

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **22 September 2015**

By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title: **East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan – Regulation 19 Consultation**

Purpose: **To report to Cabinet on progress with the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan and seek their approval for the public consultation on the Proposed Submission Version of the Plan.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) note progress on the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan;**
 - (2) agree, subject to the endorsement of Brighton & Hove City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority, that the Draft Proposed Submission Waste and Minerals Sites Plan, attached as Appendix 1, is published for 8 weeks public consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; and**
 - (3) authorise the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to make, if necessary, minor changes to the document arising from any views of the City Council and National Park Authority.**
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1. Background Information

1.1 The Waste and Minerals Plan (WMP) was adopted by the County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in February 2013. The Plan set out the Authorities' planning policy for waste and minerals development in the Plan Area. It included ambitious targets for diverting 98% of all waste from landfill by 2020/21 and proposed that the Plan be net self-sufficient in waste management capacity. In order to achieve this, additional recycling and recovery facilities are required for the Plan period up to 2026. The WMP did not identify any specific sites but saved certain previous site allocations.

1.2 The Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (WMSP) has been prepared to provide spatial guidance on locations that would satisfy the requirements for waste facilities identified in the WMP. A 'Call for Sites' was carried out in Summer/Autumn 2013, whereby waste operators, agents, landowners and other individuals were invited to propose sites for consideration as part of the site selection process. This was carried out simultaneously with an open invitation for comments on what the WMSP ought to include. Detailed appraisal work was then undertaken on the location possibilities for waste facilities and other matters.

1.3 Public consultation on a draft WMSP was carried out over nine weeks in the summer of 2014. Following this, the proposed site allocations were reviewed and a Proposed Submission Draft Version has been prepared. The main consultation document for The Proposed Submission Draft Waste and Minerals Sites Plan is attached as Appendix 1. The Proposed Submission Draft will now be subject to further public consultation under Regulation 19, before formal submission of the Proposed Submission WMSP to Government and Public Examination, prior to its adoption. A proposed Communications Strategy is enclosed as Appendix 2. The public consultation will be for a minimum period of eight weeks following approval by all three Authorities.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The consultation on the Draft Waste and Minerals Sites Plan received a total of 120 comments from 108 consultees. These comments were considered and, where appropriate, the Plan was altered to accommodate the views submitted.

2.2 Site appraisals of possible locations have been undertaken which considered the effects of waste management development on environmental and historic designations and residential amenity, as

well as transport and flood risk issues. Consideration of 'opportunities' such as the possibility of co-locating with existing facilities to reduce transport of waste and the possibility of avoiding the use of greenfield sites, also formed part of the appraisal. A multi-faceted approach has been developed to give a range of guidance to potential developers. The sites assessed are outside the National Park and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, save for one on the northern edge of Hastings. The approach identifies sites for allocation, areas of opportunity on previously developed or allocated land, areas of search for new mixed development, physical extensions of existing sites, and, existing industrial estates suitable for waste development. Discussions with Borough and District Councils about the proposed sites have been held. A Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared as well as a Policies Map. It is considered that sufficient allocations/guidance is included in the WMSP to satisfy the capacity gap for recycling and recovery waste facilities.

2.3 The WMSP will also safeguard waste and minerals resources. In accordance with Policy WMP6 of the WMP, the WMSP will identify waste consultation areas which are intended to ensure that the capacity to recycle and recover waste within the Plan Area can be maintained. In accordance with Policies WMP14 and WMP15, the WMSP also identifies mineral resources and wharves to be safeguarded including reinforcing the need for potential greater capacity at Shoreham Harbour. All this will help ensure a steady supply of aggregates to support the construction of new development and economic growth across the whole Plan Area.

2.4 There are waste water treatment capacity issues related to potential new development within the Plan Area. The Authorities have continued to have discussions with Southern Water about this matter. Southern Water issued a Position Statement in June 2015, which indicated that it is no longer seeking a new location for waste water treatment works in the South Wealden or Eastbourne areas, and instead it is proposed that additional capacity will be found within existing waste water treatment plants (Hailsham North and Hailsham South); the WMSP has been updated to reflect this.

2.5 Local Members directly affected by any specific site allocation will be briefed prior to the publication of any reports. The WMSP is a joint plan between the three authorities, each of which have their own Member processes to agree the public consultation document.

2.6 The costs of preparing for the public consultation on the Proposed Submission Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (WMSP) document are already included in the Department's budgets for this project. Total costs for the public consultation exercise are estimated to be about £12,000 but as the WMSP is being prepared jointly with BHCC and the SDNPA, costs on the WMSP will be shared.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 Progress on the WMSP should be noted. Appraisal and analysis work has resulted in the preparation of a flexible approach to options to meet the requirements for additional waste recycling and recovery facilities identified in the WMP. Progress has been made on waste water requirements and the need to safeguard minerals resources. The public consultation document for the Proposed Submission WMSP has now been prepared. Cabinet are recommended to agree the Proposed Submission Draft Waste and Minerals Sites Plan and authorise the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to make any minor changes arising from the views of the City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan (2013)
- Appendices to The Proposed Submission Draft Waste and Minerals Sites Plan