

COUNCIL – 3 APRIL 2012
OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN:
MINERALS AND WASTE CORE STRATEGY – PROPOSED
SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

Report by Deputy Director (Growth & Infrastructure)

Introduction

1. The County Council is preparing a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy will form the central part of this plan. It is a strategic policy document that requires full Council approval before it can be published for representations to be made and then submitted to the Government for independent examination.

Background

2. The Core Strategy sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and core policies for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire to 2030. Detailed site allocations will be identified in a subsequent document.
3. Draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies were agreed by Cabinet in July 2011 and were published for consultation in September. 779 responses were received, mostly on minerals issues and particularly to a proposed new mineral working area at Cholsey. The responses have been published on the Council's website and are in the Members' Resource Centre.
4. Overall the consultation has not led to any new substantive issues being put forward that call into question the principles on which the draft strategies were prepared. A number of more detailed issues have been raised, in response to which some changes to the strategy policies are proposed.
5. Responses to the consultation and proposed changes to policies have been considered by the informal member Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group; and by the Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee on 27 February 2012. The Scrutiny Committee supported the amended Core Strategy policies but recommended five aspects of the strategy on which it considered the Cabinet should satisfy itself.

Recommendation of Cabinet

6. The key issues raised by the consultation responses, the proposed changes to the Core Strategy policies and the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee were reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 March 2012.

The report to Cabinet, including a schedule of proposed changes to the minerals, waste and core policies and to the mineral and waste vision and objectives, is at Annex 1.

7. The Cabinet decided to:
 - (a) agree the amended minerals, waste and core policies in Annex 1 and the amended minerals and waste vision and objectives in Annex 2 as the basis of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document for approval by the full County Council.
 - (b) delegate authority to finalise the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document, including amendments to the supporting text, to the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure.
 - (c) delegate authority to finalise the County Council's responses to the comments made in response to the Minerals Planning Strategy and Waste Planning Strategy Consultation Drafts, September 2011 to the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure.
 - (d) RECOMMEND to the full County Council that the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document as finalised by the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure be approved and be published to enable representations to be made and submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
8. The full version of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, including the vision, objectives and policies agreed by Cabinet and amendments to the supporting text has been prepared and is at Annex 2. This has been sent to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure for her agreement and her response will be reported at the Council meeting.

Next Steps

9. Subject to approval, the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document will be published in May, for representations to be made; and will be submitted to the Government in July, for independent examination by a planning inspector. Public examination hearings would be expected to be held in the autumn and the Inspector's report received in spring 2013. Subject to a favourable report, the Council would then be able to adopt the Core Strategy.
10. It should be noted that the Core Strategy policies have been prepared within the context of the current national planning policy framework. The working assumption is that the publication of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework this spring will not substantially change the national context in so far as it is relevant to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

11. **The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document at Annex 2, subject to any necessary editorial changes as agreed by the Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure, for publication and for submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.**

MARTIN TUGWELL

Deputy Director (Growth & Infrastructure)

Background papers:

- i. Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group 21 December 2011 – Paper MW1 – Responses to Consultation on Draft Minerals and Waste Strategies and Main Issues Raised.
- ii. Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group – Note of Meeting 21 December 2011.
- iii. Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group 24 February 2012 – Paper MW1 – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Core Strategy: Changes to Policies for Proposed Submission Document.
- iv. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper on Provision for Aggregates Supply, February 2012.
- v. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Provision for Aggregates Supply: Summary of Engagement with other Mineral Planning Authorities, January / February 2012.
- vi. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Preliminary Assessment of Minerals Site Nominations, revised February 2012.
- vii. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening report for mineral and waste strategy options, August 2011.
- viii. Land Use Consultants & Maslen Environmental – Habitats Regulations Assessment for Oxfordshire Minerals Planning Strategy: Technical Supplement, January 2012.
- ix. Oxfordshire County Council – Strategic Landscape Assessment of potential minerals working at Cholsey and Caversham: impacts on Protected Landscapes, February 2012.
- x. English Heritage – Letter 17 January 2012 to Oxfordshire County Council on Minerals Plan Consultation 2011.

- xi. Correspondence between Oxfordshire County Council and the Ministry of Defence on draft minerals planning strategy and birdstrike, October and December 2011.
- xii. Environment Agency – Emails 20 December 2011 and 20 January 2012 to Oxfordshire County Council on mineral working, flooding and groundwater issues.
- xiii. Correspondence between Oxfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency on waste issues, December 2011 to February 2012.
- xiv. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 1: Environmental and Community Protection and Planning for Mineral Working, revised February 2012.
- xv. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 2: Flooding and Minerals Development in Oxfordshire, revised February 2012.
- xvi. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 3: Quarry Restoration, revised February 2012.
- xvii. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 7: Heritage assets and archaeology, February 2012.
- xviii. URS – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Pre Submission Minerals and Waste Core Strategy: Sustainability Appraisal Report, March 2012.

All the above documents are kept in the Minerals and Waste Policy Team, Speedwell House, Oxford.

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March 2012