

# Waste and Minerals Local Plan - Annual Monitoring Report 2015 - 16

# 1 Executive Summary

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### Introduction

**1.1** East Sussex County Council, as a Waste and Minerals Planning Authority, provides planning policies for waste management and minerals production. Current policies are contained in the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan, and saved policies within the Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan. The Council is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, to monitor implementation of these policies and partly does this by producing an annual Waste & Minerals Monitoring Report. The content of Monitoring Reports is prescribed by the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. This Monitoring Report covers the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Monitoring Reports from previous years can be found on our website [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk).

### Key Findings of 2015/16

**1.2** Below are the key findings of the East Sussex Waste and Minerals Monitoring Report 2015/16:

#### *Progress on the Waste & Minerals Local Plan*

**1.3** Following the adoption of the Waste and Minerals Plan in February 2013, East Sussex County Council working jointly with the South Downs National Park Authority and Brighton & Hove City Council are preparing a Waste and Minerals Sites Plan. Between 4 July and 15 September 2013 a Call for Sites was undertaken. This consultation also asked for comment on the proposed content of the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan. A Draft Plan was subsequently prepared and a public consultation followed between 4 July and 5 September 2014. A pre-submission consultation began on 28 October 2015 and closed on 23 December 2015. The Plan was submitted to Government on 14 April 2016 which commenced a Public Examination. Public Hearings were held between 2 and 4 August. The Inspector issued his report on 7 November 2016 which found the Plan, subject to a number of Main Modifications, both 'sound' and legally compliant. The Authorities will consider adoption of the Plan early 2017.

#### *Duty to Co-operate*

**1.4** East Sussex County Council continues to work jointly with the South Downs National Park and Brighton & Hove City Council preparing the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan. The preparation of this Plan has involved working closely with the Districts and Boroughs within East Sussex. The Authorities actively participate in regional fora such as the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group and the South East England Aggregates Working Party. The Authorities published an updated Duty to Cooperate Statement for the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan in March 2016.

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## *Providing for Waste*

**1.5** A total of 380,000 tonnes of Local Authority Collected Waste was managed in 2015/16 which is an increase of 15,000 tonnes from 2014/15. 40% of this waste was recycled (including composted) which is below the 2015/16 WMP target of 45%, but does represent an increase from the 2014/15 outturn of 38%. The review of the Commercial & Industrial Waste arisings has been updated with 2015 data, preliminary results indicate a significant reduction in waste arisings during the recession, but these have now returned to pre-recession levels. No new information relating to Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste is available. The amount of Local Authority Collected Waste and Commercial & Industrial Waste being sent to landfill fell from 58,000 tonnes in 2014 to 36,000 in 2015. The proportion of Local Authority Collected Waste that was recycled, composted or recovered has decreased from 97% in 2014/15 to 95% in 2015/16. The Waste and Minerals Plan target for recovery for 2015/16 (98%) was not achieved.

**1.6** A total of 20,500 tpa recycling capacity, 49,500 tpa construction, demolition and excavation waste (CDEW) recycling/recovery capacity was permitted (granted planning permission) in 2015/16. The Waste and Minerals Plan 2015/16 target for recovery and recycling capacity provision has been met.

## *Providing for Minerals*

**1.7** The County Council has adopted the fourth (2016) Local Aggregate Assessment for East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove. This finds that aggregate supply to the Plan Area continues to be heavily dependent on imports by road and sea (and rail to a lesser extent), with some extraction of land-won sand and gravel in the east of the county. Available data also indicates production of aggregates in 2014 and 2015 continues to be significantly higher than the anticipated rate.

**1.8** The NPPF requires that the LAA considers all supply options (land-won, marine, secondary and recycled material), and be based on a rolling average of 10 years sales data and other relevant local information. Previous LAAs did not accept that the past 10 years sales data should be used as forecast of the demand for aggregates in our Plan Area as it is too volatile. Instead the LAAs used the Apportionment figure in the Adopted WMP as a surrogate figure. The Authorities have been committed to closely monitoring the situation in relation to any decision to review the minerals policy in the Adopted WMP.

**1.9** During the Waste and Minerals Site Plan Hearings in August 2016, the supply of aggregates was a matter considered by the Inspector, arising from a representation proposing an extension to Lydd Quarry. This was put forward on the basis that there would be insufficient reserves to cover the Plan period to 2026. Whilst the Authorities did not accept the objector's position, they did commit to re-examining the situation, with the benefit of the new survey data and any new details on future demand. This information would enable a review of the adopted

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minerals policies and in particular to assess the future contribution from landwon aggregates. The Inspector's report endorsed the need for the policy review to commence as soon as possible. This position is reflected in the draft 2016 LAA.

**1.10** Data on secondary aggregates production and consumption is limited. The County Council will endeavour to collect relevant data on secondary and recycled aggregates in advance of next year's AMR.

**1.11** Clay and gypsum continued to be extracted at levels that support brick and tile production, plasterboard and cement production; it continues to be extracted at the levels in accordance with policy.

## *Overarching Policies*

**1.12** At this time there is insufficient data to effectively judge the performance of these policies since the Waste and Minerals Plan was adopted in February 2013.

## *Development Management Policies*

**1.13** At this time there is insufficient data to effectively judge the performance of these policies since the Waste and Minerals Plan was adopted in February 2013.

## *Enforcement*

**1.14** The number of cases outstanding has remained historically low albeit increasing, with the caseload standing at 18 in the third quarter of 2016. This remains well below the peak in 2007.<sup>(1)</sup>

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1 The quarters referred to are calendar quarters.