

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 28 JUNE 2007

MINERALS AND WASTE CORE STRATEGY: INSPECTOR'S REPORT AND ADOPTION

Report by: Sarah Applegate, Senior Planning Officer

Summary

The Authority has now received the Inspector's Report on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (attached at **Annex 2**), which found the Core Strategy sound, subject to the incorporation of a number of minor changes which do not alter the substance of the document. The Inspector's Report is binding and the Authority is obliged to accept these changes. This paper sets out the main recommendations contained in the report, and recommends the adoption of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy incorporating the required changes.

Once adopted, the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy will provide a basis for assessing mineral and waste planning applications in the New Forest National Park. It will replace the minerals and waste policies in the *Hampshire County Structure Plan* and most policies in the *Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Minerals and Waste Local Plan*, apart from those relating to specific sites and safeguarding areas. It will also replace relevant policies covering the Wiltshire area of the New Forest National Park, including those in the *Wiltshire County Structure Plan* and *Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Local Plans*.

Recommendations

To note the Inspector's binding report recommendations and to adopt the final Minerals and Waste Core Strategy incorporating the recommended changes (Annex 3).

Resources and Corporate Plan

A4 – Develop spatial planning policies to support the delivery of the National Park's purposes and duties.

Routine resources

Paper

NFNPA 192/07: Cover paper

Annex 1: Summary of key representations on the incorporation of the Wiltshire area of the National Park into the Core Strategy

Annex 2: Inspector's Report on the Examination into the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

Annex 3: Schedule of changes required to make the Strategy sound

Annex 4: Revised Key Diagram

NFNPA 84/06: Previous Authority paper on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

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HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE CORE STRATEGY: INSPECTOR'S REPORT AND ADOPTION

Report by: Sarah Applegate, Senior Planning Officer

Introduction

1. The National Park Authority approved the Submission draft Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy document on 25 April 2006 (NFNPA 84/06). The document was submitted to the Secretary of State on 31 May 2006 and there followed a statutory six week consultation period.
2. The National Park Authority also resolved to undertake catch-up consultation on the area of the National Park within Wiltshire in order to bring that area within the scope of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. This was undertaken between July and October 2006, with the draft Minerals and Waste Core Strategy as applicable to the Wiltshire part of the National Park submitted to the Secretary of State on 23 October 2006. This was followed by a statutory six week consultation period.
3. During this consultation period representations were received from 16 organisations on the Submission draft Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, of which four considered the document to be unsound. These comprised the Government Office for the South East, the Government Office for the South West, Wiltshire County Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. These representations are summarised in **Annex 1** and largely relate to the process of incorporating the Wiltshire area of the National Park into the submitted Core Strategy.
4. The representations were carried forward to the examination for consideration by the Inspector.

Report from the Planning Inspectorate

5. An independent examination of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was carried out in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The purpose of the examination was to:

- a) determine whether the document satisfies the requirements for the preparation of a development plan document;
 - b) determine whether it is 'sound'.
6. The Inspector's Report was received at the end of May 2007 (**Annex 2**). The examination considered all of the representations received in both Hampshire, and the Wiltshire area of the National Park, in relation to the two tests outlined above.
 7. The Inspector is content that the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy satisfied the requirements of the relevant sections of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
 8. The examination focused on whether the Core Strategy was sound. The examination is based on the nine tests of soundness set out in paragraph 3.10 of Planning Policy Statement 12: *Local Development Frameworks*. The starting point for the assessment is an assumption that the Core Strategy is sound. The four joint Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities suggested several changes to the Core Strategy to give further clarification and avoid any misinterpretation or misunderstanding of the policies.
 9. The main changes recommended by the Inspector to make the Core Strategy sound include amendments:
 - to deal with the incorporation of the Wiltshire area of the New Forest National Park into the Strategy;
 - to ensure that the Strategy is consistent with the latest national policy guidance in MPS1 and PPS25;
 - to the policies and accompanying text to deal with the issue of accommodating a declining proportion of London's waste;
 - to the policies and accompanying text relating to sand and gravel, including maintenance of a seven year landbank and the approach to making provision for post-2016 requirements;
 - to deal with the approach to aggregate recycling facilities;
 - to clarify and elaborate the application and operation of various policies, the relationship to, and role of subsequent Development Plan Documents, and the definitions of various designated sites.
 10. The Inspector recognised that the catch-up consultation undertaken by the National Park Authority was in excess of the minimum required by the 2004 Regulations, and that no one was prejudiced by the nature or timescale of the consultation process.
 11. The Inspector is satisfied with suggested changes identifying that no specific provision will be made for London's waste before 2016, but provision after this date will be considered in future reviews of the Core Strategy.

