

9th March 2017

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – AUTHORITY MONITORING
REPORT 2016 (COVERING FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16)****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee of the performance of policies contained in the existing Minerals Local Plan and progress on the development of a replacement Plan, as set out in the latest Authority Monitoring Report (AMR, previously known as Annual Monitoring Reports). The AMR covers the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016.

Information and Advice

2. All local authorities are required to undertake regular monitoring as part of preparing their local plans. This includes looking at progress with preparing their various local plans, and any supporting documents, and assessing how well the policies in existing plans are working.
3. The County Council has a statutory function to prepare local plans covering minerals and waste and to carry out regular monitoring. Previously a single combined Annual Monitoring Report was produced to cover both minerals and waste. However, due to the more detailed monitoring arrangements that are now in place, separate AMRs have now been prepared for each plan. The Minerals Local Plan AMR 2016 is attached at Appendix 1. The AMR covers the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016 with some updates to December 2016 where applicable. The AMR for the Replacement Waste Local Plan will be reported to Committee at a later date.

Key findingsProgress of the replacement Minerals Local Plan

4. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, a new Minerals Local Plan is being prepared to replace the existing Plan which was adopted in 2005. Following various stages of informal consultation, a formal consultation on the Submission Draft version of the replacement Plan took place between February and April 2016. The Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for an examination in public in December 2016. The most recent timetable for preparing the new Minerals Local

Plan is set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme which was approved by this Committee on 28th April 2016.

5. Although outside the current monitoring period, Members are advised that public hearing sessions are due to take place in June 2017. If found sound by an Independent Planning Inspector, the Minerals Local Plan should be adopted by the end of 2017.

Performance of the adopted Minerals Local Plan

6. Current policies within the Minerals Local Plan adopted in December 2005 were prepared under the previous planning system but remain broadly up to date. Policies within the Plan do not have specific monitoring indicators or targets unlike the emerging Minerals Local Plan which will have a specific monitoring and implementation framework.
7. As Members are aware, the County Council is also required to produce a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) which identifies locally derived demand forecasts for aggregate minerals and monitors aggregate sales and reserves for a 10 year period. In light of this the AMR only provides a summary of the findings of the LAA and does not repeat the detail.

Primary Aggregates

8. Sales of sand and gravel have increased slightly from 1.43 million tonnes in 2014 to 1.52 million tonnes in 2015 but this is still lower than pre-recession levels of around 3 million tonnes per annum. Sherwood Sandstone sales also slightly increased from 0.34 million tonnes in 2015 to 0.38 million tonnes in 2016 and sales of Limestone remain negligible. As at December 2015, the landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves was 9.5 years (two and a half years above the recommended 7 year minimum). Sherwood Sandstone reserves were almost 14 years and Limestone reserves stood at 111 years.
9. Site allocations made within the existing Plan (2005) have all come forward as planning applications with the exception of a sand and gravel site at Gunthorpe. The majority of these are now worked out or nearing the end of their life. A number of extensions were permitted during the monitoring period, extending the life of existing sites in advance of new allocations coming forward within the emerging Minerals Local Plan. These permissions are listed in Table 4 of the AMR attached at Appendix 1.
10. Local data for alternative aggregates (secondary and recycled aggregates) is very limited, however the main sources in Nottinghamshire come from power station ash, some types of construction and demolition waste and used rail ballast.

Other building and construction minerals

11. Sales of silica sand over the last 10 years have averaged 220,000 tonnes. Around 350,000 tonnes were extracted in 2015 and the remaining landbank is estimated at approximately 40 years, well above the recommended minimum (10 years).

12. There are no sales figures available for the other building and construction minerals. Reserves of brick clay at Nottinghamshire's two brickworks are below the minimum 25 year requirement although an extension to Dorket Head permitted in 2013 has increased reserves and the emerging Minerals Local Plan identifies a potential extension at Kirton which would significantly increase the landbank.
13. Sales of building stone are very limited with very small amounts worked from a single site at Yellowstone Quarry. Both the adopted and emerging Minerals Local Plans contain a criteria based policy to maintain supply.
14. There is no landbank requirement or specific government guidance for gypsum. Actual reserves vary between sites but the overall level of permitted and allocated reserves remains high.
15. Two planning applications were received during the monitoring period. One was to extend the period for extraction of building stone and amend transport limits at Yellowstone Quarry. The other was for a revised restoration and phasing scheme at Bantycok Quarry (gypsum).

Energy minerals

16. Nottinghamshire has a long history of coal production but extraction in recent years has reflected the national decline in the industry. The County's last remaining colliery at Thoresby closed in July 2015. Planning permission for surface mined extraction at Shortwood Farm was granted in 2013 but working has not yet commenced.
17. A number of coal bed methane exploration and mine gas recovery schemes have been granted since the adoption of the existing Plan in 2005.
18. Although outside the monitoring period, two applications for exploratory well sites where the primary target is shale gas have been received. The first, for two boreholes (one vertical and one horizontal) was submitted by Island Gas Limited for a site off Springs Road, Misson. It was resolved to grant planning permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement at Planning and Licensing Committee in November 2016. This application was preceded by an application for groundwater monitoring boreholes at the same site, which was granted permission in January 2016 (as reported in the AMR). The second application was submitted by Dart Energy in May 2016, for a single vertical borehole on land off A634 between Barnby Moor and Blyth. A decision on this application is due to be made in February 2017.

Other Options Considered

19. There are not considered to be any alternative options as the Council is required to undertake annual monitoring.

Reason for Recommendation

20. To note the content of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Development Plan – Authority Monitoring Report 2016.

Financial implications

21. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/s

23. That Committee note the content of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Development Plan – Authority Monitoring Report 2016.

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Corporate Director, Place

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Steven Osborne-James,
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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.

Constitutional Comments

24. As this report is for noting only constitutional comments are not required.

Financial Comments (RWK 01/02/2017)

25. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 21.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All