

**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Initial impact assessment**

If an officer is undertaking a project, policy change or service change, then an initial impact assessment must be completed and attached alongside the Project initiation document.

**EqIA Titular information:**

Date:	15 June 2020
Service:	Strategy and Commissioning (Place)
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Submission Version
Completed by:	Ian Church – Senior Specialist (Growth and Delivery)
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	Yes
Signed off by:	Nigel Bailey
Sign off date:	26 June 2020

**1. Policy, Project or service information:**

This section should be used to identify the main purpose of the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery, including who key stakeholders are, main beneficiaries and any associated aims.

<b>What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change , its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:</b>
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The purpose of the publication and consultation on the Joint Plan is to seek views on the legal and procedural requirements, and soundness of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, before being submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in public. The Joint Plan is being prepared in partnership between Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council. The Joint Plan is being produced in collaboration by Hampshire Services (part of Hampshire County Council).
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The Joint Plan will become part of the development plan which guides how planning applications for minerals and waste related development will be assessed across the councils. Once adopted the Joint Plan will replace the existing planning policies contained in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (adopted in 1995 but subject to Alterations in 1997 and 2001) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998).

The consultation document comprises the following main aspects:

#### Proposed sites for mineral extraction

The following minerals sites in RBWM are proposed for allocation:

- a. Horton Brook Quarry, Horton
- b. Riding Court Farm, Datchet
- c. Sheephouse Farm, Maidenhead
- d. Poyle Quarry, Horton
- e. Water Oakley Holyport.

Extensions to the following minerals sites are also included:

- a. Horton Brook and Poyle Quarry, Horton
- b. Poyle Quarry, Horton

Due to an anticipated shortfall in future minerals supply, the criteria for defining an 'Area of Search' that uses geological data to identify areas where sand and gravel deposits may be present. This seeks to demonstrate the potential for further provision within the Joint Plan area.

#### Proposed Waste Management Sites

The following sites in RBWM are proposed for allocation as waste management sites:

- a. Berkyn Manor Farm, Horton (WA1)
- b. Horton Brook Quarry, Horton (WA2)
- c. The Compound, Pinkney's Green, Maidenhead (WA3)

#### Development Management Policies

The Joint Plan includes development management policies that form a robust framework for the determination of minerals and waste applications. This includes policies relating to sustainable development, climate change, sustainable transport movements, and flood risk, amongst many others.

This includes a policy which seeks to ensure the past performance of minerals and waste operators forms part of the material considerations taken into account in decision making.

Public consultation on the above issues is anticipated to commence on from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for 6 weeks. The report to Special Council Executive seeks the approval of the Joint Plan, authorisation to undertake public consultation and submit to the Secretary of State, including, agreement to the consultation framework, agreement to delegate minor changes to the consultation documents, and for the Inspector to recommend any modifications required to make the Joint Plan sound.

Publication and consultation is a legal requirement under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The consultation will be undertaken in line with the principles set out in the council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and all relevant legislation and regulations governing that process. Some adaptations to consultation methods may be needed due to the impact of Covid 19.

Public consultation will include engagement with stakeholders, local communities, and town and parish councils. This will include a social media campaign, press and news releases and website updates. Consultation methods may need to be adapted due to the ongoing implications of Covid 19

**Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members etc) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:**

The consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement for planning policy consultations, but may be subject to adaptations due to the impact of Covid 19. The consultation will involve seeking feedback from a range of interested organisations and other parties (including general and specific consultation bodies specified in the Regulations) as well as councillors and officers.

This builds on a number of earlier public consultations, including a Draft Plan consultation in 2018, and a focussed consultation in spring 2020. This allowed residents, businesses, landowners and other stakeholders the opportunity to review and respond to proposals. Public drop in consultation events were also held, where officers were available to discuss the proposals, and answer questions. The results of these consultations have helped to guide the preparation of the Joint Plan.

Members (including the Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement, and Executive Member for Environment and Leisure) have been engaged during the preparation of the draft plan through briefing sessions, and attendance at the Joint Sounding Board, constituting Members and officers from each of the central and eastern Berkshire authorities. Other internal stakeholders have been engaged on a general or specific basis throughout the preparation of this consultation including Corporate Leadership Team and lead specialists from across the Council.

**Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?**

This consultation documentation has been produced by Hampshire County Council and the central and eastern Berkshire authorities, with the input of internal officers, communities and stakeholders through previous stages of consultation (Issues and Options, Draft Plan, Focused Consultation). In the longer term and once adopted, all residents of the borough (and central and eastern Berkshire) will benefit from having a new Minerals and Waste Plan, ensuring that planning policy remains effective in managing decisions by the council. This provides greater certainty on the future delivery of minerals and waste development across the borough.

**Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:**

Public consultation will generate comments from individuals and organisations (including statutory bodies), that will be assessed and submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Joint Plan and other supporting documents. This will be followed by Examination in Public (EiP) by an independent Planning Inspector.

The aim is for the Joint Plan to be adopted by all four authorities, to set out a robust and up to date strategy and development management policies for minerals and waste.

**2. Protected characteristics:**

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment

- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

*To find out more about the protected groups, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

### 3. Initial Impact review:

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

*For information on how to define No, low or high impact, please consult the EQIA guidance document.*

If your project is to have a positive impact on one of the protected groups, please outline this in the table below.

*For details on what constitutes a positive impact, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Race:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation.
Gender:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation.
Disabilities:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation.
Age:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation
Sexual orientation:	None	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that the Draft Plan would have any impact upon this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the Draft Plan.

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Religion/belief:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation
Gender re-assignment:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that this focussed consultation will have any impact on this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the consultation documentation
Marriage and civil partnership:	No	Neutral impact – it is not envisaged that the draft LPU would have any impact upon this group at this point in time. The group would not be prohibited from reviewing and commenting on the Draft Plan.

Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low or high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by

Nigel Bailey: Interim Assistant Director Housing & Place Commissioning

Date: 26 June 2020