12. The Inspector endorsed the suggested changes of the partner Authorities, concluding that they did not affect the substance of the Core Strategy, but improved the clarity and transparency of the document.
13. Subject to the implementation of the recommendations sets out in the report (see **Annexes 3 and 4**), the Inspector concluded that the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy is sound.
14. However, with the incorporation of the area of the National Park within Wiltshire there is concern that the current title does not adequately reflect this. Consequently National Park planning officers are in discussions with officers at the joint partner authorities to agree a more suitable title for the Core Strategy to reflect that not all of the Plan's area is in Hampshire.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Adoption

15. Paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12 of Planning Policy Statement 12 reiterate that the Inspector's Report is binding upon the local planning authority.

“The report will set out precise recommendations for how the statement of community involvement must be changed. The local planning authority must incorporate the changes required by the inspector and then adopt the statement of community involvement.”

16. Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that a document is adopted by resolution of the authority. **Annex 3** to this paper sets out the schedule of changes recommended by the Inspector to make the document sound. The National Park Authority is requested to adopt the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (comprising the submitted document plus recommended changes).
17. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, once adopted, will be available for inspection at the offices, and on the web-sites, of the National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils. In addition, copies will also be available to view at the Planning Offices of Salisbury District Council.

Recommendation

To note the Inspector's binding report recommendations and to adopt the final Minerals and Waste Core Strategy incorporating the recommended changes (Annex 2).

Representations on the submitted draft Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – catch-up consultation on the Wiltshire area of the National Park

Representation	Inspector's Conclusion
<p>Query whether the inclusion of the Wiltshire area has altered the position regarding the Habitats Directive. (Government Office for the South East)</p>	<p>The Inspector concluded that the Wiltshire area is covered by the Appropriate Assessment carried out for the lead Core Strategy and there would be no significant impact on the protected area if the relevant policies are applied consistently.</p>
<p>The document did not identify reasonable issues and options affecting the Wiltshire area of the National Park. (Government Offices for the South East and South West, and Wiltshire County Council)</p>	<p>Given the similarity in character and policy of the Wiltshire area to the rest of the National Park, the Inspector saw no need to develop alternative or hypothetical options. The Inspector is satisfied that all relevant options for the Wiltshire area were properly considered and addressed.</p>
<p>The Authority's approach is not set out in an adopted Local Development Scheme. (Government Offices for the South East and South West, and Wiltshire County Council)</p>	<p>The Inspector concluded that the National Park Authority now has an adopted Local Development Scheme, and could see no public disbenefit in preparing and consulting on the incorporation of the Wiltshire area before a scheme was formally in place.</p>
<p>The document fails to provide sufficient time for the community in Wiltshire to be engaged in the process. (Government Office for the South West)</p>	<p>Although the process was streamlined over a shorter period, the Inspector is satisfied that all the necessary consultation was undertaken in accordance with the relevant Regulations</p>
<p>Query over the landfill figures stated in paragraph 18.11 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)</p>	<p>The Inspector has agreed the proposed change recommended by the joint authorities clarifies the position (Change #18)</p>