

# Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

**Tuesday, 10th May, 2022**

***Summons and Agenda***

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To: All Members of the Council

*You are requested to attend a meeting of*  
**WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

*to be held in the*  
**SECOND FLOOR MEETING AREA,  
COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET,  
NEWBURY**

on  
**Tuesday, 10th May, 2022**  
at **7.00 pm**



Sarah Clarke  
Service Director – Strategy & Governance  
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Friday, 29 April 2022

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## **AGENDA**

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). **(Pages 7 - 8)**

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman to report on functions attended since the last meeting and other matters of interest to Members. **(Pages 9 - 10)**

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

The Chairman will make Long Service presentations to:

For 15 years' service:



WestBerkshire  
C O U N C I L

## **Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 (continued)**

- Councillor Hilary Cole
- Councillor Jeremy Cottam
- Councillor Alan Law

For 35 years' service:

- Councillor Graham Pask **(Pages 11 - 12)**

### **4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/2023 (C4205)**

To elect the Chairman for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year. **(Pages 13 - 14)**

### **5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/2023 (C4206)**

To appoint the Vice-Chairman for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year. **(Pages 15 - 16)**

### **6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' [Code of Conduct](#). **(Pages 17 - 18)**

### **7. MINUTES**

The Chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 3 March and 17 March 2022. **(Pages 19 - 68)**

### **8. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR (C4207)**

The Leader of the Council to announce the composition of the Executive for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year. **(Pages 69 - 70)**

### **9. APPOINTMENT OF AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES FOR THE 2022/2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR (C4202)**

To consider the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees for the next Municipal Year in accordance with the duty under Section 15 of the Local Government Housing Act 1989 and to agree the Council's Policy Framework for 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report. **(Pages 71 - 82)**

### **10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2022/2023 (C4203)**

To consider and agree West Berkshire Council's nominations to the following Outside Bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association General Assembly **(Pages 83 - 88)**

**Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 (continued)**

**11. MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE 2021/2022 (C4152)**

To provide an update on local and national issues relating to ethical standards and to bring to the attention of Members any complaints or other problems within West Berkshire. **(Pages 89 - 102)**

**12. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RELATING TO PARISH OF GREENHAM (C4216)**

To set out the requirements and procedure should the Council agree to undertake a community governance review of the Greenham Parish consisting of Common Ward and Sandford Ward, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated government guidance. **(Pages 103 - 130)**

**13. MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN - MAIN MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION (C4182)**

To present the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) and supporting documentation and outline recent advice from Natural England affecting the MWLP examination. Approval is also sought for the Main Modifications and supporting documents to be subject to public consultation, prior to the Inspector making final recommendations on whether the MWLP can be adopted. **(Pages 131 - 530)**

**14. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022/2023 (C4212)**

To give consideration to and agree the proposed Member Development Programme for 2022/2023. **(Pages 531 - 540)**

**15. LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Licensing Committee has not met. **(Pages 541 - 542)**

**16. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Personnel Committee has not met.

**17. GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Governance and Ethics Committee met on 25 April 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

**18. DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the District Planning Committee met on 13 April 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can

## Agenda - Council to be held on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 (continued)

be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

### 19. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission met on 22 March 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

### 20. **HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Health Scrutiny Committee met on 5 April 2022. A copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from Democratic Services or via the [Council's website](#).

### 21. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Health and Wellbeing Board has not met.

### 22. **JOINT PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The Council is asked to note that since the last meeting of the Council, the Joint Public Protection Committee has not met.

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Vicki Yull on telephone 07824 824867.



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Council – 10 May 2022

## **Item 1 – Apologies for Absence**

Verbal Item

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Council – 10 May 2022

## **Item 2 – Chairman’s Remarks**

Verbal Item

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Council – 10 May 2022

## **Item 3 – Presentations**

### Verbal Item

The Chairman will make Long Service presentations to:

For 15 years' service:

- Councillor Hilary Cole
- Councillor Jeremy Cottam
- Councillor Alan Law

For 35 years' service:

- Councillor Graham Pask

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Council – 10 May 2022

## **Item 4 – Election of the Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022/2023**

Verbal Item

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Council – 10 May 2022

## **Item 5 – Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022/2023**

Verbal Item

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Council – 10 May 2022

## **Item 6 – Declarations of Interest**

Verbal Item

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# Agenda Item 7.

## DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

**THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2022**

**Councillors present in the Second Floor Meeting Area:** Rick Jones (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Adrian Abbs, Steve Ardagh-Walter, Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Gareth Hurley, Owen Jeffery, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Royce Longton, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Andrew Williamson and Howard Woollaston.

**Councillors present remotely:** Garth Simpson

**Also Present:** Honorary Aldermen Paul Bryant and Graham Jones, Nigel Lynn (Chief Executive), Sue Halliwell (Executive Director (Place)), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director (Resources)), Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Shiraz Sheikh (Service Lead, Legal & Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager) and Vicki Yull (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from:** Councillors Clive Hooker, Alan Macro, Erik Pattenden and Keith Woodhams, and Honorary Aldermen Keith Chopping, Adrian Edwards, Andrew Rowles and Anthony Stansfield.

## PART I

### 80. Declarations of Interest

The Deputy Monitoring Officer announced that in respect of Item 6 Capital Strategy, Financial Years 2022/23 to 2026/27 and Item 7 Revenue Budget 2022/23 all Members had previously completed an application for a grant of a dispensation in relation to 'any beneficial interest' in land within the Authority's area. The Monitoring Officer had granted the dispensation to allow all Members to speak and vote on these items.

Councillor Lee Dillon declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 Capital Strategy, Financial Years 2022/23 to 2026/27 but reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

There were also a number of personal interests declared prior to the meeting in relation to agenda items, set out below and published on the Council's website.

Councillor	Description
Abbs, Adrian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Greenham Parish Councillor</li><li>Trustee of Stroke Care Newbury &amp; West Berkshire (Stroke Care get a grant from the Council and Councillor Abbs is appointed in a personal capacity)</li></ul>
Beck, Jeff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WBC's Representative on the Board of Volunteer Centre West Berkshire</li><li>Trustee Of the Corn Exchange Newbury Ltd</li><li>WBC appointed Member of the Henwick Worthy Joint</li></ul>

### COUNCIL - 3 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

Councillor	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management Committee Board</li> <li>• WBC appointee to the Kennet Leisure Centre Committee</li> </ul>
Benneyworth, Dennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority</li> </ul>
Boeck, Dominic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WBC appointee to the Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
Bridgman, Graham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratfield Mortimer Parish Councillor</li> <li>• Investment in Abundance (Community Municipal Investment)</li> </ul>
Culver, Carlyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments in Abundance and has bought some of the WBC Community Municipal Investment bonds</li> </ul>
Doherty, Lynne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in Abundance (Community Municipal Investment)</li> <li>• Trustee at St Bartholomew's Foundation</li> <li>• Board Member of the LEP</li> </ul>
Drummond, Billy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenham Parish Councillor</li> <li>• Newbury Town Councillor</li> <li>• St Bart's Foundation Governor</li> <li>• Director of Greenham Business Park</li> </ul>
Jeffery, Owen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thatcham Town Councillor</li> <li>• Substitute on Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee (appointed by Thatcham Town Council)</li> <li>• Member of Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee (Thatcham Town Council appointment)</li> <li>• In receipt of a pension from the Royal Berks Pension fund</li> </ul>
Jones, Rick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purley on Thames Parish Council</li> </ul>
Linden, Tony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority</li> </ul>
Longton, Royce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burghfield Parish Councillor</li> <li>• Member of AWE Local Liaison Committee</li> </ul>
Mackinnon, Ross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of Willink Joint Advisory Committee (Council appointee)</li> </ul>
Marsh, David	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newbury Town Councillor</li> </ul>
Masters, Steve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee of Eight Bells</li> <li>• Trustee Mobile Phone Museum</li> <li>• Newbury Town Councillor</li> </ul>
Mayes, Geoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beech Hill Parish Councillor</li> <li>• English Heritage</li> <li>• CPRE</li> <li>• BBOWT</li> <li>• Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Trust</li> <li>• Wokefield Common Committee</li> </ul>
Moore, Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newbury Town Councillor</li> <li>• Newbury Town Council's Observer on the Board of the Volunteer Centre</li> </ul>
Somner, Richard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holybrook Parish Councillor</li> <li>• Employed by The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust</li> </ul>
Oloko, Biyi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holybrook Parish Councillor</li> <li>• School Governor – Kennet Valley Primary School</li> </ul>
Vickers, Tony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenham Parish Councillor</li> <li>• Newbury Town Councillor</li> <li>• Investment in WBC Abundance bonds</li> </ul>

## COUNCIL - 3 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

Councillor	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mid &amp; West Berks Local Access Forum</li><li>• National Ramblers</li></ul>
Woollaston, Howard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairman of the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum (voluntary position)</li></ul>

### 81. Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

### 82. Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2022/23 (C4124)

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 4) which sought to consolidate the investments and borrowing strategy for the year ahead, and detailed how and where the Council would invest and borrow in the forthcoming year within a particular framework. Council noted that the strategy was monitored throughout the year, with a mid-year report considered at the Government and Ethics Committee and an annual report presented to Members.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Howard Woollaston:

That Council agree and adopt the proposed Investment and Borrowing Strategy for 2022/23.

Councillor Mackinnon in introducing the report explained how the Strategy set out the approved institutions for treasury assets, the prudential limits for those investments, the accrued sources of borrowing, the recommended borrowing limits for the next three years, and also provided a long term forecast for the Council's borrowing requirements. The Strategy authorised the Council to place deposits in UK Government bonds, UK Building Societies and banks with sound credit ratings, other local authorities, and triple rated money markets. The Council was also authorised to lend to registered charities, public sector bodies and Council-owned companies and joint ventures. He highlighted a change this year to the amount of funds the Council could invest with any one institution which had increased from £5m to £8m, noting that the £5m limit had been held over the past 25 years.

Councillor Mackinnon noted that it was not appropriate to change the Strategy to reflect inflationary changes without a significant change in risk. The Council had, in fact, been constrained in the past by putting funds in UK government bonds at very low rates of return. The Strategy proposed an increase in borrowing over the medium term to support the Council's Capital Strategy, with the borrowing primarily undertaken through the Public Works Loans Board, and he explained how other options will be explored as well. The Strategy also included a subtle shift to hold more borrowing in the short term to take advantage of lower rates. This had already generated significant financial savings in the revenue budget and was forecast to continue to do so. It was a change of emphasis, but not one that would undermine the financial position of the Council.

The report also set out the Council's commercial property portfolio and the investment returns made to the Council. Councillor Mackinnon highlighted how the portfolio had performed well with a consistent return on investment, and he expected this to continue in the future.

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Councillor Jeff Brooks noted the upwards trajectory of servicing debts, a figure that was due to increase and would end up at around £275 per household per annum. He agreed that borrowing had to be done in order to deliver the capital programme but argued that the Council's borrowing could be too high in light of the current international situation (which was causing a fluid system for interest rates and increased risks).

Councillor Steve Masters queried the £8m drop in the property portfolio value and asked what advice had been received from fund managers on overall trends in the capital value of properties, and whether there were concerns moving forward.

Councillor Howard Woollaston suggested that Councillor Brooks' assessment of borrowing, while correct in some aspects, overlooked the fact that a large proportion was invested in property and other investments that were generating income.

Councillor Mackinnon agreed with the principle that Members had a role to play in monitoring the Council's borrowing. He highlighted that the Council was not able to borrow money to fund day-to-day spending but was using borrowed funds to invest in assets which benefited West Berkshire residents in the longer term. He argued that it was misleading to talk about the fluctuating capital values over the short term as the commercial property portfolio was a long term investment over many decades.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 83. **Medium Term Financial Strategy (C4125)**

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 5) which set out the purpose of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to determine financial planning assumptions for future years, aligned with the delivery of the Council Strategy. The MTFS highlighted the overarching key issues faced by the Council, and the different scenarios and uncertainty concerning future revenue streams. The Council was able to commence the next four years of the MTFS from a strong financial base, and this position and future projections were highlighted in the report.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Lynne Doherty:

That Council approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon in introducing the report stated that the Strategy was a rolling four year programme built to ensure that the Council had the financial resources to deliver the Council's Strategy, and it included a number of assumptions and uncertainties around both income and expenditure. The Local Government Financial Settlement for 2023 was broadly similar to the previous year, but the outcome of the Local Government Fair Funding Review was still awaited for more long term certainty around business rates.

Councillor Mackinnon highlighted that the Council had to bridge a funding gap of around £14m over the next three years and these savings would be met by transformation, digitization, and income generation. He believed that the Council had an excellent track record in delivering required savings in recent years without any cuts to frontline services. He stated that it was crucial for the Council to have adequate reserves in place to smooth what was anticipated to be an irregular pattern of savings, and to protect the provision of services. Councillor Mackinnon highlighted how carrying out a medium term forecasting

## COUNCIL - 3 MARCH 2022 - MINUTES

exercise helped to see the demands and challenges ahead, and ensured that the Council continued to meet the needs of its residents. He stated that the recently released Financial Resilience Index showed that the Council was well placed to face the future with sufficient reserves and healthy financial indicators, which demonstrated its overall robust financial health.

Councillor Jeff Brooks highlighted that he had previously asked for the Strategy to be published alongside the outturn. He called for there to be a comparison published between the initial forecast and the actual outcomes at future meetings so that an accurate review can be undertaken in public.

Councillor Adrian Abbs highlighted the principal of 'Save Money And The Environment' (SMATE), raised concerns about the approach to investing into environmental protection, and referred to projects that could save the Council both money and protect the environment.

Councillor David Marsh queried why the decision had been taken to raise Council Tax by 1% rather than 2%, which had resulted in more than £1m being drawn from the Council's reserves when previous proposals from other political groups to withdraw from the reserves had been rejected.

Councillor Graham Bridgman stated that funding was set aside into specified reserves to counter fluctuations in specific areas of the budgets such as adult social care.

Councillor Lynne Doherty stated that sound financial stewardship of the Council's budget was something that the current administration had demonstrated since 2005. The previous two years had been a challenging time for local government finances with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. She suggested that sound financial planning must sit at the heart of good public finance in West Berkshire and stated that this was a Council that looked ahead and managed its finances well. She welcomed the Strategy as she felt it was a careful balance of prudent and efficient spending, it was carefully managed, it provided investment into the Council's strategies and priorities, and it demonstrated the understanding that Council Tax needed to be kept as low as possible whilst recognising the need to continue to care for the most vulnerable. Councillor Doherty referred to the uncertainties affecting the Council's finances such as the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, adult social care reforms, the Fair Funding Review and a potential business rate reset. Those uncertainties meant that the Council must remain prudent to ensure it had the financial resources available to make West Berkshire an even greater place in which to live, work and learn.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon highlighted that revenue and capital performance was considered every quarter by the Executive but that he continued to look at the issue of reviewing delivery against forecasts as raised by Councillor Brooks. He also highlighted how the majority of spending on the environment strategy came from the capital budget, and the withdrawal from the reserves as raised by Councillor Marsh was the use of specific reserves for previously identified risks that had been earmarked and set aside.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### **84. Capital Strategy, Financial Years 2022/23 to 2026/27 (C4126)**

*(All Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on this item).*

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*(Councillor Lee Dillon declared a personal or an other registrable interest in Agenda Item 6 by virtue of his employment at Sovereign Housing. As he determined his interest was not a disclosable pecuniary interest he remained to take part in the debate and voted on the matter).*

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 6) that outlined the Capital Strategy which covered financial years 2022/23 to 2026/27 and the supporting funding framework. The report provided a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of local public services, and also an overview of how associated risk was managed and implications for future financial sustainability. As decisions made on capital and treasury management had financial consequences for the Council for many years into the future they were subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

That Council approve:

- (a) the Capital Strategy and supporting Capital Programme for the period 2022/23 – 2026/27;
- (b) the supporting Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for the period 2022/23 – 2026/27;
- (c) the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy for the period 2022/23 – 2026/27, and;
- (d) the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy Bids for inclusion in the Capital programme 2022/23 – 2026/27.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon in introducing the report illustrated how the capital programme was split across the six priorities of the Council's Strategy. He highlighted a number of budget allocations across the service areas and went in to detail regarding some of the specific projects which would receive this funding.

