

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	25 October 2010
Title:	Planning for Future Minerals and Waste Development
Reference:	1965
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report outlines the proposed new approach to the preparation of the development plan document for future Minerals and Waste Infrastructure in Hampshire.
- 1.2. It has been revised in light of policy changes and the revocation of the South East Plan. The new approach provides for the preparation of one comprehensive Development Plan Document which will incorporate the necessary policy review to strengthen the current core strategy policies in relation to climate change and carbon issues, resolve the outstanding issues following recent legal judgments and revise policies relating to aggregate supply in particular.
- 1.3. The timetable provides for extended community engagement commencing in December 2010, with the statutory options consultation proposed for January to March 2011. Consequent production of a single plan will then take into account community feedback, with the aim of submitting the plan to Government for Examination by a Planning Inspector early in 2012 and adoption later that year. The consolidation of the development plan documents into one plan is more efficient, provides cost savings and results in a more cohesive planning framework. A detailed timetable is shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.4. This paper:
 - covers the provisions of the new plan preparation programme;

- covers the opportunities for providing greater control of Minerals and Waste development based on local principles rather than those defined by the previous regional targets; and
- outlines the management and contributions made by partner authorities.

1.5. This paper seeks to:

- explain the new policy approach;
- consider the finance for the project and the impact on the budget; and
- highlight the impact the project has made on the performance of the County Council.

2. Contextual information

2.1. Planning legislation requires the County Council to produce development plan documents (DPDs) which set the overall policy context (the Core Strategy) and subsequent site allocation documents detailing proposals for minerals extraction and processing, landfill and key waste management operations.

2.2. The County Council has already prepared, consulted and adopted a Minerals and Waste Core Strategy in July 2007. This was prepared with partner authorities including Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the New Forest National Park Authority.

2.3. The site allocation document for minerals extraction and processing, the Hampshire Minerals Plan, was published for public consultation in 2007/08 and was in the process of being finalised for submission to Government when the review of South East Plan Policy M3 (provision of land-won aggregates) occurred. This delayed any further progress on the Hampshire Minerals Plan.

2.4. Changes in national planning policy and the recent revocation of the South East Plan offer the County Council an opportunity to review its approach to the preparation of these documents. A new approach is suggested which consolidates the three proposed DPDs into one, and provides for a comprehensive single plan which will define the context and criteria for development of Minerals and Waste infrastructure and initiate a “plan, monitor, manage” approach to development.

3. Finance

3.1. The project is co-funded by the Partnership Authorities - Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the New Forest National Park Authority.

- 3.2. The South Downs National Park Authority becomes a Local Planning Authority in April 2011 and will join the partnership formally then. However preparatory work and technical liaison is already underway.
- 3.3. The funding is currently split 70:30 between the County Council and the other partners, roughly reflecting the population split between the respective areas.
- 3.4. The project budget has been set and current projections indicate that this budget is sufficient to complete plan preparation. The new approach defined in this paper could provide for a modest saving in the cost of the public consultation processes and the public examination, as only one plan will require examination, rather than three.

4. Performance

- 4.1. A statutory requirement is placed on the County and City Councils, and the National Park Authority, to produce a Minerals and Waste Development Framework. This action supports Hampshire County Council in meeting its statutory duty and enables minerals and waste development to play its part in increasing energy security and combating climate change, improving biodiversity and supporting the economy.
- 4.2. This in turn supports the County Council's vision in the adopted Core Strategy that "By 2020, Hampshire will have a world class and sustainable material resources system that maximises both the efficient use of primary materials and the reuse and recycling of wastes, and minimises the need for disposal".

5. Other key issues

- 5.1. Hampshire County Council was one of the first planning authorities to prepare and adopt a Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, devised under the new planning regime following legislative changes in 2004. The core strategy provides the overall policy context for development; the site details were to be included in subsequent documents.
- 5.2. In completing this work, the Core Strategy was required to be in conformity with the South East Plan, which amongst its various policies defined the amounts of land-won mineral extraction provision required by Hampshire and the quantities and rates of recycling and management of wastes.
- 5.3. Following the adoption of the Core Strategy, work continued on the preparation of the site allocation documents for Minerals and Waste Infrastructure although progress was then hampered by policy reviews at the national and regional level.
- 5.4. Subsequent changes in planning guidance lift the constraints on the content of the Core Strategy in that strategic sites may be included in the document, rather than it merely including strategic and development management policies. Combined with the recent revocation of the South East Plan, which

removes the constraints on provision of mineral supply and waste management, this presents a unique policy opportunity for the County Council and its partners.

