

Division(s): N/A

CABINET – 19 JULY 2011

OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: PREFERRED MINERALS CORE STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION

Report by Deputy Director (Growth & Infrastructure)

Introduction

1. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy will set out the vision and strategic objectives together with the spatial strategy, core policies and implementation framework for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire over the period to 2030. Detailed site allocations will be identified in a subsequent document.
2. In preparing the Core Strategy the County Council must carry out consultation before a proposed document is published for formal representations and then submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by an inspector. This should include consultation on the Council's preferred strategy.
3. On 16 February 2011, Cabinet agreed its preferred strategy for mineral working for consultation. This was underpinned by locally derived figures for Oxfordshire's aggregates supply requirement.
4. The Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group considered proposed minerals policies based on this strategy on 9 May 2011. The Working Group recommended that Cabinet agree a preferred minerals strategy for consultation based on the proposed strategy and policies.

Draft Minerals Planning Strategy

5. The report by Atkins on Local Assessment of Aggregates Supply Requirements for Oxfordshire was published on the County Council's website in February 2011 and comments were invited. Comments have been received from the minerals industry and local environmental organisations. These are available in the Members' Resource Centre and are summarised in Annex 1. This annex also includes proposals for addressing the key points raised: these were endorsed by the Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group on 9 May 2011.
6. The Government published the full results of the 2009 aggregates monitoring survey at the end of May. This shows that in 2009 Oxfordshire was a net importer of sand and gravel, whereas the previous national survey in 2005 had shown it as a net exporter. The supply requirement figure agreed by Cabinet is high enough to provide for the total amount of sand and gravel consumed in Oxfordshire in

2009, including imports. It is considered that no change needs to be made to this figure in the draft minerals strategy for consultation.

7. Annex 2 sets out the proposed draft preferred strategy for minerals based on the Cabinet's previous agreed position supplemented by the policies endorsed by the Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group.
8. The vision and objectives for minerals planning in section 3 provide the basis for the strategy, policies and proposals for minerals. Policy M1 proposes a stretch target of 0.9 million tonnes a year for secondary and recycled aggregates. Policies M2 and M3 incorporate the aggregates supply figures and the strategy for the location of mineral workings previously agreed by Cabinet. Other policies cover aggregates rail depots (policy M4); safeguarding of mineral resources and facilities (policy M5); and restoration of mineral workings (policy M6). The strategy also includes policies (C1 – C8) that are common with the draft waste strategy, on: flooding; water environment; environmental protection; biodiversity; landscape; historic environment and archaeology; transport; and rights of way.

Next Steps

9. Public consultation on both the draft minerals strategy and draft waste strategy is proposed to be undertaken in September/October 2011. The outcome of that consultation will shape the content of the Core Strategy document that will then be published for comment and submitted to Government for independent examination in 2012.

Sustainability Implications

10. Sustainability appraisal is being carried out as an integral part of preparation of the Core Strategy. A sustainability appraisal of the preferred strategy for minerals is being prepared and will be made available alongside the consultation document.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

11. The Council has a statutory duty to produce the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. It will contribute to the Council's strategic objectives of a thriving economy, healthy and thriving communities and environment and climate change.

Financial and Staff Implications

12. The programme of work for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy is included within the Directorate work priorities. Funding for this project in the medium term financial plan will be under-spent in this financial year and will need to be re-profiled into the next year, by requesting a carry forward. This report does not raise any additional financial or staffing implications.

Risk Management

13. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy is a high risk project. The complexity of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework process and the potential implications for major mineral working proposals emphasise the importance of good project management and regular reporting on risk management.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **Agree Annex 2 as the County Council's draft minerals planning strategy for the purposes of consultation.**
 - (b) **Delegate authority to finalise the consultation document to the Deputy Director (Growth and Infrastructure) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure.**

Martin Tugwell
Deputy Director (Growth & Infrastructure)

Background papers:
Responses received in February and March 2011 to Local Assessment of Aggregates Supply Requirements for Oxfordshire, Atkins, January 2011.

Contact Officer: Peter Day, Tel 01865 815544

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