

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 27 FEBRUARY 2014

OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2013

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 a Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The former requirement for AMRs to be submitted to the Secretary of State was repealed by the Localism Act 2011.
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 policies are being achieved. Previous AMRs, for 2005 to 2012, are on the Council's website.

Annual Monitoring Report 2013

3. The AMR 2013 covers the 12 month period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, although most of the data in it is for the calendar year 2012. This AMR was due to be prepared by the end of 2013 but has been delayed to enable priority to be given to preparation of the draft new Minerals and Waste Local Plan. A draft AMR 2013 is Annexed.

Implementation of the Local Development Scheme

4. 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.
5. A revised Development Scheme came into effect in May 2012, at the beginning of the period covered by this AMR. The AMR reports on the progress that was made towards meeting the programme in that Scheme.
6. A further revised Development Scheme was approved by Cabinet on 26 November 2013 and came into effect on 10 December 2013. The AMR 2013 also reports on progress towards meeting the programme in this current 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

7. Work on the plan during the 2012/13 reporting year was focused on the preparation of the previous Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. Following consultation on draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies during the autumn of 2011, Cabinet considered amendments to policies in March 2012 and agreed to recommend the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document to the full County Council. The Proposed Submission Document was approved by the County Council on 3 April 2012, and published in May 2012 for representations to be made, in accordance with the timetable in the Development Scheme then applying.
8. The Core Strategy, together with all representations received, was 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. Subsequently, and outside the 2012/13 reporting year, the full County Council resolved in July 2013 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.
9. Taking into account the context now provided by government policy and emerging new guidance, 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 provides for a single new plan document to be prepared. 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. It will focus on the provision that needs to be made for new minerals and waste development; the strategic framework for delivering this, including the broad spatial strategy with areas of search for mineral working; and criteria based policies against which planning applications would be considered. This approach should provide an appropriate level of flexibility in the provision to be made for mineral working and waste management capacity to respond to assessed needs.
10. Since July 2013, work has 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 is to be published in February 2014 for a six week consultation period, in accordance with the timetable in the latest Development Scheme.
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.

Monitoring Achievement of Policies

12. The AMR 2012 used the indicators and targets that were proposed in the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Submission Document (October 2012) to monitor policy implementation. Revised policies, sustainability objectives, indicators and targets are now being developed in the preparation of the revised Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy. It is therefore not possible to undertake a full assessment of policy implementation and to report on the extent to which policies are being achieved for the AMR 2013.
13. The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme lists 46 policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan which are 'saved' until replaced by policies in the new plan. (The 'saving' of Oxfordshire Structure Plan policy M2 on locations for sand and gravel working ended in March 2013 with the revocation of the South East 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 2013 cross refers to the Council's Local Aggregate Assessment 2013 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;
 - 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 2013 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 2013 are:
 - a) Production of sand and gravel in Oxfordshire in 2012 totalled 714,000 tonnes, a marginally higher figure than in 2011 (690,000 tonnes) but still well below the ten year average of 1.001 million tonnes.
 - b) Production of crushed rock in Oxfordshire fell to 242,000 tonnes, the lowest level in a decade.
 - c) The landbank of total sand and gravel at the end of 2012 was 8.2 years based on the ten year sales average of 1.001 million tonnes per annum.
 - d) The landbank of crushed rock at the end of 2012 was 24.5 years based on the ten year sales average of 0.470 million tonnes per annum.

- e) Recorded production of secondary and recycled aggregates in 2012 was 466,000 tonnes, nearly double the figure recorded in 2011 (236,000 tonnes)
- f) No new permissions were granted for the extraction of aggregate minerals in Oxfordshire during the calendar year 2012.
- g) An estimated total of 2.5 million tonnes of waste was managed in Oxfordshire in 2012, of which 54% was construction, demolition and excavation waste, 34% was commercial and industrial waste and 12% was municipal waste.
- h) In 2012, 59% municipal waste was diverted from landfill by means of recycling, composting or some other form of treatment; and it is estimated that 70% of commercial and industrial waste was diverted from landfill and that 78% of construction, demolition and excavation waste was recycled or recovered for use in restoration or landfill engineering.
- i) Six waste management related planning permissions were granted during the 2012 monitoring period.
- j) In order to meet the Duty to Co-operate the Council has sought to ensure that minerals and waste planning strategic issues of common interest to adjoining and other authority areas are identified and an appropriate approach agreed where possible.

Financial and Staff Implications

- 17. The Minerals and Waste Plan is included within the work priorities of the Environment and Economy Directorate and funding provision for this project is held in the Minerals and Waste Project earmarked reserve. This report does not raise any additional financial or staffing implications.

RECOMMENDATION

- 18. **The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **approve the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2013 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 2012 for publication on the County Council website.**

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Background papers: None

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