6. A new policy approach to planning for Minerals and Waste Infrastructure in Hampshire

- 6.1. A single Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan containing revised and updated strategic policies, revised and strengthened development management policies and spatial detail for minerals and waste development including strategic sites that will provide a comprehensive plan for future Minerals and Waste development in Hampshire.
- 6.2. Effective political engagement with the development and progression of the Minerals and Waste Plan will be critical. As well as normal decision making and Scrutiny and Overview meetings and processes it is considered that there should be provision for additional Member engagement during the plan process. It is therefore proposed that 'area' based Member workshops, which were run previously on the Minerals Plan, should be reconvened during the current plan process. These meetings would be open to County Councillors from the particular area involved and convened by the Executive Member for Environment. In addition, it is further proposed that an informal Member 'Sounding Board' be established to advise the Executive Member for Environment, to assist the Cabinet in its considerations of this matter and to help steer the overall plan process, including community engagement. A Joint Member Panel also oversees the project on behalf of the partner authorities.
- 6.3. Preparation of a single plan offers efficiency savings in the plan preparation process compared to the previous process and allows for a comprehensive, timely and meaningful public consultation exercise where all the issues, both strategic, practical and spatial may be debated and refined, compared to an extended process for the originally planned three documents.
- 6.4. This new approach still requires public consultation on the options for policy change and development, and any strategic sites and areas proposed. Subject to Member approval, the public engagement work is scheduled to commence in December 2010, with the statutory consultation period for the gathering of responses to the options due to follow from January to March 2011.
- 6.5. Community feedback will then be incorporated into the technical work and a plan presented for Member approval for submission to Government in the summer of 2011.
- 6.6. Subsequently the plan will be considered by Members in September 2011 for publication. A subsequent consultation would then be undertaken, allowing the community to offer responses on the soundness of the Plan.

6.7. Following this second consultation, the representations received and the Plan will be submitted to Government for inspection at a Public Examination scheduled for Spring 2012.

6.8. These changes to the current timetable require incorporation into a new Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, a statutory document outlining the plan preparation timetable. The main elements of the proposed programme are summarised as follows

- Start of Stakeholder engagement December 2010
- ‘Have Your Say’ (options consultation) January-March 2011
- Incorporate feedback March-May 2011
- Revise plan April-June 2011
- Cabinet & Council including Partners July-September 2011
- Statutory consultation on soundness October-November 2011
- Public Examination Spring 2012
- Adoption Summer 2012

A more detailed explanation of the changes proposed is included in Appendix 1 to the report.

6.9. Several policies in the adopted Core Strategy were already under review following a legal judgment on wharves and depots and policies for safeguarding, and the additional policy reviews defined in the recent Have Your Say consultation (December 2009) have informed the technical work that has been ongoing in reviewing the Core Strategy Policies.

6.10. Additionally, in order to take account of the fact that a number of mineral sites originally proposed in the draft Hampshire Minerals Plan (2008) have subsequently been granted planning permission and that a reworking of the evidence base is required in order to take into account of such factors as the apportionment for aggregates, the decision to finalise and submit the draft plan taken in July 2008 requires revocation by the County Council and its partners to allow the new approach and single plan to go ahead.

7. Minerals supply and the Aggregate ‘apportionment’

7.1. The geology of Hampshire provides land-won deposits of aggregates across the County. Historical extraction of sharp sand and gravel has taken place south and west of the New Forest and in the north-east of the County near the Berkshire border. Strategic deposits of soft sand have been worked in the east of the county near Bordon.

- 7.2. However, there are additional sources of aggregates available in Hampshire; marine-dredged sharp sand and gravel is landed at wharves in South Hampshire and crushed rock and sharp sand and gravel are imported to the County by rail and managed at depots in Fareham, Eastleigh and Botley.
- 7.3. Furthermore, Hampshire has a strong track record in recycling aggregates at numerous facilities across the County, ensuring sustainable management of construction, demolition and excavation (C, D and E) waste, and reducing the requirement for primary aggregates. Current capacity is in the region of 1.7 mtpa.
- 7.4. A major opportunity to define the future of Minerals development, and in particular the balance of supply in Hampshire in the context of the localism agenda has been made possible by the revocation of the South East Plan.
- 7.5. Hitherto, local development plans were required to be in conformity with the South East Plan. Of particular relevance to Hampshire was Policy M3 relating to provision of land-won aggregates. This policy set the level of expected extraction of land-won aggregate in Hampshire, known as the 'Apportionment'. This is included in the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Policy S8 - at the level set at the time by the region: 2.63 million tonnes per annum (mtpa).
- 7.6. In 2008, the South East England Regional Assembly decided to review its apportionment policy, and Hampshire County Council played an important role in lobbying for a more sustainable apportionment as the table below shows that actual sales of land-won aggregate are significantly lower than the level set by the region.

Sales (million tonnes)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Hampshire (land-won)	2.43	2.70	2.56	2.41	2.29	2.19	1.81	1.67	1.58	1.24	1.49	1.27	1.05
Hampshire (marine imports)	1.37	1.53	1.64	1.62	1.70	1.72	1.76	1.62	1.44	1.54	1.69	1.44	1.05

- 7.7. It may be noted that even during the period 2002-2007, generally accepted as a period of sustained economic growth, that production still fell short of the 2.63mtpa set by the Region.
- 7.8. During the course of the review numerous apportionment levels were debated. The County Council lobbied for a reduced apportionment of 1.62mtpa – at the time, this was based on a reduced requirement for the Region. The outcome of the review was that Hampshire was allocated a reduced apportionment of 2.05mtpa.

