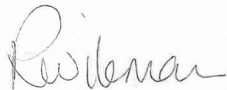

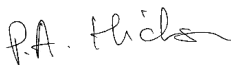

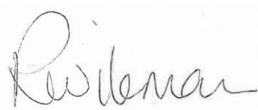



West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Statement of Common Ground

Strategic Cross Boundary Matters

Matters and Signatories			
Matter	Signatories	Additional Signatories	Notes
1. Soft Sand	<p><u>West Berkshire Council</u></p> <p>Cllr Richard Somner (<i>Executive member for Development and Planning</i>) 15th July 2021</p> <p><u>Oxfordshire County Council</u></p>  <p>Rachel Wileman (<i>Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning</i>) 26th May 2021</p>	<p>South East England Aggregates Working Party</p>  <p>Tony Cook (<i>Chair, South East England Aggregates Working Party</i>) 8 December 2020</p>	
2. Crushed Rock Supply	<p><u>West Berkshire Council</u></p> <p>Cllr Richard Somner (<i>Executive member for Development and Planning</i>) 15th July 2021</p> <p><u>Somerset Council</u></p> 	<p>South East England Aggregates Working Party</p>  <p>Tony Cook (<i>Chair, South East England Aggregates Working Party</i>) 8 December 2020</p> <p>South West Aggregates Working Party</p>	

	<p>Paul Hickson (<i>Strategic Commissioning Manager – Economy and Planning</i>) 19th April 2021</p>	<p><i>E Inglis-Woolcock</i> <i>(signature redacted as requested)</i></p> <p>Ellie Inglis-Woolcock (<i>Chair, South West Aggregates Working Party</i>) 10th May 2021</p>	
<p>3. Non-hazardous Landfill</p>	<p><u>West Berkshire Council</u></p> <p>Cllr Richard Somner (<i>Executive member for Development and Planning</i>) 15th July 2021</p> <p><u>Oxfordshire County Council</u></p>  <p>Rachel Wileman (<i>Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning</i>) 26th May 2021</p> <p><u>Buckinghamshire County Council</u></p> <p>Emily Brown Senior Strategic Planning Policy Officer</p>		<p>Buckinghamshire County Council agreed to the SCG at Officer level (email of 22nd Oct 2020), but despite chasing we have been unable to receive formal sign off.</p> <p>Chasing emails sent: 04/02/2021, 10/03/2021, 07/4/2021, 16/04/2021</p> <p>Phone calls made: 09/06/21</p>

<p>4. Non-hazardous Energy Recovery</p>	<p><u>West Berkshire Council</u></p> <p>Cllr Richard Somner (<i>Executive member for Development and Planning</i>) 15th July 2021</p> <p><u>Hampshire County Council</u></p> <p><u>Slough Borough Council</u></p> <div data-bbox="432 667 777 777">  This image cannot currently be displayed. </div> <p>Paul Stimpson (<i>Planning Policy Lead Officer</i>) 24th June 2021</p>		
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SCG) is made between West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) and relevant authorities (the parties) regarding their duties as Waste Planning Authorities and Mineral Planning Authorities.
- 1.2 The parties are entering into this SCG to address key strategic cross-boundary issues that have been identified between the plan-making areas.
- 1.3 This SCG is provided without prejudice to other matters of detail that the parties may wish to raise in the ongoing requirement to engage constructively and actively in plan preparation through the Duty to Cooperate, or in subsequent participation in the plan making process.

2. Background

- 2.1 West Berkshire District Council is preparing a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) will replace the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (2011) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998), providing an up to date planning framework for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire to 2037. This SCG relates to the preparation of the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and the cross-boundary strategic priorities that relate to it.
- 2.2 This SCG sets out the areas which WBDC and the parties wish to address to work positively together in order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working on strategic cross-boundary issues, and to document these matters and progress in cooperating to address them, as required by paragraphs 27 and 35 of the NPPF (Feb 2019). Where relevant it also identifies any areas where the authorities do not agree, and how the parties propose to address this.

3. Strategic Matters

MATTER 1: Soft Sand Supply

MATTER 2: Crushed Rock Supply

MATTER 3: Non-hazardous Landfill

MATTER 4: Non-hazardous Energy Recovery

3.1 MATTER 1: Soft Sand Supply

3.1.1 Parties Involved

Signatories:

