



To: Planning & Regulatory Committee

Date: 29 May 2024

By: Planning Development Manager

District(s) N/A

Electoral Division(s): N/A

Case Officer: Laura Treagus

Benjamin Brett

Purpose: For information

Grid Ref: N/A

Title: Authority Monitoring Report 2021/2022 and Authority Monitoring Report 2022

Summary Report

Members of the committee are asked to note the preparation of two Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR) relating to the 2021/2022 financial year and the 2022 calendar year. The primary purpose of these documents is to report on progress relevant to the preparation of the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the efficacy of planning policies within the existing minerals and waste development framework, and the performance of the development management service against Key Performance Indicators as identified by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Members are requested to note the changes to the format and reporting period of AMRs, improving development management performance relevant to Key Performance Indicators, and the performance of minerals and waste policies against their relevant strategic objectives and monitoring indicators. Members are encouraged to provide feedback about AMRs, or other land-use planning monitoring functions undertaken by officers.

Background

1. As the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) for Surrey, Surrey County Council (SCC) is required, under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017), to prepare an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) on an annual basis, that contains:
 - Actions taken with respect to SCC's Duty to Cooperate (as set out in section 110 of the Localism Act 2011).
 - Progress on the preparation of minerals and waste development plan documents.
 - The extent to which the policies set out in adopted minerals and waste development plan documents Page 127 implemented.

- 10
2. The Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement to submit AMRs to the Secretary of State, but the MWPA is still required to prepare these routinely and report on the effectiveness of policies contained within adopted plans and the timetable for the preparation of development plan documents as specified in SCC's [Minerals and Waste Development Scheme](#).
 3. The adopted Minerals and Waste Development Framework, against which AMRs are assessed, is made up of the following documents:
 - The [Surrey Waste Local Plan 2019 – 2033](#).
 - The [Surrey Minerals Plan Core Strategy 2011 – 2026](#).
 - The [Surrey Minerals Plan Primary Aggregates DPD 2011 – 2026](#).
 - The [Surrey Aggregates Recycling Joint DPD 2013 – 2026](#).
 - The [Surrey Minerals Plan Site Restoration SPD 2011 – 2026](#).
 4. The key purpose of an AMR is to measure and assess performance against the strategic objectives and monitoring indicators set out in the above development plan documents. A range of information is used to make these assessments, including monitoring data received from site operators, minerals and waste planning applications and decisions, compliance and enforcement activity, and progress with the restoration of mineral sites. Through this process, the MWPA is able to test whether:
 - Planning policies are achieving their objectives.
 - Planning targets are being met.
 - Planning policies are having any unintended consequences.
 5. In addition to the above legislative requirements, a review undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) in 2023 recommended that, as part of the AMR, SCC report on the performance of the planning service to the Planning and Regulatory Committee (P&R committee) so that members are better informed of the functions that planning officers undertake on behalf of the council. As such, the MWPA has committed to including information within its AMRs relating to The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for planning applications and decisions, relevant to both minerals and waste management development and the County Council's own development (Reg 3 development).

Reporting Periods and Service Improvement

6. In accordance with the above requirements, the MWPA have prepared two AMRs, relating to the reporting periods 2021/2022 and 2022.
7. 2021/2022 AMR covers a reporting period of 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022, which follows the convention of previously published AMRs linking their reporting periods to the financial year.
8. The 2022 AMR provides a reporting period consistent with the calendar year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and so overlaps with the 2021/2022 AMR. The change to a calendar year reporting period for AMRs is consistent with other MWPA's in South East England (Hampshire County Council being one) and reflects when the majority of data informing the preparation of AMRs becomes available. The change also provides for consistency across other monitoring mechanisms such as the MWPA's Local Aggregates Assessment which is published annually and prepared on a calendar year basis. Future AMRs will continue to adopt a calendar year reporting period and so the

next AMR to be published will be for the reporting period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

9. Moreover, and considering the PAS recommendations and the MWPA's commitment to service improvement, officers have taken the opportunity to reformat and streamline AMRs in the interests of transparency, accessibility, and the quality of information provided to stakeholders including elected Members. The new style AMR seeks to provide consistent, comprehensive, clear, and succinct information to the reader, with a focus on policy and service performance and to benefit decision taking and plan-making in respect of minerals and waste management development.
10. The AMRs will be published on our website and will be available in print at a range of SCC libraries.
11. Given the changes set out above, it is appropriate to present the 2021/2022 and the 2022 AMRs to the P&R Committee for information purposes.

10

Performance Against DLUHC KPIs

12. The national target for the speed of planning decisions is for a minimum of 60% of decisions on major applications to be made within 13 weeks, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA decisions within 16 weeks and Planning Performance Agreements (PPA), or Extension of Time (EoT)) decisions to be within a period agreed with the applicant.
13. The speed of major SCC planning decisions is averaged over 2 years and is reported on a 2-year rolling basis, a quarter behind.
14. The latest set of published figures cover January 2022 – December 2023.
15. SCC has achieved 79.5% of major decisions within the target timeframe over the latest period. SCC has been steadily improving since dropping to 62.8% in September 2022.

