



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of an **INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham on **WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2016 AT 9.30 AM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Couldrick', written in a cursive style.

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 16 August 2016

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

For consideration by

Mark Ashwell, Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration
Angus Ross, Executive Member for the Environment

Officers Present

Luciane Bowker, Senior Democratic Services Officer

James McCabe, Planning Officer

IMD NO. 2016	WARD	SUBJECT
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IMD29	None Specific	CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE WEST BERKSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN - SITES CONSULTATION	5 - 8
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To give comments on the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – sites consultation.

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Agenda Item IMD29

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REFERENCE IMD 2016/ 29

TITLE	Response of Wokingham Borough Council to the Consultation on the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan Sites Consultation
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Mark Ashwell, Executive Member for Planning & Regeneration Angus Ross, Executive Member for Environment
DATE AND TIME	Wednesday 24 August 2016, 9.30am
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment
REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON	16 August 2016
VENUE	FF13

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That development proposed through the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan has minimal negative impacts upon Wokingham Borough and that any positive benefits are maximised.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Planning and the Executive Member for Environment

- 1) Approve the comments outlined in this report; and
- 2) That they be submitted as a formal response to the consultation from West Berkshire on their Minerals and Waste Plan Sites consultation

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Wokingham Borough Council had previously responded to West Berkshire Council's Issues and Options version of their Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Consultation on this document ran from 17 January to 28 February 2014. At that stage Wokingham Borough Council identified that there was very limited information on whether West Berkshire Council had considered the impacts for the remainder of Berkshire, especially as all the historic data covers the whole county area.

At the same time as the Issues and Options consultation (17 January to 28 February 2014), West Berkshire undertook a 'Call for [minerals and waste] Sites'.

West Berkshire Council has now consulted Wokingham Borough Council on their Minerals and Waste Local Plan Sites document, running from 1 July to 5 August 2016. This contains those sites that came through the earlier call for sites process. The current consultation also invites additional sites to be submitted.

West Berkshire Council has not undertaken any assessment of the sites at this stage. This consultation is an optional stage of consultation that precedes the Preferred Options stage.

The document shows 22 sites, of which four are located roughly within 1km of the Wokingham Borough boundary. At this stage, it is not known the exact scale of operation or duration of proposed works for the suggested sites. Therefore, as more information is available at the Preferred Options stage, additional comments may be necessary around sites further from the Wokingham Borough boundary.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek information from any interested party that would assist in the assessment of the sites that have been promoted. Since there are potential sites in close proximity to Wokingham Borough it is important to respond so that any issues for Wokingham Borough can be addressed.

Background

Wokingham Borough Council responded to West Berkshire at the Issues and Options consultation stage in February 2014. The main concern for Wokingham Borough Council was whether West Berkshire had considered the need for waste facilities to meet the wider needs of Berkshire. Concern was also raised over a lack of clarity of how West Berkshire's assessment of requirements for minerals considered whether appropriate reserves are available in the rest of Berkshire to maintain the required 7 year rolling supply without relying on a very limited number of sites.

West Berkshire Council is consulting on their Minerals and Waste Sites consultation from 1 July until 5 August 2016. A draft response based on the contents of this report will be forwarded to West Berkshire Council as Wokingham Borough Council's provisional position prior to 5 August 2016. This response will be subject to confirmation once the Executive members have considered the item.

The sites document is an optional stage of consultation that follows the Issues and Options consultation (which took place between 17 January and 28 February 2014) and precedes the consultation on the Preferred Options stage. West Berkshire Council anticipates that the Preferred Options stage will include 'Preferred policies' and 'Preferred sites'.

The purpose of the current consultation document is to advise all interested parties of the minerals and waste sites that have been promoted and to invite comments on these sites, using the site-specific information that has been provided by the site promoters. West Berkshire Council intends that the results of this consultation will inform the consideration of the sites. West Berkshire Council is also inviting the submission of further sites for consideration.

Analysis of Issues

The current site document identifies 22 sites which were received through the 2014 call for sites process. Of these 22, there are four sites which are particularly close to Wokingham Borough, being located roughly within 1km of the boundary as follows:

- Moores Farm, Burghfield;
- Hyde Crete Pit, Burghfield;
- Reading Quarry Energy Recovery, Burghfield; and
- Reading Quarry, Burghfield.

No assessments of the sites have been undertaken at this stage and therefore no indication has been given as to whether any of the above sites, or the other 18 sites, will be allocated. Exact details of the scale of operations and the intended duration of use of the sites is not fully known at this stage.

At the Preferred Options stage, West Berkshire Council is intending to include 'Preferred Policies' and 'Preferred sites'. At that point in time, they will have identified a more detailed strategy for meeting its identified need over the plan period, taking into account our previous comments.

The allocation of sites may have an impact on the strategic highways network given the potentially frequent, heavy duty, and cross boundary nature of vehicle movements associated with minerals and waste facilities. Wokingham Borough Council therefore requests that the selection of sites is based on objective assessment of highways capacity, amongst other considerations. This will help to ensure that there would be no significant adverse effects to road users within Wokingham Borough. As those sites identified above are the closest to Wokingham Borough, it is likely they will have the greatest impact on the Borough through cross boundary movements.

Wokingham Borough Council would like to be consulted on future developments with the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan, including on any additional sites that are suggested through the current consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None anticipated

Cross-Council Implications

The assessment of need for minerals and waste facilities and sites in West Berkshire could impact on how the Council considers these issues in planning future strategies for Wokingham Borough.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Director – Finance and Resources	No comments
Monitoring Officer	No comments
Leader of the Council	I fully support the recommendations. I am particularly concerned about the highways impact on those sites, if chosen, that are close to Wokingham Borough Councils boundaries.

List of Background Papers

The Minerals and Waste Sites consultation published by West Berkshire Council – see <http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/file/3927756>

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