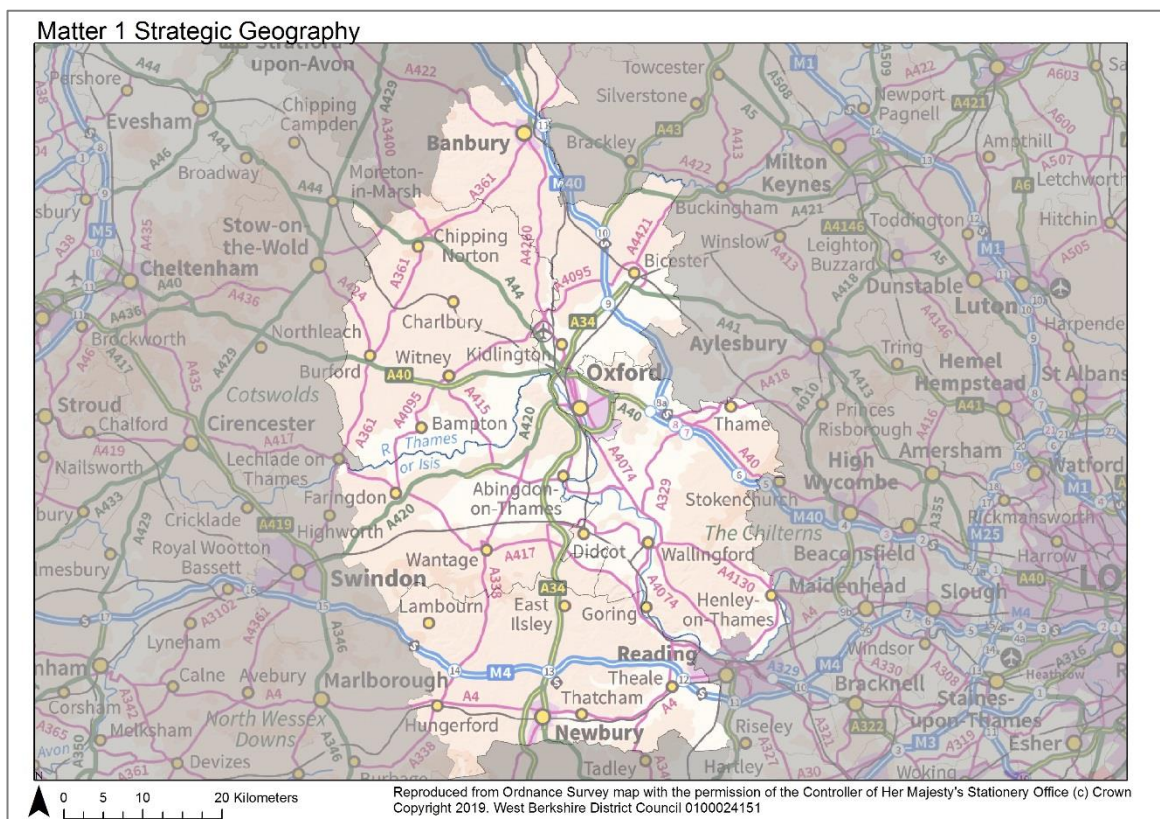
1. West Berkshire District Council
2. Oxfordshire County Council

Additional signatories:

2. South East England Aggregates Working Party

3.1.2 Strategic Geography

- 3.1.3 The strategic geography for Matter 1 is Oxfordshire County and West Berkshire District, as shown in the Figure below:



3.1.4 Strategic Matter Background

- 3.1.5 Although national policy generally requires maintaining separate provision for aggregate materials with distinct and separate markets, determining the quantum of need for soft sand in West Berkshire has always been a key issue for the authority. Due to confidentiality agreements, the authority has historically been unable to publish sales figures for soft sand separate from sharp sand and gravel, and therefore it has not been possible to estimate a separate level of need for soft sand.

- 3.1.6 In addition, in recent years, the only deposits of soft sand that have been worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NWDONB) in particular an outcrop found around Junction 13 of the M4. The NPPF, at paragraph 172 confirms that 'great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty', and that planning permission for major development in these designated areas should be refused except in 'exceptional circumstances' and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 defines the winning and working of minerals as 'major development', although case-law has established that in terms of national policy this needs to be judged on a case by case basis. Paragraph 205 of the NPPF also confirms that as far as practical, mineral planning authorities should provide for the maintenance of landbanks of non-energy minerals from outside (inter alia) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However, the NPPF also indicates at paragraph 204(b) that mineral planning authorities should aim to source minerals supplies indigenously.
- 3.1.7 The absence of a specific 'need' figure for soft sand and location of the majority of soft sand deposits within the NWDONB has meant that to date sites for the extraction of soft sand have not been proposed for allocation in the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 3.1.8 However, the mineral companies which have been involved in extracting soft sand in West Berkshire have recently indicated that they will forego commercial confidentiality in order that separate soft sand production figures can be published. Therefore, a separate landbank, annual requirement and requirement over the plan period for soft sand can now be determined as part of the authority's Local Aggregates Assessment.
- 3.1.9 This has shown that the 'landbank' (permitted reserves divided by the annual requirement) for soft sand within West Berkshire is zero. National policy requires that a landbank of at least 7 years is maintained for sand and gravel (NPPF 207(f)). As there is no landbank for soft sand, this indicates that additional provision for this mineral needs to be made in line with NPPF paragraph 207(e). The 2020 West Berkshire Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) identifies that approximately an additional 790,000 tonnes of soft sand would be required over the plan period (to 2037) in order to maintain the current annual requirement rate of 43,730 tonnes per annum.
- 3.1.10 In order to be found sound, the MWLP will need to identify how this shortfall will be provided for over the plan period in order to provide a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals as required by NPPF para 207.
- 3.1.11 The issue of soft sand supply has been identified as a strategic issue in the South East, and as such a Joint Position Statement (JPS) on Soft Sand has been prepared by the South East Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs). The JPS recognises that the geology in the South East means that soft sand has historically been extracted in the region, however not all South East MPA areas contain soft sand resources and, in some areas the resources are constrained by landscape and environmental designations (including the NWDONB). The JPS also indicates that additional sites need to be allocated in minerals plans to ensure a steady and adequate supply of soft sand in the South East, but that this will likely need to be balanced against significant landscape, environmental and recreational constraints. The JPS is

included at Annex 1.