AMR 2021/2022 Highlights

16. Minerals and Waste Applications and Decisions:
 - Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 SCC validated 43 applications relating to minerals or waste management development.
 - In the same period, SCC issued a total of 53 minerals and waste decision notices.
 - Of the 53 decision notices issued by SCC for minerals and waste management development, 8 decisions were taken by SCC's P&R committee and 45 decisions were taken by officers under delegated powers.
17. County Development Applications and Decisions:
 - Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 SCC validated 56 applications for Reg 3 development.
 - In the same period, SCC issued a total of 60 Reg 3 decision notices.
 - Of these decisions, 4 were taken by SCC's P&R committee with the remainder being taken by officers under delegated powers.
18. Minerals Highlights:

- In 2021 sales of sand and gravel (including sharp sand and gravel and soft sand) in Surrey at 0.81 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) were above the 10-year average of 0.78 mtpa. Consequently, the 10-year average was up slightly, in line with sales.
- The Surrey Minerals Plan Core Strategy 2011 provides sufficient capacity for the period 2009-2026 to enable production of:
 - Sharp sand and gravel at an average rate of 0.9 mtpa.
 - Soft sand at an average rate of 0.5 mtpa.
- The overall sand and gravel landbank of 7.5 years at the end of 2021 masked a significant imbalance between reserves of soft sand (11 years) and concreting aggregates (3.8 years) in Surrey.

19. Waste Highlights:

- In 2021 Surrey produced an estimated total of 3.48 million tonnes (mt) of waste comprising:
 - 0.54 mt of Local Authority Collected Waste.
 - 0.54 mt of Commercial and Industrial Waste (+15% sensitivity uplift applied).
 - 2.37 mt of Construction Demolition and Excavation Waste.
 - 0.03 mt of Hazardous Waste.
- Surrey's Community Recycling Centres achieved a reuse and recycling rate of 53% and a landfill diversion rate of 89% (Waste Data Flow 2021).

20. Enforcement:

- Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 SCC's Planning Enforcement Team undertook a total of 135 scheduled visits to authorised minerals sites or waste management facilities; and 34 unannounced site visits in response to complaints about unauthorised development.

AMR 2022 Highlights

21. Minerals and Waste Applications and Decisions:

- Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, SCC validated 43 applications relating to minerals or waste management development.
- In the same period, SCC issued a total of 45 minerals and waste decision notices.
- Of the 45 decision notices issued by SCC for minerals and waste management development, 8 decisions were taken by SCC's P&R committee and the remaining were taken by officers under delegated powers.

22. County Development Applications and Decisions:

- Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, SCC validated 29 applications for Reg 3 development.
- In the same period, SCC issued a total of 35 Reg 3 decision notices.
- Of these decisions, 2 were taken by SCC's P&R committee with the remainder being

taken by officers under delegated powers.

23. Minerals Highlights:

- In 2022 sales of sand and gravel (including sharp sand and gravel and soft sand) in Surrey at 0.57 mtpa were below the 10-year average of 0.78 mtpa. However, there was no overall change in the 10-year average.
- The Surrey Minerals Plan Core Strategy 2011 provides sufficient capacity for the period 2009-2026 to enable production of:
 - Sharp sand and gravel at an average rate of 0.9 mtpa.
 - Soft sand at an average rate of 0.5 mtpa.
- The overall sand and gravel landbank of 10.17 years at the end of 2022 comprised 10.23 years for soft sand and 10.07 years for concreting aggregates. However, this was based on differing provision rates for each type of mineral and masked a significant imbalance between permitted reserves of soft sand (5.1 mt) and concreting aggregates (3.0mt).

24. Waste Highlights:

- In 2022 Surrey produced an estimated total of 3.88 million tonnes (mt) of waste comprising:
 - 0.52 mt of Local Authority Collected Waste.
 - 0.56 mt of Commercial and Industrial Waste (+15% sensitivity uplift applied).
 - 2.77 mt of Construction Demolition and Excavation Waste.
 - 0.03 mt of Hazardous Waste.
- Surrey's Community Recycling Centres achieved a reuse and recycling rate of 53% and a landfill diversion rate of 93% (Waste Data Flow (WDF) 2022).

25. Enforcement:

- Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 SCC's Planning Enforcement Team undertook a total of 163 scheduled visits to authorised minerals sites or waste management facilities. At the time of writing, no data relating to unauthorised site visits was available.

Conclusions

26. Following the PAS review, officers undertook an appraisal of AMRs in the interests of transparency and improving the quality of information they provide. This involved changing the reporting year to a calendar year basis to provide for consistency between other monitoring mechanisms, such as the LAA, and to align with the publishing of data from external sources that contribute to the analysis of policy performance.
27. Since September 2022, SCC has been steadily improving its performance against DHLUC KPIs, and has achieved 79.5% of major decisions determined within the target timeframe over the latest period.

28. Between 2021 and 2022, sales of sand and gravel (including sharp sand and gravel and soft sand) dropped from 0.81 mtpa to 0.57 mtpa. However, there was no overall change in the 10-year average of 0.78 mtpa. The SMP provides sufficient capacity for the period 2009 – 2026 to enable the production of sharp sand and gravel at an average rate of 0.9 mtpa and soft sand at an average rate of 0.5 mtpa. The overall sand and gravel landbank of 10.17 years at the end of 2022, exceeded the minimum requirement of 7 years.
29. Between 2021 and 2022 overall waste arisings in Surrey increased from 3.48 mt to 3.88 mt. Surrey's Community Recycling Centres achieved a reuse and recycling rate of 53% across both reporting years and achieved a landfill diversion rate of 93% in 2022, an increase from 89% in the previous period.

Recommendations:

Members to note:

- The progress made in performance against DHLUC KPIs since September 2022, and the performance of minerals and waste planning policies against their strategic objectives and monitoring indicators for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2022.
- The change in the reporting period of AMRs and the changed format of the document including its streamlined approach to displaying data and analysing policy performance.
- That they are encouraged to provide feedback about the AMRs or other land-use planning monitoring functions undertaken by officers.