

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 15 JANUARY 2015**  
**OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE ANNUAL MONITORING**  
**REPORT 2014**

**Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning)**

**Introduction**

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires the County Council to prepare and publish minerals and waste local plan monitoring reports. This requirement has been met by the production each year of a Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
2. The purpose of AMRs is to assess and report on implementation of the Council's local development scheme (the programme for preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan) and the extent to which local plan policies are being achieved. Minerals and Waste AMRs have been produced and published on the Council's website for each year from 2005 to 2013.
3. In addition to being a legal requirement, the AMR for 2014 will form part of the evidence base for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy. Preparation and publication of the AMR should assist the plan through its independent examination, which is expected in summer 2015.

**Annual Monitoring Report 2014**

4. The AMR 2014 covers the 12 month period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, although most of the data in it is for the calendar year 2013. This AMR was due to be prepared by the end of 2014 but has been delayed to enable priority to be given to preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. A draft Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2014 is attached as an Annex.

**Implementation of the Local Development Scheme**

5. The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste (Local) Development Scheme came into effect in May 2005. The Scheme should be reviewed and revised when necessary to maintain an up to date programme for preparation of the MWDF.
6. A Minerals and Waste Core Strategy had been submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2012 for independent examination by a planning inspector. In view of issues raised by the Inspector over the adequacy of the evidence base for the Core Strategy in relation to the recently published National Planning Policy Framework and its compliance with the new duty to co-operate, the examination was suspended in February 2013. On 9 July 2013 the full County Council resolved to withdraw the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and to prepare a revised Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan in accordance with a new Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.

7. A revised Development Scheme came into effect in December 2013, during the period covered by this AMR. The AMR reports on the progress that was made towards meeting the programme in this Scheme:
  - February – March 2014: Consultation on Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy;
  - October – November 2014: Publish/Consultation on Proposed Submission Document;
  - March 2015: Submit Plan to Secretary of State for examination;
  - July 2015: Independent Examination hearings;
  - October 2015: Receive and publish Inspector's Report
  - December 2015: Adopt Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.
8. Taking into account the context provided by government policy and the urgent need for a new plan to replace the out of date Minerals and Waste Local Plan (1996), the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme December 2013 provided for a single new plan document to be prepared. It stated that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy will set out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and core policies for minerals supply and waste management in Oxfordshire over the period to 2030, focussing on the provision that needs to be made for new minerals and waste development; the strategic framework for delivering this and criteria based policies against which planning applications would be considered.
9. Work on the plan during the 2013/14 reporting year was focused on the preparation of a revised Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy. From July 2013 onwards work progressed rapidly on preparing the draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy, taking the previous Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (Submission Document October 2012) as a starting point for revised strategies and policies. On 28 January 2014, the Cabinet agreed the draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy for consultation. This was published in February 2014 for a six week consultation period from 24 February to 7 April, in accordance with the Development Scheme.
10. Responses to the Consultation Draft Plan were received from 155 organisations and individuals. These responses made a total of 644 separate comments on the draft plan. In the light of these comments and taking into account the Local Aggregate Assessment 2014 and other technical work, and also having due regard to current national planning policy and guidance, work during the remainder of 2014 was centred on amending the plan with a view to it being approved by full Council for publication and submission. Work is on track for an amended plan to be published for a further round of consultation early in 2015, with submission to the Government for independent examination by a planning inspector during summer 2015 and adoption by the end of the year.
11. The Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in November 2006. The need to update this has been kept under review having regard to changes in government procedures and policy on plan making and in the County Council's consultation policies and procedures. A review of the Statement of Community Involvement was commenced in May 2014 and is due to be adopted by the County Council on 27 January 2015.

## Monitoring Achievement of Policies

12. The revised Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy which is in preparation will include an implementation and monitoring framework with indicators and targets to monitor policy implementation. Pending this being produced, it is not possible to undertake a full assessment of policy implementation and it is not possible to report on the extent to which policies in the emerging Core Strategy are being achieved for the AMR 2014.
13. The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme 2013 lists 46 policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan which are 'saved' until replaced by policies in the new plan. Those policies are generally not written in a way that enables their achievement to be reported on but the AMR covers issues relating to their implementation.
14. The AMR 2014 cross refers to the Council's Local Aggregate Assessment 2014 and Waste Needs Assessment, which contain more detailed data on minerals supply and waste management. The AMR reports on monitoring of the following factors:
  - a) Sales (production) of land-won aggregate minerals (soft sand, sharp sand and gravel, crushed rock – limestone and ironstone);
  - b) The landbank of permitted reserves of aggregate minerals;
  - c) Permissions granted for aggregate mineral extraction;
  - d) Secondary and recycled aggregates production and production capacity;
  - e) Quantities of different wastes arising and methods of waste management;
  - f) Permissions granted for waste management facilities and capacities of different types of facility.
15. The AMR 2014 also reports on the work the County Council has been doing to comply with the 'Duty to Co-operate', as required by the Localism Act 2011, particularly in the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