- 7.9. The new Government has revoked the South East Plan and removed the regional policy requirement (Policy M3) to provide the apportionment for land-won sand and gravel.
- 7.10. However, although the Secretary of State's letter of 6 July 2010 (see Appendix 2) removed the policy imperative to comply with a regional plan, the accompanying guidance (see Appendix 3) from the Chief Planner at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) stated that MPAs in the South East, "should work from the apportionment set out in the 'proposed changes' to the revision of Policy M3", ie 2.05 mtpa.
- 7.11. The letter goes on to say "*planning authorities can choose to use alternative figures for their planning purposes if they have a new and robust evidence base. We will work with the Minerals Industry and Local Government to agree how minerals arrangements should operate in the longer term*".
- 7.12. The removal of the need to comply with the South East Plan appears to allow greater policy flexibility than before, although robust evidence will still be required to support any change to the South East Plan Policy M3 evidence base and the ensuing apportionment at examination.
- 7.13. Previous work has identified that an apportionment for the extraction of land-won sand and gravel in Hampshire of 1.62mtpa is an option for consideration. This provision, combined with a more active "plan, monitor, manage" approach to all sources of aggregate, not just the land-won element, will result in a balanced and sustainable supply of minerals for Hampshire.

8. Issues and Consequences of the Revocation of the South East Plan.

- 8.1. The decision by the Secretary of State to revoke the Regional Spatial Strategies and therefore the South East Plan from the policy framework removes regional policies which formed part of the development plan.
- 8.2. Consequently there is the need to set the strategic context within which the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan will operate. Whereas formally this was dictated by the regional policy, Hampshire County Council now has the opportunity to set its own strategic direction. In due course this will be achieved by the consultation on the options put forward in the forthcoming public consultation. However, in the meantime it is vital that the County Council is clear on its position following the removal of the Regional Policy Framework. To this end, it is suggested that the County Council publishes a 'Statement of Intention' detailing the draft criteria it intends to use in setting the strategic context for development.
- 8.3. A draft of the Statement of Intention is included in Appendix 4 for consideration.

9. Recommendations

9.1. That the new approach to preparing the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan be agreed.

9.2. That Cabinet recommends that the County Council:

- (i) approves the proposed timetable and that this be incorporated into a revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and that this is agreed as the process and mechanism for the preparation for the revised Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents – the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- (ii) revokes the previous decision to finalise and publish the Hampshire Minerals Plan consultation on its soundness and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulations 27-30 of The Town and County Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, made on 10 July 2008;
- (iii) approves the proposed Consultation and Communication Strategy to accompany the new approach to the preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (which is in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement);
- (iv) adopts the draft Statement of Intention as interim County Council policy as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, in order to clarify the County Council's position following the revocation of the South East Plan. This initial position statement will be consulted on in due course as part of the preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan; and
- (v) approves the establishment of regular Member briefings for the key areas of the County affected by the Plan and the setting up of an informal cross-party Member Sounding Board to provide guidance and feedback on the plan preparation and content, to be convened by the Executive Member for Environment.

Rpt/1965/AF

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Revision	874	28/09/09
Authorisation of the County Council response to the Government Office for the South East Consultation on the partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East	719	29/06/09
Hampshire County Council Item 9 Part I report: Approval for the Hampshire Minerals Plan, Report of the Cabinet		10/07/08
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
Secretary of State's Letter revoking the Regional Planning system		06/07/10
Letter from Chief Planner providing guidance to Local Planning Officers		06/07/10

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. Not applicable.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. Not applicable.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Sustainable use of minerals and management of wastes contributes to reducing the carbon footprint of the county.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The proposals contained within the Plan will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that they contribute to adaption and mitigation of climate change.