- 3.1.12 The presence of the majority of soft sand deposits with operator interest within the NWDAONB in West Berkshire means that exceptional circumstances will need to be demonstrated if extraction is to take place within this designated landscape, including consideration of the need for development, the alternatives to extracting within the NWDAONB, and any detrimental effect on the environment, landscape and recreational opportunities.
- 3.1.13 Therefore, WBDC commissioned a specific Soft Sand Study to investigate all potential supply options for delivering West Berkshire's identified level of need for soft sand to address this part of the exceptional circumstances test.
- 3.1.14 The study concluded that the preferred option, as an alternative to providing for extraction within the NWDAONB in West Berkshire, would be to supply soft sand from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire. Within the study, it was understood by local soft sand mineral operators that some of West Berkshire's requirement for soft sand was being met from Oxfordshire quarries, so this would be a continuation of the current situation, although if there is no future extraction in West Berkshire then the scale of supply from Oxfordshire would need to increase. However, this option would rely on a formal agreement with Oxfordshire County Council through this SCG.
- 3.1.15 The adopted Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy acknowledges that the county's contribution of primary aggregate towards the needs of other areas is a strategic issue, and Objective 3.4(iii) recognises the need to 'make an appropriate contribution to meeting wider needs for aggregate minerals, having regard to the strategic importance of Oxfordshire's mineral resources, particularly sand and gravel'.
- 3.1.16 The Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2019 reveals that the County's reserves of soft sand at the end of December 2018 stood at 3.091 million tonnes, which equated to a landbank of 12.72 years based on the LAA 2019 provision figure of 0.243 mtpa. Sales of soft sand were 0.252 mt in 2018, the highest level since 2004. The 10 year and 3 year sales averages also increased to 0.202 and 0.243 mt respectively. This reflects the fact that sales of soft sand in Oxfordshire have increased in recent years (since 2014). These figures are reviewed annually through the Council's Local Aggregate Assessment.
- 3.1.17 Therefore this indicates that, due to the significant decline in sales of soft sand in West Berkshire demonstrated in the West Berkshire 2020 LAA, the market for soft sand in the district must be being supplied from elsewhere. As Oxfordshire is the next closest source of soft sand it is therefore likely that some of this mineral supply is travelling from Oxfordshire to West Berkshire. In addition, evidence gathered from mineral operators through the Soft Sand Study is that soft sand is travelling from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire to West Berkshire and this has been confirmed by at least one operator of two soft sand quarries in southern Oxfordshire.
- 3.1.18 The Soft Sand Study suggested that part of the current soft sand sales pattern in Oxfordshire included some supply to West Berkshire. Therefore if Oxfordshire makes provision to enable these levels of sales to continue, then it can be inferred that these movements from Oxfordshire to West Berkshire will be able to continue. This will enable, at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met from imports, as is currently understood to be the case.

3.1.19 Based on the worst case scenario that West Berkshire is only able to supply 400,000 tonnes of mineral (see Soft Sand Topic Paper), it is assumed that the remainder could continue to be made up of imports from Oxfordshire, because the provision in Oxfordshire will continue to be based on the most recent data in the LAA. If additional sites come forward within the Plan area, or allocated sites in West Berkshire are able to deliver more than 400,000 tonnes then this figure will be revised downwards, this would show up on Oxfordshire's sales figures in future monitoring and the landbanks would be revised.

3.1.20 It should be noted that there is a possibility that there will be future volatility of sales, as markets and demand going forward may be affected by the uncertainty of the impact of Brexit on the economy, and as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic on demand for minerals.

3.1.21 Common Ground:

1. West Berkshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council understand that as identified through the West Berkshire Soft Sand Study 2019, part of the sales pattern in Oxfordshire included some supply to West Berkshire to meet demand that was not being met from quarries in West Berkshire, and that this cross-boundary movement of soft sand between the authorities is a strategic issue.
2. West Berkshire District Council agrees to meet the identified need for soft sand from within their authority as far as is possible in line with national policy by allocating the Chieveley Services site and identifying Areas of Search in the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and also including a criteria policy to enable any other suitable sites for soft sand that may come forward to be permitted. This will be over the lifetime of the Plan period to 2037.
3. Oxfordshire County Council agrees to continue making provision for soft sand as set out in the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy (to 2031), and as identified within their Local Aggregates Assessments. This will be delivered through the preparation and adoption of the Site Allocations Plan.

3.1.22 Signatories:

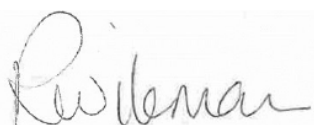
Signed on behalf of West Berkshire District Council:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signed on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Wileman', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Name: Rachel Wileman

Position: Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning
Date: 26th May 2021

3.1.23 Additional Signatories

Signed on behalf of South East England Aggregates Working Party:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word "Cook".

