

AM 585-21

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 25 MARCH 2021

2020 REVIEW OF HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN AND REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

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Summary:

The NPPF (2019) states that policies in adopted plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years. The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, covering the whole of the New Forest National Park, was adopted in 2013 and subject to a review in 2018 which found no need for an update at that time (a conclusion endorsed at the full Authority meeting in October 2018). However, revisiting that decision in late 2020 has found that some policies would now benefit from an update, either to reflect national policy or ensure criteria enable suitable development to come forward. This report sets out the findings of the 2020 review of the Minerals and Waste Plan; the proposed timetable for a partial update of that Plan; and seeks member endorsement of the proposed approach and timescales.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The New Forest National Park Authority, as a Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA), has a statutory duty to prepare a plan to guide minerals and waste development for the National Park. The Authority has been working jointly over many years with partners Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and the South Downs National Park Authority on the preparation, and subsequent revision, of a set of planning policies for the consideration of planning applications on minerals and waste development. The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP) was adopted in October 2013, and covers the entirety of the National Park (including the area of the Park within Wiltshire).
- 1.2 Paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) and the associated NPPG guidance on 'Plan Making' requires that Local Plans should be reviewed within five years of adoption to assess whether they require updating.
- 1.3 A Review was undertaken in 2018 which concluded that an update of the Plan was not required at that time as the development management policies were functioning well, with sufficient criteria to enable suitable minerals and waste development to come forward. This conclusion was endorsed at the full

Authority meeting in October 2018 in report NFNPA 561/18 and a commitment was given to reassess the Plan two years later.

2. Findings of the 2020 review

- 2.1 The 2020 Review of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (November 2020, see the Executive Summary in Appendix 1) follows the approach taken for the 2018 Review including a 'RAG' (Red, Amber, Green) status for the policies but also takes into account the guidance provided by the Planning Advisory Service toolkit (published in 2019). Therefore, the November 2020 Review includes a review of compliance of the Plan with national policy and a review of the Vision, Plan Objectives and Spatial Strategy.
- 2.2 It not only takes into account the monitoring data and compliance with national policy but also numerous policy documents which have been issued by Government since the Plan was adopted in 2013. This includes, but is not limited to, the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Industrial Strategy and Waste & Resources Strategy as well as other policy drivers such as the Environment Bill and the recent 'Planning for the future' White Paper consultation. It also considers local policy drivers such as the climate change emergencies that have been declared by the National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and other partners. The 2020 Review concludes the following:

Development Management Policies

- 2.3 The Plan contains 34 policies and monitoring data suggests that most of these are performing well, with the exception being Policy 14 (Community benefits). However, reviewing national policy compliance highlights that the policies would benefit from a light touch update in their terminology and, in some cases, their delivery. In addition, Policy 2 (Climate change – mitigation and adaptation) needs to be strengthened and Policy 9 (Restoration of minerals and waste developments) needs to ensure that climate change is suitably embedded in its implementation.

Minerals Policies

- 2.4 The 2018 Review highlighted that the minimum 7-year landbank for sand and gravel (for both sharp sand and soft sand), as required by national policy, was not being met along with other mineral requirements. That remains the same position in 2020.
- 2.5 The aggregate delivery requirements (Policy 17 Aggregate supply – capacity and source) would benefit from being updated to reflect national policy requirements. Whilst the policies are enabling suitable development to come forward, they would benefit from outlining any additional sustainable opportunities to help meet requirements and provide certainty to industry and communities.

Waste Policies

- 2.6 The 2020 Review shows that in general, the waste forecasts continued to be relatively accurate and additional capacity is coming on stream albeit focused more on recovery than recycling. However, to ensure compliance with the national policy, they would benefit from an update to enable greater alignment with the waste hierarchy and the emerging national waste strategy.
- 2.7 Whilst landfill is a last resort, there remains a need to landfill some wastes and current landfill capacity continues not to meet the forecasted need. Therefore, the policy would benefit from considering possible sustainable options alongside other sites for waste management.