Councillor Mackinnon explained that the capital programme did not just maintain essential services, it also invested in new schemes across all of the Council's Strategy priorities and was sustainable and affordable. He referred to the increase in Council borrowing but reminded Members that some of these enhancements would reduce service costs or provide funds back to the Council through income or greater efficiencies.

Councillor Mackinnon wished to provide reassurance that the capital repayment costs would be between 10 - 12% of the revenue budget, which compared favourably with other local authorities and was forecast to remain so in the future. He highlighted that the Council's Section 151 Officer had confirmed that the programme was prudent, affordable and sustainable.

Councillor Mackinnon referred to how the Council could choose not to invest and this remained an option. However, the administration had opted for a positive approach, paying close attention to the need for affordability but also to enable the capital schemes proposed to be funded properly and have a positive impact for residents. He felt that overall the capital programme struck the right balance between new investment to support the Council's priorities, continuing to fund core infrastructure, and affordability.



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Councillor Graham Bridgman highlighted a project being delivered in conjunction with Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council and emphasised the working relationship between the two. He encouraged other Parish Councils to consider projects that this Council could help develop with the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

**AMENDMENTS:** Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

- Funds to develop a West Berks Culture Education Partnership (LCEP) and create a Delivery Plan for Phase 1. Cost of £50,000.
- West Berkshire Council developing its own Power company (invest to save). By becoming a supplier, we can take advantage of the higher revenue and so more environmental projects become affordable whilst also contributing to the council's revenue stream and also gives us options to encourage businesses with West Berkshire. This funding would provide for consultancy expertise to assist in the development of a plan including the feasibility of the scheme. Cost of £100,000.
- Set up a fund to commission innovative energy projects from organisations with charitable aims through a West Berkshire Community Energy Fund (WBCEF) Cost of £500,000.
- Set aside £1M over four years to support the implementation of Town plans that are in development in Thatcham and Hungerford. Cost of £250,000 in next financial year.
- Provide additional Defibrillators across the District. Cost of £40,000.

Councillor Jeff Brooks in introducing the amendments noted that all five would cost an estimated £1.7m and could be achieved through borrowing or drawing on reserves. He highlighted that his members would be more cautious in increasing the borrowing requirement in future years since around 12% of the budget would end up being used to service debts and this would only get worse with the upwards trajectory of interest rates. Councillor Brooks queried if a balance sheet could be produced which set out the value of the Council's assets, particularly those procured through borrowing.

Councillor Dennis Benneyworth referred to the significant investment scheduled that he and his fellow Ward members welcomed in Hungerford and Kintbury. This included a £400k infrastructure upgrade at a residential care home, an expansion to a local leisure centre through £140k of investment, and an expansion of the kitchen at a local primary school to enable the continued delivery of free school meals.

Councillor Adrian Abbs referred to energy use causing harm to the climate and impacting disposable incomes with its rapidly accelerating cost. The amendment put forward was proposing that the Council investigate the creation of an entity that can handle the complex solutions needed to tackle the large, non-council proportion of CO<sub>2</sub>. He suggested that the remit of the non-profit could cover several complex areas which was why the initial investigation was required. It could help encourage and manage other schemes run by communities or individuals to work with the National Grid or larger energy suppliers to install power storage technology. He noted that it was ambitious but would have a considerable impact on the net-zero aims. Councillor Abbs also mentioned the amendment that looks to kick-start a West Berkshire-wide project to fill the remaining gaps in the defibrillator network. It had a modest initial cost, enough for 34 units which could possibly double if match funded.

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Councillor Owen Jeffery highlighted the proposal to set aside £1m over four years to implement effective town plans for Thatcham and Hungerford. He argued that this Council needed to strategically plan for its principal communities to help them in the future, which the proposed amendment would do.

Councillor Graham Bridgman advised that he fully supported the concept of additional defibrillators across the district where they were necessary, but felt that the amendment was unnecessary as the issue was already in progression via the Health and Wellbeing Board. He noted that the work in this area had been delayed due to the pandemic but initial work to map where existing defibrillators were located had indicated there was already a good spread.

Councillor Howard Woollaston confirmed that he felt the amendment regarding the West Berks Culture Education Partnership was unnecessary as plans were already underway in partnership with the Arts Council.

Councillor Lee Dillon was pleased to note the support for the West Berks Culture Education Partnership but wanted more investment than currently proposed as it linked cultural education, higher education, youth health, criminal justice, and the voluntary and commercial sectors together to create a place-based partnership and help support recovery in town centres. Councillor Dillon suggested that the amendments demonstrated a change of focus and put forward ideas to address the carbon challenge, generate income for the Council and reduce energy costs for residents. He also referred to the proposal to invest funds in the town centres to help deliver regeneration and demonstrate the Council's commitment to that ambition.

Councillor Jeff Brooks believed that these were not inappropriate measures to bring forward and expressed his disappointment that they had not been better received.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon highlighted the contradiction in arguing that borrowing was too high whilst simultaneously proposing amendments resulting in £17m of additional borrowing. He also explained the internal process that suggestions such as creating a power company should go through to ensure that the spending of public monies is justified and appropriate.

The Amendments were put to the meeting and duly **REFUSED**.

### **FOR the Amendments:**

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carlyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Royce Longton, Owen Jeffrey, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers. (16)

### **AGAINST the Amendments:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgeman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Andrew Williamson, Howard Woollaston. (22)

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**AMENDMENT:** Proposed by Councillor David Marsh and seconded by Councillor Carolyne Culver:

Original text: "Planning and consultancy to help deliver LRIE projects (£850,000 in 2022-23)"

*Amendment: Add at end of the line after "Planning and consultancy to help deliver LRIE projects" ... "including the restoration of Faraday Road as a football ground and community sports facility."*

Councillor David Marsh in introducing the amendment referred to the Executive decision in December 2020 to approve a one year budget of £45k for feasibility studies for the LRIE, and over the next three years a revenue budget of £100k to provide consultancy support during the project development. There was now an allocation of £850k for further consultancy and he queried what value taxpayers had been getting for these consultancy fees and other expenditure on a project that was still not proved as feasible. Councillor Marsh referred to a development brief he had received which was already more than likely out of date, and the receipt of one or two environmental reports that fell short of the full environmental impact assessment and full flood risk assessment that were required on the site. The reason for the amendment was to ask that while the consultancy and feasibility work continued the restoration of the football ground as an asset of community value for sporting and social use should not be ruled out.

Councillor Tony Vickers noted that although his groups' policy concerning the LRIE projects was different, they were in support of this amendment.

Councillor Carolyne Culver explained her position that this amendment was uncontroversial and asked for the consultancy work to include the consideration of what happens to Faraday Road. It was not asking for expenditure, just a sensible and reasonable addition of words.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon confirmed that he was expecting an update paper on Faraday Road to come through the executive cycle in the next couple of months.

The Amendment was put to the meeting and duly **REFUSED**.

### **FOR the Amendment:**

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Royce Longton, Owen Jeffrey, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers. (16)

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgeman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Andrew Williamson, Howard Woollaston. (21)

### **ABSTAINED from voting on the Amendment:**

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Councillor Gareth Hurley (1)

**SUBSTANTIVE MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Dominic Boeck.

Councillor Richard Somner was pleased to note the continued level of support outlined in the Strategy for highways, transport and the countryside as it represented a solid enabling position, helped to develop local infrastructure and the local economy, maintained a green district, and ensured sustainable services through innovation and partnerships. He noted that it was underpinned by collaborative funding streams from the government and the use of S106 and CIL monies which helped to deliver on a number of projects. The Strategy enabled a programme of work over a number of years and allowed for continued prioritisation and planning for delivery across the district. Councillor Somner highlighted a number of projects which would receive capital funding and that would provide various opportunities to fulfil the Council's aims.

Councillor Tony Linden indicated his support for the Calcot School remodelling and stated how the investment of just over £6m was welcomed in the Tilehurst Birch Copse Ward.

Councillor Andy Moore drew attention to the £134k allocated over the next two years for the Newbury Town Centre Master Plan which had been recently launched. He queried whether future funding would be made available following that two year period given the importance of the Plan to many people across the district.

Councillor Tony Vickers advised that as a Member representing the Newbury Wash Common Ward he was pleased to see just under £5.5m allocated to cover additional pupil numbers at Park House School. He noted that the school had converted to academy status and questioned if the Council was able to invest capital funding as a result. He suggested that perhaps a joint venture could be arranged to help address ongoing issues with the infrastructure at the school.

Councillor Carlyne Culver explained the reasoning behind the Green Party having brought forward only one amendment to the Capital Strategy this year.

Councillor Phil Barnett welcomed the proposals for the Kings Road link road, the Burger King roundabout, and the Kings Road roundabout. He stated that it was important for Ward Members to be involved in these proposed schemes given the interaction between them and the effect on traffic flow.

Councillor Adrian Abbs argued that the proposed investment in environmental schemes would do little to achieve net zero by 2030 given the focus only on what the Council controlled, and asked for the administration to be more imaginative in bringing forward environmental proposals.

Councillor Lynne Doherty referred to the major and local schemes proposed that she felt delivered for the whole district, and highlighted the investment planned in particular for the Newbury Speen Ward. She was pleased to see the amount of consultation that had taken place with residents to seek views on the capital investment and welcomed the proposals.

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Councillor Thomas Marino welcomed the investment for the remodelling and refurbishment work at Brookfields School.

Councillor David Marsh indicated his general support for some of the proposals in the Strategy but pointed out that electric vehicle charging points needed to be better located, that funding for the planting of wildflower meadows needed to be continued in future years, and that work to progress carbon reduction measures should be undertaken more quickly. He also called for more funding for the review of 30 mile per hour speed limits given it was such a vital issue for residents.

Councillor Lee Dillon explained that his Group would not be supporting the Strategy overall although they agreed with some of the individual measures contained within it. He also concurred with Councillor Marsh's statement on the speed limit reviews.

Councillor Jeremy Cottam indicated his support for the proposed investment in the LIDO and for flood relief in Thatcham.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter noted that not many electric vehicles were currently driven in the district but that the investment in and the provision of electric vehicle charging points would be reviewed and increased when required in the future. He advised that Members would be updated shortly on specific projects where the Council was supporting and co-ordinating the activities of other nature facing organisations in the district, and referred to the forthcoming, significant investment in the separate food waste collection which would help the environment and improve services to residents. He concluded that there was a strong environmental portfolio in the capital budget and commended it to Council.

Councillor Dominic Boeck advised that the vast majority of children had been assigned a place in a secondary school of their choice this year, with 88% having obtained their first choice in September 2022. This was credited to the close working relationship with the schools, the detailed planning of the Education Team, and the support provided in the Capital Programme. Councillor Boeck then confirmed that the Council was responsible for the provision of basic need (classrooms for children) at Park House School but that the responsibility for ongoing maintenance rested with the Academy. He highlighted that over £52m of the £220m set out in the five year programme would be spent on the education of children and young people by providing school places for them, and maintaining and improving facilities to enhance accessibility for SEN children. He then indicated his pleasure at the allocation of a substantial sum of money for the improvement of footpaths in the Aldermaston Ward.

Councillor Mackinnon closed the debate by clarifying that his surprise regarding the Green Party Amendment was over the topic and not the number of amendments proposed, and he welcomed that Councillors were discussing the ways in which the Strategy would support their Wards. He confirmed that there was £150k in revenue reserves for town centre studies but that nothing had been procured for Thatcham yet to avoid confusion with the local visioning plan and that he was expecting it to be brought forward in the first quarter of the new financial year. Funds for both Thatcham and Newbury would be set aside and the Capital Strategy Group would assess any projects submitted. Councillor Mackinnon then noted that the proposed amendments to the Strategy could be funded by CIL, but if other projects were not cut then borrowing would still need to take place to fund the other projects that CIL had been moved from.

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The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### **FOR the Motion:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgeman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Andrew Williamson, Howard Woollaston. (22)

### **AGAINST the Motion:**

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Royce Longton, Owen Jeffrey, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers. (13)

### **ABSTAINED from voting on the Motion:**

Councillors Carlyne Culver, David Marsh, Steve Masters (3)

*(The meeting was adjourned at 7.45pm and reconvened at 8.00pm)*

## **85. Revenue Budget 2022/23 (C4127)**

*(All Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on this item).*

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 7) which recommended the 2022-23 Revenue Budget and proposed a Council Tax requirement of £110.1m which required a Council Tax increase of 1% and an Adult Social Care precept of 3%. The Council Tax would raise £1.1m and the precept would raise a further £3.2m. At 4%, the budget was balanced after £4m of reserves that had been specifically set aside had been used. The overall Council Tax increase was intended to balance the financial impact of the pandemic on residents, and mitigate the financial pressures being faced as well as the cost pressures that the Council faced.

The report set out how the Council was focussed on delivering services to residents and businesses that supported the overall Health and Wellbeing of the district, and assisted in the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, building on its recovery strategy and improving the quality of services provided. The revenue budget supported this through the allocation of funds to core investment in the Council's strategies, and through making revenue funding available to deliver the Capital Strategy. The budget was supported this year through a new funding settlement from the Government which provided new core funding to the Council. At the same time, the Council faced significant pressures arising from the pandemic as well as the macroeconomic picture. The Council had to also balance the level of Council Tax levied; in 2021-22 the Council decided not to take the 3% Adult Social Care precept that was available, but this remained available for use in 2022-23, alongside a further 1% Adult Social Care precept as well as a 1.99% Council Tax increase for core services before any referendum principles occurred. To support the most vulnerable, it was proposed to provide a one-off £150 reduction in Council Tax for claimants receiving Council Tax Reduction falling within a working age category. The revenue budget sought to manage these demands whilst achieving financial balance.

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The budget detailed the investment for the year ahead to deliver the Council Strategy, the ambitions in the Capital Strategy and support core Council Services. This included investment in approved strategies which included Adult Social Care, the Environment Strategy, the Digital and customer engagement strategies, and prevention work. The report also included savings proposals, other income sources, and the use of specific reserves which ensured the Council had a sustainable financial footing. The budget also allocated revenue funding to deliver the Capital Strategy that had a substantial amount of investment in infrastructure for the year ahead. The Council was proposing to support the budget with a £4m contribution from reserves; these were largely from specific reserves which included the residual Covid-19 non-ring-fenced grant, Council Strategy reserve, Transformation Fund, and Collection Fund reserves.

