

**REPORT OF THE
CABINET / LEADER**

PART II

RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY M3 (PRIMARY LAND-WON AGGREGATES AND SUB-REGIONAL APPORTIONMENT) OF THE SOUTH EAST PLAN

At a meeting on 24 May, the Cabinet approved the County Council's response to the consultation on the Secretary of State's proposed changes to Policy M3 of the South East Plan and the apportionment for sand and gravel for Hampshire. The proposed changes were the outcome of a process over the past 18 months to update policy on aggregate (sand, gravel and hard rock) production – 'the apportionment' – until 2026. The process included scrutiny of draft policy at an Examination in Public (EiP) in October 2009 which informed the Secretary of State's proposed changes which were subject to public consultation.

In considering the proposed changes, the Cabinet expressed strong concern that whilst the EiP Panel had recommended a reduced figure from that proposed by the then Secretary of State, it had rejected the case for a lower regional apportionment and, as a consequence, rejected the proposal for a lower Hampshire apportionment which had been predicated on evidence that demand was lower than the suggested supply level that was to be imposed. It was agreed that a strong response be made to reflect those concerns as follows:

- the County Council objected to the proposed apportionment for Hampshire of local sand and gravel extraction of 2.05 million tonnes per annum as this was excessive;
- the County Council supported the proposal to allow 'local testing' of the Hampshire apportionment at Public Examination of mineral development documents which could mean fewer sites being allocated;
- the County Council noted the provision that soft sand deposits within the South Downs National Park were not automatically ruled out for future extraction.
- the County Council welcomed the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy announced by the new Government and looked forward to a total review of the South East Plan and specifically to include minerals and waste planning, to be carried out at local council level.

This report arises from consideration of a report by the Cabinet on 24 May 2010, which is on Hantsweb at:

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemsummary.htm?pref=Y&tab=1&item_ID=1622&cancel=n

APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE AND CHOICE IN ADULT SERVICES FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

At a meeting on 24 May, the Cabinet approved the implementation of a policy to promote independence and choice for Adult Services' clients, which would support the implementation of Self Directed Support and the wider

personalisation agenda, and strengthen the governance of Adult Services regarding assessment and decision making in professional practice.

The policy includes the following:

- An explanation of the principles of positive risk taking.
- A framework which places support for positive choices within the Care Governance framework of Adult Services
- Links to the main procedures and processes for Adult Services which include risk assessment, including Fair Access to Care Services (eligibility criteria) Safeguarding, Mental Capacity
- Guidance for staff and managers about how to carry out and record a risk assessment which supports positive choice
- Guidance for staff and managers about how to record decisions and the rationale for decisions which are made following an assessment
- Clarity about the roles and responsibilities of staff and managers
- Assessment formats for use by service users and staff carrying out assessments

In agreeing the implementation of the policy, the Cabinet received information on the results of the public consultation on the proposed policy and welcomed the numerous positive comments received from the many clients who had been able to contribute via the consultation process. The Cabinet noted that Self Directed Support makes the process of determining care packages open and transparent to allow people to make pertinent choices about their care needs, now and for the future to achieve the outcomes they want but still be safeguarded.

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