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### Waste Issues Report - Summary of Responses and Next Stages

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#### Introduction

- 1 The *Waste Issues Report* was published by the Joint Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007 as a preliminary consultation to the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) process and comments on the issues raised were invited by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007. The purpose of the Issues Report was to enable the constituent authorities of the Joint Committee, working with SEPA and the Scottish Government, to identify the potential need and location for strategic waste management facilities, as part of an integrated system to serve the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area.
- 2 The Joint Committee distributed copies of the *Waste Issues Report* to a list of 50 external stakeholders, agreed with SEPA and the report was also made available for download via the Joint Committee's website. The Structure Plan Manager received 10 responses (20%) to the consultation.

#### Summary of Main Issues

- 3 A summary of main issues raised were as follows:
  - the publication of the *Waste Issues Report* was broadly supported and welcomed by a number of stakeholders as a useful collation of various waste policy documents and datasets;
  - in considering Strategic Landfill Capacity, respondents considered that further sites were not required and that existing landfills offered excellent locations for siting additional waste management facilities;
  - in relation to Strategic Waste Management facilities, there was broad agreement that the first SDP should identify areas of search for such facilities and that a threshold of strategic significance based on size of the facility should be replaced by one which also considers waste types and processes;
  - the principle of the Joint Committee publishing a site selection approach was broadly supported by stakeholders. Respondents also made several suggestions for additions and revisions to the possible factors listed in such a report;
  - stakeholders agreed that the data published in the Issues Report were relevant and should form the basis of further monitoring reports. There was also broad agreement that any future monitoring reports should be publicly available but there were divergent views on how often it should be updated. The majority of respondents favoured an annual monitoring report.

## Ministerial Statement

- 4 As further context for the Joint Committee's on-going preparation in this policy area, the Environment Secretary recently made a statement to Parliament on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in which the Government proposed to consult on new recycling targets including;
- the amount of municipal waste currently being recycled or composted is to be increased from 40% by 2010 to 70% by 2025;
  - landfill from municipal waste is to be reduced to 5% by 2025,
  - waste converted to energy to increase from 4% in 2010 to 25% by 2025
  - rejection of the option of large-scale waste incineration.
- 5 The Environment Secretary also outlined that the Scottish Government will be consulting further on waste policy over the coming year as they develop a new National Waste Management Plan for Scotland, which will seek to move Scotland towards a zero waste society. The aim of zero waste is to maximise recycling, minimise waste and ensure that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into nature of the marketplace.

## Implications

- 6 This change in direction, as outlined by the Scottish Government, has implications for the continued relevance of a number of the issues emerging from the initial Waste Issues report. As a consequence of this change of direction and the uncertainty over the timescales for the publication of the National Waste Management Plan (now the responsibility of the Scottish Government), it is considered that it would be beneficial to undertake another targeted round of consultation, posing questions relating to the implications of the new policy context, whilst continuing discussions with SEPA, the Scottish Government and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Strategy Group.

## Recommendation

- 7 It is recommended that the Joint Committee
- note the general tenor of the responses and issues emerging from its 2007 *Waste Issues Report*;
  - note the terms of the Ministerial Statement and agree to undertake another targeted round of consultation relating to the implications of the new policy context, whilst maintaining discussions with SEPA, the Scottish Government and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Strategy Group.

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