

Foreword

Minerals extraction is going to raise some very big planning issues in Nottinghamshire over the next 15-20 years. We therefore need to have an up to date Minerals Local Plan that will set out how much mineral we are likely to need, where it should be worked and what sort of environmental standards should be in place.

Our current Minerals Local Plan was prepared under the old planning system and we are now working on preparing a new plan to replace it. This will look ahead to 2030.

This Preferred Approach document marks a very important public consultation stage in preparing the new plan. It sets out all the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Policies, Mineral Provision Policies (including land allocations) and Development Management Policies that will guide the future development of minerals in Nottinghamshire County.

We want to know what you think as we have to try and strike the best balance between the wide range of local, environmental and commercial interests that mineral extraction proposals often affect.

I hope you will respond and your comments will be considered as part of the next stage of the Plan's production.

Councillor Jim Creamer

Chairman: Environment and Sustainability Committee

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

We each use the equivalent of around 10 tonnes of minerals every year to sustain our way of life. Sand and gravel, rock and brick clay are essential raw materials used in the building and construction industry; coal, oil and gas supply most of our energy needs and a wide range of other minerals are vital for our manufacturing, food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries and agriculture. Indeed almost all aspects of our material well-being depend to one degree or another on minerals.

Nottinghamshire is rich in minerals – in fact most of the County overlies at least one potential surface or underground resource. Sand and gravel, coal and gypsum are our largest extractive industries, all of which are nationally important. Other minerals worked include brick clay, building stone, silica sand and oil. There are also mineral resources such as industrial dolomite and shale gas that could be worked in the future.

Whilst many of our mineral resources remain plentiful, permitted reserves are often limited and finding sufficient new reserves to meet future demand will be a major challenge over the next 15-20 years. Unlike other forms of development, minerals are finite and can only be worked where they are found. This factor combined with the potential environmental impacts of extraction often seriously limits where mineral extraction is feasible. It is therefore important both to identify, at least in broad terms, where future mineral extraction will be acceptable and to safeguard resources so that suitable sites are not unnecessarily lost to other development.

The County Council is preparing a new Minerals Local Plan to resolve these issues and to provide the planning policy blueprint against which all proposals for new minerals development will be assessed. The current Minerals Local Plan was adopted in December 2005 and is now due for replacement. This Preferred Approach consultation exercise forms an informal stage in preparing a new Plan which will cover the period up to 2030.

The Preferred Approach fulfils the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the accompanying Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in preparing a Development Plan Document for the County Council and follows the guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

Have your say

The purpose of this Preferred Approach consultation exercise is to set out the draft Vision, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Policies, Minerals Provision Policies (including land allocations) and Development Management Policies that will guide the future development of minerals in the County.

We need to hear from all sections of Nottinghamshire's communities about what they think about the choices. There is likely to be a wide range of views about the shape of future mineral extraction in the County and we want to find solutions that have the best consensus of opinion but that can also be delivered. It is therefore vital you let us know what you think so we can take your views into account before any decisions are made about what should go into the new Plan.

This document will be available for comments between Wednesday 23rd October and Wednesday 4th December 2013. We would encourage you to respond online to this consultation at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/minerals or you can email/write to us, using the response form, at the addresses shown below. Please note all comments that you make will be public.

Online www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/minerals

Email development.planning@nottscc.gov.uk

Post

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Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

Phone 08449 80 80 80 (customer contact centre)

This document can be made available in alternative formats or languages on request.

What happens next?

At the end of this consultation exercise we will consider all comments received and we will then incorporate relevant comments into a Submission Draft Consultation document ready for another public consultation period prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination and formal adoption.

Want more information?

A range of background papers have been prepared which set out in detail the particular issues faced by each mineral and some other key topic areas.

Background papers – specific minerals

- Aggregates -estimating future requirements to 2030
- Aggregates - sand and gravel. Options for meeting shortfalls
- Aggregates -Sherwood Sandstone. Options for meeting shortfalls
- Aggregates - limestone (crushed rock). Options for future provision
- Alternative aggregates
- Brick clay
- Gypsum
- Building stone
- Industrial dolomite
- Silica sand
- Coal
- Hydrocarbons – oil and gas

Background papers - other issues

- Minerals safeguarding
- Biodiversity
- Landscape character
- Archaeology
- Development management policies

All of these documents are available on the County Council website or by contacting the Planning Policy team.

Scope of the new Minerals Local Plan

Once adopted, the new Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan will form the land use planning strategy for mineral development within the County as a whole. It will provide the basis for the determination of mineral planning applications within the County. Its over-arching theme is the promotion of sustainable development and achieving the highest quality restoration possible. This means balancing the economic benefits and need for minerals against the social and environmental disruption and harm that their extraction can cause. Long term environmental gains can be achieved, for example, by creating wildlife habitats out of worked out quarries. Sustainability also means safeguarding mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation so they can remain available for extraction for future generations.