Name: Tony Cook
Position: Chair, South East England Aggregates Working Party
Date: 18 December 2020

3.2 MATTER 2: Crushed Rock Supply

3.2.1 Parties involved

Signatories:

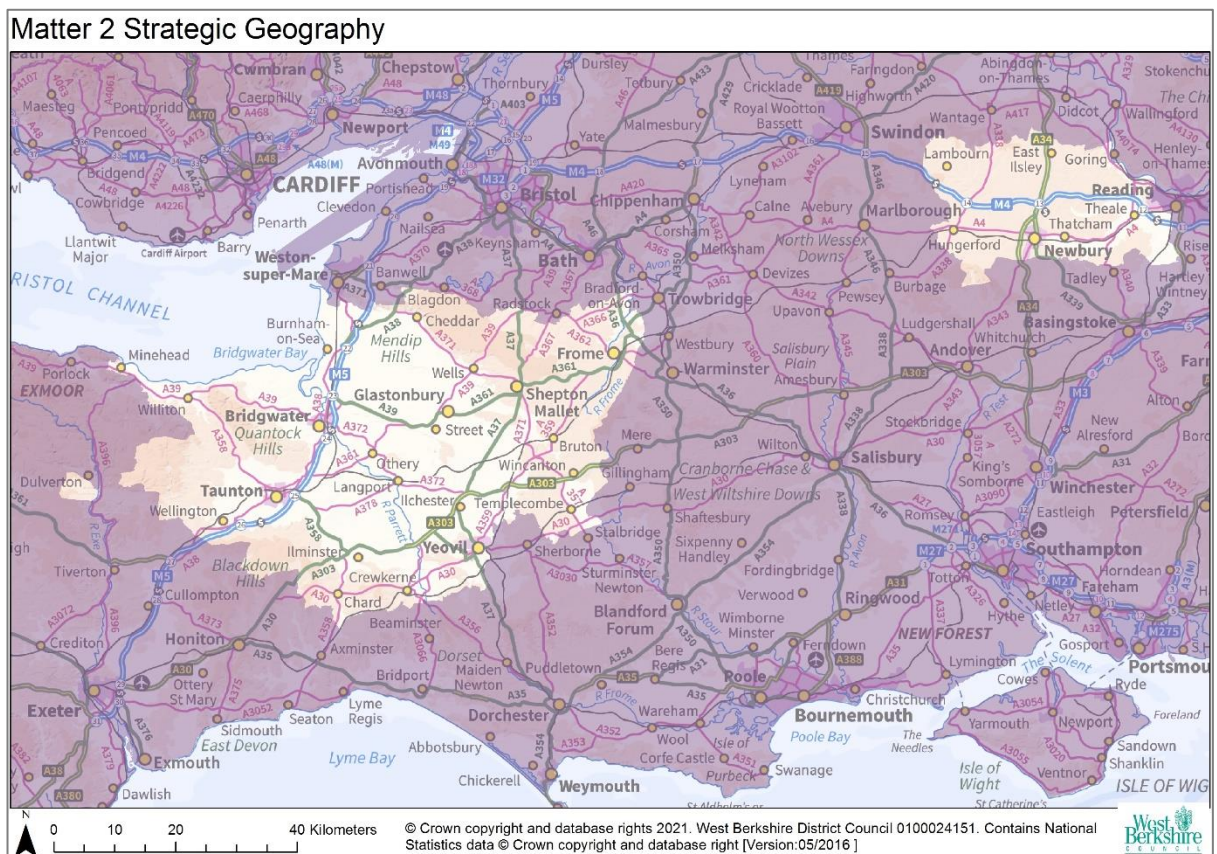
1. West Berkshire District Council
2. Somerset County Council

Additional signatories:

1. South East England Aggregates Working Party
2. South West Aggregates Working Party

3.2.2 Strategic Geography

- 3.2.3 The strategic geography for Matter 2 is Somerset County (excluding Exmoor National Park) and West Berkshire District, as shown in the Figure below:



3.2.4 Strategic Matter Background

- 3.2.5 Due to its underlying geology, West Berkshire does not produce any crushed rock indigenously, nor are there any marine landing sites. As such, this aggregate is imported to the district at the rail depots in Theale.

- 3.2.6 Crushed rock is mainly imported from Somerset County, as shown in Table 4.2.1 below. The most recent Somerset Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) (fifth edition, incorporating data from 2007 – 2016) states that there are approximately 377 million tonnes of permitted reserves for crushed rock and a landbank of at least 28.1 years at the end of 2016. The LAA acknowledges that Berkshire is among the counties importing the largest amount of crushed rock from Somerset due to limited indigenous supply and high development demand, together with the available rail connections. The rail capacity in Somerset is indicated to be sufficient and with capacity to increase the amount moved by rail, subject to demand. In addition, production capacity from crushed rock quarries within Somerset stands at 21.79 million tonnes.
- 3.2.7 Thus, assuming that productive capacity at Somerset quarries is maintained such that supply can continue at levels similar to those currently and recently produced, there does not appear to be any supply issues with continuing to source crushed rock from Somerset over the Plan period.
- 3.2.8 As with other mineral need, there is a possibility that there will be future volatility of sales, as markets and demand going forward may be affected by the uncertainty of the impact of Brexit on the economy, and as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic on demand for minerals.

