

6 March 2014

Agenda Item:

## REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

# MINERALS LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED APPROACH CONSULTATION – COMMENTS RECEIVED

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Committee with an overview of the responses received to the Minerals Local Plan Preferred Approach consultation.

### **Information and Advice**

- 2. The Minerals Local Plan is a statutory document that all Minerals Planning Authorities must prepare. It identifies sites and sets out policies against which all minerals development proposals are assessed and determined by the County Council. The overall aim of the Plan is to ensure that sufficient minerals are provided to meet expected demand in the most sustainable way and to safeguard proven mineral resources from being unnecessarily sterilised by other development.
- 3. The current Plan was adopted in December 2005 and was prepared under previous Government legislation. This plan is now becoming out of date and work has begun on preparing a new plan to replace it. This will look ahead to 2030.
- 4. The new Minerals Local Plan contains a vision and strategic objectives, strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies.
- 5. Before it can be adopted, the new Local Plan must go through various stages of public consultation and community involvement culminating in an examination in public by an independent planning inspector.
- 6. The preparation of the new Minerals Local Plan commenced in 2011, there was an informal public consultation on the Issues and Options in 2012. Over 1,100 representations were received from a total of 196 organisations and individuals, including statutory bodies, local district and parish councils, neighbouring county councils, the minerals industry, interest groups and members of the public. These comments were been used to inform the Preferred Approach.

7. Environment and Sustainability Committee approved the Preferred Approach document for a 6 week period of public consultation in October 2013. The consultation ended on 18 December 2013.

#### Summary of responses received

- 8. A total of 854 responses from 237 respondents have been received to the Preferred Approach consultation, these can be broken down as follows:
  - Support: 122;
  - Object: 434;
  - General comments: 298.
- 9. The general comments and supports received related to all parts of the document with some useful suggestions for new and amended text.
- 10. The majority of the objections to the Preferred Approach document related to specific site allocations and in particular new sand and gravel extraction sites at Barnby Moor (91 objections), Botany Bay (70 objections) and Coddington (petition containing 54 names and 13 specific objections). The largest numbers of objections to extensions of existing sites were in relation to the Brick Clay extraction site at Kirton (19 objections). The remaining objections received on the document related to a variety of topics and policies.
- 11. Additional sites and an amended boundary to the proposed allocation at Barnby Moor have also been submitted for consideration and inclusion in the plan.

#### Next Steps

- 12. Following consideration of the comments received by both officers and the Minerals Project Group, responses to these comments will be drafted and agreed through Committee.
- 13. The new and amended sites submitted through the Preferred Approach consultation stage will be appraised in terms of Sustainability and Deliverability and in light of these findings a further round of informal consultation may be required to consider the views of the public, industry and statutory consultees prior to formal consultation on the Submission Draft document..
- 14. The Submission Draft document will then be prepared, taking into account any comments received on the preferred approach and other consultations. Approval will be sought through the Environment and Sustainability Committee to publish it for a further period of consultation. The Minerals Local Plan, along with all representations received, will then be formally submitted to the Secretary of State and subsequently will be subject to an independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The Inspector's role is to consider the 'soundness' of the whole plan.
- 15. If considered sound then the Local Plan can be adopted. Adoption is scheduled for Autumn 2015.

#### Other Options Considered

16. There are no alternative options to consider as the report is for information only.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

17. This report is for information only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. 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**

19. There are no direct financial implications as this report is for information only.

#### Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

20. There are no direct implications for Sustainability and the Environment

## RECOMMENDATION

1) This report is for information only.

#### Jayne Francis-Ward Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Lisa Bell, Team Manager – Planning Policy, Tel: 0115 9774547.

#### Constitutional Comments (SLB 18/02/2014)

21. This report is for noting only.

#### Financial Comments (NR- 18-02-14)

22. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

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