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1 Introduction

What is the South London Waste Plan?

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all planning authorities to prepare a Local Development Framework (LDF) for their area, setting out a spatial strategy and policies and proposals for the development and use of land over the next 10-15 years. Within London Boroughs and other unitary authorities, the LDF will replace the existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and consist of a range of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

1.2 The Act requires that the LDF must include specific planning policies and proposals for sustainable waste management, either in the form of a separate Waste DPD or within other DPDs prepared as part of the LDF, such as the Core Planning Strategy and Site Development Policies DPDs. Furthermore, national policy guidance in Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) on ‘Local Development Frameworks’ (2004) provides for joint working on certain local development documents by two or more local planning authorities, particularly in relation to cross-boundary issues, such as sustainable waste management.

1.3 To meet EU and UK targets, there is an urgent need for new and expanded waste management infrastructure across London. From 2009, Boroughs will face financial penalties if landfill diversion targets are not met. In addition, the consolidated London Plan (February 2008)\(^1\), sets a target for the capital to become 85% self-sufficient in managing waste by 2020, stating that Boroughs should “identify sufficient land to provide capacity to manage the apportioned tonnages of waste. Boroughs preparing joint waste DPDs may wish to collaborate by pooling their apportionment requirements” (Policy 4A.25). Within this context, the London Plan emphasises that Boroughs should seek to achieve a maximum level of self-sufficiency.

1.4 The London Boroughs of Croydon, Merton, Sutton and the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, consider that joint working is the most effective way to plan for the additional waste facilities and infrastructure necessary to maximise self-sufficiency and plan for waste across the South London Waste Plan area to 2021. The four partner Boroughs have therefore resolved to co-ordinate the preparation of a Joint Waste DPD (known as the South London Waste Plan).

1.5 The purpose of the South London Waste Plan is to set out a sustainable waste management planning strategy for a period of at least 10 years. The current timetable anticipates adoption of the Plan by each borough in 2011 and will therefore cover the period 2011 to 2021. The South London Waste Plan will provide a framework for sustainable waste management for all waste produced in an area. It will:

→ Contain policies to govern the development of new waste management facilities;
→ Allocate land to waste management, to enable the future development of sufficient waste management facilities to meet local needs, and;
→ Specify how delivery of the Waste Plan will monitored annually.

\(^1\) incorporating Further Alterations
What is Sustainable Development?

1.6 Sustainable development seeks to achieve improved quality of life, community well-being and sustainable economic growth while protecting against environmental degradation, depletion of resources and loss of biodiversity. The most commonly used definition is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs” (Bruntland Report, 1987).

1.7 The revised UK Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005), expands further on what sustainable development means in terms of the following guiding principles:

(1) Living within Environmental Limits
Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and bio-diversity, to improve our environment and ensure that natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

(2) Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity for all.

(3) Achieving a Sustainable Economy
Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them, and efficient resource use is incentivised.

(4) Using Sound Science Responsibly
Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

(5) Promoting Good Governance
Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society, engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity.

1.8 National and regional planning policies have increasingly emphasised the need to develop new and revised planning policies based on a better understanding of the links between social, economic and environmental issues. PPS1 on ‘Delivering Sustainable Development’ (ODPM, February 2005) identifies the following key principles of sustainable development which underpin the planning system:

• development plans should ensure that sustainable development is pursued in an integrated manner, in line with the UK strategy. Development plans should promote outcomes in which environmental, economic and social objectives are achieved together over time;

• development plans should contribute to global sustainability by addressing the causes and potential impacts of climate change - through policies which reduce energy use, reduce emissions, promote renewables and take climate change impacts into account in the location and design of development;

• a spatial planning approach should be at the heart of planning for sustainable development;

• planning policies should promote high quality inclusive designs and layouts in terms of function and impact over the lifetime of the development. Design which fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area should not be accepted;
• development plans should also contain clear, comprehensive and inclusive access policies - in terms of both location and external physical access. Such policies should consider people’s diverse needs and aim to break down unnecessary barriers in a manner that benefits the entire community; and;

• community involvement is an essential element in delivering sustainable development and creating sustainable and safe communities. In developing the vision for their areas, local planning authorities should ensure that communities are able to contribute to ideas about how that vision can be achieved.

Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal

1.9 The purpose of sustainability appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations into the preparation of new or revised Regional Spatial Strategies, DPDs or SPDs. By identifying the key sustainability issues likely to be affected by plan implementation, developing options and assessing their likely significant effects from the earliest stages of plan preparation, SA is an important tool for developing sound planning policies which are consistent with the principles underlying the Government’s sustainable development agenda and the aspirations of local communities.