Table 3.2.1 - Sources of Crushed Rock Imported into Berkshire 2014

Source MPA	Percentage	Tonnes
Somerset County Council	70-80%	812,700 – 928,800
North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Leicestershire County Council, Shropshire Council, Powys, Rhondda, Cynon, Taf (Taff), outside England and Wales.	1-10%	11,610 – 116,100
Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Neath Port Talbot.	<1%	<11,610
Total		1,161,000

Source: AM 2014 Source of primary aggregates by sub-region - percentage categories (2016), BGS.

3.2.9 Common Ground:

1. There are currently no known planning reasons why the continued movement of crushed rock from Somerset to West Berkshire, at levels similar to those recorded in the most recent national Aggregates Monitoring Survey, cannot continue over the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan period.

3.2.10 Signatories:

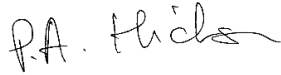
Signed on behalf of West Berkshire District Council:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signed on behalf of Somerset County Council:



Name: Paul Hickson

Position: Strategic Commissioning Manager – Economy and Planning

Date: 19th April 2021

3.2.11 Additional Signatories

Signed on behalf of South East England Aggregates Working Party:

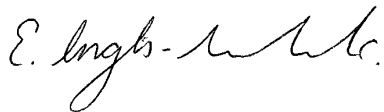


Name: Tony Cook

Position: Chair, South East England Aggregates Working Party

Date: 6 January 2021

Signed on behalf of South West Aggregates Working Party:



Name: Ellie Inglis-Woolcock

Position: Chair, South West Aggregates Working Party

Date: 10th May 2021

3.3 MATTER 3: Non-hazardous Landfill

3.3.1 Parties Involved

Signatories:

1. West Berkshire District Council
2. Oxfordshire County Council
3. Buckinghamshire County Council

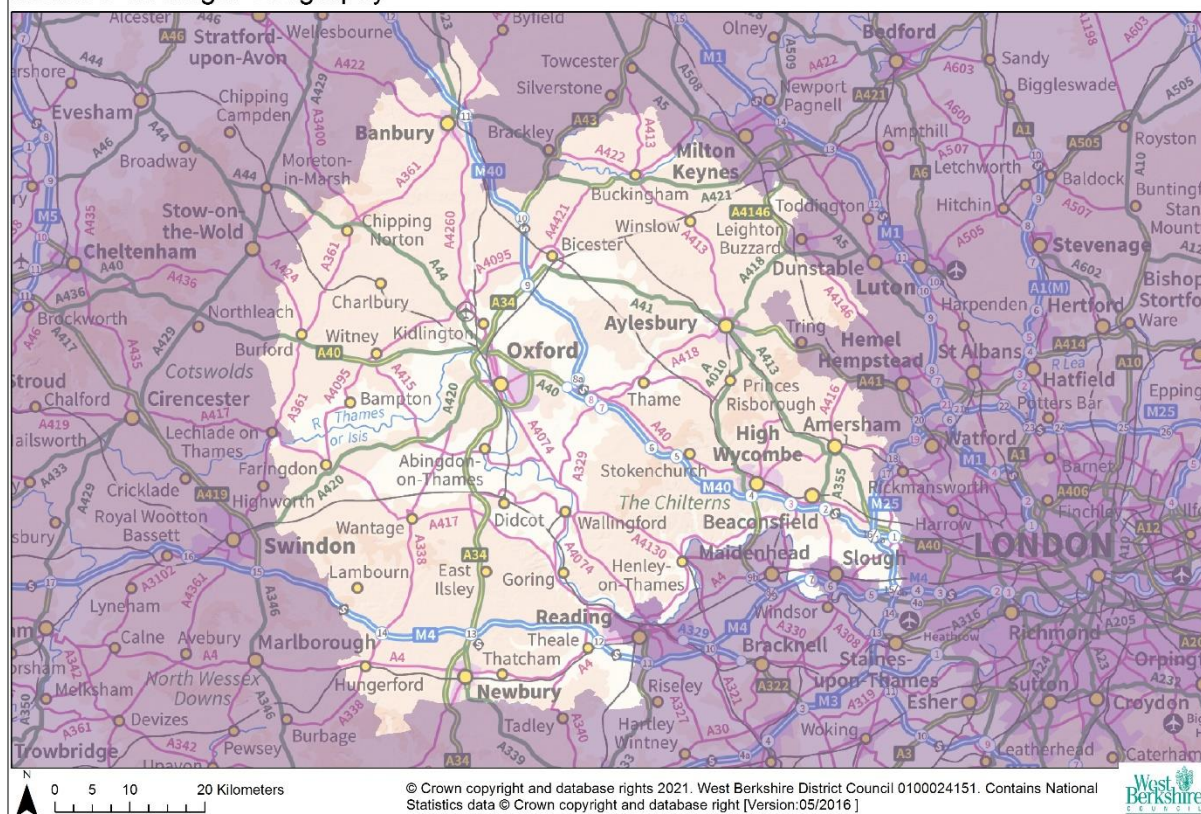
3.3.2 Strategic Geography

3.3.3 The strategic geography for Matter 3 comprises the authority areas for the signatories to this Matter, and are shown in the Figure below. The strategic geography has been defined by identifying authorities which are receiving strategic amounts of non-hazardous waste from West Berkshire to their landfill facilities. 'Strategic' movements in this context are defined by the agreed thresholds of the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG):

- Non-hazardous waste - 5,000 tpa
- Hazardous waste - 100 tpa
- Inert waste - 10,000 tpa

3.3.4 These thresholds have been applied, as below these levels, it is unlikely that the importation of waste will have a significant impact on the waste management strategy of most authorities.

