

Report Title:	Joint Central and Eastern Berkshire Waste and Minerals Plan – Issues and Options Consultation
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	NO - Part I
Member reporting:	Councillor Wilson, Lead Member for Planning
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet 25 May 2017
Responsible Officer(s):	Russell O’Keefe, Executive Director Jeni Jackson, Head of Planning
Wards affected:	All

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REPORT SUMMARY

1. This report seeks approval for the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, Issues and Options Consultation. The consultation, attached, will be undertaken between 9 June and 21 July 2017 with responses feeding into the preparation of a draft joint minerals and waste local plan.
2. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are working with Reading Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council on a Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste. The Plan is being prepared by Hampshire Services of Hampshire County Council.
3. The Issues and Options stage of local plan preparation should involve consulting broadly on what the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan should address and how it should address it.

1 DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Approves the Issues and Options for the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (Appendix 1).
- ii) Approves that community involvement on the Issues and Options for the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and associated supporting documents be authorised.
- iii) Delegates authority to the Head of Planning to make any minor amendments necessary to the Issues and Options for the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning prior to community involvement.

2 REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Background to the recommendations

- 2.1 In September 2016, the Policy Committee approved a Joint Working Agreement between Hampshire County Council (HCC), the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), Bracknell Forest Council

(BFC) and Reading Borough Council (RBC) for the preparation of a Minerals and Waste Local Plan for the Central and Eastern Berkshire area. The plan will cover the area of the four Berkshire authorities and it will guide minerals and waste decision-making in the Plan area up to 2036.

- 2.2 The Councils currently rely on a 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). 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 limited.
- 2.3 The four Berkshire authorities are working in collaboration with the Hampshire Services of Hampshire County Council (HCC) to produce the plan with the costs of the work being shared equally between the four authorities. HCC is the Minerals and Waste Authority for Hampshire and has a successful dedicated in-house team of specialist planners. The work accords with the programme for the preparation of the plan set out in the Boroughs Council's Local Development Scheme.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The first stage in the preparation of any local plan involves evidence gathering with analysis, culminating in a consultation on Issues and Options. Hampshire Services has collected evidence to enable forecasting to be able to plan for future needs for minerals extraction and waste facilities in the plan area. This evidence gathering includes a call for sites for future mineral extraction of waste facilities which commenced on the 13 March 2017 and finished 5 May 2017. The results of this are currently being analysed by Hampshire Services.
- 2.6 As part of the governance for the preparation of the plan, the four authorities have set up a Joint Board. Representation from each authorities comprise portfolio holder and one additional representative. The Board acts as an advisory body for the preparation of the plan. The Board met on 7 March 2017. It received a presentation on the issues and options and provided comments on the proposed arrangements for the issues and options consultation. This Council's representatives on the Board are Cllrs Wilson and Mrs Bateson.

Option Proposed

- 2.7 A draft Issues and Options paper, based on this initial evidence gathering, and various associated documents has been prepared. This sets out factual information relevant to planning for future minerals extraction and waste management in the plan area. They include reference to national and other relevant policy; set out issues arising; and ask questions about options for resolving those issues going forward with the plan. Subject to the approval of each of the Berkshire authorities, it is intended that consultation on this document and various associated documents will be undertaken during June and July 2017.

- 2.8 The consultation paper identifies the importance to the economy of maintaining an appropriate supply of minerals including recycled aggregates to serve economic growth, particularly construction activity in the area. Where possible such minerals should be supplied from local sources or, where not available locally, from sustainable sources further afield delivered by sustainable transport, where practicable. Berkshire has good local supplies of sharp sand and gravel but does have to import various other aggregate, such as crushed rock. A significant role of the plan will be to ensure that there are appropriate local facilities for the delivery and storage of such products that minimise potential transport issues.
- 2.9 In relation to planning for waste, the plan will set out the process for identifying sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of the area for waste management for all waste streams. This includes waste produced by households, businesses, industry, construction activities, government and non-government organisations, etc. By its properties, waste can be classified as non-hazardous, inert and hazardous and plans need to deal with each type. The role of the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan will be to meet national policy ambitions locally; to deliver sustainable development through driving waste up the “waste hierarchy”, recognise the need for a mix of types and scale of facilities, and make adequate provision for waste management, including disposal.
- 2.10 The Issues and Options consultation document refers to a separate Minerals Background Study and a Waste Background Study that go into some detail on each of the areas. The document summarises the issues identified and sets out numerous questions seeking responses on how the plan should address these issues.
- 2.11 Consultation will be undertaken jointly by Hampshire Services and the three Berkshire authorities. The consultation exercise is being designed to meet the policies and practice set in the Statement of Community Involvement adopted by each of the joint authorities. Consultation will be undertaken with a wide range of parties, including those on the Council’s Local Plan consultation database, during June and July 2017. The consultation will involve sending emails/ letters to individuals, organisations, councillors, and internal officers. Advertising and details will be placed on the website. The results of the consultation will inform the preparation of a draft local plan for which approval is programmed to be sought in the early part of 2018.

