

Planning Policy Team
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottinghamshire
NG2 7QP

Our Ref: JAR-016-W
Date: 2nd October 2023

Submitted via the interactive consultation.

Dear Sir/Madam,

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT WASTE LOCAL PLAN

Introduction

Heatons have been instructed by Johnsons Aggregates and Recycling ('Johnsons'), to submit a formal representation on the draft plan. As a waste and recycling operator, Johnsons are an operator of three sites with one recycling centre located in Bunny, Nottinghamshire. This review of the Pre-Submission Draft Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan, also known as 'The Draft Plan', seeks to provide a representation to Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council, on behalf of Johnsons, in response to the draft plan.

Policy SP6 - Sustainable movement of Waste

As per the guidance note, as part of the reg 19 consultation, the question is to whether the plan / policy is sound and legally compliant.

Firstly, Johnsons have no comments to make as to whether the plan / policy is legally compliant, this representation is based on whether policy SP6 is considered 'sound', with 'sound' meaning: is the policy positively prepared; justified based on evidence and context; and effective in terms of appropriately meeting the needs and managing waste.

Policy SP6, sets out that the movement of Waste should be sustainable. The Policy states that's proposal should seek to minimise the distance of travel for waste. Part 2 of Policy SP6 states that where waste management proposals are likely to treat, manage or dispose of waste from areas outside Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, they will be permitted where they demonstrate that:

'The facility makes a significant contribution to the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy; or, [emphasis added]

There are no facilities or potential sites in more sustainable locations in relation to the anticipated source of the identified waste stream; or,

There are wider social, economic, or environmental sustainability benefits that clearly support the proposal.'

One point of clarity that is sought is what is meant by 'significant contribution' in terms of the movement of waste up the hierarchy? Whilst we agree the wording is appropriate for the policy itself, what constitutes a 'significant contribution' is not reflected in the policy justification creating a grey area. Johnsons always aim to promote as much waste up the hierarchy as they can and feel they make a huge contribution to waste management in the county. The Company are therefore keen for the term to be clarified to ensure that the policy accurately reflects the commercial nature of the waste industry.

Overall, Johnsons are pleased to see that Policy SP6 acknowledges the contracted nature of the waste industry. As alluded to in the paragraph 7.53, the waste business is a highly competitive, commercial business. By necessity waste businesses must bid on contracts a substantial distance away from their site given the commercial nature of the industry. That being said, different types of waste have a different economies of scale meaning some parts of the industry more competitive than others, which does not appear to be referenced in the policy justification. Subject to the definition / threshold of 'significant contribution' being reasonable, Policy SP6 would be a welcomed replacement to existing policy WCS12 as it is much more reflective of the nature of the industry.

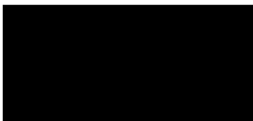
Conclusion

Subject to the threshold being appropriate and reasonable for a 'significant contribution' in relation to SP6, Johnsons would like to support the inclusion of Policy SP6 in the new Waste Local Plan. In order to be effective and positive prepared, it is important that the threshold of 'substantial contribution' is reasonable and clear. If the threshold is too high, the policy would restrict the existing sites too much, whereby they would not be able to compete in the commercially intense industry that waste management has become.

Johnsons therefore seek additional clarity on what constitutes a 'significant contribution' as to ensure the policy is positively prepared and effective. However, overall, Johnsons do support the inclusion and wording of Policy SP6.

We trust that these representations are of benefit to the council in refining the emerging Waste Local Plan and its associated evidence base. Should any matters require clarification we would be delighted to assist.'

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Callum Harrison.

Callum Harrison
Heatons