

Third Stage Consultation on Mineral Local Plan Response

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	Yes

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Worcestershire County Council, as the Minerals Planning Authority is producing a Minerals Local Plan. The Third Stage Consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan (MLP) for Worcestershire runs until 8 March 2017. The consultation document includes policies on the location of sites for mineral extraction, requirements for mineral extraction applications, preferred areas and specific sites identified for mineral extraction, strategic corridors where mineral extraction in principle is accepted, and Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Resource Consultation Areas (MRSAs) where any non-exempt development will be required to conduct a Mineral Resource Assessment to determine whether development will have an unacceptable impact on the mineral resources in the County.
- 1.2 This report explains the recommendations for a formal response from Bromsgrove District Council on the emerging MLP.
- 1.3 As the Council does not meet until after the closing date for responses, it is proposed that once considered by the Cabinet the draft response is submitted to the County Council pending formal agreement by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the content of the report be noted;
- 2.2 That Cabinet recommends to Council that the draft Officer response to the Mineral Local Plan for Worcestershire as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed as the Council's formal response.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 No financial implications are envisaged at this stage.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 No legal implications are envisaged at this stage.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 Worcestershire County Council (WCC), as the Minerals Planning Authority is producing a Minerals Local Plan. This is the third stage consultation where WCC have proposed strategic corridors, MSAs and MRCAs as well as development management policies for minerals developments.
- 3.4 There are three strategic corridors proposed within Bromsgrove District. The North East Worcestershire strategic corridor is wholly within Bromsgrove District. Along with the Salwarpe Tributaries Strategic Corridor, these two strategic corridors surround Bromsgrove Town. A small section of the North West Worcestershire strategic corridor is within Bromsgrove District to the west of Hagley.
- 3.5 The strategic corridors have been determined using geological data and Landscape Character Types. The strategic corridors do not take into account constraints or the existing built environment.
- 3.6 Any windfall sites which come forward within the strategic corridors across the County which contribute to the quality, character and distinctiveness of the strategic corridor they are within, will be granted planning permission, provided the applications also adhere to the development management policies. Therefore, although the strategic corridors cover large portions of the County, this will not result in minerals development over the whole of the strategic corridors.
- 3.7 The development management policies include the requirements for mineral workings. These policies include requirements for extraction near to heritage assets; impacts on air quality; transport requirements and restoration; and biodiversity enhancement post extraction.
- 3.8 WCC has identified MSAs which correspond to the key and significant resources within the County. The guidance requires the MSAs to reflect the existing resources. The MRCAs are areas which WCC can identify from the MSAs. WCC has identified these areas by buffering out from the boundaries of the MSAs by 250 meters. Non-mineral developments (which are not exempt) which come forward, must produce a Mineral Resource Assessment and consult with WCC on the proposal.
- 3.9 There are a number of discrepancies with the MSAs and MRCAs boundaries which need further clarification.
- 3.10 The MLP does not include information on how WCC will work with the Borough, District and City Councils when assessing proposed development sites within MRCAs.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no risks envisaged at this stage.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Consultation Response

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Worcestershire County Council Minerals Local Plan Third Stage Consultation

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/7615/minerals_local_plan_third_stage_consultation

7. KEY

MLP – Minerals Local Plan

MSA – Mineral Safeguarding Area

MRCA - Mineral Resource Consultation Area

WCC – Worcestershire County Council

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