

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	24 May 2010
Title:	Response to the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East - Policy M3 – Primary land-won aggregates and sub-regional apportionment
Reference:	1622
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Cabinet agrees a response to the Secretary of State's consultation on the proposed changes to Policy M3 of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (The South East Plan) on the basis that:
 - (i) the County Council objects to the proposed apportionment for Hampshire of local sand and gravel extraction of 2.05 million tonnes per annum as excessive;
 - (ii) the County Council supports the proposal to allow 'local testing' of the Hampshire apportionment at Public Examination of mineral development documents which could mean fewer sites being allocated;
 - (iii) the County Council notes the provision that soft sand deposits within the South Downs National Park are not automatically ruled out for future extraction; and
 - (iv) The County Council welcomes the intended abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy announced by the new Government and looks forward to a review of the South East Plan and specifically to include minerals and waste planning, to be carried out at local level.
- b) That the Cabinet authorises the Leader of the County Council to finalise a letter setting out the County Council's response to the Secretary of State.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. The supply of sand and gravel is an important issue for Hampshire with significant implications for landscape, amenity and quality of life as well as the local economy and the maintenance of development of infrastructure. The proposed policy has major implications for the future planning of Hampshire, therefore influencing the future level of sand and gravel extraction is important.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Option 1 – not to respond to this consultation

Risk Assessment: The County Council has contributed significantly to the debate on apportionments of sand and gravel extraction and not continuing in the process would limit Hampshire's influence on the outcome of the policy.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: ----- Chairman of the Cabinet Councillor T K Thornber, CBE	Date: 24 May 2010
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