1.10 PPS12 on ‘Local Development Frameworks’ (2004) makes clear that Sustainability Appraisal (SA) must be undertaken as part of the preparation of all local development documents in order to test their soundness against environmental, economic and social objectives.

1.11 In addition, the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA Directive) 2001/42/EC, implemented in the UK by the SEA Regulations 2004, requires environmental appraisal to be undertaken on all plans and programmes where they are likely to have significant environmental impacts. The purpose of the Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The Regulations apply to a wide range of plans and programmes from local to regional level, including local development documents prepared under the new planning legislation. To avoid duplication, PPS12 urges planning authorities to develop an integrated approach to SA that meets the requirements of the SEA Directive at the same time.

1.12 To be effective, SA must be:

• inclusive, ensuring early and on-going involvement of the public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders at the appropriate stages of plan preparation;

• objectives-led, so that the direction of desired change is made explicit in terms of measurable targets;

• evidence-based, including relevant baseline information against which the potential effects of the plan and policy options can be measured and assessed;

• useful, providing clear conclusions and recommendations on how the plan can be made more sustainable and proposals for future monitoring.

1.13 At the culmination of plan preparation, the final SA Report should show how the final plan has addressed the sustainability agenda and the choices made between alternative policies and proposals. This will be considered by the Inspector when determining the soundness of the plan at the Examination in Public (EiP) stage.
Coverage of SA Scoping Report

1.14 This document represents the SA Scoping Report (incorporating SEA) for the South London Waste Plan. The remaining chapters define the scope of the appraisal and provide the basis for evaluating the effects of implementing the Plan in accordance with Tasks A1-A5 of ‘Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and LDFs’ (ODPM, 2005):

- **Section 2** describes the background to the South London Waste Plan;
- **Section 3** outlines the Appraisal Methodology;
- **Section 4** reviews other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives at the national, regional and local levels (Task A1). A comprehensive Scoping Table is provided in Appendix 2;
- **Section 5** sets out Baseline information in relation to South London, in terms of the key environmental, social and economic trends likely to be influenced by plan implementation (Task A2);
- **Section 6** identifies the key Sustainability Issues and Problems to be addressed by South London Waste Plan (Task A3);
- **Section 7** sets out the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework consisting of the key sustainability objectives, indicators and targets against which the likely effects of the Plan and alternative options will be appraised (Task A4). Full details of the proposed SA Framework are provided in Appendix 4; and
- **Section 8** describes the arrangements for Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal (Task A5) and Next Steps.

Consultation Arrangements

1.15 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and procedures for community engagement on DPD and SA documents set out in PPS12 and the individual Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) published by each of the four Boroughs, the SA Scoping Report is being published over a 5-week period from **Tuesday 1 July until Tuesday 5 August 2008** (5 pm). in order to seek the views of the following statutory consultees and a range of other key stakeholders on the proposed scope of the appraisal:

**Statutory Consultees**
- Environment Agency (EA);
- Natural England (NE); and
- English Heritage (EH).

**Specific Consultation Bodies**
- Government Office for London (GOL);
- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- Other specific consultation bodies as identified in the respective SCIs for LB Sutton, LB Merton, LB Wandsworth and the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames.

**Key Local stakeholders**
- A range of key local stakeholders and groups concerned with environmental, economic and social issues as identified in the four SCIs and for which details are held on the respective LDF consultation databases.
1.16 Further details of consultation arrangements are provided in Section 8.

1.17 In considering the SA Scoping Report, consultees are asked to address the following questions:

- Is the proposed appraisal methodology set out in Section 3 sound and consistent with meeting the requirements of both SA and the SEA Directive?
- Have any relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives been omitted from Section 4 and the scoping table presented in Appendix 2?
- Does the baseline information in Section 5 provide a complete picture of the social, economic and environmental factors that need to be considered?
- Do the key sustainability issues outlined in Section 6 reflect all the significant social, economic and environmental factors relevant to the South London area?
- Does the proposed SA Framework set out in Section 7 and Appendix 4 identify an appropriate range of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets for the purpose of appraising and monitoring the significant effects of the plan and alternative options?

1.18 Further copies of the SA Scoping Report are available at:

- **Electronically** via your Council’s webpages at:
  
  - www.croydon.gov.uk/wasteplan
  - www.kingston.gov.uk/wasteplan
  - www.merton.gov.uk/wasteplan
  - www.sutton.gov.uk/wasteplan

- **Hard copies** at:
  
  All Council public reception areas and All Council libraries

- **Request copies from:**

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