
Waste Issues Report 2008 - Summary of Responses

Introduction

- 1 The *Waste Issues Report 2008* was published by the Joint Committee on 20th March 2008. Comments on the issues raised were invited by 28th April 2008. The purpose of the *Waste Issues Report 2008* 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 following the Ministerial statement to Parliament on 24th January 2008. The statement proposed to consult on new recycling targets including:
 - the amount of municipal waste being recycled or composted is to be increased to 60% by 2020 and a new target of 70% by 2025;
 - landfill from municipal waste is to be reduced to 5% by 2025, and no more than 25% of municipal waste is to be used to generate energy by 2025 and large, inefficient incinerators are to be rejected; and keeping the existing challenging target of stopping growth in municipal waste by 2010.
- 2 This revised context, coming almost immediately after the Joint Committee had consulted upon its *Waste Issues Report 2007*, led the Joint Committee to decide that a further consultation document on the issues raised by the Ministerial statement would be appropriate.
- 3 The Joint Committee distributed copies of the *Waste Issues Report 2008* to a list of 50 stakeholders, agreed with SEPA and the report was also made available for download via the Joint Committee's website. The Structure Plan Manager received 6 responses to the consultation (refer Appendix 1), from the following stakeholders:
 - Glasgow Chamber of Commerce;
 - Scottish Water Waste Service (SWWS);
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);
 - James Barr on behalf of Gillespie Investment Group (GIG);
 - Argyll and Bute Council; and,
 - GP Plantscape

Observations on Responses

- 4 Of the responses received, there was support the previous conclusion of the Joint Committee following consideration of the *Waste Issues Report 2007*, that whilst certain waste management facilities e.g. energy from waste plants and associated district heating, whilst being a strategic land-use planning issue the identification of particular sites for such facilities would generally be local in nature and would be more appropriately brought forward through Local Development Plans.

- 5 This potential approach also relates to the provision of recycling facilities, however, it is recognised that the provision of specialised recycling facilities, dependent upon scale and impact on amenity, might require specific identification within an SDP.
- 6 In light of the responses received waste management policy development for the SDP will require the continued liaison by the Joint Committee with SEPA and the Clyde Valley Waste Strategy Area Group. This approach has been reflected in the recently published final modifications made by Scottish Ministers to the 2006 Structure Plan Third Alteration.
- 7 The waste management issues highlighted by respondents to both the 2007 and 2008 Waste Issues Reports will require to be considered within the context of the preparation of the new National Waste Management Plan for Scotland and the SDP *Main Issues Report*.

Recommendation

- 8 It is recommended that the Joint Committee
 - note the contents of this report; and
 - agree that the Structure Plan Manager continue liaison with SEPA and the Clyde Valley Waste Strategy Area Group to discuss the possible land-use planning implications of the choice of waste management treatment facilities for both municipal and non-municipal waste streams.

Dr. Grahame Buchan
Structure Plan Manager

Appendix 1

Waste Issue Report 2008 - Questions

Issue 1 - Are there any additional facilities which are required to achieve the new targets for recycling and composting?

- 1 A respondent suggested that there was a requirement for an additional facility to process kitchen/food waste in Blantyre. SEPA highlighted in their response that it would be reasonable to assume the need for additional facilities in light of the revised policy context. SEPA is currently carrying out “strategic waste management review” work on a national and regional basis to consider existing waste infrastructure capacity, projected capacity needs and the potential capacity gap. This study could potentially identify the need for certain key “one off” facilities e.g. plastics reprocessing, batteries processing facilities etc as well as residual treatment facilities. One respondent suggested the need for facilities to deal with kitchen waste e.g. in vessel and anaerobic digestion and for residual waste e.g. mechanical biological treatment and autoclaving.
- 2 SWWS highlighted in their response that additional facilities will be required to reach the EU Landfill Directive targets. The likelihood of delays to the construction of planned developments will impact more so on certain GCV authorities and so SWWS suggest that the GCV local authorities investigate interim and alternative solutions.

Issue 2 - Does the provision of such facilities have strategic or local significance?

- 3 SEPA in their response identified that whilst recycling centres to collect municipal waste may be of local significance, key processing/bulking up facilities and residual treatment facilities will be of strategic significance. Another respondent also highlighted that the provision of facilities will have both strategic and local significance.
- 4 SWWS highlight that facilities should be placed where best suited to meet the waste needs of GCV area. SWWS state that small scale facilities easily accessible to a number of authorities would be more beneficial than larger scale facilities which incur excessive haulage costs and increase haulage emission levels.

Issue 3 - Do you consider that the provision of smaller more efficient energy from waste plants such as combined heat and power plants or district heating, have strategic significance? If so, how should this be reflected in the SDP?

- 5 SEPA identified this as a strategic land use planning issue in terms of the wider long term development and regeneration of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area i.e. identifying sites for Energy from Waste (EfW) which can deliver this efficiency in terms of proximity to users of heat and power (whether industrial, commercial or housing) and equally ensuring that any new housing, commercial and industrial development is located close to potential heat sources. SEPA outlined that this may involve a network of small facilities or a few larger high efficiency facilities. In either case they highlight the SDP’s key role in providing suitable direction for Planners, developers and the public on potential sites and/or siting criteria. SEPA state that this remains a crucial land use planning issue given the volume of residual municipal waste that will require to be treated in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area and given that this is only a fraction of the total waste requiring treatment.

- 6 SWWS state that the SDP should look to make the development of these facilities a joined-up process, whereby location to waste and road infrastructure should be looked at along with the space and planning requirements of a facility and the suitability for a ready use of the heat/power, which initially will be most likely to be industrial usage and not domestic. A further respondent welcomed the provision of energy from waste plants as a welcome response to the need to meet both landfill diversion and energy needs.

Issue 4 - Do you have any suggestions for the potential sites for energy from waste plants where the efficiency of any facility can be maximised?

- 7 SEPA highlight that any sites for EfW plants should be close to potential users which will help to maximise efficiency by capitalising on the use of heat from the plants. As such locations close to or within new developments or urban regeneration areas may be suitable.
- 8 SWWS do not identify any sites for EfW plants but they do identify a requirement for further or alternative waste management facilities in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area up to 2030. SWWS state that the Joint Committee should publish a site selection report for the identification of future waste management and landfill facilities as long as it is understood that there will also be commercial sites and project plans that should be looked at in the whole in order to not duplicate treatment facility plans and to ensure a more balanced distribution of sites across the GCV area. SWWS state that such sites should be selected/appraised predominantly on the following four criteria:
- proximity to waste arisings;
 - road networks;
 - proximity to users of heat and power;
 - integration with other infrastructure.
- 9 Another respondent identified the sites outlined in the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Outline Case (SOC) as suitable for waste treatment facilities. Another respondent highlighted that a site to the east of Stirling Road at Dalnacouther, North Lanarkshire could offer potential to accommodate a future energy from waste facility (EfW).