Vision, Plan Objectives, Spatial Strategy and Key Diagram

- 2.8 The current Vision could be considered to be lacking in spatial identity and specificity in its aims in relation to minerals and waste.
- 2.9 The Plan Objectives generally align with the policies and would help achieve the current Vision. As some of the Policies are currently not delivering their aim, this would suggest the Plan Objectives are not being met. An update of the Policies and/or Vision would need to include a review of the Plan Objectives to ensure they align.
- 2.10 Any update to the Policies would need to be reflected in both the Spatial Strategy and Key Diagram. To ensure compliance with national policy, the Policies, Spatial Strategy and Key Diagram need to be unambiguous.

3. 2020 Review conclusions

- 3.1 The 2020 Review recommends that an update of the HMWP is undertaken to ensure compliance with national policy but also to ensure that the Plan is delivering a steady and adequate supply of minerals and enabling sustainable waste management provision.
- 3.2 In addition, the Vision, Plan Objectives, Spatial Strategy and Key Diagram will need to be further reviewed to ensure that all requirements of the Plan are delivered but also that the Vision aligns with the local climate change agenda.
- 3.3 To support the partial Plan update, it is proposed that an assessment of mineral and waste site options be undertaken, including a Call for Sites in Spring 2021.

4. Partial Plan Update Timetable

- 4.1 The timetable for the partial update is set out in the separate Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme (LDS) (see Appendix 2), rather than in the Authority's own LDS, as this requires agreement from all minerals and waste planning partners.

4.2 The proposed timetable is as follows:

HMWP Key Milestones	Timescale	Description
Regulation 18 (Preparation)	March 2021 – Sept 2021	Call for Sites (Fixed period) Preparation of Evidence Base
Regulation 18 (Consultation)	Oct 2021 – Dec 2021	Consultation on the Draft Plan Update and Evidence
Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission Document Preparation)	Jan 2022 – March 2022	Update Evidence Base Revise Plan based on Evidence Base and Consultation
Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission Document Consultation)	April 2022 – June 2022	Consultation on the Updated Plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State
Regulation 22 (Preparation)	July 2022 – Oct 2022	Update Evidence Base Proposed Modifications based on Evidence Base and Consultation
Regulation 22 (Submission to SoS)	Winter 2022	Submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State who appoints a Planning Inspector
Regulation 24 (Public Examination)	Spring 2023	Pre- Examination Hearing Planning Inspector examines the Plan
Regulation 25 (Inspector's Report)	Summer 2023	Planning Inspector delivers his report on the Plan
Regulation 26 (Adoption)	Autumn 2023	All authorities adopt the Plan, as modified by Planning Inspector

4.3 This is a tight timetable but the Government advice is clear that Local Planning Authorities should not halt the plan-making process in awaiting the implementation of the Planning White Paper proposed changes. Therefore, it is recommended that future consultation documents at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 stages be taken to Planning Committee meetings for consideration, to help meet these timescales. The final adoption document will be brought to the full Authority meeting for consideration in due course, as this is the point where a formal decision of the National Park Authority is required under the relevant planning regulations to accept the Inspector's modifications and bring the revised Plan into effect.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That members endorse the conclusions of the 2020 Review of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (as summarised in this report and the Executive Summary in Appendix 1), and approve its publication following agreement by the other minerals and waste plan-making partner Authorities.
2. That members approve the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Local Development Scheme as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, which sets out the timetable and programme for the partial update of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2013), subject to agreement by the other minerals and waste plan-making partner Authorities.

3. That members endorse the proposed approach that subsequent draft Minerals and Waste Plan Review consultation documents at the Regulation 18 and 19 stages will be considered at Planning Committee meetings; with the final adoption of the revised Minerals & Waste Plan to be considered at a full Authority meeting.

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Papers: Cover report
Appendix 1: 2020 Review of Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan: Executive Summary
Appendix 2: Local Development Scheme

Previous papers: NFNPA 561/18 – Review of Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan

Equality Impact Assessment: No issues arising