Table 1: Options

Option	Comments
<p data-bbox="277 1496 619 1637">Approve the Issues and Options document for consultation with the public.</p> <p data-bbox="277 1675 619 1713">Recommended option</p>	<p data-bbox="676 1496 1375 2029">It has been agreed to work collaboratively with other authorities to produce a Joint Waste and Minerals Plan on a strategic basis. Factual information has been gathered relevant to planning for future minerals extraction and waste management in the plan area. The Issues and Options document is the synthesis of this evidence and analysis of trends. It refers to national and other relevant policy; sets out issues arising; and asks questions about options for resolving those issues going forward with the plan for the Central and East Berkshire area. This is the key document for gathering further information, evidence and preference from the public as well as technical information from the</p>

Option	Comments
	industries involved. As community engagement is key to plan making, this is a key step to achieving the programme for adoption of the plan by early 2018 as agreed.
To produce an outline plan rather than an issues and options discussion paper. Not recommended option.	Producing an outline or skeleton plan as part of the consultation could help to bridge the gap between a discussion paper and a full draft plan, However, it is considered that including such an outline at this stage would pre-judge the outcome of consultation on the identified issues, and could discourage the public from getting involved in the consultation if the impression is given that there is already a preferred strategy

3 KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan will contribute to achieving the Council strategic aims, through providing funding for a range of infrastructure to support development:
- To put residents first by ensuring that they are adequately engaged in the production of the plan.
 - To work together with partners in order to provide a strategic approach to the issues of managing mineral extraction in order to meet foreseeable demand and to ensure that waste facilities are available in order to work towards a sustainable waste neutral situation.
 - Equip ourselves for the future by putting plans in place to manage waste and minerals issues up to 2036.

Table 2: Key implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Consultation on issues and options carried out	Do not undertake planned consultation	Undertake consultation on issues and options between 9 June 2017 and 21 July 2017	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

4 FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 The issues and options consultation costs can be met from existing budgets.

Table 3: Financial impact of report's recommendations

REVENUE	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21
Addition	£0	£0	£0
Reduction	£0	£0	£0

Net impact	£0	£0	£0
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CAPITAL			
Addition	£0	£0	£0
Reduction	£0	£0	£0
Net impact	£0	£0	£0

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The unitary authorities in Berkshire have responsibility for planning for the future production of minerals and for the management of waste disposal within the Berkshire area. The proposed consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 There are no direct financial risks associated with the report.

Table 4: Impact of risk and mitigation

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
One or more of the authorities involved does not agree to progress with the consultation of the issues and options discussion	High - Delay in progressing to adoption of the plan Additional costs of further gathering of evidence	Agreed timetable The Joint Board has received the presentation on the Issues and Options	Low - Council has planned to gain the necessary approvals.

7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 A separate Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared to guide the preparation of the plan. This sets out how the Plan will be assessed during preparation stages to ensure it is not having an impact of particular sectors of Central & Eastern Berkshire's communities.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The report will be considered by Planning & Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 16 May 2017, comments will be reported to Cabinet.
- 8.2 The proposed issues and options consultation will be undertaken in accordance with requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 and the Statement of Community involvement adopted October 2016. It is important that the views of the local community is sought in regard to the over riding issues

associated with the extraction of minerals and the management of waste and provision of facilities for this. However much of this consultation will primarily engage the interests of the waste and minerals industries and therefore the questions asked in the consultation are of a technical nature in order to ensure that the most up to date evidence is used to inform the formulation of plans and policies as the plan goes forward to identify preferred options for further consultation.

9 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Table 5: Implementation timetable

Date	Details
9 th June 2017	Consultation will begin
21 st July 2017	Consultation will end

10 APPENDICES

- 10.1 The Central and Eastern Berkshire Waste and Minerals Plan Issues and Options Document is appended to this report [JCEB Issues and Options Consultation paper](#)
- 10.2 The Issues and Options consultation paper is supported by a number of reports which set out the evidence for the contents provided. These reports include:
- *Minerals: Background Study* – sets out the types, availability and movements of minerals in the plan area and what issues may affect future demand. [JCEB Minerals Background Study](#)
 - *Waste: Background Study* – sets out the amounts of waste that needs to be managed, how it is currently managed and what the future waste management may be. [JCEB Waste Background Study](#)
 - *Methodologies Report* – sets out the proposed methodologies for assessing sites (including traffic and landscape assessments) [JCEB Site Assessment Methodology](#)
 - *Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report* – sets out how policies and sites will be assessed to ensure the Plan will not have any significant impacts on the Central & Eastern Berkshire environment, communities and economy. [JCEB Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#)
 - *Habitats Regulations Assessment: Methodology and Baseline* – sets out the European designated habitats that need to be considered during the Plan preparation and the proposed assessment methodology for assessing the potential impact of the Plan. [JCEB Habitats Regulations Assessment](#)
 - *Consultation Strategy* – sets out how communities and key stakeholders will be consulted during the plan-making process. [JCEB Consultation Strategy](#)
 - *Equalities Impact Assessment* – sets out how the Plan will be assessed during preparation stages to ensure it is not having an impact of particular sectors of Central & Eastern Berkshire’s communities. [JCEB Equalities Impact Assessment](#)
- 10.3 Draft versions of these documents are available on request. Finalised versions will be made available on the Council’s website as part of the consultation

11 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 11.1 National Planning Policy Framework (2012) –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--3>

11.2 National Planning Practice Guidance –<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

11.3 Waste Management Plan for England –
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-management-plan-for-england>

11.4 National Planning Policy for Waste –
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

12 CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Commented & returned
Cllr Derek Willson	Lead Member for Planning	26 April 17	28 April 17
Alison Alexander	Managing Director	26 April 17	26/4/17
Russell O'Keefe	Executive Director	25 April 17	26 April 17
Andy Jeffs	Executive Director	26 April 17	
Rob Stubbs	Section 151 Officer	26 April 17	27 April 17
Terry Baldwin	Head of HR	26 April 17	
Mary Kilner	Head of Law and Governance	26 April 17	