Plan preparation timetable – proposed changes to the Development Scheme

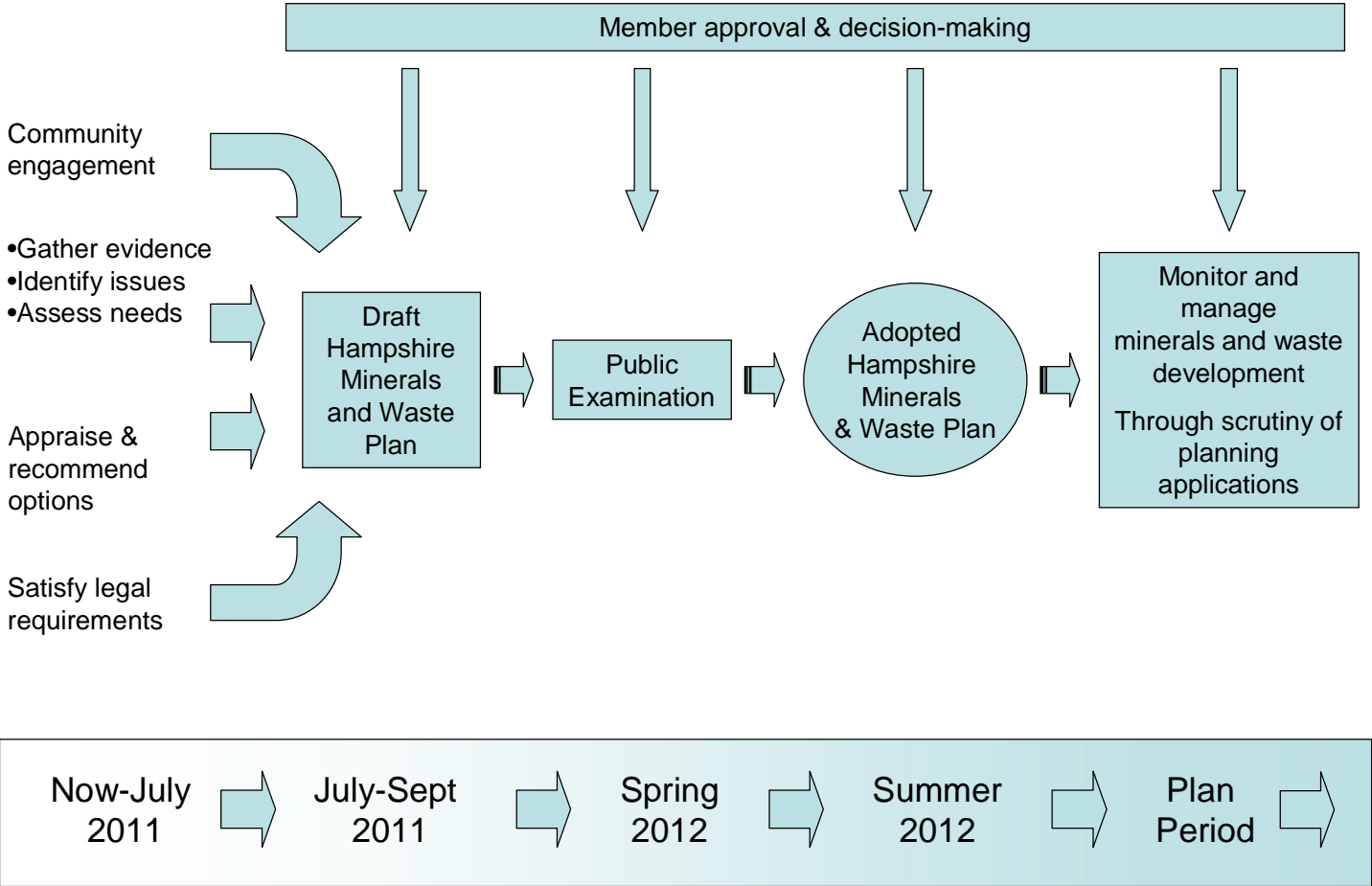
The new Development Scheme will incorporate the proposed changes to the plan preparation methodology and timetable as follows:

- All work to be combined into a single Development Plan Document, to be known as the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, rather than continue with a Core Strategy and separate Site allocation documents,
- Initial community engagement introducing the planning process and proposed content, will commence in December 2010,
- there will be a subsequent period for the public to make representations on the options considered for inclusion in the plan – this is to comply with Regulation 25 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
- The feedback from the public representations will be considered and will inform the drafting of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan
- The Plan will then be presented to Members for consideration (July 2011-Sep 2011) for publication
- If approved, the Plan will then be published in October 2011 and the public be invited to make representations with respect to the soundness of the Plan ie that it should be justified (i.e. founded on a robust evidence base and the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives) and effective (i.e. deliverable, flexible and able to be monitored). This is to comply with Regulation 27 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
- The representations will be summarised and together with the plan will be subject to public examination by a Planning Inspector in Spring 2012
- It is expected that the partnership authorities will then adopt the Plan in Summer 2012

A variety of communication and engagement methods will be used to inform the community engagement and consultation process however it is proposed that an informal Member Sounding Board be initiated to provide regular guidance and feedback on the plan preparation and content.

It is proposed that the Executive Member for Environment be the Chair of this Sounding Board, and that the membership be cross party.

Preparing the Plan



Secretary of State's letter revoking Regional Spatial Strategy

Revoking Regional Strategies

Date of statement 6 July 2010

Type Written

The Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles): Today I am making the first step to deliver our commitment in the coalition agreement to "rapidly abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils", by revoking Regional Strategies.

Regional Strategies added unnecessary bureaucracy to the planning system. They were a failure. They were expensive and time-consuming. They alienated people, pitting them against development instead of encouraging people to build in their local area.