The report also proposed the Fees and Charges for 2022-23 (set out in Appendix F) and the Parish Expenses (set out in Appendix G) and recommended the level of General Reserves (set out in Appendix E).

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Lynne Doherty:

That Council:

- (1) approve the 2022-23 Council Tax requirement of £110.1m, requiring a Council Tax increase of 1% with a 3% Council Tax Precept ring-fenced for adult social care;
- (2) approve the Fees and Charges set out in Appendix F and the appropriate statutory notices be placed where required;
- (3) approve the Parish Expenses of £11,210 as set out in Appendix G;
- (4) approve the proposal to again provide a £150 reduction to Council Tax for claimants receiving Council Tax Reduction falling within a working age category during the 2022-23 financial year. Where the balance to pay for a working age claimant is less than £150, all the remaining liability will be credited through this hardship scheme. Any remaining funding from the allocation will be utilised to support the Collection Fund and consideration of the further impact on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as well as the overall Collection Fund;
- (5) note the following amounts for the year 2022-23 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (by the Localism Act 2011):
  - a) 66,310.15 being the amount calculated by the Council, (Item T) in accordance with regulation 31B of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), as its council tax base for the year (the number of properties paying council tax).
  - b) Part of the Council's area as per Appendix K being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates.
- (6) approve the calculation that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022-23 (excluding Parish precepts) is £110,092,085.
- (7) approve that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022-23 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act:
  - a) £375,740,350 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2), (a) to (f) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish councils.

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- b) £260,948,040 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3), (a) to (d) of the Act.
  - c) £114,792,310 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above, exceeds the aggregate at 7(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R).
  - d) £1,731.14 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item R), all divided by 5(a) above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the 'basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts)'.
  - e) £4,700,225 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix K).
  - f) £1,660.26 being the amount at 7(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 7(e) above by the amount at 5(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates.
- (8) note that for the year 2022-23, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley & the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Councils area as indicated in Appendix K.
- (9) approve, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that the Council hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables in Appendix K as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022-23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Councillor Mackinnon invited Members to note a minor amendment to the table under Private Sector Housing in Appendix Fii whereby the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 should read as £797 for a HMO Licence renewal and not £79.

Councillor Mackinnon in introducing the report noted that actual revenue spend against the budget set the previous March was reviewed each quarter during the financial year by Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission. In the current year the actual spend had been much closer to budget and Councillor Mackinnon expressed his thanks to the opposition, and in particular Councillor Brooks, for taking a constructive approach during those meetings and recognising the continuing challenges faced by the Council this year. Councillor Mackinnon also paid tribute to staff in the Economic Development and Revenues and Benefits Teams who had continued to perform a crucial role distributing Covid business grants to firms across the district, particularly in the hospitality and leisure sectors.

Councillor Mackinnon referred to the year on year rise to the Council's costs to provide the same level of services to residents. 75% of the Council's income comes from Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept, and this years' Local Government Financial Settlement permitted the Council to raise its Council Tax bills by up to 5.99%. The administration had chosen not to do this, but had opted instead for a core Council Tax rise of 1% and an Adult Social Care precept of 3%, meaning that bills would rise by exactly 4%. Councillor Mackinnon explained the reasoning behind this decision which included: the need to balance competing demands across the district when setting the budget; the response from residents to the budget simulator exercise which suggested an average Council Tax rise of 4.7%; the demand for Social Care services for both adults and children requiring an additional £5m, and; the cost of living rising significantly, driven mainly by wholesale energy prices. Councillor Mackinnon noted that the Council recommending an increase below the rate of inflation coupled with the £150 rebate on



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Band A to D bills from government should make a positive difference to household budgets.

Councillor Mackinnon also highlighted the robust financial control exercised by the administration which had resulted in the reserves position being strong enough to provide support to the budget while maintaining general reserves above the minimum recommended level. He announced a £150 reduction to Council Tax would again be provided to working age claimants receiving a Council Tax reduction, which gave welcome support to residents on low incomes. Councillor Mackinnon then highlighted examples of where the revenue budget provided extensive investment towards achieving the priorities in the Council's Strategy, and explained how the budget contained savings and income generation proposals totalling £5.3m to help fulfil the Council's responsibility to its residents to be as efficient as possible and to provide value for money by transforming its operations. He also confirmed that none of the proposed savings would result in cuts to frontline services.

Councillor Mackinnon noted that the Section 151 Officer is required to make a recommendation of the minimum level of the general reserve for non-specific items and risks, and this year that recommendation had been £7m. The actual general reserve position would fall from £10.59m to £9.26m this year which Councillor Mackinnon felt was prudent given the continuing uncertainty caused by the pandemic, inflation, and the potential devastating effects of current world events on economies. He commended the proposals as striking the right balance between investing in services and infrastructure whilst keeping Council Tax rises as low as possible, and it ensured financial resilience for the future.

**AMENDMENTS:** Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

- Supporting the expansion of canoeing and climbing opportunities for young people across West Berkshire and supporting local communities to set up and maintain youth clubs across West Berkshire. Cost of £35,000 annually.
- Increasing the Council reach and support to disadvantaged families, including around school readiness, and to extend provision to older age ranges. Cost of £50,000 annually.
- Creating a fund to support small, local arts and culture venues across West Berkshire. Cost of £20,000 annually.
- Viable Villages - implement a consultation program with West Berkshire villages (through the parish council network) to understand their priorities and to ensure they are viable long term. To work with every village within West Berkshire to establish what is needed to make their village viable in the longer term - in areas such as community mix, energy supplies, and housing. Cost of £40,000.
- Council Tax exemption for 100 care leavers. Cost of £35,000 annually.
- Re-instate the contribution to the Readibus service and pay Readibus the £5K withheld by the council for services already provided. Cost of £45,000 in 2022/23 and then £40,000 annually.
- West Berkshire Council establishing its own Power company (invest to save). By becoming a supplier, we can take advantage of the higher revenue and more environmental projects become affordable whilst also contributing to the council's revenue stream. This funding would provide for a dedicated Officer to undertake the planning and feasibility studies to establish the business plan for major investment and return on that investment in future years and help manage the resultant new company if deemed feasible. Cost of £80,000 annually.

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- Develop a Green Hub - as the expertise grows within the Council this amendment aims to embed the sharing of that expertise with consumers and business and all interested parties in West Berkshire. Cost of £100,000 annually.
- Remove the green bin charge for those in receipt of Council Tax benefits. Cost £100,000. Roughly 5,500 homes. We assume an uptake of around one third of these households at a cost of £50 each, meaning a total cost of £92,000 but we allow more than this within this cost allocation (on-going). Cost of £100,000 annually.
- Reduce green bin charge to provide a £2 discount (becomes £48) for the lack of collection in January 2022 (one off). This would reduce the green bin charge to £48 per year for the financial year. Cost of approximately £60,000.

Councillor Jeff Brooks in introducing the amendments referred to his previous calls on the Administration to undertake a zero based budgeting exercise which challenged spend on every item, role and expense in each department. He stated that a key benefit of building the budget from the bottom upwards was that it focused attention on the actual resources required to produce an outcome rather than a percentage increase or decrease in the budget compared to the previous year. It was an approach to budgeting that started from the premise that no cost or activity should be factored in to a budget just because it was present in a previous period, and that everything to be included must be considered and justified. He argued that this approach also avoided building the budget around the financial pressures presented by officers and allowed Members to work through officer assumptions and recommendations and challenge them robustly. Councillor Brooks also felt that the report did not contain enough detail on the proposals and gave some examples where not enough narrative had been provided to justify the savings. He also highlighted the risks posed by the assumptions over inflation, interest rates and the pay award.

Councillor Brooks then referred to the amendments being proposed by the Liberal Democrat group, some of which had been tabled in previous years, and which sought to build on the initiatives the Administration was developing. It was his belief that they were appropriate, with the extra funding required being affordable and verified by the Section 151 Officer, and that they had merit and would make a positive contribution to services that residents receive.

Councillor Martha Vickers noted that young people were one of the groups that had suffered the most during the pandemic due to no schooling and isolation from their peers. As a result, there was growing concern for their mental health and wellbeing, especially the disadvantaged whose families had fewer resources. The amendments sought to help young people develop physical and mental skills and grow in confidence. She suggested that young people needed places to gather to meet and develop friendship groups, and be safe places where they could have the support of trained youth workers if needed. She referred to the excellent facility for young people in Newbury at the Waterside Centre, and invited Council to support other communities in other areas of the district to serve their young people better. With regards to the amendment which considered disadvantaged families, she argued that it was correct to provide extra support to those in insecure jobs and young families who had suffered the most through the pandemic. Councillor Vickers noted that there had been a rise in the number of children in care and queried if this was linked to the hardship experienced during the pandemic by vulnerable families. She also highlighted the work of Citizens Advice West Berkshire which provided a vital local service that people could turn to, and invited the Council to help support it during this time of increased demand for its services. Councillor Vickers also sought

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assurance that the Public Health Grant from government which helped to fund the vulnerable families' service was secure.

Councillor Adrian Abbs stated that whilst the current plan had begun to tackle the climate emergency, he felt that the pace and scale did not allow for the net zero target to be achieved by 2030. He noted that the revenue amendment to establish a Power company built on the previous capital budget amendment by proposing the creation of a senior officer post to investigate its establishment. This matter was ambitious and complex, but an investigation would help ensure it was undertaken correctly. Councillor Abbs also referred to the proposal to set aside funding for two officers whose remit would be to ensure both the sharing of expertise built up in West Berkshire Council and to act as advisors for those looking at projects and new technologies for example. He argued that knowledge sharing was essential to meet the stated climate emergency goal. Councillor Abbs then mentioned the amendment to remove the green bin charge for those in receipt of Council Tax benefits which was a small measure to help residents.

Councillor Dominic Boeck agreed that young people had faced challenges during the pandemic but was not convinced that the solution was as presented in the amendments. He noted that the Youth Teams, community groups and partners such as Berkshire Youth and the Greenham Trust had spoken to young people and it was clear that they wanted safe spaces where they could socialise and speak to people they trust. He felt this could be achieved without recreating the youth clubs of the past and confirmed that officers were working with partners to make better use of spaces in community buildings using sustainable funding streams. Councillor Boeck also stated that there were excellent facilities at the Waterside centre and Adventure Dolphin. He then highlighted the outreach work undertaken via the Family Hubs which had been recognised as a model for other local authorities. Finally, he confirmed that the Council was in contact with 92% of the young people who had left care, and they were receiving advice and support from officers as needed. All but a handful were in adequate accommodation, and very few were Council Tax payers. If they began to struggle, help would be offered via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Councillor Tony Vickers confirmed that his political group strongly supported localism partnerships with and amongst parishes, and the desire of rural communities to take back control as society goes through drastic and sometimes frightening change. He referred to the various factors which contributed to these rising problems, and the 'Viable Villages' campaign from the CPRE which sought to understand and address the threat to rural communities. CPRE had partnered with Shelter to attempt to address the problem of increasingly non-viable villages. He wanted the Council to demonstrate leadership and adopt the amendment to make it proactive in assisting rural communities and making rural life more affordable, sociable and sustainable.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter reminded Council that two large City Councils, Nottingham and Bristol, had jointly lost around £70m over the last three years by investing in and setting up power companies. Added to this was the rocketing of energy prices and the volatility of the last six months which had seen 25 energy companies collapse. He felt this would be a loss for the Council and did not support the amendment. He then noted that the sharing of expertise already occurred with partner organisations, consumers and businesses. This could be increased upon, but he believed allocating a further £100k to do this was not warranted. Councillor Ardagh-Walter referred to the proposal to discount the green bin charge because of a missed collection in January 2022. He confirmed that this had been a pre-announced suspension of the green bin

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collection in a month when garden waste was not really produced. He did not believe that both proposals relating to the green bin charge were a good use of the Council's resources, and had no logic or rationale or suggestions as to what would be cut elsewhere to fund them.

Councillor Claire Rowles, as the local authority representative on Citizens Advice West Berkshire, welcomed and endorsed the comments made regarding their good work. She had seen it first hand from attending their Board meetings on a regular basis, and wanted to highlight that the administration had been supportive of their work and would continue to be so in the future.

Councillor Richard Somner noted that 'viable' had no definition, and that the proposal did not reflect a standard offering or need, or the diversity across the district. For example, he explained that 'viable' for a village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would not be the same as 'viable' for a village within a Development Proximity Zone. Each of the Parish and Town Councils within the authority's boundary were of varying sizes, capacities and capabilities which would require individual engagement. He felt that this engagement work was already covered under the Customer First programme, and the opportunity to set a design at a local level could be provided under a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Regarding the Readibus amendment, he advised that any increase in the funding available towards service provision would be distributed with equity and fairness to all service providers. For absolute clarity, he also confirmed that any service level agreement in excess of £5k with any provider of these services would require a signed agreement between parties. Councillor Somner believed that it would be unfair and unconstitutional to fund one provider over others. A formulaic approach was in place which was established and based on previous years' activities. Additional demand for an increase in this area was also not evidenced over and above the current level of service provision.

Councillor Nassar Hunt stated that although the level of interactions with care leavers was very high and should be celebrated, in his experience as a care leaver it often did not resolve problems. Trust issues can lead to non-communication, and asking for help was more difficult than just receiving it. He also referred to the report released by government which showed that one third of care leavers were homeless within two years of leaving care. Councillor Hunt felt it was important to acknowledge this and to explore this proposal in the future even if it was not agreed at this meeting.

Councillor Lee Dillon referred to the Conservative government having proposed an increase in National Insurance against all workers, which he felt was a regressive taxation policy and would negatively impact those on the lowest income. He noted that the amendment regarding mileage was proposed to recognise and help employees with fuel costs, and suggested that the Council would need to update its travel policy shortly as the reimbursement rates would no longer coincide with fuel costs. Councillor Dillon then referred to his political Groups manifesto pledge to abolish the green waste bin charge in a financially sensible way. The proposal put forward would assist those on the lowest income first, but he felt that the Council should not be charging residents to recycle. Councillor Dillon then noted that 8% of care leavers were not in contact with the Council every year but that the administration was expecting them to use a discretionary local Council Tax scheme. He argued that it should be a fundamental right of care leavers to be guaranteed financial assistance so they could plan in advance, and that this was something the Children's Commissioner had called upon all local authorities to do. He also felt that a refund should be given to residents for the green bin charge as set out

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in the amendments because residents had paid for a service which was not received, that services would not need to be cut, nor were the amendments unconstitutional since the Section 151 Officer had approved them.

Councillor Jeff Brooks referred to the issues and losses experienced by Nottingham and Bristol City Councils, and said this supported the idea of undertaking an investigation in the first place. Most initiatives have risk and he felt this proposal should not be dismissed outright because of others bad experiences. He explained the belief and passion behind the proposals, which his party would continue to bring forward at future budgets or push through should control of the Council change in their favour. He felt that the administration had lost its passion and enthusiasm.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon noted that the combined capital and revenue funds proposed for an investigation in to a power company was £180k, which he argued was not an insignificant amount of taxpayers' money. He had no details on the proposal and was not confident that he knew exactly what it was regarding, and stated that more information and clarity would have been useful. Councillor Mackinnon also highlighted that the January 2022 missed green bin collection was not actually missed, it had been delayed. The service was provided and extra garden waste was collected. He noted that the Section 151 Officer could provide advice on the implications for the budget but would not judge the amendments as to their constitutional merit. Councillor Mackinnon thanked Councillor Hunt for his contribution and insight and agreed that care leavers should be supported. He had reservations though that the proposal, however well-intentioned, elevated one groups' struggles over others. He felt it a good principle that those who received Council services, and could afford it, should pay for them subject to the support mechanisms described.

