

14 November 2013**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE****STRATEGIC PLANNING RESPONSE TO THE PARTIAL REVIEW OF THE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee ratification for comments sent to Northamptonshire County Council on the 31st October 2013 in response to their request for strategic planning observations on the Partial Review of their Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2013).

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has been asked for strategic planning observations on the above document and this report compiles responses from Departments involved in providing comments and observations on such matters. On the basis of Committee's decision, comments will be sent to Northampton County Council in their role as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. A copy of the spatial strategy diagrams for minerals and waste are provided at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.
3. The Partial Review is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) and a range of other supporting documents. This report is based on the information and evidence submitted with the Partial Review and in the context of national, regional and local policy.
4. At this stage representations should relate to the requirements of legal compliance or the 'soundness' of the local plan. The legal requirements include that the Local Plan is subject to a sustainability appraisal, and has regard to national planning policy and the authority's community strategy. The tests of soundness include the local plan being justified, effective, positively prepared and consistent with national planning policy; the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
5. The National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act encompass the principles of sustainable development, the interests of local authorities and

neighbourhoods. There are three aspects to Sustainable development described in the NPPF, giving rise to three roles of the planning system:

- an economic role –
 - building a strong, responsive and competitive economy,
 - ensuring that land is available to support growth and innovation;
 - identifying and coordinating appropriate infrastructure;
- a social role –
 - supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities,
 - providing sufficient housing for present and future generations;
 - creating a high quality built environment,
 - providing accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and well-being;
- an environmental role –
 - protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment;
 - helping to improve biodiversity,
 - helping use natural resources prudently and minimise waste and pollution;
 - mitigating and adaptation to climate change;
 - helping moves to a low carbon economy.

6. The Soundness of a Local Plan depends partly upon it being able to:

- positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of the area and
- meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:
 - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in [the NPPF] taken as a whole; or
 - specific policies in [the NPPF] indicate development should be restricted.

7. Any comments made by the County Council can only relate to the tests of soundness and therefore will need to address these issues and these alone.

8. All valid representations received by Northamptonshire County Council will be submitted to a Planning Inspector who will then conduct a public examination of the Local Plan. The Local Plan can only be adopted if it is found to be 'sound' at examination.

Overview of the Document

9. Northamptonshire County Council is undertaking a partial review of its Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF). As part of this review the individual elements of the MWDF (known as Development Plan Documents or DPDs) are being combined into one document to form the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the plan period is extended to 2031. The consultation period ran between the 5th September and 31st October 2013.

10. Northamptonshire County Council has previously consulted on the 'Way Forward' which set out the issues they proposed to address through the partial review. The next stage in the partial review process was, after taking into account responses received on the Way Forward document, to produce and consult on a Draft Plan. This was a document that brought together the four key elements of the adopted Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) - Core Strategy, Locations for Minerals and Waste Development and the Control and Management of Development – updated to reflect the matters covered by the partial review, including extending the end date of the plan to 2031. The Draft Plan was consulted on January to March 2013.
11. The current stage of the partial review is called the Final Draft Plan. This is the document that Northamptonshire County Council considers should be adopted as the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Issues for the County Council

Minerals

12. Northamptonshire does not possess extensive mineral resources and is not therefore a major minerals producing area. However, there are resources of sand and gravel, limestone and ironstone which are currently exploited. The County Council was consulted previously on the Local Aggregates Assessment for Northamptonshire, which forms part of the evidence base for the Final Draft Plan, but did not raise any issues.
13. The Local Plan aims to provide a total of 11.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel and 8.1 million tonnes of crushed rock over the plan period. When added to existing permitted reserves this is comfortably more than the identified requirement in each case. The specific sites allocated are shown on the map in Appendix 1. There are also criteria-based policies for other, more incidental, minerals and for secondary and recycled aggregates in line with national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Comment:

14. The Northamptonshire approach is welcomed and is not considered to raise any specific minerals issues for Nottinghamshire.

Waste

15. Northamptonshire is part of the East Midlands but does not border Nottinghamshire directly. Geographically, the plan area is influenced heavily by waste management pressures from London and the South East. This is reflected in Northamptonshire's position as an overall importer of waste. Waste movements between Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire are relatively small although Nottinghamshire does rely on Northamptonshire's King's Cliffe facility for a proportion of its hazardous waste disposal. The general approach and content of the waste policies within the Final Draft Local Plan are largely unchanged but the

detailed estimates of future waste arisings and indicative waste management capacity needs have been revised in line with the extended plan period.

16. National waste policy, set out within Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10), requires plans to demonstrate how capacity equivalent to at least ten years' worth of the anticipated waste arisings could be provided. The Plan demonstrates that Northamptonshire has sufficient capacity for recycling and recovery until 2021 but there will be a need for additional facilities beyond that date. To meet this shortfall, the Plan allocates a number of sites for potential waste use as shown in Appendix 2. The plan also anticipates a shortfall in non-hazardous disposal capacity from approximately 2016 onwards. No specific disposal allocations have been made but the plan contains a general criteria-based policy setting out the level of anticipated need over the plan period and favours the extension of existing sites where feasible.
17. The plan aims to provide sufficient waste management capacity to manage the equivalent of Northamptonshire's own waste arisings (i.e. to be net self-sufficient). The plan therefore maintains a clear policy commitment to meeting Northamptonshire's future waste management needs whilst recognising the need for some cross-boundary movements of waste.