The new plan will contain the following:

- An overview of the County in terms of population, transport, communications, the economy and resources, Green Belt, landscape, countryside, natural and built heritage, water, soil, air, health and climate, this will help us plan effectively for the future;
- A long term Vision for mineral development in Nottinghamshire to 2030;
- Strategic Objectives demonstrating how the Vision will be achieved;
- Strategic Policies covering the key issues of Sustainable Development, Minerals Provision, Biodiversity Led Restoration, Climate Change, Transport, The Built and Natural Environment and the Green Belt;
- Mineral Provision Policies setting out the mineral requirements during the plan period to 2030, including land allocations to meet this demand;
- Development Management Policies the purpose of which is to deliver the strategic policies and objectives by providing the criteria against which future minerals development will be assessed. They relate specifically to individual, site level criteria such as environmental impacts and standards and provide guidance about how planning applications for minerals development in the county will be assessed;
- A framework by which the implementation of and subsequent effect of the plan and its policies can be monitored and reviewed; and
- A Policies Map which identifies site allocations/policies and site specific Development Briefs.

Supporting documents

A series of other documents are of importance to the new Mineral Local Plan, all of which can be found on our website, as above.

Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)

The LAA summarises past aggregate production, provided the number of active quarries and the distribution of the extracted mineral. Identifies the future mineral apportionment levels based on the NPPF 10 year average

figure and identifies key issues that could affect the future demand for aggregates over the next plan period

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

The AMR monitors how the County Council is progressing with the existing Local Plan and how its policies are being implemented. Once the new Minerals Local Plan is adopted the AMR will be altered to reflect the new policies it contains.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

This sets out how Nottinghamshire County Council will consult and engage with people, statutory bodies and other groups during the preparation of the Local Plan and on mineral planning applications.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

All local development frameworks, including those for minerals, are required to complete a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) under S19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. SA helps local planning authorities to ensure that sustainable development is considered in the preparation of their plans. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) (NPPF) introduced a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' as a 'golden thread' which should run through plan and decision-making.

SA is an integral part of the preparation of the new Minerals Local Plan. The first stage was a review of the Issues and Options consultation document. This was completed after the consultation and the findings have been used to inform the development of the Preferred Approach. The second stage of SA, a review of the Preferred Approach, has been completed alongside the development of the document, thus contributing directly to its development.

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the "conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora for plans" that may have an impact of European (Natura 2000) Sites. HRA is the assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a Natura 2000 Site. Its purpose is to consider the impacts of a land-use plan against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

HRA is applicable to any plans and projects that could impact here and is therefore required for relevant components of the Minerals Local Plan. A Preliminary screening report for the Waste Core Strategy and Minerals Local Plan was produced for the County Council in 2011 and subsequent screening of potential sites was completed in 2013. These reports have informed the preparation of this Preferred Approach document.

Strategic Transport Assessment

Early consultation with the Highways Authority has indicated that each proposed site would not have significant impacts on the highway network if a relevant package of mitigation measures were implemented, however, a detailed strategic transport assessment is being undertaken to ensure that there are no overall impacts on the highway network.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

In 2010 Scott Wilson were commissioned to undertake a Level 1 Minerals and Waste Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and Nottingham City Council (NCC) Unitary Authority. The purpose of this report was to assess and map the different levels and types of flood risk to inform the development of the Minerals Local Plan (and Waste Core Strategy).

EQIA

An initial assessment of equality impact of the Minerals Local Plan has been undertaken. This does not identify any issues in this regard, however a more detailed assessment is underway to fully assess each policy.

Health Impact Assessment

A Health Impact Assessment is underway to ensure that the Minerals Local Plan does not have significant adverse impacts in the short or long term.

Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy

The purpose of a Sustainable Community Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of a local area, typically ten to twenty years, in a way that contributes to sustainable development in the UK.