The revocation of Regional Strategies will make local spatial plans, drawn up in conformity with national policy, the basis for local planning decisions. The new planning system will be clear, efficient and will put greater power in the hands of local people, rather than regional bodies.

Imposed central targets will be replaced with powerful incentives so that people see the benefits of building. The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to providing local authorities with real incentives to build new homes. I can confirm that this will ensure that those local authorities which take action now to consent and support the construction of new homes will receive direct and substantial benefit from their actions. Because we are committed to housing growth, introducing these incentives will be a priority and we aim to do so early in the spending review period. We will consult on the detail of this later this year. These incentives will encourage local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing and economic growth, and to deliver sustainable development in a way that allows them to control the way in which their villages, towns and cities change. Our revisions to the planning system will also support renewable energy and a low carbon economy.

The abolition of Regional Strategies will provide a clear signal of the importance attached to the development and application of local spatial plans, in the form of Local Development Framework Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents. Future reform in this area will make it easier for local councils, working with their communities, to agree and amend local plans in a way that maximises the involvement of neighbourhoods.

The abolition of Regional Strategies will require legislation in the "Localism Bill" which we are introducing this session. However, given the clear coalition commitment, it is important to avoid a period of uncertainty over planning policy, until the legislation is enacted. So I am revoking Regional Strategies today in order to give clarity to builders, developers and planners.

Regional Strategies are being revoked under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and will thus no longer form part of the development plan for the purposes of s38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Revoking, and then abolishing, Regional Strategies will mean that the planning system is simpler, more efficient and easier for people to understand. It will be firmly rooted in the local community. And it will encourage the investment, economic growth and housing that Britain needs.

We will be providing advice for local planning authorities today and a copy has been placed in the library of the House.

Letter from the Chief Planning Officer, DCLG

The Chief Planning Officer Local Planning Authorities in England	6 July 2010
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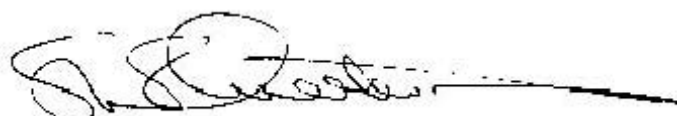
Chief Planning Officer Letter:

REVOCATION OF REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Today the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies with immediate effect.

I have attached some 'questions and answer' advice on immediate issues that may arise from this announcement. It will be important for local planning authorities to carry on delivering local development frameworks and making decisions on applications and the attached document focuses on how to continue taking these forward.

Please address any queries to Eamon Mythen at CLG in the first instance (Eamon.Mythen@communities.gsi.gov.uk).



STEVE QUARTERMAIN
Chief Planner

Guidance for Local Planning Authorities following the revocation of Regional Strategies

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government confirmed today that Regional Strategies will be revoked (see the attached copy of the Parliamentary Written Statement). In the longer term the legal basis for Regional Strategies will be abolished through the "Localism Bill" that we are introducing in

the current Parliamentary session. New ways for local authorities to address strategic planning and infrastructure issues based on cooperation will be introduced. This guidance provides some clarification on the impact of the revocation; how local planning authorities can continue to bring forward their Local Development Frameworks (LDFs); and make planning decisions in the transitional period.

1. Under what powers are Regional Strategies being revoked?

Regional Strategies have been revoked under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and no longer form part of the development plan for the purposes of s38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This guidance covers the period between revocation of Regional Strategies and legislation to abolish them altogether.

2. Do Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) remain in force?

Yes. The Policy Statement on Regional Strategies (February 2010) is cancelled, and references to Regional Strategies in other Policy Statements are no longer valid. But all other PPSs will continue to apply until they are replaced by the National Planning Framework.

3. Will this affect the London Plan?

The London Plan will continue to provide the planning framework for London boroughs. As part of a wider process of decentralisation in London, we are reviewing how powers and discretion can be shifted downwards from central government to the Mayor and Assembly, to London Boroughs and to local neighbourhoods. This will include reviewing the scope for devolving power from the Greater London Authority down to the Boroughs and below.

The following sections provide advice on some of the issues likely to arise following revocation of Regional Strategies, until the “Localism Bill” and the new National Planning Framework are in place. This guidance should be regarded as a material consideration by local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate in their decisions.

4. How will this affect planning applications?

In determining planning applications local planning authorities must continue to have regard to the development plan. This will now consist only of:

- Adopted DPDs;
- Saved policies; and
- Any old style plans that have not lapsed.

Local planning authorities should also have regard to other material considerations, including national policy. Evidence that informed the preparation

of the revoked Regional Strategies may also be a material consideration, depending on the facts of the case.

Where local planning authorities have not yet issued decisions on planning applications in the pipeline, they may wish to review those decisions in light of the new freedoms following the revocation of Regional Strategies. The revocation of the Regional Strategy may also be a material consideration.

