

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 19 OCTOBER 2023

REVISED HAMPSHIRE MINERALS & WASTE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)

Report by: Sarah Applegate, Senior Policy Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The New Forest National Park Authority, as a minerals and waste planning authority, is currently working with Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils, and the South Downs National Park Authority to revise the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. The Plan covers the whole of the New Forest National Park, including the area within south Wiltshire, and was adopted in 2013. It now needs to be updated to reflect changes in national policy since that time, and to ensure policy criteria enables suitable development to come forward.
- 1.2 Local Planning Authorities are required to publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the timescales for producing relevant development plan documents. Members endorsed the initial Minerals and Waste LDS at an Authority meeting in March 2021. However, this was subsequently revised due to delays and approved at an Authority in July 2022. This report updates members with a further revised timetable for the review of the Minerals and Waste Plan.
- 1.3 The decision to undertake a partial update of the Plan was made by each partner authority and work commenced in 2021, in line with the original LDS. The first public consultation (Regulation 18) on the Draft Plan ran for 12 weeks from 8 November 2022 to 31 January 2023. Approximately 2,500 responses were received.

2. Reasons for changes to the timetable

- 2.1 The original LDS was revised in July 2022 following the need to delay the original timetable due to the plethora of Government consultations that had been issued and related to the Plan, the need to take account of the advice issued by Natural England on nutrient impacts on habitats, the international situation which elevated the political priority of energy prices and supply as well as implications of case law on climate change policy and decision-making.
- 2.2 There is now a need to further update the timetable to reflect current progress but to also ensure that the delivery of the Plan aligns with the proposed plan-making transitional arrangements outlined in the recent Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) consultation.
- 2.3 The current delay to plan preparation has occurred due to the decision to extend the Regulation 18 consultation to 12 weeks. The statutory requirement for Regulation 18 is a minimum of six weeks. However, as the consultation was held over the Christmas period this was required to be extended by two weeks, but it was

considered that 12 weeks would provide sufficient time for relevant interested stakeholders to respond.

- 2.4 The high number of responses received during the public consultation has necessitated additional time to process and analyse the comments. The comments will inform the further development of the plan policies and formulate decisions on the proposed allocations set out in the Plan. As such, sufficient additional time needs to be allowed to update the Plan.
- 2.5 The next public consultation stage will be on the Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) which will be the Plan that is intended to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

3. Revised timetable for the Partial Update Plan

- 3.1 The revised timetable for the partial update set out in the Local Development Scheme (see Appendix 1) has slipped by a few months, and is outlined as follows:

Key Milestones	Timescale	Description
Regulation 18 (Preparation)	March 2021 – August 2022	Call for Sites (Fixed period) Preparation of Evidence Base
Regulation 18 (Consultation)	September 2022 – March 2023	Consultation on the Draft Plan Update and Evidence
Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Document Preparation)	April 2023 – September 2023	Update Evidence Base Revise Plan based on Evidence Base and Consultation
Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission Document Consultation)	October 2023 – March 2024	Consultation on the Updated Plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State
Regulation 22 (Preparation)	April 2024 – June 2024	Update Evidence Base Proposed Modifications based on Evidence Base and Consultation
Regulation 22 (Submission to SoS)	July 2024	Submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State who appoints a Planning Inspector
Regulation 24 (Public Examination)	Spring 2025	Planning Inspector examines the Plan Consultation on proposed Main Modifications to the Plan
Regulation 25 (Inspector's Report)	Autumn 2025	Planning Inspector delivers the report on the Plan
Regulation 26 (Adoption)	Spring 2026	All authorities adopt the Plan, as modified by Planning Inspector

- 3.2 The [LURB planning reforms](#) consultation outlined proposed changes to plan-making including timescales. There is a cut-off date of 30 June 2025 for 'old style' plans to be submitted before being required to comply with the new plan-making arrangements. The revised timetable ensures submission of the partial update of the

Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2024, prior to this deadline. Should the deadline not be met, a new style plan would have to be prepared, meaning significant changes to the current format. It is also not yet clear how the proposed changes to Plans will impact minerals and waste plans.

- 3.3 Lastly, the LURB consultation states that all 'old style' plans will be examined by 31 December 2026. The revised timetable fits within this period. However, it should be noted that minerals and waste plans require specialist inspectors and the issue of enabling suitable resources are available to meet this deadline has been raised with the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 The revised Development Scheme outlines the programme for the partial update of the Plan and has been endorsed by the other partner Authorities.
- 4.2 As the transitional arrangements set out in the LURB consultation have been considered, it is not expected that the future outcome of the consultation will impact the timetable.
- 4.3 Having assessed the responses received during the public consultation, officers are finalising the Minerals and Waste Plan Partial Update. Once completed, details of the Plan Partial Update, evidence base and a summary of the consultation responses will be brought to a future Planning Committee meeting in November or December this year. Resolution will then be sought to agree the Draft Plan for a further period of public consultation followed by submission to the Secretary of State.

Recommendations:

That members approve the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Local Development Scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, which sets out the revised timetable and programme for the partial update of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2013) and becomes effective immediately.

Contact: Sarah Applegate, Senior Policy Officer
sarah.applegate@newforestnpa.gov.uk
01590 646600

Papers: **AM 663/23** – cover paper
Appendix 1 – Revised Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme 2023

Equality Impact Assessment: No impacts have been identified.