

## **Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy**

### **Summary of changes to the draft of the Core Strategy that was agreed in principle by Cabinet on 25 November 2014**

#### Section 1 – Introduction

This section has been amended to update it, in particular to make it relevant to the publication and submission stage of the plan process and the current timetable; and to include a clearer explanation of the subdivision of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan into Part 1 – Core Strategy and Part 2 – Site Allocations Document, the reasons for this and what each of the parts will cover.

#### Section 2 – Background

This factual section has been amended to bring it up to date and make it relevant to the publication and submission stage of the plan process. Further amendments are required to complete this updating.

#### Section 3 – Vision and Objectives for Minerals and Waste in Oxfordshire

The vision for minerals planning (paragraph 3.3 c)) has been amended to include enhancement of green infrastructure.

Waste planning objectives i and ii have been amended to clarify that provision for waste management to enable self-sufficiency includes necessary provision for disposal of residual waste; and to distinguish more clearly between the provision to be made for municipal, commercial & industrial and construction, demolition & excavation wastes (the principal waste streams), and the provision to be made for the other, more specialist types of waste.

Waste planning objective v has been amended to take out the reference to facilities that are not practical below a certain size, as this is unclear and unnecessary and circumstances may change over the plan period.

Waste planning objective vi has been amended to make its meaning clearer.

The waste planning objective making provision for disposal of residual waste (previously objective vii) has been deleted as it now covered by objective i and is no longer necessary as a separate objective.

Waste planning objective vii (previously objective viii) has been amended to make it an achievable objective and to make it applicable to disposal of residual waste disposal from both Oxfordshire and elsewhere.

Waste planning objective viii (previously objective ix) has been amended to relate to unnecessary loss of green field land rather than being limited it to permanent loss of green field land.

#### Section 4 – Minerals Planning Strategy

Policy M1 ‘Recycled and secondary aggregate’ has been amended to strengthen the requirement for temporary facilities to be removed and the site restored at the end of their temporary period of operation.

Table 2 ‘Aggregate provision required over the plan period’ has been updated to include reserves of sharp sand and gravel at Radley which are now confirmed as permitted; and to show additional ‘reserves’ of sharp sand and gravel in the proposed extension to Gill Mill Quarry which is the subject of a Committee resolution to grant permission subject to a legal agreement. The effect of these changes is to reduce the remaining sharp sand and gravel requirement over the plan period from 9.791 million tonnes to approximately 5.4 million tonnes.

Policy M4 ‘Sites for working aggregate minerals has been amended slightly to provide greater clarity of meaning; and to make it clear that the other criteria in the policy should be taken into account when considering giving priority to the extension of existing quarries.

Policy M5 ‘Working of aggregate minerals’ has been reordered to make it clearer and more logical; parts of it have been amended slightly to provide greater clarity of meaning; and wording has been added to refer to possible alternatives to revocation for securing the non-working of ironstone permissions.

Policy M6 ‘Aggregate rail depots’ and policy M9 – ‘Safeguarding mineral infrastructure’ have both been amended to avoid conflict between safeguarding of rail depot and other mineral infrastructure sites from other development and allocations for development in adopted local or neighbourhood plans.

Policy M7 ‘Non-aggregate mineral working’ has been amended to remove the qualification ‘traditional local’ from building stone as that wording is unclear, unnecessary and lacks justification; and to require a local need to be demonstrated for the extraction of chalk.

Policy M9 ‘Safeguarding mineral infrastructure’ has been amended to make it clearer and more positive.

Policy M10 ‘Restoration of mineral workings’ has been amended to include enhancement of local landscape character and agricultural land quality as factors that must be taken into account; and to require that restoration proposals must not increase recreational pressure on Special Areas of Conservation.

On Figure 9 ‘Minerals Key Diagram’ the boundaries of the minerals strategic resource areas have been amended to better reflect geological mapping of mineral resources that may potentially be workable and to exclude the built up areas of towns and villages. Further amendment is required to show Special Areas of Conservation and to exclude a water catchment area around the Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation from the Corallian Ridge soft sand mineral resource area.

Some amendments have been made to the supporting text to make it clearer, to update it and to reflect amendments to policies.

### Section 5 – Waste Planning Strategy

Policy W1 ‘Oxfordshire waste to be managed’ has been amended to take out the amounts of waste to be managed and instead to put them in the supporting text, because these figures are likely to change over the plan period and to be consistent with the approach to provision for aggregate mineral working in policy M2.

Policy W2 ‘Oxfordshire waste management targets’ (previously W3) has been amended to subdivide the recycling, composting & food waste treatment into separate targets for composting & food waste treatment and dry recycling, as is the case for municipal waste.

Policy W3 ‘Waste management capacity requirements’ (previously W4) has been extensively amended to make it more clearly a policy about the amount of waste management capacity of different types that should be provided, as distinct from policies W4 and W5 which deal with where facilities should be located; and to more clearly relate the amount of provision required back to the amounts of waste arising and the waste management targets in policies W1 and W2; and to make it clear that landfill is covered by separate policy W6.

Policy W4 ‘Locations for facilities to manage the principal waste streams’ (previously W5) has been amended to subdivide it; to make it clearer; to relate it better to the Key Waste Diagram; and to state that sites for the waste management facilities required will be allocated in Part 2 of the Plan – the Site Allocations Document (moved from policy W3); but the substance of the policy has not been changed.

Policy W5 ‘Siting of waste management facilities’ (previously W6) has been amended to add a requirement for the sites of temporary facilities to be restored when the use ceases; to change the test for green field locations from whether there is an over-riding need to whether it is the most suitable and sustainable option available, which is easier to assess and more in line with national policy; to bring the section on development in Green Belt in line with current national policy; and to add a cross reference to core policies C1 – C11.

Policy W6 ‘Landfill’ (previously W7) has been amended to more clearly distinguish between those parts dealing with non-hazardous waste, inert waste and both types of waste; to add a section on facilities for the management of landfill gas and leachate to the non-hazardous waste part of the policy; and to add a section on how and how much provision will be made for disposal of inert waste, including a statement that sites will be allocated in Part 2 of the Plan – the Site Allocations Document.

Policy W7 ‘Management and disposal of hazardous waste’ (previously W8) has been amended to add a cross reference to the general locational policies W4 and W5 and the core policies C1 – C11.

Policy W9 'Management and disposal of radioactive waste' has been amended to include possible disposal facilities at Harwell or Culham as one of the matters to be addressed in Part 2 of the Plan – the Site Allocations Document rather than leaving any proposals just to be dealt with through the development management process; and other minor amendments have been made to make the policy clearer and tighter.

Policy W11 'Safeguarding waste management sites' has been amended to follow a similar format to that used in the minerals safeguarding policies (M8 and M9); to clarify that sites to be safeguarded will be identified in Part 2 of the Plan – the Site Allocations Document but that pending adoption of that document sites to be safeguarded are listed in an appendix to the Core Strategy; and to avoid conflict between safeguarding of waste sites from other development and allocations for development in adopted local or neighbourhood plans.

Policy W8 'Management of agricultural waste' (previously policy WX) and Policy W10 'Management and disposal of waste water and sewage' have been subject to minor amendment to make them clearer and tighter but their substance has not been changed.

On Figure 10 'Waste Key Diagram' (previously figure 16) has been amended to distinguish more clearly between the locations for strategic and non-strategic facilities and to make it clear that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Green Belt are excluded from these locational areas.

The supporting text for the waste policies in section 5 has been extensively revised to update it, to reflect amendments made to the policies and to provide clearer and stronger explanation of and justification for the policies in line with current national policy and guidance.

### Section 6 – Core Policies for Minerals and Waste

Policy C1 'Sustainable development' has been amended to take out the requirement for planning applications to be approved without delay, since this is a matter of procedure rather than planning policy.

Policy C5 'General environmental and amenity protection' has been amended to divide it into sub-sections in order to make it clearer; to add mud on the road as a specific impact; and to add a paragraph about buffer zones and other mitigation measures being required where necessary.

Policy C7 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' has been amended to accord more closely with current national policy and guidance; the policy content has been retained but has been expanded and reordered to provide greater clarity and to reflect better the hierarchy of designations.

Policy C8 'Landscape' has been amended to accord more closely with current national policy and guidance, including the addition of a paragraph about the circumstances in which compensatory measures would be required to offset impacts.

Policy C9 'Historic environment and archaeology' has been amended to specifically include the possibility that prior archaeological investigation will be required; and to make it clearer what the designated heritage assets relevant to Oxfordshire are.

Policy C10 'Transport' has been amended to cross refer more clearly to the County Council's lorry route maps; and to add a requirement for transport assessments or statements to be provided with proposals where necessary, in line with current national policy and guidance.

Some amendments have been made to the supporting text to make it clearer, to update it and to reflect amendments to policies.

### Sections 7 – Implementation and Monitoring

This section has been updated to reflect current circumstances, including current national policy and guidance, and the amendments made to policies. Further amendments are required to complete this updating.

### Appendices

An appendix has been added listing the saved policies in the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plan which will be replaced by the policies in the Core Strategy when it is adopted.

An appendix has been added listing the waste management sites that will be safeguarded pending the adoption of the Site Allocations Document.

### Glossary

The glossary has been updated and expanded to reflect current circumstances, including current national policy and guidance, and the amendments made to policies. Further amendments are required to complete this updating.