

Report to	Planning Committee
Date	13 June 2011
By	Head of Planning
Title of Report	Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Addendum Consultation document
Purpose of Report	To seek members' approval of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan draft 'Addendum Consultation' document for public consultation and to authorise that public consultation.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) note the summary of the Have Your Say consultation;**
 - 2) approve the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan draft 'Addendum Consultation' document for public consultation; and**
 - 3) to authorise that public consultation**
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 'Have Your Say' consultation on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan ('the Plan') was approved for public consultation on 14 February 2011. Consultation took place in February and March 2011 and following analysis of the consultation responses it has been identified that there is a need for additional public consultation to address some concerns raised.
- 1.2 This Report sets out a summary of the consultation responses, including the reasons why the additional consultation is required. It then outlines the content of the Addendum Consultation. The draft Addendum Consultation document is currently being finalised and will be circulated prior to the meeting.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the 'Have Your Say' consultation on the Plan the consultation outcomes have been analysed and are being summarised in a document. The summary document will set out the general themes and key issues that emerged in the responses, which will then be addressed in the evidence base and used in the preparation of the Plan.
- 2.2 An initial analysis of the comments received, and ongoing engagement with landowners and industry, has revealed the need to revisit two issues. First, the issue of supplying soft sand to the market; and secondly, defining the boundaries of three key mineral extraction sites which are being proposed for inclusion in the final Plan. These issues are both relevant to the South Down National Park Authority.

3. Summary of Responses to the 'Have Your Say' consultation

- 3.1 The report on the 'Have Your Say' consultation is being finalised. A major issue that has emerged is that the proposed soft sand sites in Ringwood Forest; Hythe, near Southampton and; the safeguarding at Bordon are insufficient to meet needs. The critical issue is the bulk of the proposed reserve is in the Ringwood Forest which is unlikely to be operational for some years. The industry raised concerns about over-reliance on sites in the south and west of Hampshire - which would not serve the north and east market areas with soft sand.

- 3.2 The vision for the Plan was not generally supported because it was felt that it did not fully address what minerals and waste planning could achieve, although over half of the responses agreed with the issues and challenges raised in the supporting text. There was general agreement about the approach to protecting Hampshire's environment and 60% of respondents agreed that development in the National Parks should be avoided unless there are exceptional reasons.
- 3.3 There was general agreement on the approach to maintaining Hampshire's communities, with the exception of the issue of community involvement in decision making where it was felt improvements could be made.
- 3.4 In relation to supporting Hampshire's economy there were differing views on whether the Plan would provide an adequate and steady supply of aggregates and the methodology for determining the requirement for land won sand and gravel was questioned.
- 3.5 There were also differing opinions on the suggested extension sites and potential new sand and gravel sites.
- 3.6 The approach to waste management provision was broadly supported with strong support for not providing for London's landfill requirements.

4. The Have Your Say - Addendum Consultation

- 4.1 As a result of the concerns over the supply of soft sand set out above, it is recommended that a focussed and short consultation be immediately undertaken. The consultation will suggest that an extension to the sand pit at Frith End, east of Kingsley and not within the National Park is the 'best' option. Further information is being sought from Hampshire County Council to justify this assessment, and this will be presented at the committee meeting. Comments on other site options, including an extension to Kingsley Sandpit, are invited.
- 4.2 Until a final analysis of all the options are undertaken after the public have made comments it is not possible to confirm or otherwise whether the Frith End site should be included in the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.
- 4.3 As part of the additional consultation a number of minor matters will be dealt with. The only one that affects the National Park is the an adjustment to the boundary of the suggested clay reserve at Selborne Brickworks. The adjustment reflects the boundary of the permission granted some years ago. An outline of the proposed additional consultation is attached (Appendix 1: Outline of Addendum Consultation) and full draft will be circulated before the meeting.

5. Resources

- 5.1 The costs to the SDNPA of contributing to the preparation of the Plan are set out in a separate report on joint working with the counties on minerals and waste plans.

6. Risk management

- 6.1 Public consultation on these specific issues and suggested approaches at this time will help minimise the risk of challenges to the Plan later in the process of preparation and reduce the risk of the Plan being found unsound.