The Amendments were put to the meeting and duly **REFUSED**.

### **FOR the Amendments:**

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Royce Longton, Owen Jeffrey, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers. (13)

### **AGAINST the Amendments:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgeman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Andrew Williamson, Howard Woollaston. (22)

### **ABSTAINED from voting on the Amendments:**

Councillors Carolyn Culver, David Marsh, Steve Masters. (3)

**AMENDMENT:** Proposed by Councillor Steve Masters and seconded by Councillor Carolyne Culver:

- A grant of £40,000 to West Berkshire Foodbank, to fund staffing and other additional costs, to help them cope with increased demand from those hardest hit

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by the fuel and cost-of-living crisis. This would be for one year initially, to be reviewed in 12 months' time.

Councillor Steve Masters in introducing the amendment referred to the growing financial pressures upon residents in West Berkshire. He noted that food banks operated out of five locations across the district and the project had been founded by local Churches and community groups, with support from the Greenham Trust, to work together on helping relieve hunger in the local area. The food banks were part of the national Trussell Trust network and received no direct funding from West Berkshire Council in 2021. He also noted that approximately 2.5m people used a food bank in the United Kingdom last year, up by more than 600,000 on the previous year. The number of food bank users had increased each year from just under 26,000 in 2008/09 to approximately 2.5m in 2021. Locally, the figures to March 2020 showed a similar increased demand and projected demand followed the national trends upwards. Councillor Masters suggested that hunger in the UK was not about food, it was about a lack of income. The main drivers of food bank use in the district were problems with the benefits system, the delays in adequacy, sanctions, and deductions causing challenging life experiences. He referenced the effects of the economic situation post-lockdown, and the ongoing economic challenges faced by residents such as the rising domestic fuel bills, as well as the National Insurance increases, which he felt would inevitably increase the number of residents and families facing a choice between heating and eating. The amendment allocated £40k to the food bank to assist with additional costs incurred during the last year and the recruitment and retention of an additional member of staff to meet the increased demands on the service. Councillor Masters recognised that in a more equitable society food banks would not be needed, and that the Council should be mindful of the wider impacts of increasing fuel poverty and stagnating incomes, and provide this support to what had unfortunately become a vital service.

Councillor Owen Jeffery requested that Council support the proposal as it was a minor amount and a one-off for the year.

Councillor Martha Vickers suggested that members should question MPs and the government as to the rising need for food banks, which she believed should not be happening in a civilised society. She felt that the benefits system was not working, with Universal Credit being cut, leading people in to poverty where they live in cold homes and visit food banks. Councillor Vickers highlighted that young children suffered the most when food and energy was short, and that sadly organisations such as the Child Poverty Action Group were saying that infant / child mortality rates in the UK were higher than in other European countries.

Councillor Hilary Cole referred to the support already provided to the most vulnerable by the Council through its partnership work with groups such as Loose Ends and West Berkshire Homeless, and she was unsure as to why the food bank had been singled out for grant funding with no proof of this need being evidenced. She highlighted that in October the Council had received an allocation of Household Support funding of £694k and over 1400 applications had been approved to date with an average award of £220 being paid directly to applicants. She believed that this targeted approach ensured that help was received by those individuals and families most in need. Councillor Cole accepted that the food bank made a contribution but argued that working together in partnership with all organisations had been what had enabled the Council to achieve the results it had. She also referred to the number of rough sleepers in the district which had been reduced to zero.

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Councillor Carolyne Culver stated her belief that the Council was capable of supporting the one-off cost for this proposal. She noted that the number of food bank users had increased, and that residents were also facing rising fuel costs, the end of the energy price caps, and inflation rising by up to 7% in April. She queried if Members had to see people queuing up outside the Council Chamber with begging bowls before agreeing there was a need for food banks. She asked if they cared so little about the amount of poverty in the district and the fact that people could not afford to eat which was only going to get worse. She argued that the sense of solidarity displayed towards the people of Ukraine should be extended to the people in the district who could not afford to eat.

Councillor Steve Masters believed it unlikely that any Member would experience hunger over the next 12 months but that there would be many residents who would. He noted that the proposal was a one off for one year and hoped that the situation would have improved to a point by then whereby food banks were no longer needed. He agreed that there were other charities and agencies that the Council needed to support but felt that ample funds should be provided to support all priorities on basic needs.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon noted that the food bank was one of a number of routes that residents experiencing hardship could obtain relief from but was not aware that the food bank had requested any funds from the Council this year. He then highlighted ways in which the Council and government supported those in need by referencing the £695k Household Support fund, the 4200 children assisted with free school meals, and the Council Tax reduction scheme.

The Amendment was put to the meeting and duly **REFUSED**.

### **FOR the Amendment:**

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyn Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Royce Longton, Owen Jeffrey, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers. (16)

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgeman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Howard Woollaston. (21)

### **ABSTAINED from voting on the Amendment:**

Councillor Andrew Williamson. (1)

**SUBSTANTIVE MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Lynne Doherty.

Councillor Adrian Abbs argued that the schedule associated with the Budget Meeting of Council left little time for detail to be presented and for a thorough discussion of the amendments to be had. He expressed frustration at not being able to offer further explanation when Members had raised questions or points required clarification. He

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addressed what he felt had been incorrect comments from Councillor Ardagh-Walter regarding the power company proposal and explained how it was an 'invest to save' idea. He noted that funding would be available from the UK Infrastructure Bank which had £22b to spend on these kind of projects, and had better rates of borrowing than the Public Works Loan Board. He felt that the proposals contained within the revenue budget were too small to really have any major effect, would not help tackle the climate emergency, and would result in a failure to meet the 2030 zero carbon target.

Councillor Joanne Stewart wanted to clarify that the revenue budget proposal for 2022/23 did not take into account any reforms to Adult Social Care which would be coming in 2023 and beyond. This was because the Council, like every other local authority and social care service provider, were working through the detail and information with government departments and other key experts such as the Local Government Association. She then highlighted the achievements and challenges being faced in Adult Social Care which she felt the budget proposals would help to address. These included the proportion of adults aged 65 and over growing in comparison with younger age groups and the increased demand and complexity of need, and the increased needs of older adults and people with disabilities impacting the demand on placements in care homes. Councillor Stewart advised that care home occupancy levels were starting to return to pre-pandemic levels but this had meant a loss of income whilst overheads increased with rising inflation and energy costs. She noted that recruitment had been a key issue for everyone in the social care market but the Council had been focusing on how it could use government funding to improve training and develop roles within its own service teams and with external providers. This was showing positive improvements and would allow the Council to reduce its reliance on agency staff in the future. Councillor Stewart confirmed that an external review of the Adult Social Care budget forecast model was being undertaken by the Local Government Association in conjunction with the Finance and Adults Social Care teams to assess and either validate the model or identify where improvements could be made to enhance forecasting and improve data. She expressed her confidence that the budget proposal with a 3% Adult Social Care precept would ensure the Council continued to deliver the services residents needed and wanted despite the significant pressures being faced across the care sector.

Councillor Tony Vickers expressed his disappointment at the presentation of the budget report, in particular its small number of pages. He argued that a reduction in its length was not a relevant cost saving exercise in the digital age and that officers had more work to do in reducing it. He believed that every Council Tax payer was entitled to view spend and compare figures each year to see trends. He felt that there were inconsistencies in the way the documents were presented, and called for additional text to be inserted to explain phrases and proposals. He asked that a better way of presenting essential budgetary information to taxpayers was found.

Councillor Richard Somner invited Members to note that there had not been an increase in car parking fees proposed for the coming year. He regarded this as a positive contribution to residents by the Council despite the reduction in car parking income, and noted that the Council's fees and charges were good when benchmarked against other authorities in the region.

Councillor Owen Jeffery expressed his disappointment at the Conservative administration who he felt had not accepted the Liberal Democrat amendment because of perceived glory they might obtain, and had resisted an opportunity of direct benefit to the hard pressed in society as a result.



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Councillor Lee Dillon believed that not enough detail on the budget proposals had been put forward by the administration either given they had officers at their disposal and opposition members did not. He also referred to 18 separate budget lines in the proposals with £917k of income generation, savings or disinvestment where it was stated there was no impact and queried why these had not been put forward last year.

Councillor Graham Bridgman invited Members to note that the paper on licensing fees had been considered by the Licensing Committee prior to its consideration by Council and had therefore afforded all Members the opportunity to review the background and ask questions of officers directly about the proposals. He advised that he had been involved in discussions between West Berkshire Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Reading Borough Council regarding the forthcoming Adult Social Care reforms, what that might mean in terms of costs, and where that funding would come from. The increase in National Insurance would go initially to meet National Health Service issues and he argued that a better formula was required for the distribution of that funding if costs were not to substantially exceed income. Councillor Bridgman also advised that the government had increased the Public Health grant by 2.7% nationally across the board. He felt the government needed to better acknowledge public health pressures and take a different view of the role of local authorities in the public health arena, but was hopeful that NHS funding would be given to the Council in the future in order to improve the lives of residents.

Councillor Lynne Doherty explained how her passion, as Leader of the Council, lay in delivering the Council's Strategy adopted in May 2019 and that this revenue budget had been carefully put together to do just that. Some examples she provided to demonstrate this included: the £300k investment in special educational needs which helped to provide the same opportunities to those with a disability or additional need; the investment in to the LEP to continue to deliver on key economic growth in the district, making it an attractive place for businesses to come, start, thrive and grow with high employment and a strong local economy; £310k to support the Local Plan which would deliver housing and employment land across the district and help make homes available for all residents at all stages of their life, and; the £55k being spent on the new enhanced bus partnership to support public transport in the area making it easier for residents to use alternative methods of transport. Councillor Doherty explained that the administration sought to be efficient when spending whilst recognising the requirement to balance the need of many when delivering public services. Residents continued to feel the impact of Covid and the current cost of living was rising which had contributed to the decision to keep the core Council Tax as low as possible at only 1%. She stated that ideally it would have been 0% in the current financial situation but that was not possible, and the 3% was put in purely to support the most vulnerable in society through Adult Social Care. Councillor Doherty recommended the budget as she believed it delivered for all residents in West Berkshire and carefully balanced economic, social and environmental needs.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon echoed the words of the Leader, and offered to discuss the principle of zero based budgeting with Councillor Brooks in the near future. He also confirmed he would reflect on the points regarding the detail on the budget and perhaps host another meeting to discuss potential improvements. Councillor Mackinnon reiterated that no request for funding had been received from the West Berkshire Food Bank, and no indication that it needed a member of staff. He also thought it unlikely that a budget amendment would be the route taken by the food bank to submit this request. Councillor Mackinnon ended by thanking Members for their contributions to the debate.

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The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

**FOR the Motion:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgeman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Thomas Marino, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Andrew Williamson, Howard Woollaston. (22)

**AGAINST the Motion:**

Councillors Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyn Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Nassar Hunt, Owen Jeffrey, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers. (14)

**ABSTAINED from voting on the Motion:**

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Royce Longton. (2)

*(The meeting commenced at 5.45 pm and closed at 9.30 pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....

# DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022

**Councillors present in the Second Floor Meeting Area:** Rick Jones (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Steve Ardagh-Walter, Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Jeff Cant, James Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Carlyne Culver, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Gareth Hurley, Owen Jeffery, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Royce Longton, Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, Thomas Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Erik Pattenden, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Andrew Williamson and Howard Woollaston.

**Councillors present remotely:** Hilary Cole and Clive Hooker.

**Also Present:** Honorary Aldermen Paul Bryant, Andrew Rowles and Quentin Webb, Nigel Lynn (Chief Executive), Sue Halliwell (Executive Director (Place)), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director (Resources)), Paul Coe (Service Director for Adult Social Care), Sarah Clarke (Service Director for Strategy and Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Vicki Yull (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from:** Councillors Adrian Abbs, Lee Dillon, Nassar Hunt, Garth Simpson and Keith Woodhams, Honorary Aldermen Adrian Edwards and Graham Jones, Honorary Alderwoman Mollie Lock and Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)).

#### PART I

##### 86. Chairman's Remarks

The Vice-Chairman held a Minutes Silence in respect for former Councillor and Chairman James Mole. Tributes were paid to Mr Mole by Councillors Jeff Brooks, Lynne Doherty and Martha Vickers.

The Vice-Chairman referred to the appalling, tragic and unnecessary suffering being experienced currently by the people of Ukraine. Members would be aware of activity happening at a national level, and the Vice-Chairman noted the Motion on the agenda which he hoped would highlight the Council's response locally.

The Vice-Chairman reported that twelve civic events had been attended since the last ordinary meeting of Council. This had included several tree planting ceremonies both in remembrance of colleagues lost or affected by Covid and to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. He thanked Councillor Graham Pask for having stepped in at short notice to attend some events whilst both he and the Chairman of Council were self-isolating due to Covid. The Chairman had asked the Vice-Chairman in his absence to specifically mention his attendance at the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, where Home-Start West Berkshire had been recognised for its achievements.

The Vice-Chairman also highlighted that today was a dedicated day of remembrance and reflection upon the important work of the social care sector. This was a national initiative, and West Berkshire Council staff had marked it with a Minute's Silence to remember those lost in the last two years and to thank all those involved in this vital area of work.

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### 87. Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2 December 2021 and 18 January 2022 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 88. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Tom Marino declared an interest in Agenda Items 5 and 19 (Motions B and D) due to his partner and brother working for Thames Water and reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, he would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of those matters.

Councillor Richard Somner declared an interest in Agenda Item 19 (Motion G) due to his employment at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, he would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter.

Councillor Graham Bridgman declared an interest in Agenda Items 5 and 19 (Motions B and D) due to being in receipt of a pension from Thames Water, in Agenda Item 19 (Motion G) due to being the Council nominated Governor at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, and in Agenda Item 19 (Motion C) due to his spouse being in receipt of a pension, and reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, he would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of those matters.

Councillor Lynne Doherty declared an interest in Agenda Item 19 (Motion C) due to her spouse being in receipt of a pension from a related company and reported that, as her interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, she would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter.

Councillor James Cole declared an interest in Agenda Item 19 (Motions C and D) and reported and reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, he would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of those matters.

### 89. Public Questions

With the agreement of Council, the Vice-Chairman brought this item forward on the agenda.

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#).

1. It was agreed that a question standing in the name of John Bibbings on the subject of the rush hour traffic from the A339 via Cheap Street and Market Street to the Sainsbury's round-a-bout would receive a written response given that he was unable to attend the meeting.
2. It was agreed that a question standing in the name of Dave Allen on the subject of what the Council was doing to enlist residents support for the crisis in Ukraine would receive a written response given that he was unable to attend the meeting.
3. A question standing in the name of Joan Stacey on the subject of older people accessing information on bus services was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport.

