

Report to: **Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**  
Date: **7 November 2005**  
Report By: **Director of Transport and Environment**  
Title of Report: **Revision of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme**  
Purpose of Report: **To gain approval of proposed revisions to the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, prior to submission to the First Secretary of State.**

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. To approve the Revisions of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.**
  - 2. To authorise the Director of Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member, to finalise any drafting changes arising from the Government's consideration of the Revisions of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and to resolve to bring the revised Scheme into effect.**
- 
- 

**1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme is a report on the County Council's proposed programme of work on planning policy documents over the period September 2004 to September 2007. As such there is little cost involved in producing the Scheme document. There is budget provision for 2005/06 for overall work on the Waste Local Plan and the Minerals Development Framework. The most significant new project in future years will be the Waste Development Framework documents required to review and replace the Waste Local Plan. The County Council provides for this work through the reconciling policy and resources process with only provisional budgets at this stage.

1.2 It is proposed by the Government that assessment of Planning Delivery Grant awards from 2006/7 will be partly awarded on performance against milestones in the Development Scheme. These changes could reduce the award to the Council but we would wish to argue against this on the basis that the Scheme changes were brought about by circumstances beyond the Council's control.

**2. Supporting Information**

2.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the County Council is required to prepare a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. The Scheme has to indicate the planning documents that the Council will prepare in the next three years and their proposed timetable. The Scheme assists the programming of Public Examinations and allows the public to know when and at what stage they can be involved in the plan making process.

2.2 Cabinet approved the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme on 24 November 2004 and with some minor alterations requested by the Government Office, the Scheme was brought into effect in February 2005.

2.3 The Scheme was initially prepared a year ago and attempted to be robust in predicting the future work programme over the three years. The Risk Assessment submitted with the Scheme identified at least two high impact risks – firstly competition for resources between the Waste Local Plan and the Minerals Development Framework, and, secondly a potential gap in resources or skills if any of the current staff were to leave.

2.4 The programme for the Waste Local Plan was predicated on a certain assumption about the level of representations in response to the Proposed Modifications in Spring 2005. The level of public comment turned out to be higher. The County Council, working with

Brighton & Hove City Council, has had to divert much of the available staff resources into processing these comments in order to maintain the proposed programme for the Waste Local Plan.

2.5 In addition, there have been considerable staff losses with all individuals in the Waste Local Plan Project Team leaving to undertake higher and new career opportunities. It has not proved possible to recruit experienced staff and agency staff/consultants have been partly used to overcome some of the staffing difficulties. Some appointments have been made, but there is still one post which has not been filled. Other authorities in the South East are experiencing similar recruitment issues.

2.6 Whilst the officers have actively managed to overcome these issues, the two factors inevitably have affected the achievement of programme targets on the other documents, apart from the Waste Local Plan, identified in the Scheme. Revisions to those programmes are now proposed to be submitted to Government.

2.7 The proposed Revisions are included as Appendix 1 to this report. This provides a revised Schedule of all the proposed Development Documents in the Scheme as well as updated profiles for the Minerals Development Plan Document and Proposals Map, the Statement of Community Involvement, and the Construction and Demolition Waste Supplementary Planning Document (jointly prepared with Brighton and Hove City Council).

### **3. Comments/Appraisal**

3.1 It has been necessary to re-programme the documents by between a 6 months and 8 months delay. It is hoped that the latest programme changes are robust and will be fulfilled, but it must be noted that progress is still subject to potential high risk impacts related to any further changes to the Waste Local Plan timetable through future decisions or legal challenges and staff recruitment/retention issues.

3.2 The proposed programme changes have been discussed informally with Brighton & Hove City Council and with the Planning Inspectorate and their response will be reported orally.

3.3 When the revised Scheme is finally brought into effect, copies will be made available for inspection at County Hall, the website will be updated with the changes and copies of the revised scheme will be forwarded to the District Councils.

### **4. Environmental Issues**

4.1 Section 39(2) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act requires that local authorities must undertake the production of Development Plan Documents "with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development".

### **5. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

5.1 The County Council needs to keep its Minerals and Waste Development Scheme up to date. The County Council has had to alter the programme for three planning documents because of the need to divert resources to completing the Waste Local Plan, and, because of staff shortages. The revised details should be submitted to Government and, with any necessary changes, be brought into effect.

BOB WILKINS

Director of Transport and Environment

Contact Officer: Tony Cook Tel. No. 01273 481653

Local Member(s): All

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme – Sept 2004 – Sept 2005 (February 2005)

Revisions to Minerals & Waste Development Scheme.