

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Information Report

Decision Maker:	Regulatory Committee
Date:	17 March 2021
Title:	2020 Review of Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan and Update
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Regulatory Committee on the 2020 Review of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan and the planned Partial Update.

Recommendation

2. That the contents of this report are noted.

Executive Summary

3. The 2020 Review of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan has been completed. The Review followed a similar method to the 2018 Review but also looked at compliance of the Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework which has been subject to updates in recent years.
4. The Review concluded that parts of the Plan would benefit from a “refresh” to ensure compliance and an investigation into provision of minerals and waste management. In addition, it was considered that the Vision could be updated to take into account climate change and the 2050 recommendations.
5. A revised Development Scheme has been prepared which outlines the timetable and programme for a partial update of the Plan.
6. The 2020 Review and the Development Scheme were recently approved by Full Council. The partner Authorities will be seeking approval during March 2021.

Background

7. The Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (HWMP) was adopted in 2013. The Plan was prepared in partnership with Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities. The Plan covers the period up to 2030.
8. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Local Plans to be reviewed at least every five years. The HWMP was reviewed in

2018. The 2018 Review concluded that the Plan was still effective but that there were some issues that needed continual monitoring. Hampshire County Council approved the 2018 Review on 29th November 2018 and committed to undertaking a Review Workshop and a further review in 2020.

9. The Review Workshop was held on 25th September 2019 and included minerals and waste operators, neighbouring minerals and waste planning authorities, districts and boroughs and Members. The issues covered included the changing policy landscape such as the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Waste and Resources Strategy as well as presentations on biodiversity net gain, soft sand supply and marine aggregates.
10. The 2020 Review of the HMWP was completed in October 2020.

2020 HMWP Review – outcomes

Development management

11. The Review of the policies follows the same process as undertaken in 2018. In relation to the Development Management (DM) policies, very little has changed since 2018 and based on the monitoring data, the policies are generally still effective. The 2020 Review has highlighted that some of the DM policies need to be refreshed to ensure they align with the NPPF revisions, for example regarding biodiversity net gain and the Green Belt.

Minerals

12. The HMWP is required to provide a steady and adequate supply of aggregate. The Landbank should be a minimum 7-years and this has not been achieved since 2014/15 (based on the Local Requirement rate of 1.56 million tonnes per annum). However, sites are coming forward and being permitted. It is likely the Local Requirement set in 2012 should be updated but a revised figure will need to take into account the current pandemic, recession but also the Government's drive for housing and infrastructure.
13. There is a recognised regional soft sand supply issue with neighbouring authorities struggling to make suitable provision. Consideration will need to be given to what suitable level of supply can be awarded in Hampshire taking into account environmental and landscape designations.
14. Recycled and secondary aggregate production and capacity is declining. The causes and implications of this will need to be explored in more detail.
15. The capacity at the wharves is far lower than initially forecast and more investigation is required into current and future capacity across the Plan area and how this links to marine aggregate provision on the Isle of Wight.

Waste

16. The outcomes of the Waste & Resources Strategy are not yet known and how this will impact the HMWP.

17. The South East Waste Planning Advisory Group have been working collectively to agree methodologies to determine waste management requirements and gaps. These will need to be applied to the Hampshire figures.
18. The 2018 Review outlined that capacity was being met but that there was a focus on recovery rather than recycling which does not align with the waste hierarchy. It is not yet known if this remains the case, but there is a recognised gap in how this translates to infrastructure on the ground. As such, a Waste Strategy is proposed to support the HMWP which will assist in ensuring suitable infrastructure is considered in major development schemes and allows for a clear message on planning consultations.

Vision

19. The Vision in the HMWP was outlined in generic terms to ensure that the Plan was future proofed. However, its relevance in current times needs to be explored, taking into account climate change and the 2050 Vision work (outlined in more detail below).

Implementation & Monitoring

20. Experience of putting the Plan into practice has highlighted that the implementation of the policies would benefit from some clarification.
21. It is also clear that an overview of the monitoring indicators should be undertaken to ensure that the measures and targets are effective.

Plan Update

22. As already highlighted, several the DM policies require a refresh to ensure their compliance with the NPPF as it currently stand.
23. In addition to this, both the minerals and waste provision forecasts require updating. As this work is yet to be carried out, it is not clear what impact this will have on the need for further allocations.
24. In June 2019, Hampshire County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency¹. The HMWP is listed in the Climate Change Strategy as being a support for managing Hampshire's emissions and resilience. Whilst the HMWP includes Policy 2 'Climate change – mitigation and adaptation', this is not currently implemented sufficiently. The Climate Change Act also requires Local Plans to monitor carbon emissions. There is insufficient information on the current baseline but equally, there insufficient measures to monitor the performance of the Plan on its carbon impact.
25. The Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry ran from May 2018 to October 2019 and explored future prosperity, quality of life, and protection and enhancement of the character and environment of Hampshire. The HMWP currently looks to guide minerals and waste decision-making up to 2030. As such, there is a need to align the HMWP with the Hampshire 2050 Vision recommendations.

26. In July 2020, the Government launched the Planning for the Future consultation which looks to overhaul the current planning system. The consultation closed on 29th October 2020 and the proposals, as they stand, would have fundamental impact on the HMWP. It is not yet clear how the proposed zonal system would apply to minerals and waste, but other proposals would be directly relevant including removal of DM policies which would be set out in the NPPF, a 30-month limit on plan-making (with sanctions for those not within the timescales), removal of the Duty to Cooperate and changes to the examination of Plans as well as proposed changes to the current Sustainability Appraisal process.
27. Taking these points into account, the need for a partial update to the HMWP is clear and consideration will need to be given to the plan period.

Next Steps

28. The Council recommended to approve the 2020 Review at Cabinet and Full Council in February. Alongside the 2020 Review, the Council approved an updated Minerals & Waste Local Development Scheme which sets out a timetable for a Plan update. The plan-making partners will be taking decisions on the Review and Development Scheme during March 2021.
29. The timetable has been set to be no longer than 30 months to align with the proposals set out in the NPPF consultation update.
30. It is anticipated that the first public engagement will commence with a Draft Plan consultation during Autumn 2021 following the County elections. A request for mineral and waste site nominations will be made in Spring 2021.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None