

By: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste
David Brazier – Chairman of Minerals & Waste Development Framework
Informal Members Group

To: Environment, Highways & Waste Policy Overview & Scrutiny
Committee – 25 May 2010

Subject:

The Minerals and Waste Development Framework Informal Members Group

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary

To report on the Terms of Reference, operation and programme of the Informal Members Group.

Background

1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the County Council to prepare a *Minerals and Waste Development Framework* (MWDF). This will contain policies and proposals for minerals and waste planning over the next 15-20 years. It will replace the Kent Minerals Local Plans and the Kent Waste Local Plan.

2 The MWDF will take into account the waste collection and disposal by KCC and the District Councils, but is at arms length from them. Its preparation is also separate from the development control function of KCC as Minerals and Waste planning authority. It will address the land use needs of all waste streams and all minerals in the KCC area.

3 The programme for preparing the MWDF Framework is set out in a *Development Scheme* (DS) approved by Government in May 2009. The DS will need to be updated, but informs the public and stakeholders of the nature of the plans to be prepared and provides for the preparation and adoption of the following “*Development Plan Documents* “:

- Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – the first priority
- Mineral Sites Development Plan Document
- Waste Management Sites Development Plan Document

4 There will be a number of preparatory and evidence documents on which consultation must also take place. The *Core Strategy* will be preceded by the *Issues and Options* document and the *Policy Directions* document. It will be supported by several *Topic Reports* that will provide the technical justification for the County Council’s position.

5 When it is adopted, the MWDF will become part of the statutory development plan, alongside the District Council *Local Development Frameworks* and the *South*

East Plan. The MWDF is therefore a *Framework Plan* that sets out the County Council's policy. Decisions on the policy direction at critical stages of the process, and the adoption of the MWDF are therefore matters for the POSC and the full Council.

The Informal Members Group

6 The Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste recognised that the preparation of the MWDF would benefit substantially by being informed and steered by a small cross party Informal Member Group. Therefore eight Members have been appointed as follows :

Mr David Brazier Chairman
Mr Robert Burgess
Mr Harold Craske
Mr John London (member of the Planning Applications Committee)
Mr Malcolm Robertson (member of the Planning Applications Committee and the EH&W POSC)
Mr Chris Smith
Mr Nigel Collor (member of the EH&W POSC)
Mr William Richardson (member of the EH&W POSC)

7 The MWDF has considerable technical content and its preparation will extend over about three years up to adoption of the Core Strategy, with the Sites Development Plan Document following immediately after this. The MWDF must be adopted by the full Council, and the route for such a policy document is through the EH&W POSC. Because of this the *Informal Members Group* includes members of not only the EH&W POSC but also the Planning Applications Committee with experience of minerals and waste related developments. During the preparation of the MWDF the IMG may wish to invite other Members to attend for particular matters.

Terms of Reference for the IMG

8 The IMG held its first meeting on 7 April when it agreed its Terms of Reference as follows

“The IMG is to be known as the *MWDF Informal Members Group* and will :

- steer the preparation of the MWDF in accordance with the Project Plan
- consider and advise on the aims, evidence and policy direction of the Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework
- authorise the publication of evidence and consultation documents
- refer proposed policy documents for consideration by the Environment, Highway and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (POSC) and for adoption by the full Council *

* The policy documents to be referred to POSC alone are :

- *Issues and Options* and *Policy Directions* documents for the Core Strategy

* The policy documents to be referred to POSC and full Council are the public consultation and submission versions of :

- Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
- Mineral Sites Development Plan Document
- Waste Management Sites Development Plan Document “

9 Members of the POSC will note that it is proposed that the IMG agree to the publication of technical documents etc. but that draft policy documents be referred to the POSC for agreement prior to consultation, and also to full Council as they reach their final form prior to submission to Government.

Functions of the Informal Members Group

10 The Informal Members Group will meet regularly during the preparation of the MWDF, and normally this is not expected to be less frequently than every 2 months. There are however stages in the process such as after public consultation, when a period for analysis and report writing is required before reporting to the IMG.

11 The Informal Members Group will submit as appropriate progress reports to POSC, and also as appropriate progress reports and other documents to the Cabinet.

Programme

12 The Development Scheme is a statutory timetable agreed with the Government’s regional office (GOSE) in March 2009. It gives a timetable for the key stages in preparing the Core Strategy and will need to be updated with the agreement of GOSE.

13 The programme for the Core Strategy is expected to be broadly as below with the number of consultations envisaged. The *Sites Development Plan Documents* for Minerals and Waste must follow Adoption of the *Minerals and Waste Core Strategy* and will follow a similar cycle of consultation. The work required to prepare the *Sites Development Plan Documents* is very substantial because it must allocate land for development that can be delivered. In view of this, work on the *Sites Development Plan Documents* will proceed in parallel with that on the *Core Strategy*, for which the main steps are as follows :

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy	Dates
Consultation with statutory bodies on scope of Sustainability Appraisal	completed
Consultation on scope of Statement of Community Involvement	May 2010
Consultation on <i>Issues and Options Document</i> (Regulation 25)	Autumn 2010
Consultation on <i>Policy Directions Document</i> (Regulation 25)	Summer 2011
Consultation on Core Strategy (Regulation 27)	Winter 2011-12
Submission of Core Strategy (Regulation 30)	Summer 2012

Examination hearings
Receipt of Inspector's Report
Estimated Adoption of Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

Autumn 2012
end 2012
early 2013

14. The IMG has an initial programme of site visits and meetings as follows:

- 24th May 13:30 at Maidstone Hilton hotel**
Launch of the MWDF with the Minerals and Waste Industry
- 26th May 13:30 at Lecture Theatre Sessions House**
Launch of the MWDF with government, community and environment organisations
- 4th June Visit of IMG to key mineral and waste sites in mid and north Kent (a whole day)**
- 21st July IMG meeting to consider the draft *Issue and Options* document.**
To be referred to September 14th POSC prior to consultation.

From the above members of the POSC will note that there will be a further report to its meeting on 14 September 2010 to consider and endorse the *Issues and Options Document* prior to its consultation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the Terms of Reference, operation and programme of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework Informal Member Group as set out in this report.

Background Documents:

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Integrated Strategy and Planning Division
Kent County Council
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