

**Title of meeting:** Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development

**Date of meeting:** 23 June 2015

**Subject:** Oil & Gas Development in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document

**Report by:** City Development Manager

**Wards affected:** all

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To set out the need for and the purpose of the draft Oil and Gas SPD and recommend that it be published for consultation.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development**
- a) approves the draft Oil and Gas SPD for consultation;**
  - b) authorises the City Development Manager to make editorial amendments to the SPD prior to publication, provided that the amendments do not alter the meaning of the SPD or do not affect Portsmouth.**

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 As Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, the city council was a partner authority in the production of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (together with Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and the New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities) and adopted it as part of the development plan for Portsmouth in 2013.
- 3.2 The Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan intends to ensure that we have enough minerals for Hampshire's needs up to 2030 as well as ensuring there are enough facilities to effectively deal with our waste management requirements. It includes robust policies which are designed to balance the needs of the economy, the environment and communities in considering the need for and the location of minerals and waste development.

- 3.3 The plan contains a policy specifically on oil and gas development (Policy 24). However, since the adoption of the Plan, oil and gas development has emerged as an issue of great interest to Hampshire's communities, in particular with regard to the potential for unconventional oil and gas development including hydraulic fracturing ('fracking').
- 3.4 All oil and gas development requires planning permission from the relevant Minerals & Waste Planning Authority as well as the relevant regulating licences and/or environmental permits from other agencies. These permissions and consents protect Hampshire's communities and the environment from many of the potential negative effects of development. However, due to the interest in this subject, officers at the partner authorities consider that an SPD on this issue would provide greater clarity and certainty to Hampshire's communities and interested parties on issues associated with this type of development. It explains the different stages of such development, the planning and licensing processes involved and the key social, economic and environmental considerations that will be taken into account. This approach was one of the outcomes of an Oil and Gas event, which took place in June 2014.
- 3.5 If approved, consultation is due to take place during June - August 2015, with adoption of the SPD planned for December 2015.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 Officers at the partner authorities (Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and the New Forest National Park Authority) consider that it would be helpful to set out further detail for communities, local authorities and potential applicants to explain the planning powers and processes which are used to control oil and gas developments.

#### **5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

- 5.1 The SPDs do not contain any additional policies over and above those in the Minerals & Waste Plan. The SPDs provide guidance on the implementation of the policies of the adopted Plan. As a result, it is considered that the documents have a low if not no impact on all groups. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be prepared as part of the preparation of the SPDs prior to adoption.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The report and recommendations give the opportunity to the Portfolio Holder to consider the documents in detail and signify approval before it is published as a draft document for consultation. The consultation is necessary having regard to regulation of production of supplementary planning documents.

#### **7. Head of Finance Comments**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications that arise as a result of approving the recommendation to consult on the draft Oil and Gas Supplementary Planning Document. Should any costs

arise, they will be met from existing cash limited budgets or an alternative source of funding will be identified.

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Signed by:

**Appendices:** Oil & Gas Development in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

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Signed by: