

17th January 2013**Agenda Item:4****REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING****MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – REVISED APPROACH****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for a revised approach and production timetable for the preparation of the Minerals Local Plan.

Information and Advice

2. The preparation of the revised Minerals Local Plan to 2030 is underway and is being prepared in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An Issues & Options consultation took place between 27th January and 30th March 2012 and the responses from this consultation were reported to the Environment and Sustainability Committee in June 2012.
3. A timetable for the production of the Minerals Local Plan was agreed at Environment and Sustainability Committee in September 2012 as part of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme. The agreed approach would set out the vision and objectives, development management policies and would only identify non-sand and gravel site allocations, with the sand and gravel sites being identified in a separate site allocations document at a later stage, in line with previous Government guidance.
4. However, to ensure consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular the requirement to produce one Local Plan unless additional development plan documents can be clearly justified (paragraph 153), it is proposed to produce a combined Plan with all sites identified, rather than the production of two Plans, this will mean that amendments to the previously agreed timetable are required to allow for additional work to assess the sand and gravel sites but the time to take the Minerals Local Plan through to examination would be shorter overall. Extra work will be required initially to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal on the additional sites, however the revised approach will save time and money in the long-run as it will simplify the process and provide greater certainty to communities and the industry in terms of site locations.
5. It is proposed that the next stage of the process will be the Preferred Approach which will identify the Council's spatial vision and objectives for Minerals extraction to 2030, the Development Management policies on which all future

planning applications for minerals development will be determined and the preferred future extraction sites. This stage will require Environment and Sustainability Committee's approval of the document prior to the six week public consultation. It is anticipated that this will take place in September 2013. Officers will continue to work with the Member's cross party Minerals Project Group during the development of the plan to ensure all views are considered.

6. The Minerals Project Group has discussed this revised approach and are in agreement that, to ensure that the Minerals Local Plan is considered 'sound' at examination, the new approach should be progressed.
7. The existing and proposed timetables for the production are as follows:

Existing		Proposed	
Minerals Local Plan (excluding Sand and Gravel sites)			
Preferred Approach Consultation	March 2013		
Submission Draft Consultation	November 2013		
Submission	March 2014		
Examination	July 2014	Preferred Approach Consultation	September 2013
Adoption	October 2014	Submission Draft Consultation	April 2014
Sand and Gravel Allocations Document		Submission	August 2014
Issues and Options Consultation	July 2014	Examination	December 2014
Preferred Approach Consultation	December 2014	Adoption	March 2015
Submission Draft Consultation	June 2015		
Submission	August 2015		
Examination	December 2015		
Adoption	March 2016		

Other Options Considered

8. To continue to progress the agreed approach consisting of two separate documents.

Reason for Recommendation

9. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to have an up to date Minerals Local Plan in place which is consistent with national policy and guidance.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report, with the work being undertaken by existing resources. Costs will be incurred subsequently as part of the examination of the plan by the independent inspector.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

12. The production of the Minerals Local Plan is a statutory function of the County Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee approve the revised approach to the Minerals Local Plan and the preparation timetable.

Sally Gill
Planning Group Manager

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Lisa Bell, Team Manager - Planning Policy, ext 74547

Constitutional Comments (SHB.18.12.12)

13. Committee have power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (DJK 18.12.2012)

14. The contents of this report are duly noted; and the financial comments are contained within the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All