

**CABINET**  
**20 JULY 2017****MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

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**Relevant Cabinet Member**

Dr Ken Pollock

**Relevant Officer**

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

**Recommendation**

**1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure recommends that Cabinet:**

- (a) approves the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme (LDS) July 2017 – July 2020; and**
- (b) gives delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure to make minor amendments to the LDS prior to publication.**

**Background**

2. Worcestershire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for minerals and waste planning for the county of Worcestershire. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, sets out the requirement for Local Planning Authorities to prepare and maintain a scheme and schedule of planning policy documents that it intends to produce, known as a Local Development Scheme. The Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme (LDS) has two main purposes:

- To inform the public about the preparation and adoption of planning documents; and
- To establish and reflect Council priorities and enable work programmes to be set for the preparation of the documents.

3. As circumstances change and the process of making development plans moves forward, it is necessary to review the LDS in order to keep it up to date. The LDS at Appendix 1 replaces the previous document which came into effect in April 2015. This revision extends the timetable of the Minerals Local Plan due to the need to undertake an additional call for sites and a further stage of consultation on it. It also outlines the timetable for commencing the review of the adopted Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire. The main proposed changes to the LDS are set out below:

**Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan**

4. This revision of the LDS reflects the need to undertake an additional call for sites and a further additional stage of consultation on the minerals local plan to address issues in relation to the Spatial Strategy (policies in the local plan which govern the location of minerals sites), setting out:

- Additional third call for sites: Quarter 3 2017 – Quarter 1 2018
- Additional Fourth stage consultation: Quarter 4 2018
- Publication of the Plan and period for representations: delayed from Quarter 1 2017 to Quarter 2 2019
- Submission: Quarter 3 2019
- Independent examination: Quarter 4 2019
- Adoption: Quarter 2 2020.

5. This additional call for sites is required to ensure that all practical efforts have been made to meet the requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to make provision for a 7 year landbank for sand and gravel and a 10 years landbank for crushed rock through the plan. The site allocations set out in the Third Stage Consultation, which was completed in March 2017, are not adequate to meet this level of provision and significant comments were received through this process questioning the adequacy of current provision, which if this plan were submitted without further work would cause significant risk to the plan at examination stage. The preference in the NPPF is for specific sites rather than preferred areas, and at examination this issue will be fully explored with WCC being required to demonstrate that we have undertaken all reasonable steps to identify specific sites. A plan overly reliant on preferred areas is unlikely to be found sound and significant further work could be required to identify specific sites. The additional call for sites and fourth consultation stage is intended to reduce this risk. Additional work is also required to ensure that allocated sites, through the call for sites, have undergone an appropriate level of assessment when establishing the principle of development in those locations. Further consultation is then required to ensure that communities have the opportunity to comment on any changes to site allocations. This additional phase of consultation will also enable the council to consult on all changes made as a result of the Third Stage Consultation prior to the formal publication and submission.

### **Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire**

6. The Waste Core Strategy was adopted in 2012 and monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report. Although the plan is for the period 2012-2027, it is prudent to review the plan regularly to ensure that it is relevant to changes in local context and national policy. In the White Paper "Fixing our broken housing market"<sup>1</sup> the Government states that "We also want to strengthen expectations about keeping plans up-to-date. Plans should be reviewed regularly, and are likely to require updating in whole or in part at least every five years." At present this requirement is not expressly applied to Mineral and Waste Plans but makes clear the government's intentions to keep plans up to date. The ongoing monitoring of the Waste Core Strategy through the Annual Monitoring Report also shows a declining trend against some of the indicators and objectives which indicates that a review is needed subject to this trend continuing which is anticipated. The July 2017 LDS therefore includes provision to commence a review of the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire in 2020 (Quarter 1).

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<sup>1</sup> February 2017.

7. At present no significant failings have been identified through the Annual Monitoring Report which would indicate the need for immediate review, and the staff resources are not available to commence a review before the submission and examination of the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan.

### **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

8. There are financial implications associated with preparing the documents set out within the LDS. Internal staff resources in the Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy team are dedicated to producing the Minerals Local Plan and the associated documents including the Habitats Regulations Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal.

9. The use of external consultants is being minimised through the focus on internal staff resources but additional costs will be incurred through consultation and examination which may include the procurement of external expertise. This has been fully costed and an indicative budget agreed with Finance for this.

### **Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments**

10. None identified as a direct result of this report.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

11. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

### **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1: Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme July 2017

### **Contact Points**

#### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

#### Specific Contact Points for this report

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### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Economy and Infrastructure) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme adopted April 2015

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6161/local\\_development\\_scheme\\_april\\_2015](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6161/local_development_scheme_april_2015)