**90. Petitions**

*Councillors Graham Bridgman and Tom Marino left the meeting during consideration of this item due to their declarations of interests on this matter.*

The Council considered a Petition for Debate which had initially been presented by Councillor Steve Masters to its meeting on 2 December 2021. It related to sewage discharge by water companies, contained 1,769 signatures, and had been agreed by the Group Leaders as a subject of real significance locally to the people of West Berkshire and its immediate surrounding area therefore triggering this debate.

Prior to debate on this item the Vice-Chairman explained that in accordance with paragraph 1.4(f) of Appendix C (Procedure Rules for Dealing with Representations) to Part 13 (Codes and Protocols) of the Constitution, the petition organiser would have five minutes to introduce the petition and the petition would be debated by Council for a maximum of fifteen minutes. This time limit was specified in the Constitution and could not be extended during the meeting.

The Vice-Chairman continued by explaining that Council had three options for dealing with Petitions for Debate:

1. To take the action the petition suggested;
2. Not to take the action for the reason(s) put forward in the debate; and
3. To commission a further investigation into the matter.

Members could propose one of the options which, if seconded, would be put to a vote. The vote on any proposal which had been seconded would take place at the end of the debate to ensure that Members could consider all comments prior to voting.

Based on proportionality, the Conservative Group would be allocated eight of the fifteen minutes, the Liberal Democrat Group six minutes and the Green Party one minute.

The Vice-Chairman concluded by drawing Members attention to the wording of the Petition for Debate which was set out on the agenda:

“We, the undersigned, petition the Council to request a formal explanation from our local MP’s as to why they voted down Lords Amendment 45 to the Environment Bill which would have placed a legal duty on water companies in England and Wales to make improvements to their sewage systems and demonstrate progressive reductions in the harm caused by discharges of untreated sewage. MPs Laura Farris and John Redwood voted to defeat the Lords amendment (Alok Sharma did not vote). We also petition the Council’s OSMC to robustly question Thames Water at their scheduled appearance in March 2022. OSMC should focus on the amount of discharge in local waterways and the proposed investment in improvements to infrastructure. West Berkshire residents urge the Council to condemn the discharging of raw sewage into our waterways and call upon all stakeholders to work together to end this environmentally destructive practice which also damages public health.”

The Vice-Chairman invited Councillor Masters to introduce the Petition for Debate.

Councillor Masters explained that sewage in rivers could happen for a number of reasons, but the main reason was a Combined Sewer Outflow (CSO). This was only meant to occur under exceptional circumstances but some CSO's had been recorded discharging raw sewage into rivers when it had not rained for days. Councillor Masters stated that current arrangements were not working with underinvestment, overdevelopment, and regulators having little power to sanction offenders. This had

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resulted in local rivers and coastal waters having become contaminated to levels not seen for more than 30-40 years. He advised that since 2016 the monitoring budget of the Environment Agency had fallen by 55% and it was therefore relying to a great extent on the water companies self-reporting. Court actions against polluters had also fallen by 98% between 2002 and 2020.

Councillor Masters confirmed that there were approximately twelve sewage treatment works in West Berkshire and the majority of these had a number of large spills recorded in the most recent data published in 2020. He referred to the request in the petition for a formal explanation as to why the local MPs had voted down the Lords amendment which would have placed greater legal duties on the water companies in England and Wales to make improvements to sewage systems and demonstrate progressive reductions in the harm caused by discharges of untreated sewage. He also noted that Laura Farris MP had recently voted in Parliament against a requirement to record the number of sentient animals killed or injured as a result of polluted rivers. The government had also just announced that the national target for all rivers to be in good health had been scrapped as there were no plans for new goals for the overall quality of rivers after the current targets expire in 2027. Mr Richard Benwell, the Chief Executive of the Wildlife and Countryside Link, had stated that the current targets miss the major sources of pollution from water and sewage companies that depend on unreliable methods of measurement, and they also set no ambition for the overall quality of rivers.

Councillor Masters closed by referring to the request in the petition to examine and scrutinise the plans of Thames Water to help ensure that the waterways in the district are clean and healthy, both for enjoyment and leisure and for the natural environment. He invited Council to support the people of West Berkshire and vote in favour of the actions the petition suggested.

Councillor Lynne Doherty believed that no Member would argue that the level of sewage discharge by water companies was acceptable, but her Group felt unable to accept what they viewed as a political petition and an attack on the Conservatives under the pretence of acting in the best interests of all residents in West Berkshire. She stated that local MP's were entitled to keep residents informed in a manner they chose, and had seen accounts from them which demonstrated they had listened to the widespread and shared concerns on this issue. Councillor Doherty referred to what she believed was an unacceptable personal attack within Councillor Master's letter of the 11 November to the Newbury Weekly News and bullying tactics through his social media. She felt that if Councillor Masters had wanted a cross party position on the topic and was serious about co-operation then the petition would not have been made political. Councillor Doherty highlighted the Motion submitted by Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter which would help the Council continue to work constructively with its partners on this issue.

Councillor Jeff Brooks noted the public disquiet about this topic given that the number of leaks and major incidents appeared to be rising. He felt it was reasonable for the Council to ask local MP's to explain themselves as doing so was not an attack on them. He also felt it reasonable to expect the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission to robustly question Thames Water but did not think it should have been included in the wording of the petition. In closing, he indicated his Groups support of the petition.

Councillor Carlyne Culver did not believe that the petition was radical as it simply asked for Thames Water to be scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission, and for an explanation from two of the local MPs as to why they rejected the Duke of Wellington's amendment to place a new duty on water companies to make improvements to their sewerage systems. She asked Council to remember that this was

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not a Green Party Motion but a public petition, and voting against it meant rejecting the wishes of more than 1700 members of the public who had signed it.

**MOTION** proposed by Councillor Carolyne Culver and seconded by Councillor Steve Masters:

“To take the action the petition suggested.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

**MOTION** proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“Not to take the action the petition suggested for the reasons put forward in the debate.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

There were no other Petitions presented to Council at the meeting.

### 91. Notices of Motion

With the agreement of Council, the Vice-Chairman brought this item forward on the agenda. The Vice-Chairman then indicated the revised order under which the Motions would be taken.

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(b) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter regarding the levels of sewage discharge by water companies.

*Councillors Graham Bridgman and Tom Marino left the meeting during consideration of this Motion due to their declarations of interests on this matter.*

The Chairman informed Council that the Motion, if seconded, would be debated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter and seconded by Councillor Richard Somner:

“This Council considers that the level of sewage discharge by water companies into our rivers is unacceptable - sewage contamination can have a devastating impact on fish and other aquatic wildlife. Further, if people swim, bathe or participate in activities in or around sewage contaminated water, there are significant risks to public health such as gastroenteritis, ear, nose and throat infections, skin infections, and worse.

This Council believes that water companies must significantly reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows as a priority.

This Council welcomes the Environment Act 2021, which has created a new duty on HM Government to produce (by September 2022) a statutory plan to reduce discharges from storm overflows, and to produce a report setting out the actions that would be needed to eliminate discharges from storm overflows in England, together with the costs and benefits of those actions.

This Council also welcomes the new statutory duty requiring water companies to produce comprehensive Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans, which means that they must set out how they will manage and develop their drainage and sewerage systems over a minimum 25-year planning horizon, including how storm overflow issues will be addressed.

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Of specific local relevance, this Council welcomes Thames Water's initiation of a significant restoration project, including an end to sewage discharges, for the River Pang. We look forward to seeing results of this work as it unfolds."

Councillor Ardagh-Walter in introducing the Motion highlighted that it sought to establish a concrete, useful and constructive way forward to achieve the goal of having cleaner, better rivers free of sewer discharges. He noted that many amendments had been made to the Environment Act which was still ongoing in terms of its implementation and, whilst viewed as a major step forward, it was acknowledged that it was not perfect.

Councillor Ardagh-Walter referred to the de-nationalisation of the water industry in the 1980s which he felt had delivered improvements and had been driven by the dual imperatives of keeping price rises as moderate as possible for consumers whilst increasing quality. Though still unacceptable, he felt that rivers today were in much better condition than when under the control of the former Water Boards.

The challenges as Councillor Ardagh-Walter viewed them were several-fold. The growth in houses and the level of investment in the water industry had not kept up with population growth and intensive farming also caused fertiliser run-off into rivers, thereby harming wildlife. He was pleased to see a much firmer directive set on Ofwat to demand improvements, that the government had mandated the delivery of detailed plans on improvements by September 2022, and that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had already invited Thames Water to explain its plans further. Councillor Ardagh-Walter was also comforted from the shared level of determination across this Council, and from residents and groups across the district and the country, as together with firmer legislation mandating the improvement of the environment on the water companies he believed this would result in change. He looked forward to significant improvements over the coming years.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Owen Jeffery and seconded by Councillor Alan Macro:

"This Council considers that the level of sewage discharge by water companies into our rivers is unacceptable - sewage contamination can have a devastating impact on fish and other aquatic wildlife. Further, if people swim, bathe or participate in activities in or around sewage contaminated water, there are significant risks to public health such as gastroenteritis, ear, nose and throat infections, skin infections, and worse.

This Council believes that water companies must significantly reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows as a priority.

This Council welcomes the Environment Act 2021, which has created a new duty on HM Government to produce (by September 2022) a statutory plan to reduce discharges from storm overflows, and to produce a report setting out the actions that would be needed to eliminate discharges from storm overflows in England, together with the costs and benefits of those actions.

This Council also welcomes the new statutory duty requiring water companies to produce comprehensive Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans, which means that they must set out how they will manage and develop their drainage and sewerage systems over a minimum 25-year planning horizon, including how storm overflow issues will be addressed.

Of specific local relevance, this Council welcomes Thames Water's initiation of a significant restoration project, including an end to sewage discharges, for the River Pang. We look forward to seeing results of this work as it unfolds.



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However, this Council calls on Government to go further and resolves that Council should respond to the Government's consultation on environmental targets to suggest where appropriate:

- Meaningful targets and deadlines to meet them are set to require water companies to end these discharges;
- A tax on water companies be levied to enable the funding of the Environment Agency to adequately monitor water companies' discharges and other clean-up measures;
- Reduce the number of licences granted for discharge into rivers;
- Strengthen OFWAT's powers to hold companies accountable; and
- Require local environmental groups to be given places on company boards"

Councillor Jeffery read out the wording of his proposed amendment to the Motion by way of introduction.

Councillor Alan Macro referred to the framework formed in 2018 by the Environment Agency and the water companies which had identified 700 problem overflows, none of which had been fixed to date. He also noted the reduction in the budget for the Environment Agency from £120m in 2010 to £43m in 2021 leading to it being unable to investigate these problems. He felt that the water companies relied on the Environment Agency and so could be a potential alternative source of funding for it. Councillor Macro then highlighted the recent fining of a water company for discharging sewage into the sea which had been cheaper than treating it, and referred to the strong suspicion that other water companies were doing the same. He felt that the Environment Agency should be given what it needed to deal with this quickly.

Councillor David Marsh spoke about a report called 'Troubled Waters' produced in September 2021 by a partnership of environmentalist charities which included The National Trust, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and The Wildlife Trust. The report had found that fragile freshwater habitats were being devastated by agricultural waste pollution and raw sewage, only 14% of rivers in England met the standard of 'good' ecological status, and species such as otters, salmon and the swallow tail butterfly were among those threatened by the environmental catastrophe. The report called for more funding to monitor and enforce environmental regulations, urgent measures to reduce pesticide and excess fertiliser use in farming, and a complete and immediate ban on allowing raw sewage to enter rivers. He noted that the government allowed water companies to discharge sewage into rivers at any time if there is a lack of chemicals to treat it or in emergencies (normally at times of heavy rain). There were 400,000 such occasions during 2020 according to water company figures and these overflows containing human waste and household chemicals were diluted only by rainwater. The government wanted taxpayers rather than water companies to pay for improvements to the sewage system despite enormous profits since denationalisation. Councillor Marsh highlighted that those who had signed the petition were horrified by these matters and wanted the Council to be more ambitious than the government in this area and wanted the water companies to be held to account.

Councillor Tony Vickers stated that he was not against privatisation altogether, but when dealing with water, which is a natural resource, it resulted in a monopoly. He felt that in cases of natural monopoly the state needed a much firmer hand on those resources in the interests of the public. The original Motion in his opinion did nothing, but the

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amendment responded to matters in a strong way and contained specific actions which would help hold the water companies to account. He referred to historic problems with combined sewage going through Newbury which had led to instances of sewage coming up into the street, but he felt that improvements in the sewage industry needed to be done more quickly to stop the negative impact on wildlife. Councillor Vickers then highlighted Hong Kong as an example of the market economy working well where the government owns all its land and companies and runs them itself. He wanted the government to set targets and provide more funding to the Environment Agency which had been unable to attend the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum due to a lack of resources.

Councillor Brooks had been informed that water companies had discharged raw sewage into waterways 400,000 times during 2020, amounting to more than three million hours of discharges with the longest lasting more than 8000 hours. He reiterated that only 14% of waterways were in a good ecological condition with more than half of rivers in England failing to pass cleanliness tests. However, water companies had made £2.2 billion profits in 2020. Councillor Brooks also believed that the original Motion did nothing whereas the amendment pressed for meaningful targets and a tax on water companies to be levied to mitigate the damage they caused. The amendment was radical and went further than what the government was doing which was necessary given the situation. Councillor Brooks argued that the Council should lobby government and that the amendment enhanced the Motion.

Councillor Mackinnon indicated he would not support the amendment. He did not dispute that the infrastructure required investment but felt that taxing water companies to obtain investment was economic illiteracy. He also agreed that there was a natural monopoly which required a regulator but felt that Ofwats powers had been strengthened from its new statutory policy statement which had been supported by The Angling Trust. Councillor Mackinnon was also not supportive of the tax on water companies which he felt would be counterproductive, and noted what he thought were meaningful targets and deadlines in the Environment Act as it stands. He referred to the statutory duty on water companies to come up with a plan on how the problems of storm discharges would be fixed which would also include meaningful targets and deadlines. He also disagreed with local environmental groups being put on company Boards given it was such a fundamental change to UK corporate governance.

Councillor Steve Masters believed that very little action had been taken to achieve the targets mentioned by Councillor Mackinnon and that they were not stringent enough. He thought it no coincidence that lobby groups for the water companies made donations to political parties and found it astonishing that The Rt Hon Lord Benyon had sat on the Chair of the Association of Water Companies and written in November 2017 that water privatisation had been a triumph. He argued that there were no statutory levels or real targets set because it was not in the interests of Conservative Party supporters and their donors.

Councillor Howard Woollaston, as Chairman of the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum, confirmed that the Environment Agency and Thames Water had attended every meeting in the three years he had chaired it.

Councillor Phil Barnett wished to provide extra information for Members relating specifically to active waste transfer in relationship to sewage transfer. He advised that greater pressure over the last few years had been put on all the old sewerage system, especially some of the Victorian systems. In the Greenham Ward there were two or three sub-stations and problems had been exacerbated due to further developments not being accommodated in the existing sewerage system. This had resulted in waste being

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tankered from the sub-stations causing disruption to residents and affecting their quality of life. He believed there were a series of issues that needed to be addressed and that councillors had an important role to play when looking at future urban planning applications given that sewerage systems could not take more development.