## Conclusions

16. The main findings of the AMR 2014 are:
  - a) Production of sharp sand and gravel in Oxfordshire in 2013 totalled 401,000 tonnes, being less than in 2012 (559,000 tonnes) and well below the ten year average (2004 – 2013) of 715,000 tonnes.
  - b) Production of soft sand in Oxfordshire in 2013 totalled 165,000 tonnes, being slightly more than in 2012 (155,000 tonnes) but still below the ten year average (2004 – 2013) of 182,000 tonnes.
  - c) Production of crushed rock in Oxfordshire in 2013 totalled 502,000 tonnes, being significantly more than in 2012 (242,000 tonnes) and above the ten year average (2004 – 2013) of 458,000 tonnes.
  - d) The landbank of sharp sand and gravel at the end of 2013 was 9.3 years based on the ten year sales average of 0.715 million tonnes per annum; but was 7.3 years based on the LAA 2014 figure of 1.015 million tonnes per annum.

- e) The landbank of soft sand and gravel at the end of 2013 was 11.9 years based on the ten year sales average of 0.182 million tonnes per annum; but was 11.4 years based on the LAA 2014 figure of 0.189 million tonnes per annum.
- f) The landbank of crushed rock at the end of 2013 was 23.6 years based on the ten year sales average of 0.458 million tonnes per annum; but was 18.5 years based on the LAA 2014 figure of 0.584 million tonnes per annum.
- g) Recorded production of secondary and recycled aggregates in 2013 was 422,000 tonnes, slightly less than the figure recorded in 2012 (466,000 tonnes).
- h) Planning permissions were granted during 2013 for the extraction of 873,000 tonnes of sharp sand and gravel. In addition the Council resolved in December 2013 and January 2014 to grant permission for two further planning applications for sharp sand and gravel extraction totalling 6.863 million tonnes; permission was granted for one of these applications (for 1.863 million tonnes) in August 2014.
- i) An estimated total of 2.022 million tonnes of waste was managed in Oxfordshire in 2013 (compared with an estimate of 2.5 million tonnes in 2012) of which 50% was construction, demolition and excavation waste, 35% was commercial and industrial waste and 15% was municipal waste.
- j) In 2013/14, 58% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill by means of recycling, composting or some other form of treatment and it is estimated that 76% of commercial and industrial waste was diverted from landfill and 77% of construction, demolition and excavation waste recycled or recovered for use in restoration or landfill engineering.
- k) Planning permissions were granted during 2013 for increased waste management capacity at eight existing or new waste management facilities, of which three were for landfill of inert waste, three for recycling, one for anaerobic digestion and one for storage of radioactive waste.
- l) In order to meet the Duty to Cooperate the Council has undertaken a programme of engagement with adjoining and other local authorities and with statutory and other specified bodies, as an integral part of work on preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy. Minerals and waste planning strategic issues of common interest have been identified and, as far as possible, an appropriate co-operative approach agreed.

## **Financial and Staff Implications**

17. The new Minerals & Waste Plan is included within the work priorities of the Environment and Economy Directorate and is being progressed within the budget for the Council's minerals and waste policy function. The Annual

Monitoring Report 2014 forms part of this work-stream and it does not raise any additional financial or staffing implications.

### **Equalities Implications**

18. No equalities implications have been identified.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

19. **The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) approve the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2014 Annexed to this report;**
  - (b) authorise the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning) to carry out any necessary final editing of the Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2014 for publication on the County Council website.**

BEV HINDLE

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning)

Background papers:

- i. Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2014, Final report V5, November 2014
- ii. Oxfordshire Waste Needs Assessment, May 2012
- iii. Review and Update of Oxfordshire Waste Needs Assessment by BPP Consulting, February 2014

All background papers are kept in the Minerals and Waste Policy Team at Speedwell House, Oxford

Contact Officer: Peter Day, Tel 01865 815544

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