

# RECOMMENDATION FOR APPORTIONMENT OF RECYCLED AND SECONDARY AGGREGATES IN THE SOUTH EAST REGION

## Introduction

1. This note sets out a recommendation to the South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA) for the sub-regional apportionment of the target to increase the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in the South East to at least 7.7mt per annum by 2016<sup>1</sup>.

## Project Background

2. SEERA published the *Proposed Alterations to the Regional Planning Guidance South East Regional Minerals Strategy* in March 2004. The Examination in Public (EiP) was held in October 2004 and the EiP Panel Report *RPG9 Review of Waste and Minerals, Examination in Public* was issued in December 2004.
3. As a result of Recommendation 9.10 in the EiP Panel Report, Land Use Consultants (LUC) was commissioned in May 2005 to devise a methodology for local apportionment of the regional target for use of recycled and secondary aggregates, and to quantify the tonnage apportioned to each Minerals Planning Authority. The planning unit for the apportionment was the ten sub-regions advised by the 2004 EiP Panel Report, but with Kent and Medway separated, thus eleven sub-regions in total.
4. LUC developed an apportionment methodology and agreed it with the Steering Group<sup>2</sup> for the project during a series of meetings from May-July 2005. Under the agreed methodology, the apportionment figure is dependent on projected population growth for each sub-region, the amount of C&D materials arising/managed in the sub-region, and the area of sub-region covered by environmental/landscape designations and Green Belt. The apportionment figure was quantified for each sub-region under three scenarios all applying 25% weighting each for population and C&D wastes managed, but three different weightings for environmental/landscape designations and Green Belt (named Scenarios A, B and C). The development of the methodology and quantification of Scenarios A, B and C is described in a separate report prepared for SEERA by LUC<sup>3</sup>.
5. The three scenarios were presented to a meeting of the South East England Regional Aggregate Working Party (SEERAWP)/South East Regional Technical Advisory Body (SERTAB) on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The SEERAWP/SERTAB agreed that the Steering Group should meet again to decide the preferred scenario and apportionment figures to be recommended to SEERA for inclusion in the South East Plan. The Steering Group met for this final meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in *Proposed Changes to Regional Policy Guidance for the South East (RPG9) – Waste and Minerals*. Government Office for the South East, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

<sup>2</sup> The Steering Group consisted of representatives from the South East MPAs, SEERA, and the SEERAWP.

<sup>3</sup> *Methodology for apportionment of recycled and secondary aggregates in the South East Region*. Prepared for SEERA by Land Use Consultants, November 2005.

## Preferred Scenario for Apportionment

6. The Steering Group agreed to recommend that the weightings in Scenario B be used for the apportionment of the regional target for use of recycled and secondary aggregates. Scenario B applies the following weightings to the four criteria in the methodology:

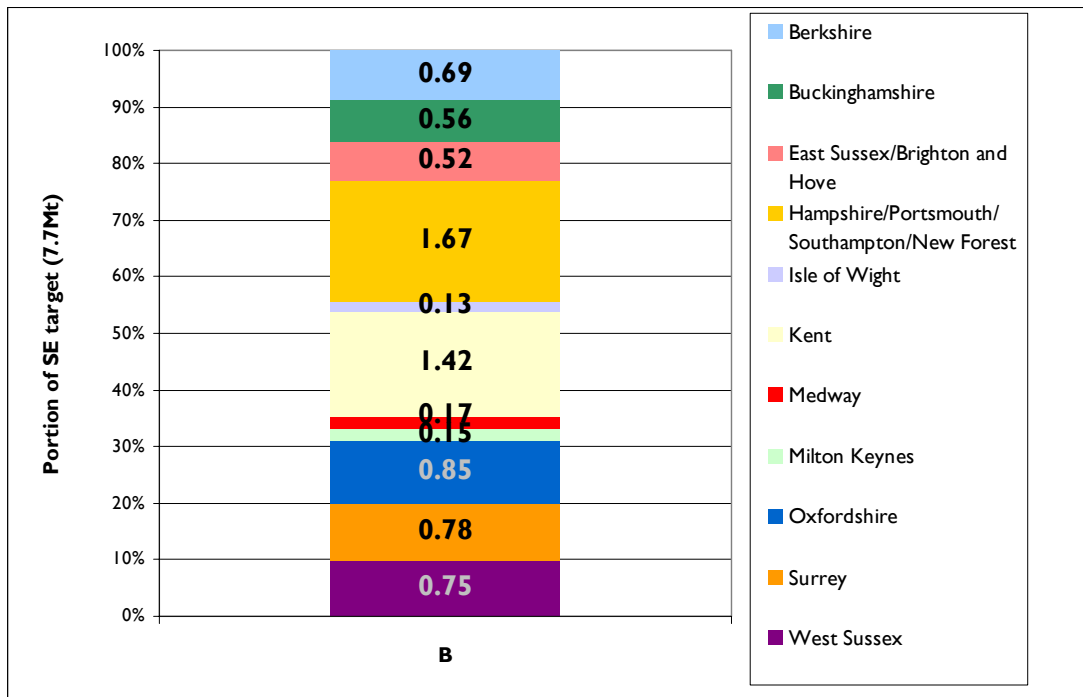
Criterion	Weighting
Projected population	25%
Forecast C&D waste managed	25%
Area unconstrained by environmental/landscape designations only	30%
Area unconstrained by Green Belt only	20%

7. The weightings to apply to environmental/landscape designations and Green Belt were the subject of much debate within the Steering Group. Policy M2 in the Proposed Changes to RPG9 provides some flexibility for development of minerals recycling facilities in the Green Belt by not precluding development “where it is consistent with the proximity principle, where there are no suitable alternative sites, and provided that the development would not cause harm to the objectives of the designation.” Policy M2 then states that “In very exceptional circumstances, minerals recycling facilities for local materials should not be precluded from Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks where this is consistent with the proximity principle and where development would not compromise the objectives of the designation.” Policies for Green Belt and environmental and landscape designations are considered to provide different types of policy constraints with different objectives, and therefore the Steering Group agreed that a slightly higher weighting should be given to environmental and landscape designations than to Green Belt.
8. However, the Steering Group recognised that mineral and waste planning authorities with a significant proportion of land designated Green Belt may not be able to implement their full apportionment through site allocations in their development plan documents, but the apportionment indicates a level of need that will be a factor in considering whether there are very special circumstances justifying planning permission for development in the Green Belt.

## Apportionment tonnages for each sub-region

9. **Figure I** shows the tonnages apportioned to each MPA for the contribution to recycled and secondary aggregate use by 2016, resulting from Scenario B.

**Figure I Apportionment (Mt) of recycled and secondary aggregate provision for the South East MPAs by 2016**



**Recommendation to SEERA**

- It is recommended that SEERA use the tonnages shown in Figure I to provide the sub-regional apportionment figures in the South East Plan for the contribution of each MPA to the target in Policy M2 to increase the use of recycled and secondary aggregate to at least 7.7 Mt in 2016.