

# **Statement of Common Ground – Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan**

**Cabinet**

4<sup>th</sup> December

# **Statement of Common Ground – Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Adam Kent
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Wards Affected	<b>All</b>
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

## **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has been preparing its Minerals Local Plan (MLP) over recent years. WCC is about to submit the MLP to the planning inspectorate to undergo its Examination in Public.
- 1.2 This report highlights the involvement of BDC in the MLP and seeks authority to enter into a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with WCC concerning the MLP.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the MLP agreement statement (Appendix 2) is signed and sent to WCC by the leader of the Council.

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 The duty to cooperate was introduced by the Localism Act 2011, and is set out in an updated section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities and county councils in England and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plans in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

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## **Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.5 Officers have been engaged in the MLP process throughout its production although this engagement has not needed to be intensive due to the lack of significant issues arising. A response was submitted in March 2017 which highlighted a number of initial concerns; this was followed up by a further response in early 2019 to seek clarification on some minor non soundness issues which remained.
- 3.6 It should be noted that the MLP does not continue any new mineral site allocations, and at no point was an in principle objection submitted, or any plan soundness concerns raised. The issues raised at the previous stages have now been addressed where necessary in the latest version of the MLP. It is now clear that the policies in the MLP do not hamper the ability of the Council to progress with the District Plan review, and present a robust set of policies for use by WCC when determining minerals applications.
- 3.7 As required by the adopted SoCG protocol, SoCGs need political sign off either delegated to leader or portfolio holder in cases where it is non contentious, or by Cabinet and Council where there are significant planning issues. In this instance as this is a WCC plan which has been approved by WCC Cabinet, including the BDC leader, and also as the portfolio holder is a WCC member it is suggested that the delegations are not used and wider member endorsement is sought.

## **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 None

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan Statement of Common Ground and Strategic Matters Summary Table  
Appendix 2 – Bromsgrove District Council SoCG agreement statement

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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Worcestershire Minerals Local plan pre submission version

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20657/emerging\\_minerals\\_local\\_plan\\_consultation\\_stages/373/emerging\\_minerals\\_local\\_plan\\_previous\\_consultation\\_stages/8](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20657/emerging_minerals_local_plan_consultation_stages/373/emerging_minerals_local_plan_previous_consultation_stages/8)

## **7. KEY**

WCC – Worcestershire County Council  
MLP – Minerals Local Plan  
SoCG – Statement of Common Ground

## **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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