Councillor Jeff Cant outlined what he felt were the difficulties with this amendment of trying to design government policy on something beyond the Council's remit. In his opinion the original motion recognised the local impact and that the Council intended to work with Thames Water to ameliorate it. He wanted Council to concentrate on issues it could influence rather than trying to frame government policy.

Councillor Erik Pattenden disagreed that the amendment was trying to influence government policy. It was trying to encourage Council to hold the government to account which the original Motion did not.

Councillor Owen Jeffery wondered whether any one of the Members on Council desired to see sewage dumped into the chalk streams, bigger water courses or ultimately in to the River Thames. He noted that the government target of 75% of rivers and streams to be in good condition by 2027 was not expected to be achieved and that currently no English surface waterway was deemed to be in good overall condition. He also felt that a privatised water company would not be bankrupted by having an environmentalist on its Board, nor by being obliged to stop discharging sewage into public water courses. Councillor Jeffery wanted West Berkshire to send a message to government that it did not want its lovely chalk streams destroyed to allow water companies to make billions in profits. The amendment was constructive, non-party political, intelligent, moderate and potentially so valuable, and he urged Council to support it.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter agreed with many of the points raised by Councillor Jeffery as they were already in his original Motion and were subjects of action by the government. He indicated that he would be content to accept the first, third and fourth bullet points of the amendment as additions to his original Motion as a reasonable compromise.

Councillor Owen Jeffery proposed a minor alteration to the Amended Motion to remove the second and fifth bullet point. Councillor Alan Macro, seconding, agreed to this minor alteration. The alteration was additionally approved by Members present.

**MINOR ALTERATION TO AMENDED MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Owen Jeffery and seconded by Councillor Alan Macro:

"This Council considers that the level of sewage discharge by water companies into our rivers is unacceptable - sewage contamination can have a devastating impact on fish and other aquatic wildlife. Further, if people swim, bathe or participate in activities in or around sewage contaminated water, there are significant risks to public health such as gastroenteritis, ear, nose and throat infections, skin infections, and worse.

This Council believes that water companies must significantly reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows as a priority.

This Council welcomes the Environment Act 2021, which has created a new duty on HM Government to produce (by September 2022) a statutory plan to reduce discharges from storm overflows, and to produce a report setting out the actions that would be needed to eliminate discharges from storm overflows in England, together with the costs and benefits of those actions.

This Council also welcomes the new statutory duty requiring water companies to produce comprehensive Drainage and Sewerage Management Plans, which means that they

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must set out how they will manage and develop their drainage and sewerage systems over a minimum 25-year planning horizon, including how storm overflow issues will be addressed.

Of specific local relevance, this Council welcomes Thames Water's initiation of a significant restoration project, including an end to sewage discharges, for the River Pang. We look forward to seeing results of this work as it unfolds.

However, this Council calls on Government to go further and resolves that Council should respond to the Government's consultation on environmental targets to suggest where appropriate:

- Meaningful targets and deadlines to meet them are set to require water companies to end these discharges;
- Reduce the number of licences granted for discharge into rivers; and
- Strengthen OFWAT's powers to hold companies accountable.

The proposed Amendment to the Motion with minor alterations was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** becoming the new Amended Substantive Motion.

Councillor Brooks believed the amendment strengthened the Motion considerably into a call for action but noted that his Group would continue to press for a tax on water companies given the damage they were doing. He noted that an environmental representative on a Board might not make a lot of difference but it was at least a voice against a commercial body interested in profits only. He agreed that the former Water Boards had been inefficient but introducing privatisation brought with it the danger of profit being the only major motive, losing quality of service and delivery.

Councillor James Cole looked forward to the opportunity to question Thames Water at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission which he thought would be at its September meeting. He referred to articles in the press regarding the Lambourn River and a comparison of Thames Water achievements against its stated ambitions. He noted that all residents should also take more care over what is put into sewers.

**CLOSURE MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty, and seconded by Councillor Alan Law: that the question be put.

In the opinion of the Vice-Chairman the question before the meeting had been sufficiently discussed. The Closure Motion was therefore put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor Richard Somner stated he was content to support the Amended Substantive Motion.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter, as the proposer, had no further comments to add.

The Amended Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

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The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(d) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Steve Masters regarding the discharge into rivers and coastal outflows. The Motion contained the same wording as the Petition for Debate which Council had voted to not take the action on as suggested under Minute 90.

The Vice-Chairman advised that Council would not debate the Motion under Procedure Rule 4.16.1 whereby a Motion may not be moved to rescind a decision of Council within the preceding six months.

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The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(a) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Lynne Doherty regarding the crisis in Ukraine.

The Vice-Chairman informed Council that the Motion, if seconded, would be debated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

“West Berkshire Council is united in its condemnation of the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation and urges Vladimir Putin to immediately and unconditionally cease this unjust and evil war.

West Berkshire Council would encourage residents that wish to offer financial assistance to do so by donating to the Disasters Emergency Committee or the British Red Cross.

West Berkshire Council will welcome Ukraine Refugees and partake in resettling Ukraine Refugees in West Berkshire when we have details of the scheme through the South East Migration Partnership.

West Berkshire Council stands with the people of Ukraine and expresses its unwavering commitment to democracy, multilevel governance and human rights.”

Councillor Lynne Doherty in introducing the Motion noted that Russia's appalling assault on the Ukraine was an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state and said the Council should be united in its condemnation and relentless in its commitment to support Ukraine. She had been watching the horrors unfolding in Ukraine, and the Motion was designed to enable the provision of assistance as much as possible. A Ukraine support hub had been set up in West Berkshire and she had met with the Greenham Trust and the Volunteers Centre West Berkshire to discuss how the three could collectively support the response in the district. People were being encouraged to give financial assistance if able to do so through the Disasters Emergency Committee or the Red Cross. The Council and the Greenham Trust had also both provided £25k to co-ordinate and support any local response to potential needs, and an appeal would be going live on the Greenham Trust platform. A Council webpage had also been set up to provide updates on information and guidance as it became available.

Councillor Doherty advised that Ukrainian refugees would be welcomed and the Council was actively taking part in the schemes open to it such as the Ukraine Family scheme and the Homes for Ukraine scheme. There had been an exceptional response across the country of people offering their homes to the people of Ukraine and the Council would be central in helping families settle into communities and access public services. Councillor Doherty welcomed this role for the Council and invited Members to support the Motion.

Councillor Jeff Brooks welcomed the Motion and encouraged residents that wished to offer financial assistance to do so by donating. He recalled previously living with the fear of nuclear obliteration and mentioned some hardships that would be experienced now as a result of this war. His Group endorsed this Motion and offered any assistance they could provide.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Steve Masters and seconded by Councillor Carolyne Culver:

“West Berkshire Council is united in its condemnation of the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation and urges Vladimir Putin to immediately and unconditionally cease this unjust and evil war.

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West Berkshire Council would encourage residents that wish to offer financial assistance to do so by donating to the Disasters Emergency Committee or the British Red Cross.

West Berkshire Council will welcome Ukraine Refugees and partake in resettling Ukraine Refugees in West Berkshire when we have details of the scheme through the South East Migration Partnership.

West Berkshire Council urges the government to waive visa requirements for Ukrainians seeking refuge from the war.

West Berkshire Council stands with the people of Ukraine and expresses its unwavering commitment to democracy, multilevel governance and human rights.”

Councillor Steve Masters in introducing the amendment noted its simplicity and asked the Council to urge government to ease the visa requirements to ensure that refugees could be expedited quickly. He felt that the process had been hampered by bureaucracy which needed to be removed.

Councillor Lynne Doherty referred to the countries bordering Ukraine having opened their borders to refugees in imminent danger, the majority of whom had biometric passports and no need for a visa. Those without could also now apply online. She thought that the UK’s response had initially been slow but there had been increased action and activity over the last few days. She had heard that 6,100 visas had already been granted and so did not believe there was a requirement to waive visas. She would therefore not be supporting the amendment.

Councillor Jeff Brooks felt the amendment introduced a political edge to an important Motion and urged his fellow Group Members to abstain. It was clear the government needed to do better in terms of processing visas but he did not think the amendment added anything to the Motion.

Councillor Graham Bridgman advised there had already been false applications for visas by people seeking to come into the country as Ukrainians when they were not. He agreed that the process needed speeding up but waiving visa requirements could cause wider issues.

Councillor Tony Vickers indicated his agreement with the amendment but said he would not be supporting it. He believed there had been a knee jerk attitude amongst members of the government towards people requiring visas when those in question were women, children and older people coming from a dreadful war and who were not a danger. He felt that the Council’s role was to welcome those that managed to get here.

Councillor Hilary Cole indicated that she would not be supporting the amendment.

Councillor Carlyne Culver welcomed the original Motion, particularly the aspect encouraging residents to provide financial assistance where they could via the Disasters Emergency Committee. Regarding visa applications, Councillor Culver referred to media reports suggesting there was a great deal of confusion and difficulty, more so than compared to what other European countries were doing. She also raised concerns that people who had offered their homes were not going to be paired up with refugees because they did not have a name, and that this system had been made overly complex.

Councillor Lynne Doherty noted the common agreement that speeding up the process was critical, however increased capacity and deployment of extra staff to visa application centres had been seen as well as pop-up visa application centres opening near the borders. She did believe that visas should be in place and would not be supporting the amendment.

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The Amended Motion was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

Councillor Tony Linden expressed his support for the Motion and echoed sentiments expressed over the barbaric and disgraceful attacks against Ukrainian citizens. He welcomed the actions being taken by the Council and felt that nationally the example of Germany and other countries needed to be followed by increasing spend on defence.

Councillor Dominic Boeck acknowledged the track record of supporting refugees and asylum seekers in West Berkshire. In recent years people from Syria and Afghanistan who needed help had been welcomed in to local communities. Many unaccompanied asylum seeking children had made their way here after leaving family and friends in their home countries. He knew there was capacity to treat refugees from Ukraine with the same kindness, and highlighted the two Ukrainian children already here and being taught in a local primary school. He fully supported the Motion.

Councillor Steve Masters welcomed the Motion and explained why he felt it had needed a minor amendment. It was an absolutely terrible situation in Ukraine and he agreed that the Council needed to be as welcoming as it could. He urged the Council to reach out to all the refugee groups and other charities involved.

Councillor Lynne Doherty thanked Members for their support and explained how it was a fast moving situation. She and the Executive Director for Place had been working to ensure the Council was responding to guidance and data being received daily. Councillor Doherty confirmed that communication on this issue would be regularly sent out from the Council, and that a Ukraine support hub would be established given how well the Covid support hub had worked.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

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The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(c) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Steve Masters regarding reducing the impact of the fuel crisis on the residents of West Berkshire.

*Councillors Graham Bridgman, James Cole and Lynne Doherty left the meeting during consideration of this Motion due to their declarations of interests on this matter.*

The Vice-Chairman informed Council that the Motion, if seconded, would be debated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Steve Masters and seconded by Councillor Carolyne Culver:

“Council notes:

Residents across West Berkshire are facing a cost-of-living crisis, driven by the dramatic rise in fossil fuel prices. The poorest people are being hit hardest, with many now facing the stark choice between heating and eating.

Council resolves to:

Call on our local MPs to lobby the Government to fund a nationwide retrofit insulation scheme from a windfall tax on the inflated profits of fossil fuel companies.

Furthermore the Council calls on our MPs to lobby the government to suspend VAT on domestic energy bills to reduce the impact on consumers here in West Berkshire.”

Councillor Steve Masters in introducing the Motion noted that the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Practitioners and the End Fuel Poverty Coalition were calling for

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action, arguing that the UK's resilience on fossil gas for heating was a root cause of fuel poverty exacerbated by poor quality housing. Energy bills were set to triple in April and the Institute had warned that fuel poverty was a health and social crisis requiring urgent action from the government now. He explained that work by the independent think tank The Resolution Foundation had found that the number of households in fuel crisis spending at least 10% of their family income on energy bills was set to triple to 6.3 million households from the start of April. This was the day the new energy price cap would come into effect and was expected to rise by 51%, translating to a rise in a minimum yearly energy cost from £1277 to £1925.

Councillor Masters referred to a Financial Times article which had argued for a windfall tax on fossil fuel companies. It had stated the windfall tax was efficient precisely for the reasons tax professionals did not like it as it taxed past investment that could not be withdrawn. Industry bodies were opposed and argued that investment would suffer but evidence suggested this was not accurate. He noted that individual companies could not be expected to give up gains through worry that competitors would not follow suit, so collectively via the government imposing a windfall tax was the most suitable option. He set out how the Chancellor could reintroduce the 2011 regime for the 2021/2022 tax year and ensure that regime continued as long as oil and gas prices remained above a predetermined threshold. Those rates were not arbitrary and corrected something wrong with the tax system.

At a local level, Councillor Masters advised that charities were already witnessing people struggling due to the impending cap removal. Some global charities were offering top ups for pre-paid smart meters so clients could cook food they had been given from the food bank and other agencies. Community workers were also reporting that many people were asking for food that did not need to be cooked because of the rising cost of domestic fuel. He argued that large groups of the population should not be being placed into this financial crisis, particularly as it was likely that rates would be increasing again towards the end of the year. Local businesses were also being negatively impacted as a result of higher utility bills. He urged the administration to support the Motion and ensure that the most vulnerable have some provision and flexibility. He felt it was a win overall given that providing insulation would help towards achieving the net zero ambitions set locally and nationally and would help create jobs moving forward.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon disagreed that increased taxes would not decrease investment as he felt that a one-off, arbitrary and unexpected tax would do nothing except discourage investment in a key UK industry. The UK's oil and gas sectors were world leading and the industry and its supply chain supported almost 200,000 jobs. He noted that investment during 2020/2021 had been at an all-time low but there was £11b of opportunities awaiting investment which a windfall tax would threaten. He argued that tax rates were already extremely high for the sector with the current tax rate charged on oil and gas profits being 40% (more than double the standard rate of corporation tax). Councillor Mackinnon said that the Conservatives recognised the severe pressures families had on their budgets but their approach was to offer a direct lifeline to less well-off households through the £200 smoothing rebates on energy bills and the non-repayable £150 cash rebate for Council Tax bands A to D. Additionally £144m of discretionary funding had been made available for local authorities to support households that were not eligible for the Council Tax rebate. He felt that reducing the VAT on oil and gas would not be targeted and would disproportionately benefit wealthy households with no guarantee that businesses would pass on the saving.

Councillor Jeff Brooks highlighted how George Osborne, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, had raised the supplementary charge in the 2011 budget from 20% to 32%



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showing that windfall taxes had been levied on gas and oil companies in recent years and they had gone on to make billions of pounds in profits. He did not believe that the true nature of the crisis was being considered given that energy prices had never had such forecasts before (30-40%). He noted that his Group would have been pushing this agenda for some time and would therefore be supporting the Motion.

Councillor Alan Macro referred to Investopedia which showed that the profit margins for oil and gas production in Quarter 4 of 2021 was 31.3% up from 4.7%. He argued that any windfall tax would not affect investment given these levels of profit.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter indicated that he would not be supporting the Motion. His belief was that a VAT suspension would be an inefficient broad brush intervention whereby everybody from the wealthiest down to those most vulnerable would equally benefit, and this would be hugely inefficient. He also pointed out there was not enough capacity within the building industry to implement a wide scale installation of insulation, though he did support the idea in principle.

