

Divisions Affected - All

CABINET

20 December 2022

OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Report by Corporate Director Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to:
 - a) Approve the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (Thirteenth Revision) December 2022 at Annex 1, in order to have effect from 1st January 2023.
 - b) Delegate any final detailed amendment and editing to the Corporate Director Environment and Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.

Executive Summary

2. The County Council must prepare and maintain an annual Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) setting out the Council's programme for preparing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
3. The current Local Development Scheme has expired and needs to be revised.
4. The key change is the pursuit of a single Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, to combine Part 1 (the Core Strategy) and Part 2 (the Site Allocations Document).
5. This work will ensure that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is in conformity with the NPPF and based on a sound evidence base.
6. The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme annexed to this report sets out a revised timetable for Plan production which would combine Parts 1 and 2 of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan into a Single Plan for submission to the Secretary of State in March 2025.
7. Producing a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan would:
 - result in a shorter timescale for the completion of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan due to there being one plan to progress through the

local plan process rather than two planning documents which would unnecessarily lengthen the process of plan preparation; and

- lead to significant savings in the cost of plan production because there would be one instead of two Examinations in Public.

Background

8. The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme is expected to be reviewed and updated at least annually. There have been twelve revisions of the MWDS since 2005, most recently in October 2021 and in January 2021.
9. The MWDS was revised in January 2021 in order to update the timetable for preparing the Part 2 – Site Allocations Document. The MWDS was subsequently updated in October 2021 to undertake the partial review of the Core Strategy, which was needed to address the policy trigger caused by the shortfall in crushed rock provision (Policy M2).

Effect on Planning Decisions

10. The Core Strategy policies (2017) are in place for determining applications and remain in place until the end of the plan period (2031) or until replaced by the single plan.

Legal Implications

11. The processes for the withdrawal of the existing plan and the production of a local plan are set out in both legislation and regulations. The principle relevant legislation and regulations are:
 - The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
 - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
 - The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
12. Production of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Comments checked by:
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Equality and Inclusion Implications

13. The change from the current situation to the production of a single Local Plan is not expected to create any negative equality implications.

Sustainability Implications

- The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is the County Council's applications are decided. The policies within the document guide development decision-making to deliver the County Council's corporate priorities, namely the outcomes for climate action, circular economy and amenity benefits enjoyed through restoration and nature recovery schemes. To that extent the plan has great importance, however, this proposal relates only to the process for producing the plan and not to the policies themselves. The proposal does not therefore have any sustainability or climate change impacts.
- The Local Plan process requires a Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out as an iterative process throughout. A single plan would be subject to this process from the beginning.

Finance Implications

- Production of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme is a statutory requirement. There are no financial implications arising directly from it. The benefit of this approach is that a single Examination in Public would be needed for one plan rather than a doubling of costs for examination on two separate parts of the Plan.
- The cost of the proposed approach, set out in Annex 1, is estimated to be £320,000 including £120,000 for project costs (including the preparation of technical evidence between January 2023 and March 2025) and £200,000 due to be incurred in 2025/26 for the Examination in Public.
- Given the delays in the process of plan preparation so far this cost represents a net pressure, any mitigations to further reduce the cost will be considered in a future Budget Strategy process.

Comments checked by:

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Conclusion

- Pursuing a single local plan would result in a shorter timescale for the completion of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, would lead to savings in the cost of plan production and has the potential to deliver considerable benefit against the priorities of the Corporate Plan.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director for Environment and Place

Annex: Annex 1: Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

Background papers: Available on request:

Equality Impact Assessment
Climate Change assessment

Available on Oxfordshire County Council website:
The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 -
Core Strategy
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme
Local Aggregates Assessment

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