

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Cabinet

Date of Committee 12th October 2006

Report Title Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

Summary This report proposes that the timetable for preparing the Minerals Local Development Documents set out in the Minerals Local Development Scheme be revised to allow additional time for preparing the Preferred Options Paper subject to agreement with the Secretary of State.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members Councillor P Barnes – for information
Councillor M Jones (Minerals and Waste Policy Panel) – for information
Councillor P Morris-Jones – for information
- Cabinet Member Councillor C Saint – happy for report to go to
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member) Cabinet.
- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – agreed.

- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Cabinet – 12th October 2006

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to endorse the submission of the proposed revision of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme detailed in **Appendix A** subject to agreement with the Secretary of State.

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the County Council is required to adopt and regularly review a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) publicly stating its programme for the production of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents. Cabinet adopted a Scheme on 26th May 2005 which came in to effect on 9th June 2005. The Core Strategy Issues and Options of the Minerals Local Development Framework has recently been out for consultation which ended on 8th September 2006. The next stage of the process is to choose the Preferred Options.

2 Proposed Changes to the Programme

- 2.1 The agreed current timetable set out in the Minerals section of the MWDS (see **Appendix A**) has left a very short timeframe of one week in which to assess responses from the Issues and Options stage and to formulate the Preferred Options. The programme of the MWDS is required to be changed in order to ensure there is adequate time to fully assess all the options. The Local Development Scheme must conform to the nine tests of soundness set out in Planning Policy Statement 12. The first authorities to complete their Core Strategies failed to take adequate consideration of some of the tests which has resulted in Lichfield and Stafford's Core Strategies being "unsound". This means that they will have to withdraw their core strategies and start again, which will have serious resource implications in terms of staff time and budgets for the respective authorities.
- 2.2 Neither authority satisfactorily reflected the principles of spatial planning. The Inspectors considered that the strategies were unclear and lacked a firm evidence base. The conclusions that came from the Inspector were that authorities should have:-

- (i) An up-to-date evidence base.
- (ii) Realistic alternative options must be properly considered at an early stage.
- (iii) The plan must be spatial – with clear links with the community strategy and other plans.
- (iv) plans should be sufficiently flexible to be able to respond to changing circumstances.
- (v) Monitoring and implementation frameworks must be clearly set out and delivery mechanisms agreed with relevant bodies.

2.3 In the light of this, it has become apparent that the timetable for Warwickshire's Minerals Local Development Framework does not leave enough time for adequate consideration of all the responses generated by interested stakeholders in the consultation period between the Issues and Options stage and Preferred Options. A further three months is required to consider the Preferred Options and to ensure that all the tests are fully covered through a strong evidence base, so that the plan will be sound. This will affect the next stages of the Core Strategy delaying the plan's adoption by a similar length of time. In addition, there is a knock on effect with the timetable for the Allocations Local Development Scheme (LDS). The timetable for the Allocations will also have to be set back 3 months in order to ensure that sites are not allocated before the core strategy and principles have been properly considered.

2.4 The revised timeframe has been verbally agreed with the Government Office and it has been confirmed that the scheme can be changed without the need for any further consultation at this stage. The revised timetable has been set out in **Appendix A** alongside the previously approved LDS. It is not proposed to change the final stages of the plan leading up to adoption. No changes are proposed for the Waste element of the WMDS.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The proposed revision to the Minerals Development Scheme Core Strategy is necessary to ensure the soundness of the plan and to carry it through to adoption within the revised timescale.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

28th September 2006

Cabinet – 12th October 2006

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

MINERALS CORE STRATEGY TIMETABLE

STAGE	APPROVED DATES	PROPOSED DATES
Early Stakeholder and community engagement	February 2006	February 2006
Consultation Date: Issues and Options	July 2006	July 2006
Consultation Date: Preferred Options and Proposals	October 2006	January 2007
Date of Submission to the Secretary of State	April 2007	June 2007
Pre-Examination Meeting	October 2007	October 2007
Examination	January 2008	January 2008
Estimated Date for Adoption	September 2008	September 2008