for composting.
19. The 4 Black Country Councils have successfully worked together in obtaining funding and support from the Government sponsored Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), for the sale of home composters at discounted prices. This again has been very successful with a large number of home composters being purchased both in Dudley, and the Black Country as a whole in recent months.
20. The 4 Councils have also been successful in obtaining funding thorough Landfill Tax Credits to fund a major waste minimisation initiative campaign targeted at schools and young people across the Black Country. This is entitled 'The Black Country Rubbish Challenge' and a DVD and related website has been launched to project this message.
21. Both these and other new initiatives will continue to be developed, taking account of available external funding opportunities, to further both the local and the wider Black Country Waste Strategy agenda, now and in the future.

## **Finance**

22. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **Law**

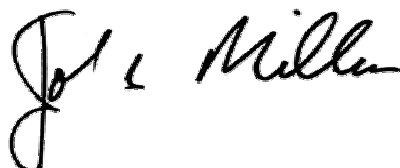
23. The Council's duties and powers regarding waste are set out in Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and successive related legislation.

### **Equality Impact**

24. This report and the Black Country Waste Management Study takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

### **Recommendation**

25. That the Committee notes the ongoing progress of the Black Country Waste Management Study and receives further progress reports.



Signature: .....

**John Millar**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

**Contact Officer:** Graham Bailey  
Telephone 01384 814760  
Email: [graham.bailey@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:graham.bailey@dudley.gov.uk)

### **List of Background Papers**

1. 30 Year Waste Study.