7. Human Rights, Equalities, Health and Safety

- 7.1 There are not considered to be any human rights, equalities, or health and safety issues arising from this report.

8. External Consultees

- 8.1 None

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Appendices	Appendix 1: Outline Addendum Consultation
SDNPA Consultees	Head of Planning Senior Solicitor

Background Documents	Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: "Have your Say" consultation document: Report to Planning Committee 14 February 2011
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Appendix 1: Outline Addendum Consultation

Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan- ongoing consultation

Introduction

Hampshire County Council and the partner authorities are currently working with stakeholders to produce a new *Minerals & Waste Plan*. Consultees were given the opportunity during February and March 2011 to comment on suggested policy approaches for the Plan and the evidence gathered to date.

An initial analysis of the comments received, and ongoing engagement with landowners and industry, has revealed the need to revisit two issues, First, the issue of supplying soft sand to the market; and secondly, defining the boundaries of three key mineral extraction sites which are being proposed for inclusion in the final Plan. These issues are both relevant to the South Downs National Park Authority (see below).

Have Your Say on Planning for Hampshire's Minerals and Waste- Addendum 2011

It is proposed that an additional focused consultation period should take place between June and July 2011. The consultation will help formalise the otherwise ongoing engagement which is expected as part of the plan preparation process. It will represent a logical extension to the consultation undertaken earlier in the year. Unlike the event earlier in 2011, this 'addendum' consultation will focus strictly on those issues identified where particular local views are sought. Relevant Parish Councils will therefore be targeted as a means of engaging interested residents, with the opportunity for focused meetings to be held if considered necessary. Legislation requires that statutory consultees are also consulted.

The issues to be covered in the consultation document include the following which are of relevance to the South Downs National Park.

Soft sand supply

The initial consultation document (February 2011) suggested that the market's sand and gravel needs up to 2030 cannot be met by existing sites and extensions alone. Evidence shows the need to plan for new land-won capacity in Hampshire. Based on average sales over the past ten years, it is now calculated that Hampshire will need to plan for a total of 6.8 million tonnes of *soft sand* up to 2030. As soft sand reserves are much less prevalent than sharp sand and gravel, the opportunities to meet demand across Hampshire are very limited.

The initial consultation document (February 2011) suggested soft sand demand should be met by two new sites in the south and west Hampshire market areas. The industry has since raised major concerns about over-relying on these two sites to provide this critical soft sand resource. Notwithstanding the reliability of the two suggested sites, their location means the north and east Hampshire market areas would not be adequately served.

To provide some contingency it is proposed that other soft sand options are explored further. The industry has also urged reconsideration of the options available. The main soft sand resources other than the reserves already identified in Hampshire are in the Bordon – Kingsley area and Sherfield English, west of Romsey. The initial consultation document did identify the opportunity offered by 'prior extraction' of soft sand resources within the Whitehill-Bordon Eco Town. These resources would only be safeguarded against sterilisation however, and should not be relied upon to meet market demand.

An assessment of the suitability of potential soft sand extraction sites nominated by interested landowners and operators has been undertaken. The evidence suggests the best option is:

an extension, known as Grooms Farm D, at Frith End Quarry, Sleaford.

It is proposed that this site option is included in the addendum consultation as a 'suggested' site to enable local residents and other stakeholders to have their say. However, comments are also invited on the rejected options which are:

1. extensions, known as Grooms Farm C and E, at Frith End Quarry, Sleaford
2. Malthouse and Osborne Farms, Sleaford
3. Kingley Quarry Extension
4. Dunwood Nuseries, Sherfield English
5. Posthill Farm, Sherfield English
6. Glebe Farm, Sherfield English

Site boundary- Selborne area for brick-making clay

The initial consultation document (February 2011) proposed a new clay extraction site at Selborne Brickworks. The site is partially in the National Park. The precise boundary of the site has since been clarified to coincide with a former permission that has lapsed. Thus it is prudent to consult those who may be affected. Oakhanger Parish Council will also be asked to comment on this minor amendment to the area boundary.

Further information

Further details, including an outline of the proposed content of the consultation document (addendum) will be available before the 13 June.

Maps showing the suggested minerals sites which will feature in the consultation document will be available from 1 June.