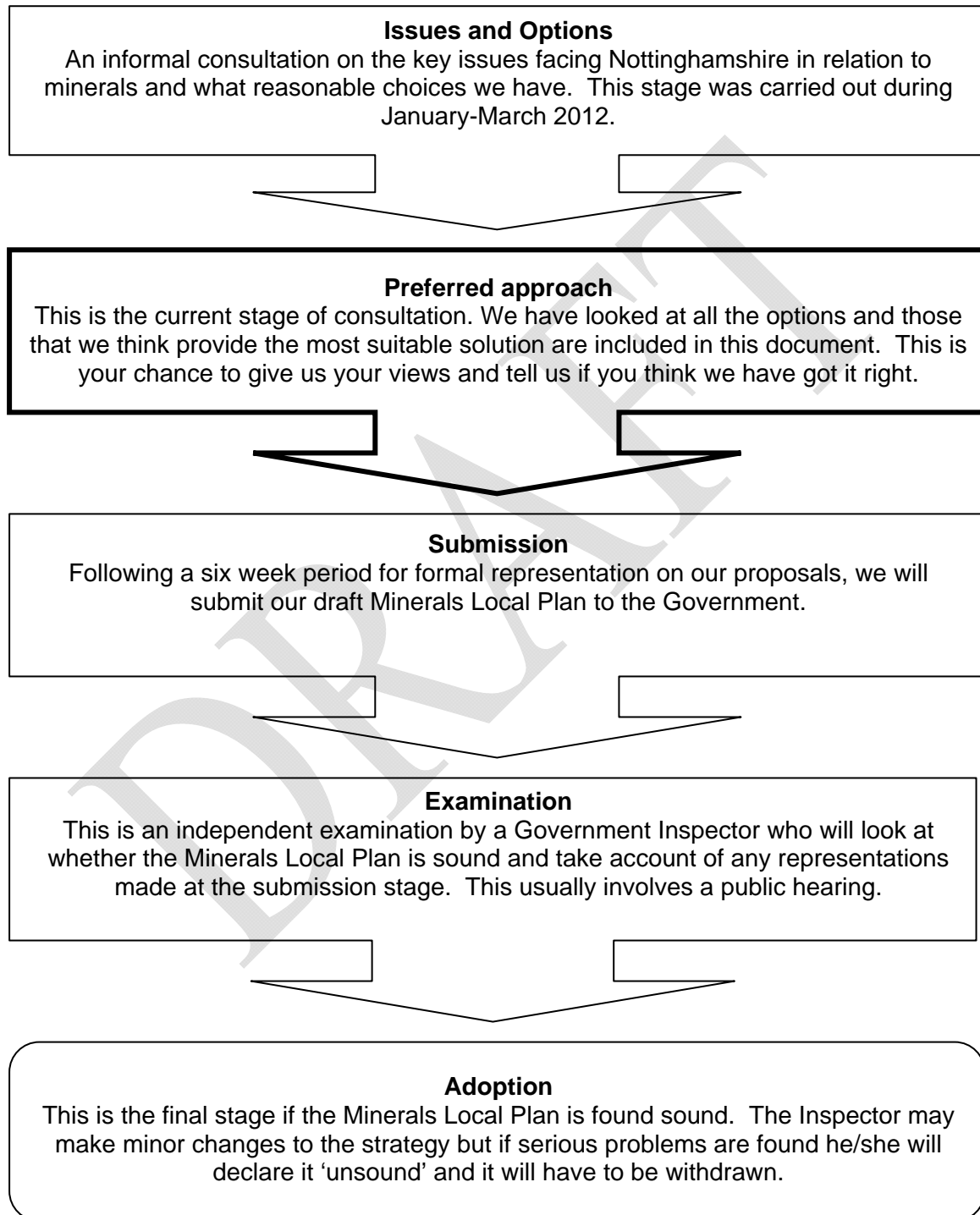
Nottinghamshire County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy (2010 - 2020) outlines six priorities for Nottinghamshire which have been incorporated into this document:

- a greener Nottinghamshire
- a safer Nottinghamshire
- a place where Nottinghamshire's children achieve their full potential
- health and well-being for all
- a more prosperous Nottinghamshire
- making Nottinghamshire's communities stronger.

How is the new Minerals Local Plan being prepared?

The preparation of the new Minerals Local Plan will go through a number of key consultation and other stages as illustrated below. Under our current timetable we hope to be able to adopt the new Minerals Local Plan by 2014.

Key stages in preparing the new Minerals Local Plan



How to read this document

The remaining chapters share a number of common features:

What you told us at the Issues and Options stage...

- This sets out a summary of the responses we received from members of the public, the minerals industry, stakeholders and interest groups during the first stage of consultation on the Minerals Local Plan, completed in January to March 2012.
- These comments have been taken on board and where appropriate and possible, have been incorporated into the preferred approach.

Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Findings:

- As set out above, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the options set out in the Issues and Options consultation document has been completed. These boxes set out a summary of the main findings of the SA in relation to the topic in each section. In some cases there are no findings presented. This is because no options were presented at the previous stage.
- The full findings of the SA in relation to all of the options can be found on our website. Also available on our website is the SA of the preferred approach document itself (split into a main report and a separate one looking at all of the individual sites we considered for allocation).
- The findings of the SA process have been used to inform the production of this preferred approach report.

Introduction

This is a short introduction to the topic, which gives the context for each of the topic/policy areas.

POLICIES

Proposed policies are set out in these boxes.

Where policies include land allocations, codes are used. For existing permitted sites, codes are based on the mineral type (e.g. SG = Sand and gravel). For new sites and extensions, codes are related to the policy number.

Justification

This sets out in detail an explanation of the policy, including the reasons why it is needed, justification for the approach we are proposing and what the policy seeks to achieve.