Matter 3 Strategic Geography



3.3.5 Strategic Matter Background

- 3.3.6 South East England Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) has acknowledged the provision of non-hazardous landfill to be a strategic issue for the South East. There has been a decline in non-hazardous waste being sent to landfill in recent years, due to the drive to manage waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible. As the existing sites become full, or in some cases close early, and the number of non-hazardous landfill facilities reduces, this has led to a decline in voidspace. Consequently, the remaining facilities might now have to accept waste from a wider area in order to achieve their permitted restoration.
- 3.3.7 Consequently, SEWPAG has prepared a Joint Position Statement (JPS) on Non-hazardous Landfill in the South East¹ which sets out the background information and overall situation regarding non-hazardous landfill in the South East. It sets out a common understanding of the predicted gap between the need for, and the availability of non-hazardous landfill capacity in the South East of England. The JPS also acknowledges the challenges for delivering new non-hazardous landfill capacity, and supports the fact that while it is the aim to manage waste as high up the hierarchy as possible, there will continue to be a need for some non-hazardous landfill capacity in the short to medium term. The JPS is included in Annex 2.
- 3.3.8 Historically, mineral extraction sites were used for landfilling waste and in previous decades this was also the predominant waste disposal method in West Berkshire. However, due to changes in the siting criteria for non-inert landfills introduced through the Landfill Directive, the mineral deposits currently worked in West Berkshire (relatively shallow sand and gravel deposits) would not be suitable for non-inert landfill without considerable investment. The last landfill site in West Berkshire permitted to accept non-inert waste ceased accepting such waste in 2005. Therefore, for a number of years all of the non-inert (including non-hazardous) waste requiring landfill in West Berkshire has been exported to landfill sites outside the district, predominantly in neighbouring authority areas.
- 3.3.9 In 2018, the strategic movements of non-hazardous waste from West Berkshire to non-hazardous landfill facilities in other authority areas were as follows:

Table 3.3.1: West Berkshire Non-hazardous Waste Deposited to Landfill 2018

Authority/Site Name	Tonnes Received – Non-hazardous
Oxfordshire	
Sutton Courtenay Landfill	44,795*
Buckinghamshire	
Springfield Farm Landfill	9,497

Source: Waste Data Interrogator 2018

*A movement of 201,228 tonnes of 20 03 01 (Mixed Municipal Waste) from West Berkshire to Sutton Courtenay Landfill is recorded in the 2018 WDI. However, upon querying this with the Environment Agency, the movement has confirmed to be only 1,446 tonnes. Therefore the difference has been subtracted from this number.

¹ SEWPAG, (2019). *Joint Position Statement: Non-hazardous Landfill in the South East of England*.

- 3.3.10 By far the most significant movement of non-inert waste to landfill from West Berkshire was to Sutton Courtenay (44,795 tonnes), which represented 79% of non-hazardous waste landfilled from West Berkshire in 2018. This facility is due to close in 2030, and therefore prior to the end of the Plan period (2037). Similarly, Springfield Farm Landfill in Buckinghamshire is due to close in 2029 before the end of the Plan period, although an application to extend the end date to 2044 is currently being determined. Therefore, the movement of non-hazardous waste from West Berkshire to these landfill sites outside of West Berkshire cannot be guaranteed over the plan period.
- 3.3.11 West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) undertook several calls for sites as part of the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and although a number of 'waste sites' were submitted for consideration as part of this process, all but one of the sites are existing waste management sites that are operating under permanent, or temporary, planning permissions. In the case of the promoted site operating under a temporary consent the site submission only sought to allocate the site for a temporary period. In the case of the 'new' waste site promoted this was for an inert waste infilling operation of existing lakes in West Berkshire. None of the sites promoted were for the landfilling of non-hazardous waste.
- 3.3.12 In acknowledgement of challenges to delivering new non-hazardous landfill capacity in the South East, the SEWPAG Non-hazardous Landfill JPS outlines examples of criteria based policy approaches undertaken in adopted Waste Local Plans. These policies acknowledge that sites for non-hazardous landfill facilities may come forward in the future and that policies need to be flexible to deal with any proposals which do come forward.
- 3.3.13 WBDC also intends to include such a criteria based policy in its Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 3.3.14 Common Ground:
1. The parties agree that they each need to identify relevant waste management needs for their areas and seek to address these needs through the plan-making process. This will include policies that seek to push waste up the waste hierarchy.
 2. That landfill will continue to be needed for residual waste. Site identification for landfill sites is an ongoing issue, and its availability will be dependent on the amount and type of mineral extraction within the Waste Planning Authority's area.
 3. That the Waste Planning Authorities plan for sites in order to enable their availability, but it is ultimately up to the waste operators as to those sites that are proposed and whether they then get developed.
 4. The parties agree that all efforts need to be made to identify and allocate sufficient suitable landfill sites to meet their Authorities identified need and to achieve net self-sufficiency, for example through comprehensive 'calls for sites' in the plan-making process, repeated as appropriate.
 5. The parties conclude that if, despite best efforts, suitable non-hazardous landfill proposals are not available, or if sites do not come forward for allocation, a criteria based policy is the most sensible remaining option for landfill planning.

