

TITLE	Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 25 May 2017
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Josie Wragg, Interim Director of Environment
LEAD MEMBER	To be confirmed

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan will provide a robust strategy to ensure there is an adequate mineral supply and to ensure sustainable management of waste. The Issues and Options stage is the first formal engagement opportunity to ensure that the community are able to influence the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive is asked to:

- 1) approve the Issues and Options report for consultation for a six week period running from 9th June – 21st July 2017 together with publishing supporting documents;
- 2) authorise the Interim Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and the Executive Member for Planning to agree minor changes to the Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Issues and Options stage and other supporting documents prior to consultation. (Any minor modifications would consist of non-material alterations such as rewording and correction of typing errors).

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council needs to ensure that it has an up-to-date and robust Minerals and Waste Local Plan to ensure that there is an adequate mineral supply and to ensure waste is sustainably managed up until 2036. This is the purpose of the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Issues and Options stage is the first formal engagement stage in its preparation.

The Issues and Options document will consult on the vision and objectives, spatial strategy, as well as other topic areas including, transportation of minerals, minerals demand, aggregate consumption, recycled and secondary aggregate, mineral safeguarding, estimating waste management capacity, inert waste management, future waste arisings and future waste capacity.

The responses to this consultation will then be considered to help inform the next stage of the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan process, which will be known as the Preferred Options report.

Background

The Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire was adopted in 1995 but subject to alterations in 1997 and 2001 and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire was adopted in 1998. These were prepared and adopted by the former Berkshire County Council and are now out of date. The policies in the existing minerals and waste plans for Berkshire were designed to guide development until 2006. Although the 'saved' policies are still used, their effectiveness is now very limited. It is also a legal requirement to have an up-to-date Minerals and Waste Plan in place that is in compliance with national policy.

Hampshire County Council has been commissioned by Wokingham Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Council and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council to prepare a joint Minerals and Waste Plan on behalf of the four authorities. Hampshire County Council has the specialist staff resources, and has a proven track record of preparing and adopting a Minerals and Waste Plan for five different authorities.

The preparation of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan will need to accord with current planning policy and guidance on minerals and waste. These are contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the accompanying National Planning Practice Guidance along with the Waste Management Plan for England which was published in December 2013, and the National Planning Policy for Waste which was published in October 2014.

A Joint Member Board has been established to help provide political direction to the plan and champion the plan within each authority. Each of the four Berkshire Authorities has two Member representatives and two officers sitting on the Board. The Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be taken through each of the Berkshire Authorities governance processes as the plan progresses.

The timetable for the preparation of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was originally agreed by Executive in July 2016, when the Local Development Scheme (LDS) was produced. Since then, Hampshire County Council has prepared the initial evidence base in order to produce the Issues and Options consultation document. A Call for Sites consultation took place between 13th March – 5th May 2017 which invited members of the public and any other organisations to promote sites for minerals or waste development.

Analysis of Issues

The Issues and Options Joint Minerals and Waste Plan has been produced by Hampshire County Council with input from the respective authorities. The primary purpose of the Issues and Options stage of the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan is to let the community know what the current minerals and waste issues are and to gain feedback on how we should deal with those issues.

The Issues and Options document will include consultation about the vision and objectives, spatial strategy, as well as other topic areas including, transportation of minerals, minerals demand, aggregate consumption, recycled and secondary aggregate, mineral safeguarding, estimating waste management capacity, inert waste management, future waste arisings and future waste capacity.

The Preferred Options stage (the next stage) will refine the options to resolve the minerals and waste issues identified in the Issues and Options document. See the stages of the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan process in Figure 1 of the Local Development Scheme on our website here:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-update/>

Consultation on the Issues and Options has to be for a minimum of six weeks. The consultation period for the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan will begin on 9th June 2017 for a six week period until 21st July 2017. Hampshire County Council will be drafting the consultation materials on behalf of the four Berkshire Authorities, and then each authority will be separately publicising the consultation. The consultation will be consistent with the Consultation Strategy that Hampshire County Council has created which takes into consideration all four of the Berkshire Authority’s Statements of Community Involvement. The Issues and Options consultation on the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan will include the following:

- E-mail / post to all those people on database
- Advertisements and public notices in local press
- Public meetings or workshops will be held as required

Risk Management

The main risks relate to whether the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is ultimately found to be ‘legally compliant’ and ‘sound’ by a Planning Inspector who will conduct an independent public examination. This examination will include consideration of how the community have been engaged in the process of helping to shape the content of the LPU.

Legal compliance

In producing the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Issues and Options, the following has been considered in terms of whether the document was compatible with the legal requirements associated with plans of the authority. This included the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012; the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010; the Human Rights Act; compliance with Directives of the European Commission and subsequent UK Regulations and ensuring that no segment of the Borough’s community was likely to be unfairly penalised.

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)	Circa £61k	Yes – we have £300k in the budget, which will cover the cost of the MWLP. N.B. some of this will be beyond the 3 year	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Circa £83k		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Circa £83k		

		period	
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Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The table above sets out the project costs associated with producing the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

This is a multi-year project and therefore the costs will be spread across a number of financial years, the exact timing of which will be subject to external influences such as the Planning Inspectorate's availability for the Public Examination. The profile of the budget may vary according to other factors but can be covered by existing agreed budget.

Cross-Council Implications

This is a joint plan which covers Wokingham Borough, Reading Borough, Bracknell Forest Borough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and therefore the plan has strategic implications. The plan principally focuses on minerals and waste matters but this will also need to consider impact on other topic areas, i.e. highways; biodiversity; cleaner and greener. As such, other services are involved in the production of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting information. Will also need to consider read across to the Local Plan Update (LPU) that is currently underway, i.e. in terms of whether any sites are promoted for mineral extraction but also for built development.

List of Background Papers

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Issues and Options Consultation Paper (***due to the size of this document a copy is not included in the agenda. Copies can be found on the Council's website or on request from Democratic Services***).

Below is a list of the other background papers which accompany the Issues and Options Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan. Prior to the consultation, these papers will be made available to Officers and Members upon request. These papers will be made publicly available on the Council's website at the time of the Issues and Options Consultation.

Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Site Assessment Methodology

Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Methodologies Report

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Minerals Background Study

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Waste Background Study

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – Habitats Regulation Assessment Methodology and Baseline Report

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation Strategy

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Date 15 May 2017	Version No. 4

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