

Report to	Planning Committee
Date	10 August 2017
By	Director of Planning
Title of Report	Review of the East Sussex Joint Waste & Minerals Local Plan
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to advise the Planning Committee of the next steps in the review of the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan which is primarily intended to address a specific identified issue relating to the supply of minerals needed to support new development and economic growth in the Plan Area.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:-

- 1. Note the purpose and proposed timetable for the review of the Waste and Minerals Local Plan; and**
- 2. Note that a review will be initiated, to commence with a consultation inviting representations about its scope and a 'call for minerals sites'**

I. Context and Background Information

- I.1 The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), together with its partner authorities East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, have adopted a Waste and Minerals Local Plan comprised of two documents – the Waste and Minerals Plan (WMP, adopted 2013) and Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (WMSP, adopted 2017). These contain planning policies used in the determination of planning applications for waste management and minerals extraction in the Plan Area. At its meeting 31 January 2017 the Authority committed itself to work in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council to undertake an early review of the joint Waste and Minerals Plan. The report outlines the next steps in this process.
- I.2 The NPPF (Paragraph 145) sets out how Minerals Planning Authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates to support the construction of new development. Amongst other requirements, a landbank of at least 7 years should be maintained for sand and gravel (a key element of 'aggregate'). A landbank is defined as a reserve of unworked minerals for which planning permission has been granted. The landbank can be measured in years using the expected length of time it will take for the permitted reserves to be extracted.
- I.3 The WMP states that, at expected rates of extraction, existing planning permissions were sufficient to maintain a 7 year landbank for the extraction of sand and gravel throughout the Plan Period to 2026. No additional sites for sand and gravel extraction are therefore allocated in the Local Plan.
- I.4 However, this issue was considered during the examination of the WMSP in August 2016, where evidence was provided indicating that the landbank of sand and gravel is being eroded four times as quickly as expected. At this rate of extraction the landbank is less than 7 years and will be exhausted well before the end of the Plan Period.

- 1.5 Consequently, in his report, the examining Inspector indicated that a review of the minerals policies within the WMP including consideration of the allocation of additional extraction sites is required, as without further planning permissions being granted the workable reserves will soon be depleted at current rates of production.
- 1.6 In line with the Authority's decision on the 31 January 2017 it is considered necessary to commence the review with a 'call for minerals sites'. The review will be undertaken as a joint project with East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and the SDNPA. This will ensure that the planning policy framework for waste and minerals remains up-to-date and compliant with national policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 1.7 The call for sites will allow minerals operators to put forward sites for consideration for inclusion in the revised Local Plan as allocated sites for future minerals extraction. The future contribution of recycled aggregate and marine-won aggregate (imported through ports in the Plan Area, including Shoreham) will also be considered.
- 1.8 The preparation of local plans must involve inviting representations about what the plan ought to contain. An initial scoping consultation will therefore also invite representations on whether there are any other aspects of the Local Plan which may need to be re-examined. Representors would need to provide supporting evidence to justify the need for a review of other aspects of the Plan. It is considered unlikely that waste policies will need reviewing or that additional waste sites will be required as this would also have come to light during the recent Sites Plan examination.
- 1.9 The proposed timetable for the partial review is as follows:
- Call for Sites/Scoping (Regulation 18): Summer & Autumn 2017
 - Draft Plan Consultation (Regulation 18): Spring 2018
 - Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 19): Autumn & Winter 2018
 - Submission to Secretary of State for public examination: Early 2019
 - Adoption: Summer 2019

The timetable is reflected in the revised South Downs Local Development Scheme (Fourth Revision) which is the subject of another paper at Planning Committee.

2. Alternative Options and Consultation

- 2.1 The need for a review was identified through evidence presented by external stakeholders during the public examination of the WMSP. Public consultation will occur on the scope of the review should the recommendation in this report be approved.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The review of the East Sussex Joint Waste and Minerals Local Plan is required to determine how the Plan can continue to provide for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates taking into account future demand and the contribution of different supply options.

4. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes; it is expected that Planning Committee and National Park Authority will be required to agree future public consultations in line with the Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement as appropriate.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Yes; it is anticipated that that the cost of officer time, production of documents and consultations associated to the recommendations in this report will be funded from existing budgets but there will be some additional costs for example that associated with a future Examination in Public.

Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Due regard has been taken to the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010. No impact has been identified in respect of this decision. An Equality Impact Assessment will be prepared for the whole Local Plan.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	The emerging policies will be considered in light of statute and case law and any interference with an individual's human rights will be considered.
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy: 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly	A sustainability appraisal will be prepared to inform the preparation of the Local Plan.

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Appendices None
SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive Officer; Legal Services; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Director of Planning; Planning Policy Manager; Director of Countryside Policy & Management
External Consultees None
Background Documents Waste and Minerals Plan (2013)
Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (2017)
Local Aggregate Assessment (2016)
[East Sussex County Council Waste & Minerals Plans](#)
[East Sussex County Council Waste and Minerals Monitoring Reports](#)