6. Therefore the parties agree, where insufficient landfill capacity is provided through existing and allocated sites, to include a criteria based policy that would guide applicants to suitable sites.
7. Even where all efforts are made to identify and allocate waste management sites, and a criteria based policy for landfill is included, there might still be a shortfall in landfill provision for an individual Waste Planning Authority. This would result in some cross boundary movement of waste to landfill.

3.3.14 Signatories:

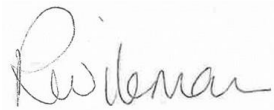
Signed on behalf of West Berkshire District Council:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signed on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Wileman', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Name: Rachel Wileman

Position: Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning

Date: 26th May 2021

Signed on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council:

Name:

Position:

Date:

3.4 MATTER 4: Non-hazardous Energy Recovery

3.4.1 Parties Involved

Signatories:

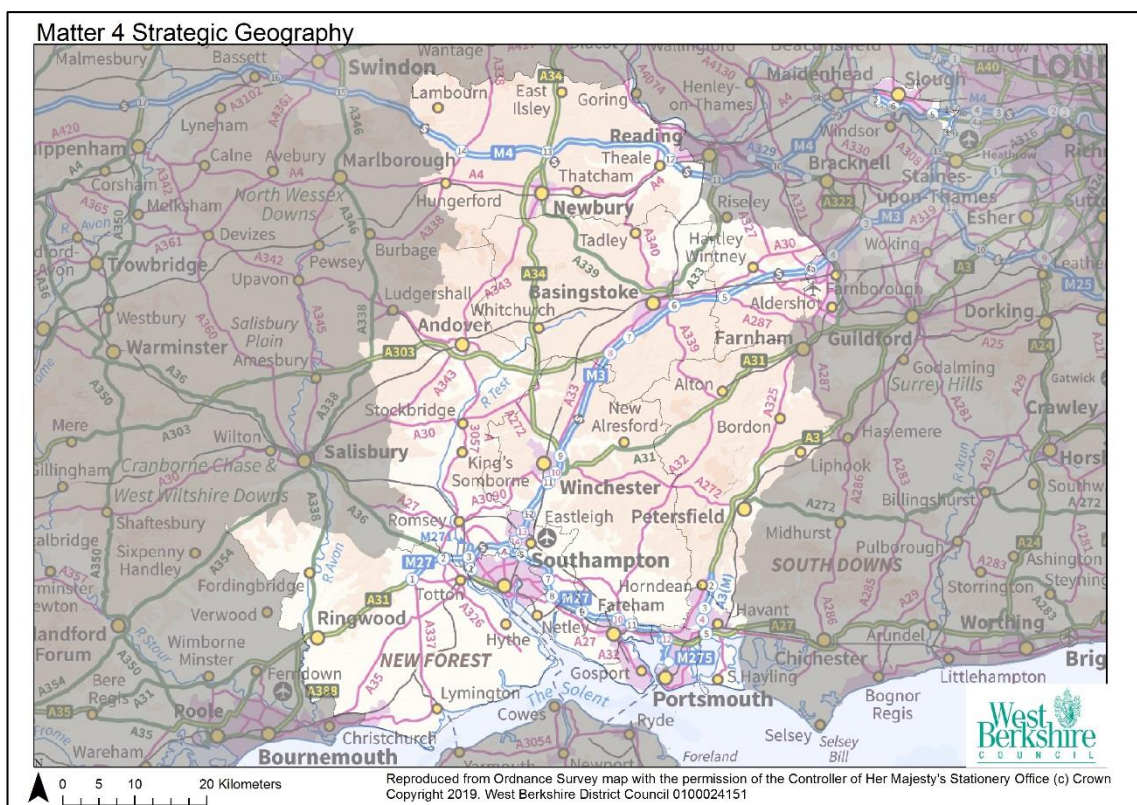
1. West Berkshire Council
2. Hampshire County Council
3. Slough Borough Council

3.4.2 Strategic Geography

3.4.3 The strategic geography for Matter 4 comprises the authority areas for the signatories to this Matter, and are shown in the Figure below. The strategic geography has been identified from authorities which are receiving strategic amounts of non-hazardous waste from West Berkshire to their recovery facilities. 'Strategic' movements in this context are defined by the agreed thresholds of the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG):

- Non-hazardous waste - 5,000 tpa
- Hazardous waste - 100 tpa
- Inert waste - 10,000 tpa

3.4.4 These thresholds have been applied, as below these levels, it is unlikely that the importation of waste will have a significant impact on the waste management strategy of most authorities.



