

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	5 December 2005
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report
Purpose of Report	To seek the Lead Member's agreement to submit the Annual Monitoring report to GOSE.

RECOMMENDATION

To endorse the submission of the Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) subject to his clearance of the final draft document.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The main input is of officer time and a sum in the order of about £1,000 for printing the document. The cost is being met from the Minerals Development Framework budget. The submission of the AMR by the end of December 2006 and progress on policy documents against the milestones in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme will be part of the assessment for award of Planning Delivery Grant in 2006/7.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The County Council, as a Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). This is the first AMR to be produced under the new regulations. It monitors:

- the implementation of policies in the adopted Minerals Local Plan (MLP) and the draft Waste Local Plan (WLP) for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005; and
- progress on producing the minerals and waste Development Plan policy documents set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

2.2 The development of the AMR is still in progress but the draft executive summary is attached. The AMR has to be submitted to GOSE by the end of December and submission will be subject to clearance of the final document by the Lead Member.

2.3 The Lead Member will be aware that he has agreed some changes to the programme and milestone dates set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. This was necessary because of the priority that had to be given to dealing with a large volume of representations on the Waste Local Plan, which was at the expense of progress on the Statement of Community Involvement, the Minerals Development Framework and the Construction & Demolition Waste Supplementary Planning Document. The Waste Local Plan has been progressed towards adoption and staffing vacancies have been addressed. Progress is now being made and maintained on these Development Plan Documents to the revised timetables.

2.4 National Core Indicators (NCI) are set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) to be used for the monitoring exercise. They allow for the measurement of quantifiable activities directly relating to, and as a consequence of planning policies.

2.5 Some key points from monitoring the implementation of policies in the MLP are:

- permitted aggregate reserves at Novington Sandpit, and at Scotney and Wall Farms are more than sufficient to meet the East Sussex share of the regional requirement set out in Minerals Planning Guidance note MPG6; however,
- the actual demand for extraction of aggregates has been well below the requirement figure; and
- there has been an increase in import of both marine dredged and crushed rock aggregates through ports in East Sussex.

2.6 A considerable difficulty in monitoring the implementation of policies in the MLP is the lack of availability of information, owing mainly to commercial confidentiality issues. In particular, it is difficult to obtain an accurate assessment of the production of non-aggregate minerals.

2.7 The WLP is not yet finalised but the councils are being recommended to move to adopt the plan. The AMR will set out trends in waste production and examine the availability of waste management and disposal facilities. Planning permissions have been granted for plasterboard recycling at the British Gypsum facility at Mountfield and for increased composting at the Pebsham Landfill Site. Planning applications have been submitted by the contractor Onyx for three new facilities in East Sussex to manage municipal waste, which if granted permission will assist in meeting recycling, composting and recovery targets.

2.8 As with the MLP, there is some difficulty in obtaining accurate statistics of waste arisings, particularly for commercial and industrial waste. Information is provided from operators' "waste returns" but the waste may enter several waste facilities (e.g. for sorting, for bulking up) before it is finally recovered or disposed of. The Environment Agency has improved the accuracy of the information.

3. Environmental Issues

3.1 The purpose of the planning policy documents referred to in the AMR is to achieve development which is more sustainable and the AMR process assists in measuring the extent to which that objective is being achieved.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 As a Planning Authority the Council has to meet the new statutory requirement to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report about its waste and minerals planning policy documents. A draft AMR has been prepared, which has to be submitted via the government office by the end of December.

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Director of Transport and Environment

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Local member(s): All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Minerals Local Plan.
Waste Local Plan.
Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.

MINERALS AND WASTE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2004-5

DRAFT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

East Sussex County Council as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (P&CPA) to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). This is the first AMR to be produced under the new regulations. It monitors the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) and the Waste Local Plan (WLP) for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005, and progress on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) since the commencement of the P&CPA (September 2004).

MONITORING THE PRODUCTION OF MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS

A revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, which sets out the programme for producing Minerals and Waste Development Documents, has been submitted to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE). The large number of representations on the Waste Local Plan (WLP) Proposed Modifications 2005 and the need to give the WLP priority, combined with staffing vacancies, has caused slippage on other documents. The revised M&WDS sets out new timetables and milestones. Work on the:

- Statement of Community Involvement;
- Construction & Demolition Waste Supplementary Planning Document;
- Minerals Development Framework; and
- proposed Waste Development Framework;

is the target dates in the revised M&WDS.

The County Council's Cabinet and Brighton & Hove City Council's Policy & Resources Committee have both agreed to advise their full Council meetings in December to move to adopt the joint Waste Local Plan. This accords with the agreed programme.

MONITORING THE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLANS

The AMR monitors policies in the draft WLP and adopted MLP. National Core Indicators (NCI) are set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) to be used for the monitoring exercise. They allow for the measurement of quantifiable activities directly relating to, and as a consequence of planning policies.

There are four NCI's for minerals and waste, the results of each are listed below. Two Contextual Indicators (CI) have been developed owing to the amount of primary land-won material landed at wharves in East Sussex from elsewhere and the amount of marine dredged aggregate landed in East Sussex. Furthermore East Sussex produces a number of non-aggregate minerals – chalk, clay, gypsum and hydrocarbons (exploratory).

- production figures for **primary land won aggregates** (NCI 5a) are confidential, however, in terms of the regional requirement ("apportionment") on East Sussex, the reserve figures in 2004 were met but actual production was less than the 10,000 tonne apportionment figure;
- information on the production of **secondary/recycled aggregates** (NCI 5b) is limited, because it is a new area of research. At present the only form of monitoring available is to assess the number of planning applications for facilities to process or utilise materials and to attempt assessment of the amounts of material processed. It is proposed in future to have a procedure to request data from operators. However there is no obligation for them to produce this information;

- figures for **aggregate imports and marine dredged material** (C1a) are only available between 1997-2003. These show an overall increase in aggregate imports. The expectation for the future is that imports of aggregate materials will continue to be the main source of consumption in East Sussex;
- figures for **extraction of (& employment in) non-aggregate minerals** (C1b) show the relatively stable nature of employment in the non-aggregate minerals in East Sussex. Data regarding clay extraction is limited, because of the confidentiality of figures in order to protect the small number of clay operators. The information available shows a stable nature of clay production;
- there is only one operational **chalk** quarry in East Sussex and there is very limited data on current chalk production. There is one site for **gypsum** mining at Mountfield with approximately 30 years of reserves remaining;
- the only significant **planning permissions for waste** operations granted in the monitoring period (NCI6a) are for recycling up to 58,000 tonnes of plasterboard at the British Gypsum site at Mountfield and the continuation of green waste recycling, and an increase in composting at the Pebsham Landfill site. The contractor Onyx has submitted three applications for facilities to manage municipal waste;
- there was a decrease in municipal waste arisings (NCI 6b) in 2003/2004 compared to 2002/2003. There are annual fluctuations in recorded municipal waste arising, however, the general trend forecast is for arisings to continue to increase. Recycling/composting targets were exceeded in 2004/2005 by 6%.

The AMR includes a Proposed Monitoring Framework for the Minerals Development Plan Document (MDPD) to be used as a tool for assessing objectives against local indicators and national/regional targets. Future AMR's will include a Proposed Monitoring Framework for the Waste Development Plan Document (WDPD).

One of the key findings of the AMR is the lack of available figures for the monitoring. This is due mainly to the confidential nature of the information and the lack of procedures in place for collecting information from operators. In addition there is no obligation for operators to give information. Work for producing future AMRs will include a system for requesting this information and also to monitor future relevant planning permissions.