Comment:

18. Northamptonshire's approach to future waste management provision is welcomed and it is considered that the updated policy targets and evidence base provide a positive and proportionate means of addressing future waste needs within the plan area whilst reflecting the principles of sustainable waste management.

Overall Conclusions

19. The County Council consider the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Draft Local Plan to be sound in terms of its positive approach to meeting future minerals and waste management requirements.

Other Options Considered

20. As the consultation requires representations to be made on the soundness of the plan the only other option was not to make representations.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. Having assessed the Partial Review of the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan against the tests of soundness as set out in paragraphs 9-18 above, it is considered that the document is sound and does not raise any policy implications for Nottinghamshire.

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.

Financial Implications

23. There are no direct financial implications.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

24. The approach set out within the Partial Review of the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will enable an appropriate level of local minerals provision to meet identified needs and provides for sustainable future waste management at all levels of the waste hierarchy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Committee ratify the above comments which were sent to Northamptonshire County Council on the 31st October 2013.

Jayne Francis-Ward

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For any enquiries about this report please contact: Suzanne Osborne-James, Principal Planning Officer, Planning Policy Team, 01159 772108

Constitutional Comments (SLB 18/10/13)

25. Environment and Sustainability Committee is responsible for waste planning and is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SEM 23/10/13)

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

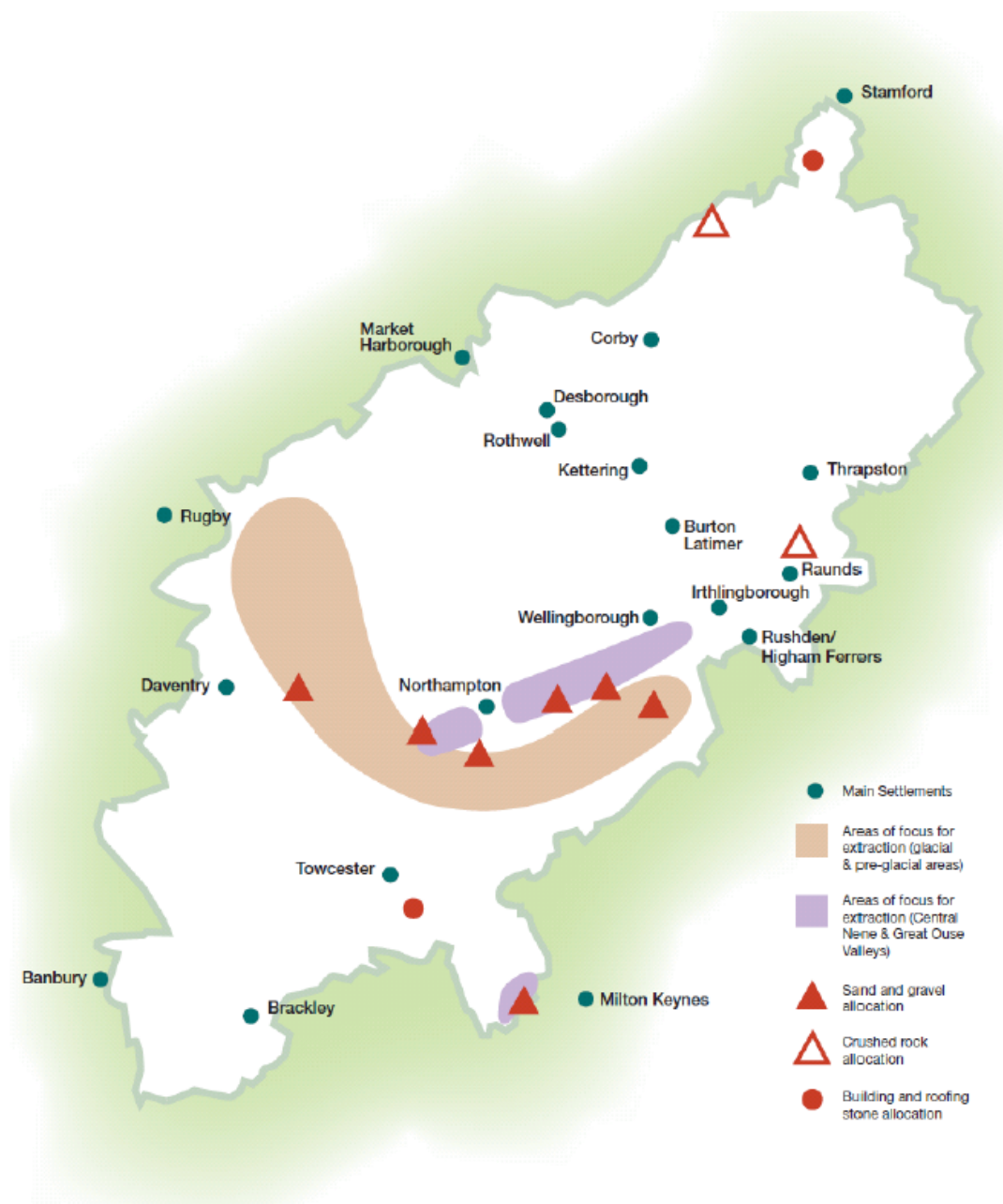
Background Papers and Published Documents

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

Appendix 1 - Spatial strategy for mineral extraction showing allocated sites



Appendix 2 - Spatial strategy for waste management showing allocated sites