3.4.5 Strategic Matter Background

- 3.4.6 Energy recovery describes the management of non-hazardous waste to recover the remaining energy from waste after initial sorting and processing higher up the waste hierarchy. This may constitute techniques such as Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), gasification or incineration, and generates heat, electricity or fuel.
- 3.4.7 West Berkshire has limited energy recovery facilities. As a result, the majority of waste from West Berkshire requiring this form of management is currently exported outside of the district.
- 3.4.8 The below table shows where strategic movements of non-inert (non-hazardous and hazardous) waste arising in West Berkshire were managed at energy recovery facilities in 2018, as reported in the Environment Agency Incinerator Waste Returns.

Table 3.4.1: West Berkshire Waste sent to Energy Recovery 2018

Authority/Site Name	Tonnes Received
Hampshire	
Integra North Energy Recovery Facility	11,448
Integra South West Energy Recovery Facility	4,757
Slough	
Lakeside Energy from Waste Facility	11,090
TOTAL	27,658

Source: Environment Agency, Incinerator Waste Returns, 2018

- 3.4.9 As can be seen from Table 3.4.1, the majority of strategic waste movements from West Berkshire sent for energy recovery outside of the district went to sites in Hampshire, with the next largest amount travelling to the Lakeside Energy from Waste Facility in Slough.
- 3.4.10 The facilities in Hampshire, where the majority of waste sent for energy recovery from West Berkshire is sent are known have permanent planning permission, with no known planning reasons why similar waste movements cannot continue in future. However, this situation should be kept under review should circumstances change in future, for instance due to contract changes.
- 3.4.11 It is known that the Lakeside Energy from Waste Facility falls within the area proposed for an additional runway at Heathrow Airport. As such, it is likely that this facility will not be available to continue to accept waste once the development at Heathrow has commenced. It is understood that alternatives for provision of this capacity are being investigated, and a planning application for a replacement facility has now been submitted to Slough Borough Council. However, for the purposes of certainty over the Plan period it cannot be assumed that this capacity will remain.

3.4.12 The South East Waste Planning Advisory Group is preparing a Joint Position Statement regarding the impact of an additional runway at Heathrow on the Lakeside Energy from Waste Facility and management of waste in the South East. The JPS highlights the regional importance of the facility providing energy from waste capacity in the South East, and outlines the implications if this capacity is not replaced.

3.4.13 Notwithstanding the fact that West Berkshire does not have sufficient capacity to manage residual waste through energy recovery, it is still possible for West Berkshire to be *net self-sufficient* in waste management over the Plan period. This is because even though there is a lack of recovery capacity, there are other forms of waste management in the district that have a surplus of capacity (e.g. inert/CDE recycling). Therefore, the total waste management capacity in the district is still more than the waste generated. In addition, the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan does not propose to distinguish between energy from waste facilities and so the general locational criteria policy would apply. This would enable energy from waste facilities to come forward within the district in future if they are required, and provided that all relevant criteria are satisfied.

3.4.14 Common Ground:

1. In the case of the Hampshire Energy from Waste facilities receiving strategic movements of waste from West Berkshire, these are acknowledged to have permanent planning permission, with no known planning reason why similar waste movements cannot continue over the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan period. However, this situation should be kept under review should circumstances change, for instance due to contract changes.
2. The parties consider the Lakeside Energy from Waste Facility to be a regionally important facility, and that replacement capacity should be provided ideally in a similar location to the current facility, in a timely manner so as not to interrupt the provision that this facility provides to the waste management strategies in the surrounding region.
3. Notwithstanding the fact that West Berkshire does not have sufficient capacity to manage residual waste through energy recovery, it is still possible for West Berkshire to be *net self-sufficient* in waste management over the Plan period, with a surplus of capacity in other waste streams.

3.4.15 Signatories:

Signed on behalf of West Berkshire Council:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signed on behalf of Hampshire County Council:

Name:
Position:
Date:

Signed on behalf of Slough Borough Council:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Stimpson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Name: Paul Stimpson
Position: Planning Policy Lead Officer
Date: 24th June 2021

4. Governance

- 4.1 This SCG has been prepared by West Berkshire District Council and consulted upon with the signatories identified for each matter. The SCG will be initially agreed at officer level and then signed off at executive member level, or under relevant delegated powers.
- 4.2 The SCG will be maintained by the authority's party to the SCG, although WBDC will take a leading role in preparing the document, gathering relevant information, and identifying when changes/updates are needed.

5. Timetable for Agreement, Review and Update

- 5.1 The SCG will be consulted on with the identified signatories and a draft published alongside the proposed submission consultation on the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 5.2 Following this consultation, the SCG will be updated to reflect any comments received and progress to sign off at elected member level (or under relevant delegated powers), with the aim to have the document agreed by the time the MWLP is submitted for independent examination.
- 5.3 Following adoption of the MWLP, the SCG will be updated by WBDC when monitoring shows it is necessary to do so, by way of identifying new strategic matters and/or changes to existing strategic matters, and/or identifying that matters are no longer strategic.

ANNEX 1: South East Mineral Planning Authorities Joint Position Statement on Soft Sand

**ANNEX 2: South East Waste Planning Advisory Group Joint Position Statement on
Non-hazardous Landfill**