
Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

SYNOPSIS

To consider the publication of Final Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and determine an appropriate response.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Northamptonshire County Council is undertaking an update of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The document has been subject to two stages of consultation to date and is now at final draft stage (or in legal terms is known as the 'Proposed Submission Local Plan'). Representations at this stage are invited based only on legal compliance and the tests of soundness.
- 1.2 The views of Corby Borough Council are sought as part of this consultation, which ends on Thursday 21st July 2016.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Updating the Minerals and Waste Local Plan involves a number of stages. The stages and the timing of those stages undertaken to date, are set out below
 - Issues and Options consultation – 14th May 2015 to 9th July 2015
 - Pre-Submission Draft – 3rd December 2015 to 11th February 2016
 - Proposed Submission – 26th May 2016 to 21st July 2016
- 2.2 The Council can only make representations at this stage based on compliance with the legal requirements and test of soundness. The Council has to state why it considers that a legal requirement or test of soundness has not been met and show how a proposed change would ensure that this failure is overcome.
- 2.3 The legal requirements include that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is subject to a sustainability appraisal, developed in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (the Plan timetable), accords with the Statement of Community Involvement and allowed for appropriate and meaningful community involvement, and has been prepared with the engagement of adjoining authorities (i.e. meets the Duty to Cooperate).
- 2.4 The tests of soundness are that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan should be:
 - **Positively prepared** – to be positively prepared the Local Plan should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.
 - **Justified** – to be justified the Local Plan needs to be founded on robust and credible evidence, involving evidence of participation by the community and others having a stake in the area, choices made by the document are backed by facts and it must be the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.
 - **Effective** – to be effective the Local Plan should be deliverable, have a sound infrastructure plan, have delivery partners who are signed up to it and be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities

- **Consistent with national policy** – to be consistent with national planning policy, the Local Plan should justify its approach, justify a local need and have not repeated national policy.

2.5 This is the last opportunity the Council has to make representations on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State, ready for Examination in Public by an independent Planning Inspector. The Inspector will then test both the legal compliance and the soundness of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

3. **Issues for consideration**

Buffer Zones

3.1 The Council has previously made representation to Northamptonshire County Council that buffer zones should be included as a mechanism to protect residential locations. In response the County Council has strengthened the supporting text to Policy 18 to include specific reference to more sensitive land uses such as residential development.

3.2 This amendment means that proposals for waste and mineral development will be required to address the potential impacts on residential locations on a site by site basis as part of the development management process through the submission of planning applications.

3.3 Whilst Corby Borough Council and this Committee may consider that buffer zones would be desirable, it is accepted that the amendment ensures the impact of waste development can be avoided or mitigated for sensitive land uses such as schools and residential development through the planning application process. Consequently, it is not considered that the continued exclusion of buffer zones renders the Minerals and Waste Local Plan unsound or that the Council should pursue an objection on this issue.

Sustainable Distribution of Waste

3.4 The Council has previously made representation to Northamptonshire County Council that areas with more industrial areas could take a disproportionate burden of waste related development. The County Council has addressed this point by the addition of criterion to Policy 12 that requires proposals to demonstrate how the development affects the overall distribution of Northamptonshire's waste management network and that it would not result in unacceptable cumulative impacts.

3.5 This change should help balance out the distribution of waste development in the County. Consequently, it is considered that the Council should not pursue an objection on the issue of the distribution of waste.

4. **Options to be considered (if any)**

Alternative representations could be made. However, the preceding paragraphs explain how the plan has been changed in response to this Councils previous comments and why the Council should not pursue an objection.

5. **Issues to be taken into account:-**

Policy Priorities

Although this Minerals and Waste Local Plan has been prepared by Northamptonshire County Council, its provisions have the potential to impact on the district and its residents. In this context it affects the following themes of the Councils Corporate Plan

- Regeneration and Economic Growth
- Environment and Climate Change

Financial

There are no costs associated with the submission of a response to the County Councils consultation.

Legal

The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to have an up-to-date Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Performance Information

None directly linked to this report

Best Value, Human Rights and Community Safety

None directly linked to this report

Equalities and Sustainability

None directly linked to this report

Risk Management

None arising from this report

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Officers welcome the publication of this Final Draft Plan. As a key stakeholder, Corby Borough Council has been fully engaged throughout the process and influenced the evolution of the plan to strengthen protection of residential locations and ensure a more balanced distribution of waste development across the County. It is recommended that no issues of soundness or legal compliance are raised at this consultation.

Recommendation

Members note this report and agree that no representations are required at this stage of consultation.

Background Papers

Northamptonshire County Council (June 2016) *Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update - First Draft Plan Proposed Submission*. Available from <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Environ/planning/policy/minerals/Documents/PDF%20Documents/Final%20draft%20plan%20sub%20doc%20MWLP%20update.pdf>

Local Plan Committee, 13th January 2016

<http://www.corby.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Northamptonshire%20Minerals%20and%20Waste%20Local%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

Local Plan Committee, 8th July 2015

<http://www.corby.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Northamptonshire%20Minerals%20%26%20Waste%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

Officer to Contact

Terry Begley
Principal Planner
Local Plans