

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Planning Committee – 7 February 2019

Report of the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

The Annual Monitoring Report and partial review of the Minerals Local Plan

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Planning Committee of the findings of our Annual Monitoring Report and of the partial review of the Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire to check conformity with the revised National Planning Policy Framework.

Recommendation

2. That the report be noted.

Summary and Reasons for Recommendation

3. This is a report on the findings of our fourteenth Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period April 2017 to March 2018. The AMR is appended to this report (Appendix 2) and is also available from our [Minerals Local Plan document library](#). The findings of the AMR confirm that there is no current need to update any of the policies in the Minerals Local Plan and in relation to the provision of sand and gravel indicates the need for continued monitoring of the effect of demand from significant development (e.g. HS2) on reserves.
4. Alongside the AMR, a partial review of our [Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire](#) has been carried out to check conformity of our minerals planning policies with the [revised National Planning Policy Framework](#) (revised NPPF) published in July 2018. The partial review document is also appended to this report (Appendix 3) and is also available from our [Minerals Local Plan document library](#). The review document concludes that the policies in our Minerals Local Plan conform with the revised NPPF and therefore continue to carry weight in the determination of planning applications for mineral development.
5. Also alongside the AMR, a full review of our [Waste Local Plan](#) has been carried out. That review is the subject of a separate report on the agenda to this committee meeting.

Background

The AMR

6. Since 2005, we have produced an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) every year to examine the effectiveness of the minerals planning policies in our [Minerals Local Plan](#) and the waste planning policies in our [Waste Local Plan](#). AMRs fulfil a legal requirement for monitoring local plans and are an essential part of the plan-making system whereby monitoring information is used to indicate whether there is a need to update current policies (see Appendix 1 – Legal Implications).
7. The latest AMR is the first to report on indicators and targets that were proposed as a monitoring framework for the six policies in the Minerals Local Plan and targets for each of the mineral policies are reviewed in the context of planning decisions made on applications for mineral development during 2017/18.
8. The findings of the AMR confirm that there is no need to review any of the policies in the Minerals Local Plan. For example, in relation to policy 1 relating to the provision of sand and gravel, the landbank of sand and gravel reserves is more than the 7-year target and average sales of sand and gravel over a 10 years period (2008-2017) do not exceed the level of sand and gravel provision used in the Plan. More analysis relating to the provision of aggregates including sand and gravel is provided in our [Local Aggregate Assessment](#) which is produced separately but supports the AMR and is also published alongside our AMR. For example, in the Local Aggregate Assessment significant development that could affect the demand for aggregates will be monitored e.g. the effects of HS2 on mineral reserves.
9. New information is included in the AMR relevant to monitoring the implementation of Policy 6 relating to the restoration of mineral sites. A table provides details of quarries with approved restoration schemes as well as quarries subject to conditions or obligations for review of restoration schemes.
10. A full review to determine whether any policies in the Minerals Local Plan will need to be carried out before February 2022. This review will consider the effectiveness of the policies as monitored in the AMRs and changes in local circumstances.

Conformity of the Minerals Local Plan with the revised NPPF

11. As part of the monitoring the policies in our Local Plans we must check that they continue to conform with national planning policy. A revised NPPF was published in July, so this is an opportune time to report on the conformity of policies in the Minerals Local Plan with the revised NPPF (an earlier report on the agenda on the first review of the Waste Local Plan has considered the conformity of policies in the Waste Local Plan with the latest national planning policies). Appendix 3 to this report assesses the policies in the Minerals Local Plan against the relevant paragraphs in the revised NPPF.

12. Having regard to Appendix 3, it is reasonable to conclude that the revisions to national minerals planning policy in the revised NPPF were limited and that the minerals planning policies in our Minerals Local Plan continue to conform with national planning policy and therefore continue to carry weight in the determination of planning applications for mineral development.

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List of Background Papers

1. [Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire \(2015 – 2030\) – adopted February 2017](#)
2. [Planning Practice Guidance \(September 2018\) – Plan-Making](#)
3. [The revised National Planning Policy Framework](#) (published July 2018)
4. [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (published March 2012)
5. Local Aggregate Assessment 2018 [via our Minerals Local Plan document library.](#)

Appendix 1

Equalities implications:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on Equal Opportunities.

Legal implications:

Section [35](#) of the of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to prepare an Authority Monitoring Report (referred to herein as an Annual Monitoring Report) and regulation [34](#) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out the requirements for such reports.

In addition, [regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#) now requires that a local planning authority must review a local plan every 5 years starting from the date of adoption of the local plan.

Failure to review policies and ensure that they are up to date could mean that the policies carry less weight in the determination of planning applications for mineral development.

Resource and Value for money implications:

No specific budget is allocated for the review of the Minerals Local Plan as this work is undertaken in conjunction with the planning application tasks of the Planning, Policy and Development Control Team.

Should monitoring demonstrate that there is a need to update any part of the Minerals Local Plan, a formal process would need to be undertaken which would require a budget to support the costs of formal examination.

Risk implications:

Officers are satisfied that there are no direct risk implications arising from this report and monitoring the policies in the Minerals Local Plan ensures that the Council is prepared for any changes that might influence the effectiveness of its policies.

Climate Change implications:

The Minerals Local Plan does not have significant implications on the management of carbon emissions by the Council.

National planning policy in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), addresses climate change issues ([section 14](#)). The NPPF is a material consideration in reaching decisions.

Health Impact Assessment screening:

Not applicable.

Government planning policy in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (July 2018), which refers to healthy communities (section 8), is also a material consideration in reaching decisions.

Appendix 2

Annual Monitoring Report (2017 - 2018)

(also available via our [Minerals Local Plan document library](#))

Appendix 3

Appendix to Annual Monitoring Report 2017/18: Conformity of Minerals Local Plan Policies with the revised National Planning Policy Framework

(also available via our [Minerals Local Plan document library](#))