5. Should we continue preparing LDF documents?

Yes – the revocation of Regional Strategies is not a signal for local authorities to stop making plans for their area.

Local planning authorities should continue to develop LDF core strategies and other DPDs, reflecting local people's aspirations and decisions on important issues such as climate change, housing and economic development.

These local plans will guide development in their areas and provide certainty for investors and communities. Local authorities may wish to review their plans following the revocation of Regional Strategies. We recommend reviews should be undertaken as quickly as possible.

6. How does this affect adopted local plans / LDFs?

Adopted DPDs and saved policies will continue to provide the statutory planning framework. Local authorities may decide to review these now that Regional Strategies have been revoked. There is no need to review the whole LDF, only those issues or policies which local authorities wish to revisit. When undertaking consultation and sustainability appraisal on their draft policies, authorities should take an approach that considers the stage reached, the extent of work already undertaken and the scope of the policy changes they are making.

7. What if my LDF document is still being prepared?

Where local planning authorities are currently bringing forward development plan documents they should continue to do so. Authorities may decide to review and/or revise their emerging policies in the light of the revocation of Regional Strategies. Where authorities decide to do this they will need to ensure they meet the requirements for soundness under the current legislation. When undertaking consultation and sustainability appraisal on their draft policies, authorities should take an approach that considers the stage reached, the extent of work already undertaken and the scope of the policy changes they are making.

8. Will Examinations in Public continue for DPDs?

Yes – where local planning authorities are bringing forward new development plan documents or reviewing adopted plans they should present evidence to support their plans. The examination process will continue to assess the soundness of

plans, and Inspectors will test evidence put forward by local authorities and others who make representations.

9. Will data and research currently held by Regional Local Authority Leaders' Boards still be available?

Yes. The regional planning function of Regional LA Leaders' Boards – the previous Regional Assemblies – is being wound up and their central government funding will end after September this year. The planning data and research they currently hold will still be available to local authorities for the preparation of their local plans whilst they put their own alternative arrangements in place for the collection and analysis of evidence. Notwithstanding, the new Government regards the Regional Leaders' Boards as an unnecessary tier of bureaucracy.

Clarification on policy issues

There are a number of areas where Regional Strategies supplemented the national policy framework. Further clarification on these areas is set out below.

10. Who will determine housing numbers in the absence of Regional Strategy targets?

Local planning authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision in their area, and identifying a long term supply of housing land without the burden of regional housing targets. Some authorities may decide to retain their existing housing targets that were set out in the revoked Regional Strategies. Others may decide to review their housing targets. We would expect that those authorities should quickly signal their intention to undertake an early review so that communities and land owners know where they stand.

11. Will we still need to justify the housing numbers in our plans?

Yes – it is important for the planning process to be transparent, and for people to be able to understand why decisions have been taken. Local authorities should continue to collect and use reliable information to justify their housing supply policies and defend them during the LDF examination process. They should do this in line with current policy in PPS3.

12. Can I replace Regional Strategy targets with “option 1 numbers”?

Yes, if that is the right thing to do for your area. Authorities may base revised housing targets on the level of provision submitted to the original Regional Spatial Strategy examination (Option 1 targets), supplemented by more recent information as appropriate. These figures are based on assessments undertaken by local authorities. However, any target selected may be tested during the examination process especially if challenged and authorities will need to be ready to defend them.

13. Do we still have to provide a 5 year land supply?

Yes. Although the overall ambition for housing growth may change, authorities should continue to identify enough viable land in their DPDs to meet that growth. Strategic Housing Market Assessments and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments can help with this. Local planning authorities should continue to use their plans to identify sufficient sites and broad areas for development to deliver their housing ambitions for at least 15 years from the date the plan is adopted. Authorities should also have a five year land supply of deliverable sites. This too will need to reflect any changes to the overall local housing ambition.

14. How do we determine the level of provision for travellers' sites?

Local councils are best placed to assess the needs of travellers. The abolition of Regional Strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in DPDs. They should continue to do this in line with current policy. *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (GTAAAs) have been undertaken by all local authorities and if local authorities decide to review the levels of provision these assessments will form a good starting point. However, local authorities are not bound by them. We will review relevant regulations and guidance on this matter in due course.

15. How do we establish the need for minerals and aggregates supply without Regional Strategy targets?

Minerals planning authorities will have responsibility for continuing to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals to support economic growth. They should do this within the longstanding arrangements for minerals planning. Technical advice provided by the Aggregate Working Parties, including their current work in sub-apportioning the CLG guidelines for 2005-2020 to planning authority level will assist with this.

Planning authorities in the South East should work from the apportionment set out in the "Proposed Changes" to the revision of Policy M3, published on 19 March 2010.

Planning authorities can choose to use alternative figures for their planning purposes if they have new or different information and a robust evidence base. We will work with the minerals industry and local government to agree how minerals planning arrangements should operate in the longer term.

