

Report to	Planning Committee
Date	14 February 2011
By	Head of Planning
Title of Report	Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: "Have Your Say" consultation document
Purpose of Report	To seek members' approval of the draft "Have Your Say" document for public consultation and to authorise that public consultation

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to approve the draft "Have Your Say" document for public consultation and to authorise that public consultation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In November last year a report was presented to the Planning Committee explaining the proposed process, mechanism and timetable for the preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This new development plan document will include revised and updated policies from the currently adopted Core Strategy, extend the plan period to 2030, and include sites for minerals and waste development.
- 1.2 The Committee approved this process, mechanism and timetable and agreed that the South Downs National Park Authority should be a formal partner as from 1st April 2011 in the preparation of the Plan together with Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and the New Forest National Park Authority (although expressed some concerns about the principles being proposed).
- 1.3 The proposed timetable provided for extended community engagement commencing in December 2010, with the statutory options consultation proposed for January to March 2011. This consultation is to be based on a document setting out the issues and suggested approaches on minerals and waste development provision, based on a number of options assessed in the evidence base for the Plan. It poses a number of questions aimed to elicit further information and support or otherwise of the suggested approaches. This document is known as the "Have Your Say" document. This is not a consultation on the draft plan; the outcomes from this consultation will inform the subsequent preparation of the Plan itself.
- 1.4 There has been a slight delay in getting this process underway, but, subject to the approval of the Committee to the draft document, the public consultation process will commence on 17 February and run until 24 March.
- 1.5 In order to expedite matters and keep the public consultation timetable on track, a copy of the draft consultation document, prepared by Hampshire County Council officers with assistance and input from officers of the other partner authorities, has been circulated to members of the Committee for consideration and comment prior to this meeting. All comments received by the LDF Policy Lead will have been passed to Hampshire County Council as principal authors of the document. An update on the latest version of the document will be reported at the Committee meeting.

2. The “Have Your Say” Consultation Document

- 2.1 The consultation document sets out comprehensively the suggested approach to minerals and waste development in Hampshire to 2030, but it does not set out any firm or agreed policies.
- 2.2 The document emphasises the need to protect Hampshire’s high quality environment, suggesting that significant minerals and waste development should not take place in the New Forest or South Downs National Parks, or in the three AONBs within the county, unless there are exceptional reasons for this to occur, any negative impacts are reduced to a minimum and the need for the development outweighs any residual impact.
- 2.3 The document also highlights the need to maintain Hampshire’s communities, both urban and rural, by avoiding or minimising the potential adverse effects associated with minerals and waste developments.
- 2.4 However, it also explains the need for minerals and waste development to support economic development within the county; minerals provide the materials for the maintenance and building of roads, homes etc and waste infrastructure supports the sustainable management of waste from homes and businesses.
- 2.5 The document includes sections based around these three themes. It covers planning policy elements and contains details of suggested potential sites for minerals and waste development. The document poses nearly 60 questions to elicit the views of consultees.

3. Next steps

- 3.1 During the consultation period several opportunities for public engagement are planned including a Minerals event and a Waste Management event in Winchester and three local area events across the County. Additionally, County Council and possibly other officers will endeavour to meet with community representatives where possible, although resources are limited. An on-line response facility is being promoted as the most efficient way to respond although letters and emails are also acceptable. Hampshire County Council will analyse and assess the submitted comments with assistance from the other partner authorities.
- 3.2 The County Council has undertaken to keep all the partners informed throughout the process. All comments received will be incorporated into a summary document which will be available to view on-line as soon as possible after all the responses have been processed.
- 3.3 A report on the issues raised during the consultation will be presented to the Planning Committee in due course, as will a report seeking approval of a draft Plan for pre-submission public consultation later this year. It is anticipated that the Plan will be submitted to the Government for examination early in 2012 with adoption by the partner authorities later that year.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The consultation document is the first public stage in the preparation of the new Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. It sets out the issues, and suggested approach to minerals and waste development in the county and invites stakeholders to comment thereon. It does not set out any firm or agreed policies – that will be for later consideration in the light of this consultation exercise.
- 4.2 The Committee is therefore recommended to approve the “Have Your Say” document for public consultation and to authorise that public consultation.

5. Resource implications

- 5.1 Attendance at any of the planned or other arranged events will require officer and/or member time. A potential financial contribution from the National Park Authority to the costs of the preparation of the Plan is likely to be expected, but any costs incurred in this process will be met from the planning policy budget.

6. Risk management

- 6.1 The main risk identified with the proposed process is the production of a Minerals and Waste Plan that is not acceptable to the National Park Authority. The engagement of the National Park Authority in this process as a partner minimises that risk. The approval of the consultation document itself does not commit the National Park Authority to any particular course of action at this stage.
- 6.2 Public consultation on the 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 to be 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	None
SDNPA Consultees	Senior Solicitor.