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15th May 2009

Dear Steve

Response to JMWMS consultation – Bromsgrove District Council

This is the response from Bromsgrove District Council to the revised JMWMS following the Information evening for Members of Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council that was held on 27th April 2009. We will forward a copy of the full minutes to you when they are finalised next week.

Bromsgrove District Council is supportive of the new Strategy and its broad aims, especially with regards to the continued commitment to the principle of the Waste Hierarchy, the Core Service, recognition of the importance of Climate Change and the need to ensure value for money. However, we do have concerns regarding the residual waste options appraisal and some of the assumptions that have been used to rank/prioritise the options. Our main concerns are that:

1. a fictional location for the treatment facility had to be used in calculating transport distances and other impacts;
2. costs of the out of county solution seem to be at odds with the costs of constructing an in county treatment facility;
3. we appreciate that weightings were not allocated to the criteria but feel that this is something that should be considered to ensure that this reflects the local conditions in Worcestershire/Herefordshire and is robust.

We also feel that regional waste solutions have not been fully explored or considered, including work being undertaken by Advantage West Midlands on behalf of RIEP looking at treatment solutions on a regional basis. This affects the robustness of the residual options appraisal and the decision making process regarding the preferred residual treatment solution. We would request

that once a site/sites has been identified formally, then the options are re-evaluated using the known location(s) and its associated impacts and that the work carried out by RIEP on regional waste solutions is fully considered and incorporated into the residual options appraisal.

Additionally, once there is a firm proposal regarding the location of the site(s) and the type of facility to be constructed, further consultation on the proposal will be necessary, to ensure the process is robust.

In conclusion, until the location and nature of the treatment solution is confirmed and the residual options appraisal is reassessed as outlined above, Bromsgrove District Council will be unable to fully endorse the revised JMWMS.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Margaret Sherrey
Portfolio Holder Street Scene and Community
Representative on Member Waste Resource Management Forum