16. How do we establish the need for waste management without Regional Strategy targets?

Planning Authorities should continue to press ahead with their waste plans, and provide enough land for waste management facilities to support the sustainable management of waste (including the move away from disposal of waste by

landfill). Data and information prepared by partners will continue to assist in this process. For the transitional period this will continue to be the data and information which has been collated by the local authority and industry and other public bodies who currently form the Regional Waste Technical Advisory Bodies. We intend for this function to be transferred to local authorities in due course.

17. Does the abolition of the hierarchy of strategic centres mean the end of policies on town centres?

No. Local authorities must continue to have regard to PPS 4: *Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth* in preparing LDFs and, where relevant, take it into account in determining planning applications for retail, leisure and other main town centre uses.

In assessing any planning applications proposing unplanned growth in out of town shopping centres, particularly those over 50,000 sqm gross retail floor area, local authorities should take account of the potential impacts of the development on centres in the catchment area of the proposal.

18. What about regional policies on the natural environment?

Local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests. Authorities should continue to draw on available information, including data from partners, to address cross boundary issues such as the provision of green infrastructure and wildlife corridors.

19. What about regional policies on Flooding and Coastal Change?

Local authorities should continue to work together across administrative boundaries to plan development that addresses flooding and coastal change. For flooding matters local authorities already have a duty to co-operate under the Floods and Water Management Act. The Environment Agency will continue to work with local authorities individually and/or jointly to provide technical support on these matters. The Coalition agreement is clear that we should prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk.

20. What about regional policies on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy?

Through their local plans, authorities should contribute to the move to a low carbon economy, cut greenhouse gas emissions, help secure more renewable and low carbon energy to meet national targets, and to adapt to the impacts arising from climate change. In doing so, planning authorities may find it useful to draw on data that was collected by the Regional Local Authority Leaders' Boards (which will be made available) and more recent work, including assessments of the potential for renewable and low carbon energy.

21. What about regional policies on Transport?

Local authorities should continue to ensure their land use and local transport plans are mutually consistent, and deliver the most effective and sustainable development for their area. Local authorities should work with each other and with businesses and communities to consider strategic transport priorities and cross boundary issues.

22. Does the end of Regional Strategies mean changes to Green Belt?

No. The Government is committed to the protection of the Green Belt and the revocation of Regional Strategies will prevent top-down pressure to reduce the Green Belt protection. Local planning authorities should continue to apply policies in PPG2. As part of their preparation or revision of DPDs, planning authorities should consider the desirability of new Green Belt or adjustment of an existing Green Belt boundary, working with other local planning authorities as appropriate.

Parliamentary Statement Revoking Regional Strategies

Today I am making the first step to deliver our commitment in the coalition agreement to “*rapidly abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils*”, by revoking Regional Strategies.

Regional Strategies added unnecessary bureaucracy to the planning system. They were a failure. They were expensive and time-consuming. They alienated people, pitting them against development instead of encouraging people to build in their local area.

The revocation of Regional Strategies will make local spatial plans, drawn up in conformity with national policy, the basis for local planning decisions. The new planning system will be clear, efficient and will put greater power in the hands of local people, rather than regional bodies.

Imposed central targets will be replaced with powerful incentives so that people see the benefits of building. The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to providing local authorities with real incentives to build new homes. I can confirm that this will ensure that those local authorities which take action now to consent and support the construction of new homes will receive direct and substantial benefit from their actions. Because we are committed to housing growth, introducing these incentives will be a priority and we aim to do so early in the spending review period. We will consult on the detail of this later this year. These incentives will encourage local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing and economic growth, and to deliver sustainable development in a way that allows them to control the way in which their villages, towns and cities change. Our revisions to the planning system will also support renewable energy and a low carbon economy.

The abolition of Regional Strategies will provide a clear signal of the importance attached to the development and application of local spatial plans, in the form of Local Development Framework Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents. Future reform in this area will make it easier for local councils, working with their communities, to agree and amend local plans in a way that maximises the involvement of neighbourhoods.

The abolition of Regional Strategies will require legislation in the “Localism Bill” which we are introducing this session. However, given the clear coalition commitment, it is important to avoid a period of uncertainty over planning policy, until the legislation is enacted. So I am revoking Regional Strategies today in order to give clarity to builders, developers and planners.

Regional Strategies are being revoked under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and will thus no longer form part of the development plan for the purposes of s38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Revoking, and then abolishing, Regional Strategies will mean that the planning system is simpler, more efficient and easier for people to understand. It will be firmly rooted in the local community. And it will encourage the investment, economic growth and housing that Britain needs.

We will be providing advice for local planning authorities today and a copy has been placed in the house library.

Draft Statement of Intention

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Statement of Intention (Draft)

Introduction

Hampshire County Council with its partners, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and the New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities, is currently preparing a review of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, adopted in 2007. The review is being progressed as the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (“the Plan”) and it is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted in 2012.

