

16th June 2016

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS 2014/15

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform committee of the progress on the development of the new Minerals and Waste Local Plans, and the performance of the existing policies as set out in the latest Annual Monitoring Reports. The Annual Monitoring Reports cover the period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015.

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 Annual Monitoring Reports have now been prepared for each topic. The Annual Monitoring Report for the Minerals Local Plan is attached at Appendix 1 and that for the Replacement Waste Local Plan is attached at Appendix 2. Both Reports cover the period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015 with some updates to December 2015 where applicable.

Key findings

Minerals Local Plan - progress

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. Until such time as the new Plan is in place, existing policies have been saved. Production of the Minerals Local Plan has been delayed due to the need to carry out additional stages of informal public consultation. This has led to a number of revisions to the planned timetable. 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 will be aware that formal consultation on the 'Minerals Local Plan – Submission Draft' was carried out during February and March 2016. Details of representations received will be reported separately to this Committee. Subject to County Council approval, the Minerals Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for Independent Examination in December 2016. If found sound by an Independent Planning Inspector, it is estimated that the Minerals Local Plan could be adopted by the end of September 2017.

Minerals Local Plan - performance

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 current 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 are 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 Minerals Annual Monitoring Report 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 1.39 million tonnes in 2013 to 1.43 million tonnes in 2014 but this is still lower than pre-recession levels of around 3 million tonnes per annum. Sherwood Sandstone sales remained unchanged at 0.34 million tonnes and sales of Limestone remain negligible. As at December 2014, the landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves was 8 years (one year above the recommended 7 year minimum). Sherwood Sandstone reserves were almost 15 years and Limestone reserves stood at 67 years.
9. Allocations made within the existing Plan (2005) have all come forward 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 Annual Monitoring Report 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. Nationally it is estimated that alternative aggregates make up around 29% of total aggregate use.

Other building and construction minerals

11. Sales of silica sand over the last 10 years have averaged 220,000 tonnes. Around 250,000 tonnes were extracted in 2014 and the remaining landbank is estimated at approximately 40 years, well above the recommended minimum.
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 there to around 20 years 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. No planning applications for building or other construction minerals were received during the monitoring period.

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. Although outside of the current monitoring period, an application for two exploratory bore holes for hydrocarbons, including shale gas, was received in October 2015.

Waste Local Plan - progress

18. The existing Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2002. In accordance with Government guidance at the time preparation commenced, the existing Plan is being replaced in two parts. As previously this work is being carried out jointly with Nottingham City Council and the planned timetable for preparation is set out within the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme which was approved in April 2016.
19. Part one of the replacement Waste Local Plan, known as the Waste Core Strategy, was adopted in December 2013. Work is now underway to prepare the second part, to be known as the Sites and Development Management Policies document.

Until such time as both parts of the replacement Plan are in place, a number of existing polices have been saved.

20. Consultation on a proposed Site Selection Methodology was carried out during May and June 2015 and responses are being used to help with the process of shortlisting potential sites for more detailed assessment. Informal public consultation on proposed sites and the draft wording of development management polices is anticipated in November 2016, with formal consultation and submission planned to take place during 2017 leading to possible adoption in early 2018.

Waste policy performance

21. Current polices are those within the Waste Core Strategy (adopted December 2013) and the remaining saved policies from the Waste Local Plan (adopted in January 2002). These remain in line with national policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy for Waste.

Waste arisings and management methods

22. At both national and local level there has been a slight increase in the amount of municipal (local authority collected) waste produced. Assumptions on the level of other wastes produced are unchanged from the previous monitoring report as there is no more recent survey data available. However, in practice, it is likely that tonnages may have increased in line with economic recovery but this will only be confirmed when new survey data becomes available. For this reason there is not considered to be a need to revise the Waste Core Strategy estimates unless more reliable new data becomes available.
23. The Waste Core Strategy has an ambitious, but non-statutory, target to achieve 70% recycling or composting of all waste by 2025, with interim targets of 50% by 2015, and 60% by 2020. Recycling rates for municipal waste (local authority collected waste) have slowed significantly in recent years and the 2014/15 figure for Nottinghamshire of 43.86% shows a slight fall compared to the previous monitoring period. However, this is above the national average of 42.9% for the same period.
24. There is no more recent local data available for other wastes but national surveys suggest that, on average, approximately 52% of commercial and industrial waste is recycled and almost 90% of construction and demolition waste is either re-used, recycled or recovered for use in site engineering and restoration. Recovery rates for municipal waste remain similar to previous years.
25. The total amount of municipal, commercial, and industrial waste sent for landfill disposal (which may include waste from outside Nottinghamshire and Nottingham) has increased annually since 2012 and there has been a progressive increase in the amount of inert construction and demolition waste sent to landfill since 2011.

Waste management capacity within the Plan area

26. Approximately 275,000 tonnes of additional recycling, recovery and transfer capacity was permitted within the County during the monitoring period. The County Council also resolved to permit an application for a 120,000 tonne per annum facility energy recovery at Bilsthorpe. This application was subsequently called in by the Secretary of State in December 2014 and has not yet been determined. Nottingham City Council approved approximately 140,000 tonnes of additional recycling, recovery and transfer capacity during the monitoring period which included a significant increase in capacity at the proposed energy recovery facility in Bulwell. A further 40,000 tonnes per annum capacity was also recently permitted as part of changes to the proposed third line extension at the Eastcroft incinerator in Nottingham.
27. Remaining disposal capacity within the County for non-hazardous (municipal, commercial and industrial) waste is severely limited. The closure of the previously moth-balled site at Carton Forest (Worksop) and the ten year pause in operations at Dorket Head (Arnold) has resulted in a substantial loss of permitted disposal capacity and leaves only two non-hazardous landfill sites near Newark and Retford. Assuming similar future disposal rates this equates to less than two years of available disposal capacity. Inert disposal capacity remains concentrated largely within a single site at Vale Road, Mansfield. Maintaining appropriate disposal capacity is therefore a key issue for the Sites and Development Managements Policies document which is currently being prepared.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason for Recommendation

29. To note the content of the Nottinghamshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Reports 2014/15.

Financial implications

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

31. 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

32. That Committee note the content of the 2014 Nottinghamshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Reports 2014/2015.

Tim Gregory
Corporate Director, Place

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Suzanne Osborne-James,
Principal Planning Officer, Planning Policy Team, 0115 97 72108**

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

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

Financial Comments (SES 18/05/16)

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All