Councillor Jeremy Cottam felt that a lot of people would be shortly be forced into fuel poverty which was an exceptional circumstance. Investments were planned years ahead, especially in a huge industry like oil or gas, and therefore profits over the short term would not in his opinion affect investment at all. He was in support of the Motion as he believed action should be taken on this immediately.

Councillor Jeff Cant expressed his disappointment over the extensive and lengthy discussion regarding central government policy rather than instead focusing on matters within the Councils remit and what it could do to ameliorate the impact of some of these issues on local communities.

Councillor Owen Jeffery put forward his opinion that a single one-off tax due to exceptional circumstances would not destroy or deter the oil and gas industries.

Councillor Carolyne Culver referred to planning policy CS15 which stated that West Berkshire District was one of the highest electricity users in the southeast and was in the upper quartile of local authorities for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the region. Fuel poverty levels in West Berkshire were also high compared to other authorities making it an extremely relevant topic for the Council to debate. She highlighted that the planning policies demonstrated a need for more insulation and heat pumps in the district, and that the Green Deal scheme for home insulation had been abandoned and the Green Homes grant scrapped after six months. Thousands of jobs had been lost and cutting insulation programmes in the last ten years had added around £1b to domestic energy bills. She invited Members to remember the amount of public subsidies that the fossil fuel industry received and closed by highlighting the urgency of the matter.

Councillor Steve Masters urged Council to support the Motion.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

*(The meeting was adjourned at 9.15pm and reconvened at 9.23pm)*

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The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(e) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Tony Vickers regarding garage blocks.

The Chairman advised that Council would not debate the Motion and, in accordance with Procedure Rule 4.9.8, this would be referred to the Planning Advisory Group and Transport Advisory Group for consideration as the detail of the Motion falls within the remit of the Executive. A report would be considered at the Planning Advisory Group, the

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Transport Advisory Group and the Executive, and the outcome of that would be reported to Council.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Cottam:

“This Council

Notes that -

1. Standard size garages are too small for modern cars and therefore no longer count as parking spaces in new housing developments or in calculations on the need for Residents Parking Zones;
2. The District has many older post-WWII housing developments which include significant areas of garage blocks that are no longer fit for their original purpose of providing secure parking for local residents' cars and are used – if at all – for general storage, while many homes have no street frontage and no parking spaces because these garage blocks were built for them;
3. There is no ‘use class’ in planning law for residential parking;
4. Car ownership is much greater now than when these estates were built and that many of them, in all parts of the District, have problems with on-street parking and access for emergency and other larger vehicles;
5. Some garage blocks have been attracting anti-social behaviour, have no overall management structure and their appearance has a negative impact on the amenity of residents;
6. Others have been bought up by local housing developers resulting in permanent loss of a potential parking area for residents and visitors.

This Council therefore calls for:-

1. planning and transport policies to be discussed at the appropriate forums, aimed at achieving:-
  - A. First call on future redevelopment of garage blocks to be for parking for local residents, as was their original purpose;
  - B. Dedicated Car Club spaces (and EV charging points) within any redeveloped garage blocks;
  - C. Spaces reserved on-street, where this proves impossible, for properties with no road frontage.
2. Investigation into the ownership of these areas, including approach roads that are not public highways, with a view to pursuing compulsory purchase to bring some of them back into use primarily for parking;

Furthermore if current legislation does not allow such policies to be adopted locally through our emerging Local Plan and Transport Plans, Council will lobby our MPs and the LGA to change the law so that it can happen.”

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The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(f) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Tony Vickers regarding land reform.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Motion, if seconded, would be debated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Erik Pattenden:

“This Council

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Endorses the 2019 report “Grounds for Change” by SHELTER, supported by CPRE, which recognises that:-

1. A home is a fundamental human need;
2. In the last 20 years the value of land has risen by 550% and all the increase in total national wealth in the last 10 years is accounted for by land value;
3. Almost all increase in land value comes not from anything the landowner does but from investment in infrastructure, growth in prosperity, enterprise of businesses, earnings of working people, and crucially the granting of planning consent;
4. The crisis in affordable housing supply cannot be solved without land reform that ensures much more of the land value is recovered for public benefit, to pay for essential infrastructure, including measures to tackle the consequences of climate change.

Council therefore resolves to write formally to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to express its support for further measures to reform the 1961 Land Compensation Act more in line with the policies of other developed countries, which enable public bodies such as Local Authorities to acquire land – especially green field land needed for housing - at prices much closer to existing use value than this Act permits.”

Councillor Tony Vickers in introducing the Motion referred it being the third Motion relating to planning and land reform that he had submitted in three years. The previous two were more focused on planning reform and the wider reform of land policy. Nine months had passed however since the Leader of the Council advised she would work through her party channels to secure progress with planning reforms, and it was still unclear when the new planning bill would be introduced.

Councillor Vickers advised that the piece of legislation primarily to blame for issues was the Land Compensation Act 1961. Ever since the pre-war public sector landholdings had largely been used up, Britain had been building some of the highest priced, worst insulated and smallest homes in Europe. Most experts agreed that land prices were the biggest problem, with land now being 70% of the price of a house. He felt that obscene wealth was being allowed to fall unearned into the lap of those happening to hold title to land. Only Parliament could remove the right for vendors to receive the ‘hope value’ and he argued that public bodies must be allowed to recover the value that the public and the wider private economic activity created. He noted that existing deals between land owners and developers would have to be honoured but wanted to take advantage of existing lines of communication to the Local Government Association and the government to initiate change.

Councillor Ross Mackinnon did not dispute that more houses were needed but referred to the blockages preventing those houses coming online. He felt that local authorities being allowed to compulsorily purchasing land at its existing use value would be expropriating private property very cheaply. His party believed in private property rights and he stated that for any economic and political system to work it was crucial that all had confidence in those rights being upheld. Land reform along these lines had already been partially attempted by the SNP administration in Scotland with the result being land owners far less likely to let land to farming tenants, and a reluctance of tenant farmers to take on leases due to long term uncertainty. He highlighted that the Grounds for Change report cited in the Motion was actually a collection of essays from various interested parties which he believed should not be used as a basis for setting policy.

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Councillor David Marsh indicated that he and his fellow Green Party councillors strongly supported the Motion.

Councillor Richard Somner referred to the year of publication of the report cited in the Motion and felt that a more updated position would be beneficial. His understanding was that the Levelling Up White Paper contained some revisions however and planning reforms were expected this spring. He considered that this would provide that refreshed position needed. Under those circumstances, his preference was to wait for that to be delivered and, if appropriate and acceptable, for the Planning Advisory Group to then have a full, rounded conversation with officers. He noted that the Council had a good position on affordable housing, with a rate for developers at 40% which was higher than many other planning authorities. He restated his offer to meet with Councillor Vickers to discuss this matter outside of this meeting.

Councillor Alan Law had sympathy for the subject matter but felt that some of the supporting facts and figures referred to were open to challenge. He was particularly concerned about the point regarding the acquisition of land at prices much closer to existing use value as he believed more thought was needed on this. He was supportive of the matter being debated with officer involvement at the Planning Advisory Group.

Councillor Erik Pattenden was sure that Members all knew someone who had wanted to purchase their own home and had not been able to do so because the cost of buying a house in the UK is far too high. Countries like the Netherlands and Germany had much lower land pricing than in England where people were forced to spend a vast proportion of their incomes on mortgages or rent leaving them too little for the rest of their needs. Reforming the 1961 Land Compensation Act offered an effective way to address these issues. He noted that the target across the country of building in excess of 300,000 homes would not be met without doing something radical, and he urged Council to support the motion.

Councillor Hilary Cole expressed sympathy with what Councillor Vickers was aiming to achieve but did not think the Motion was necessarily the right vehicle for it.

Councillor Tony Vickers advised that the figures in his Motion had been drawn from the National Statistics Office and that everything in the bullet points was fact. He agreed with Councillor Pattenden that targets would not be achieved unless the land question was tackled in a radical way. He felt there were differing views amongst the government on whether to take radical measures on land auction, but did not believe, like others appeared to do so, that the market would solve the land issue. He had wanted this matter raised in a public forum but was happy for the debate to be taken further at the Planning Advisory Group.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

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The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda Item 19(g) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Alan Macro regarding the building of a new hospital.

The Chairman advised that Council would not debate the Motion and, in accordance with Procedure Rule 4.9.8, this would be referred to the Health Scrutiny Committee for consideration as the detail of the Motion falls within its remit. A report would be considered at the Health Scrutiny Committee and the outcome of that would be reported to Council.

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Councillor Alan Macro proposed a minor alteration to the Motion. Councillor Andy Moore, seconding, agreed to this minor alteration. The amendment was additionally approved by Members present.

**AMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Alan Macro and seconded by Councillor Andy Moore:

“Council notes that:

- The Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust has been consulting on various options to re-develop the hospital. Several options involve various levels of redevelopment of the existing site and one option the building of a new hospital on a new site.
- The existing site is very cramped and contains a mixture of new, old and very old buildings, some of which are pre-fabricated. Many have very poor insulation leading to uncomfortable conditions for patients in hot or cold weather and also to poor energy efficiency.
- Re-development of the existing site is difficult because of its cramped and dense layout.
- It is very difficult for residents of some parts of West Berkshire to reach the hospital using public transport.
- Car parking in and around the hospital is restricted and expensive.
- It can be time consuming to travel to the hospital by any means, including ambulance, at peak times.

Council therefore resolves that its preferred option is the building of a new hospital on a new site that is readily accessed by West Berkshire residents by both private and public transport, and that this preference be conveyed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust.”

The Vice-Chairman proposed that the meeting be extended until 10.30pm. This was seconded by Councillor Lynne Doherty and duly approved by the members present in the Chamber.

### 92. Membership of Committees

Council considered a number of changes to committee membership that had been put forward by the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group. These proposals were seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman.

It was put to the vote and duly **RESOLVED** that the following changes would be made to Committee appointments for the remainder of the 2021/2022 Municipal Year:

1. Councillor Biyi Oloko to replace Councillor Claire Rowles as a member of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
2. Councillor Claire Rowles to replace Councillor Garth Simpson as a substitute member of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
3. Councillor Lynne Doherty to replace Councillor Garth Simpson as a member of the Personnel Committee.
4. Councillor Biyi Oloko to replace Councillor Richard Somner as a substitute member of the Personnel Committee.
5. Councillor Biyi Oloko to replace Councillor Garth Simpson as a substitute member of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission.

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6. Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter to replace Councillor Hilary Cole on the Council of Partners North Wessex Downs AONB.
7. Councillor Jeremy Cottam to replace Councillor Royce Longton as a member of the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

### **93. Motions from Previous Meetings**

Members were asked to note the response to a Motion from Councillor Lee Dillon on the Executive acting outside of policies on Green Infrastructure which had been tabled at a previous Council meeting. As the Motion had been discussed and responded to by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission at its meeting on 31 August 2021 it was not proposed to revisit the discussion on this item at this meeting.

### **94. Licensing Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 31 January 2022.

### **95. Personnel Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Personnel Committee had met on 14 December 2021 and 21 February 2022.

### **96. Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Governance and Ethics Committee had met on 17 January 2022.

### **97. District Planning Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the District Planning Committee had met on 2 March 2022.

### **98. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had met on 25 January 2022.

### **99. Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Health Scrutiny Committee had not met.

### **100. Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Board had met on 9 December 2021 and 17 February 2022.

### **101. Joint Public Protection Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last ordinary meeting, the Joint Public Protection Committee had met on 13 December 2021 and 14 March 2022.

### **102. Statutory Pay Policy 2022 (C4021)**

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) which set out how it is required, in accordance with section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, to publish an annual pay policy

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statement. Approval of the Statutory Pay Policy Statement for publication from 1 April 2022 would ensure compliance with that duty.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor James Cole:

“That Council:

1. Adopts and approves the Statutory Pay Policy Statement at Appendix C of the report for publication from 1 April 2022.
2. Delegates authority to the Service Director, Strategy and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Internal Governance, Leisure and Culture, to update the Pay Policy Statement following any pay awards to be effective from 1 April 2021 and the 1 April 2022.”

Councillor Howard Woollaston in recommending approval of the Motion was sure that Members recalled from previous years the Council being under the statutory duty under the Localism Act 2011 to publish an annual pay policy statement. He noted this would take effect from 1 April 2022 with the report seeking formal approval from Council to issue the statement. He advised that since the Summons and Agenda had been issued the settlement had been agreed at 1.75% which would be incorporated into the published statement. Councillor Woollaston highlighted that this was a housekeeping issue and uncontroversial.

Councillor James Cole had nothing further he wished to add to the debate.

The Motion was put to the vote and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 103. Members' Questions

With the agreement of Council, the Vice-Chairman brought this item forward on the agenda.

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#).

- (a) A question standing in the name of Councillor Martha Vickers on the subject of the changes planned with regards to the proportion of highways budgets utilised for the maintenance and improvements to footways was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport.
- (b) A question standing in the name of Councillor Owen Jeffery to the Leader of the Council was withdrawn.
- (c) A question standing in the name of Councillor Martha Vickers on the subject of what the Council was doing to manage the problems created by the increase in dog ownership was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste.

### 104. Member request for information (C4183)

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 18) which set out a request by a Member of Council for access to information under a procedure detailed in the Council's Constitution at paragraph 13.3.7. The request was seeking disclosure of an operational document setting out enforcement options in relation to a CIL liability.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman:

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“That Council:

1. Notes the legal position with regard to Members rights to access information, and the limitations of that right.
2. Confirms that, in the circumstances, the request for information should be refused.”

Councillor Ross Mackinnon noted that this was a request by a Member to access exempt and legally privileged information. The particulars of the case had already been the subject of a Motion to Council in December 2020 which had been responded to by Executive in March 2021. This matter related to the principle of when a Member had the right to access sensitive information and when that right should be limited. He set out how the statutory guidance was clear that Members of a principal Council did not have unrestricted rights to access documents pertaining to a decision made by the Council, the executive, its committees or officers who may be acting under delegated authority. The Local Government Acts of 1972 and 2000 and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 all placed limitations on Members rights of access, specifically on the grounds of information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

In this particular instance, Councillor Mackinnon explained that the Monitoring Officer, who was also the senior solicitor of the Council, had provided advice that the document contained exempt information and should not be disclosed. In addition to the statutory framework, case law (principally the Birmingham case in 1983) had established that elected Members have a right of common law to access information that they needed to know to discharge their duties as a councillor. The document in question reviewed different options open to the Council to resolve a particular matter and contained legal advice and the potential implications of the various options available. The document would remain exempt from disclosure even in the event of legal proceedings against the Council in the absence of a court order requiring it.

Councillor Mackinnon spoke about the decision of the Governance and Ethics Committee to refer this matter to Council. External advice had been sought from a leading public and administrative law barrister who supported the Council's position on the non-disclosure of the document since a 'need to know' had not been demonstrated. The Council's Constitution also reflected the legal position he had outlined regarding the question of access to information. Of particular relevance were sections 2.3.5 (which stated that documents dealing with individuals or other confidential matters may not be available) and section 13.3.7 which dealt with the inspection of and access to documents.