This **Statement of Intention** sets out the Council’s position on key policy aspects of minerals and waste planning in the absence of the South East Plan. It is not a part of the ‘Development Plan’, but is designed to provide guidance for development management - particularly the processing of planning applications – and would be a material consideration in those decisions in the interim. The policy intentions will form the basis of the consultation process for the Plan.

Vision

It is the County Council’s intention for the Plan to continue to support its overall priority for Hampshire of

“Enhancing our quality of place - making the county a good place to be by protecting local distinctiveness and diversity, ensuring excellent facilities, respecting Hampshire’s heritage and planning proactively for the future.”

Which in turn is supported by the adopted vision of the current Minerals and Waste Core Strategy;

“Hampshire will have a world class and sustainable resources system that maximises both the efficient use of primary material and the reuse and recycling of waste and minimises the need for disposal.”

Accordingly, it is the intention to manage Hampshire’s natural resources to meet social and economic needs without jeopardising the environment for future generations. The Plan will balance needs against the Council’s sustainability policies including those relating to climate change, energy security and environmental protection. Community engagement will be at the heart of the decision making process to ensuring that local views on this balance are taken into account.

The Plan will provide for a balanced and sustainable supply of minerals and a framework for the development of a new waste infrastructure to deliver a sustainable waste management service for Hampshire, covering both public and private needs. It will safeguard existing sites fulfilling those requirements as well as making additional provision where necessary.

Sustainable Development

The County Council will prepare proposals for minerals and waste development to balance the need for development against the impacts of climate change, seeking to;

- minimise the use of natural resources by ensuring efficient use and reuse;
- minimise the transportation of materials by applying principles of net self sufficiency, and local supply wherever possible;
- maximise the opportunities for sustainable transport solutions.

The Plan will seek to safeguard community interests by incorporating a clear policy for the release of land and a framework of strong and locally relevant development management policies, enabling ongoing community engagement on development applications.

Minerals – Aggregates

The adopted Core Strategy set an apportionment for land won aggregate extraction in the County based on level dictated by the South East Plan. This apportionment figure was set at 2.63 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), to be maintained across the plan period to 2020.

With the abolition of regional targets, the County Council is able to make a local decision on its provision of land won aggregates, provided the decision is based upon sound evidence. It will therefore prepare a framework which seeks to provide only for that material that is required and at the right time, and in the right place. The framework will aim to maintain a sustainable, adequate and balanced supply of aggregates for Hampshire and, as appropriate, the surrounding Counties.

The County Council will apply the following guidelines for the provision of aggregates;

- firstly, by giving priority to alternative supplies such as recycled material, marine dredged aggregates and importation of aggregates;
- secondly, by maintaining a landbank of at least seven year's supply for land won aggregates.

The basis of the consultation in the Plan will be that the calculation of the landbank requirement will be derived from annual monitoring of the supply of all aggregates supplied in the County combined with a locally based forecast of the overall future need. This calculation will be made on annual basis, using a truncated mean of the last ten years' sales figures for aggregates in Hampshire. This currently equates to some 1.7 mtpa, but may rise or fall during the plan period, according to need.

Other Minerals

The plan will support the provision for the following minerals, subject to planning applications meeting relevant development management policies;

Brick Clay

Maintaining reserves of brick making clay sufficient to last 25 years at current rates of supply and at existing and other advantageous locations associated with use of the material

Chalk

Enabling small scale extraction for agricultural and industrial uses only, but with no specific site or area allocations.

Oil and Gas

In exceptional circumstances, the Plan will support proposals for the exploration, appraisal and commercial production of on shore oil and gas.

Waste

The main context for waste is to contribute towards meeting the County Council's Waste Framework Directive obligations and national guidelines for the sustainable management of all waste streams. The Plan will provide a robust framework for provision of waste facilities to enable management of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and meet locally agreed targets for recycling and recovery. These targets will aim to reinforce the County Council's leading performance for diversion from landfill of household waste and enable similar performance levels to be achieved for commercial and industrial waste. This will require development of a range of new waste facilities and provision of landfill for the limited amount of waste that cannot be recycled or used for energy recovery.

The majority of the new infrastructure will be provided by the private sector and the Plan will provide guidance to enable and encourage appropriate development of waste facilities and facilitate investment decisions. The guidance will be based upon the following key principles;

- To fully assess impacts for the local community and local environment
- Net self sufficiency - that is provision of sufficient capacity within the County to manage an amount of waste equivalent to that generated within it. Guidance will assume that cross-boundary flows of materials will continue where other principles of the Plan are met.
- Meeting the appropriate stage of the waste hierarchy.
- Maximising recycling, but recovering energy from waste that cannot practicably be recycled.
- Aiming for zero waste to landfill, but recognising the need for some landfill, particularly residues from other technologies.
- Planning for waste facilities as close as possible to local markets to minimise travel and energy needs.