Councillor Mackinnon also wanted to consider the implications for the business and governance of the Council if this request were to be granted. It was of fundamental importance that decision-makers within the Council had access to freely given and comprehensive advice. He argued that it was entirely proper for a full analysis to be made of the possible scenarios arising from a sensitive decision, including the financial, reputational, legal and other impacts in the event of the Council being successfully challenged. He felt it would be a serious failure of risk assessment and corporate governance not to do so. It did not follow, however, that the performing of this analysis indicated anything about the Council's position was flawed or that relevant information was being kept secret.

Councillor Mackinnon felt it was absolutely crucial that those advising decision-makers within the Council were confident of that advice being kept confidential and that it would not be subject to wider disclosure. If this confidence were to be damaged it could result in advice no longer being freely given and could be influenced (at least to a degree) by the



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prospect of it being disclosed in a manner that may adversely impact the Council's position. Executive Members and Officers of the Council would end up no longer benefitting from the best professional advice available which Councillor Mackinnon believed was an unacceptable erosion of the good governance of the Council. He noted that a recurring theme of the various Section 114 reports issued recently by auditors of failing councils was a criticism of governance and failures to conduct proper risk assessments.

Councillor Jeff Brooks said this suggested to him that Councillor Mackinnon had no confidence in Councillor Rowles keeping this information confidential if she were to have sight of it which he found disgraceful. He advised Members that the resident in question had begged him and Councillor Rowles for help with this scandalous CIL situation the administration continued to stand behind. He believed there would clearly be information in this internal report to help understand what was being done with this resident, and he felt it perfectly reasonable for the steps being taken to bring this to a conclusion to be shared. He understood there was sensitive information such as a risk for people in care or under threat of violence but did not believe this passed that test. He said he would be responsible and vote for the information to be seen by all Members and would not let the matter rest if it was not voted down.

Councillor Rowles began by explaining this was about democracy and councillors doing the role they were elected to do, namely be the voice of residents. It was about transparency, fairness and integrity. She acknowledged that Members did not have an unqualified right of access to information and that legally privileged information was exempt. However, she argued that clause 10 of the Local Government Act 1972 set out how exempt information was only such if in all the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. She believed the public had a right to know why residents were being treated differently on CIL enforcement and that it was a reasonable request. She also referred to section 13.3.6 of the Constitution which unequivocally stated where officers considered that information was of a confidential nature which should not be openly available to the public or press, this information would be supplied to Members on a private and confidential basis. Any information provided to Members on this basis would be treated as such and would not be circulated outside the Council. To deny her access when she was bound by confidentiality she felt questioned her integrity. With reference to the opinion obtained from a QC, she argued that it only seemed to focus on the 'need to know' point and not on section 13.3.6 or the public interest point. She pointed out all she wished to do was her job as a councillor to challenge and hold the Council to account on behalf of residents, and that closing down the request was closing down the cornerstones of democracy. She felt it set a very dangerous precedent and wondered what the Council had to hide and why there was a nervousness about the report. She highlighted that she would be making an FOI request for this information should this Motion not be supported.

Councillor James Coles thought there was a series of holes in the legal argument set out in the report and highlighted some examples. The whole point he felt was that Councillor Rowles was trying to establish why different criteria had been applied between two residents and officers were stopping her from doing so without acceptable reason being given. He suggested that she did have a need to know and officers should not have withheld documentation that could have been shown to her confidentially. He believed the whole matter was about telling Members not to challenge officers when the public wanted Members to do so where they deemed it necessary, and to cover up a wrongdoing by the Council. If this was the case he said it was immoral, unethical and must cease. He felt this matter should never have reached this stage and could have

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been resolved via a face-to-face discussion with Councillor Rowles who was just trying to determine the truth. He indicated that he would not be supporting the Motion.

Councillor Steve Masters noted this was a subject matter that a lot of members were very passionate about given their similar experiences with CIL. He questioned whether any councillors had been privy to the information in the document and was it therefore the case that Councillor Rowles had been particularly excluded. He also wanted to know how much more money would be spent on defending something that could be rectified by trusting Councillor Rowles. He went on to highlight the qualities of Councillor Rowles which he believed indicated her trustworthiness and integrity. He noted that when opposition Members questioned an officer the administration responded with the response that officers should not be denigrated or disrespected. He argued that this was about maximising transparency and making sure that decisions were scrutinised. He commended Councillor Rowles for bringing this matter so far as he knew it was not being done easily but felt there were times when a stand needed to be made.

Councillor Graham Bridgman agreed that officers should be challenged but felt that in certain circumstances officers also had to be trusted. In this case the Monitoring Officer, the Council's senior legal adviser, determined that information was exempt from production and this should be believed. As a lawyer he noted that legally privileged information needed to stay legally privileged and there was a reason for that. He said he would be horrified if, as a litigation lawyer, he discovered that advice he had given in confidence to a client had been disclosed anywhere beyond the client. He agreed that a Members right to information must necessarily be fettered and that 13.3.6 of the Constitution set out how confidential information could be disclosed in confidence to a Member. However the section explicitly referred to the Council's Access to Information rules and the position there was that exempt information was not the same as confidential information. He suggested that an FOI request on that subject would be met with the same position. Councillor Bridgman highlighted that the position of the Monitoring Officer was not that this information was purely confidential, and he felt it had nothing to do with trust or otherwise in a Member. It had everything to do with officers giving unfettered advice in the expectation it would go no further and exempt information remaining exempt. He accepted the Monitoring Officer's determination as to it being exempt and he did not look behind that.

In closing, Councillor Mackinnon reiterated this was about the principle of when exempt and legally sensitive information should be disclosed. A person would not expect legal advice given to their lawyer to be disclosed anywhere else and he argued it was absurd to think otherwise. He had nothing further to add to what Councillor Bridgman had said and urged Council to support the Motion.

The Vice-Chairman acknowledged that Councillor Martha Vickers had left and then returned to the meeting during debate. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that Members should really be present during the whole debate in order to hear all relevant information. She had advised previously that if Members missed an introduction that was not considered an issue assuming they had read the report. She was aware that the debate had begun when Councillor Vickers had returned and her advice was that Councillor Vickers should not vote. It was ultimately a matter for Councillor Vickers to determine and the Vice-Chairman invited Councillor Vickers to take note of the advice provided by the Monitoring Officer.

The Motion was put to the vote and ended up tied at 16 for, 16 against, with 3 abstentions. The Vice-Chairman in his role as Chairman of the meeting used his casting vote and the Motion was duly **RESOLVED**.

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*(The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 10.25 pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....

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Council – 10 May 2022

**Item 8 – Appointment of the Executive by  
the Leader of the Council for the 2022/2023  
Municipal Year**

Verbal Item

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# Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	10 May 2022
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Lynne Doherty
<b>Report Author:</b>	Sarah Clarke
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4202

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees for the next Municipal Year in accordance with the duty under section 15 of the Local Government Housing Act 1989.
- 1.2 To agree the Council's Policy Framework for 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council notes that under paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 5.1 are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Party Groups respectively.
- 2.2 That the Council agrees to the appointment of the various Committees and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 5.4 (Table A).
- 2.3 That the Council agrees to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 5.12 of the report (Table B).
- 2.4 That the number of substitutes on Committees and Commissions be as set out in paragraph 5.15 (Table C).
- 2.5 In respect of the District and Area Planning Committees, the substitute Members are all drawn from Members representing wards within the Committee's area who are not appointed to the Committee. Where substitutes attend the District Planning meeting they need to be drawn from the same Area Planning meeting as the Member they are substituting for.

## Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

- 2.6 That the Council approves the appointment of Members to the Committees as set out in Appendix A and notes the appointments set out in Appendix B which are in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.
- 2.7 That the Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended, agrees that the Council's Policy Framework for 2022/23 be as set out in paragraph 5.20 of this report, and that any necessary amendments be made to the Council's Constitution.
- 2.8 That the Council notes that other plans, policies and strategies requiring approval which are not included in the approved Policy Framework and which are not otherwise reserved by law to Council, will be the responsibility of the Council's Executive in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.
- 2.9 That the Council notes that Paragraph 2.6.5 of Article 6, will be amended to reflect any changes made to the Executive by the Leader of the Council at the Annual Council meeting.
- 2.10 That the appointment of two non-voting co-opted Parish/Town Councillors be made to the Governance and Ethics Committee as detailed in Appendix A.
- 2.11 To appoint three Independent Persons (standards) namely Lindsey Appleton, Alan Penrith and Mike Wall and to appoint an Independent Person (Audit) to focus on the risk and audit functions of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
- 2.12 To note the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.13 That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required to the Constitution as a result of the changes to the number of Members of the Council and following the appointments to Committees.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	No new implications arising from this report. Members Allowances are met from within existing budgets in accordance with the proposals agreed by Council.
<b>Human Resource:</b>	None
<b>Legal:</b>	The allocation of seats to the Political Groups is in accordance with section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1989 and related regulations mentioned in the report
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None



<b>Property:</b>	None			
<b>Policy:</b>	The appointments and allocations will be made in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations. The Council's Policy making framework is updated annually			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Health Impact:</b>		x		
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		x		
<b>Core Business:</b>		x		

<b>Data Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	The political groups have been consulted on aspects of this report.			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Council is required to appoint Committees and other Member bodies that are not part of the Executive. Membership of the Council’s Committees is agreed annually at the May Council meeting.
- 4.2 This report sets out the Membership of the Political Groups, the proposed size and Membership of the Committees as well as the number of substitutes to be appointed for each of the bodies. It also sets out the 2022/23 Policy Framework.
- 4.3 Appointments to the Executive are a matter reserved to the Leader of Council, and are not therefore not included in this report.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Political Groups

- 5.1 In accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the under-mentioned Members have given notice of their wish to be regarded as Members of the Political Groups set out below.

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Green Party</b>
Ardagh-Walter, Steve	Abbs, Adrian	Culver, Carolyne
Beck, Jeff	Barnett, Phil	Marsh, David
Benneyworth, Dennis	Brooks, Jeff	Masters, Steve
Boeck, Dominic	Cottam, Jeremy	
Bridgman, Graham	Dillon, Lee	
Cant, Jeff	Drummond, Billy	
Cole, Hilary	Hunt, Nassar	
Cole, James	Jeffery, Owen	
Doherty, Lynne	Longton, Royce	
Hooker, Clive	Macro, Alan	
Hurley, Gareth	Mayes, Geoff	
Jones, Rick	Moore, Andy	
Law, Alan	Pattenden, Erik	
Linden, Tony	Vickers, Martha	
Mackinnon, Ross	Vickers, Tony	
Marino, Tom	Woodhams, Keith	
Oloko, Biyi		
Pask, Graham		
Rowles, Claire		

**Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year**

Simpson, Garth		
Somner, Richard		
Stewart, Joanne		
Williamson, Andrew		
Woollaston, Howard		

5.2 It is proposed at recommendation 2.1, that the Council notes that under Paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in Paragraph 5.1 are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Party Groups respectively

**Appointment of Committees**

5.3 In accordance with Paragraph 4.2.2 of the Constitution, the Council is required to appoint Committees and other Member bodies that are not part of the Executive or its sub-committees.

5.4 It is proposed that Council appoint the Committees (as set out in Table A) with the number of places shown for each.

**Table A**

<b>Body</b>	<b>Number of Seats</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission	9
Licensing Committee	12
District Planning Committee	11 <i>(five members of the Eastern Area Planning Committee and five Members of the Western Area Planning Committee as well as the Portfolio Holder for Planning)</i>
Eastern Area Planning Committee	9
Western Area Planning Committee	9
Personnel Committee	5
Appeals Panel	12

## Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

Governance and Ethics Committee	9 <i>(two co-opted, non voting Parish Councillors and an Independent Person (Audit) will also be appointed to this Committee )</i>
Joint Public Protection Committee	2 <i>(An Executive Member and a Council appointee)</i>
Health Scrutiny Committee	5 <i>(Will additionally include two non-voting co-optees)</i>
Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

- 5.5 The Health and Wellbeing Board is subject to its own Membership requirements and is therefore not included in the above table. The boundaries for the Eastern and Western Area Planning Committees are set out in Appendix C.
- 5.6 It is proposed that 12 Members be appointed to the Licensing Committee and the Appeals Panel, to ensure that there is a sufficient pool of Members trained and available to undertake the work of these Committees which frequently sit as a Sub-Committee or Panel.
- 5.7 It is recommended (at 2.2) that the Council agrees to the appointment of the various Committees and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 5.4 (Table A).
- 5.8 It is recommended (at paragraph 2.13) that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required to the Constitution as a result of the changes to the number of Members of the Council and following the appointments to Committees.

### **Allocation of Seats**

- 5.9 The political balance of the Council currently stands as follows:

	<b>Number of Members</b> No.	<b>Political Composition</b> %
Conservative Group	24	55.81% (56%)
Liberal Democrat Group	16	37.21% (37%)
Green Party Group	3	6.97% (7%)
	<b>43</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

5.10 In allocating seats on Committees, the Council must give effect to the requirements for political balance on Committees as prescribed by section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These requirements apply only to voting members of the Committee.

5.11 This section creates a sequential test that must be adhered to when allocating seats to the Committees of Council, which provides as follows:

- (1) Not all seats on any Committee are to be allocated to the same political group;
- (2) The majority of seats on any Committee must be allocated to the majority Group;
- (3) Subject to the satisfaction of the above statutory criteria, the total number of seats on ordinary Committees must be allocated to political groups in the same proportion as their representation on the Council;
- (4) Subject to all the above, the number of seats on each Committee must be the same proportion as the political group's representation on full Council;

5.12 Having regard to the above, it is recommended that the seats on Committees should be allocated as set out in Table B below.

<b>Table B</b>				
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Total Number of Seats</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>Green Party</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission	9	5	3	1
Health Scrutiny Committee	5	3	2	0
Licensing Committee	12	7	4	1
District Planning Committee	11	6	4	1
Eastern Area Planning Committee	9	5	4	0
Western Area Planning Committee	9	5	3	1
Personnel Committee	5	3	2	0
Appeals Panel	12	7	5	0
Governance and Ethics Committee	9	5	3	1
Joint Public Protection Committee	2	2	0	0

**Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year**

Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee	2	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>

5.13 It is recommended (at 2.3) that the Council agrees to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 5.12 (Table B) above. It is also recommended that the Monitoring Officer be given delegated powers to make any changes required to the Constitution arising out of this recommendation.

**Substitutes**

5.14 In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, the Council is required to determine the number of substitute Members that may be appointed in respect of each Committee.

5.15 The number of substitutes for each Committee is as follows:

<b>Table C</b>	
Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission	Up to 3 per Political Group
Health Scrutiny Committee	Up to 2 per Political Group on the Committee
Area Planning Committees	Up to 3 per Political Group
District Planning Committee	Up to 4 per Political Group – 2 from the Eastern Area of the District and 2 from the Western Area of the District
Licensing Committee	No substitutes permitted
Personnel Committee	Up to 2 per Political Group on the Committee
Appeals Panel	No substitutes permitted
Governance and Ethics Committee	Up to 2 per Political Group

5.16 In respect of the District and Area Planning Committees, the substitute Members are all drawn from Members representing wards within the Committee’s area who are not

appointed to the Committee. Where substitutes attend the District Planning meeting they need to be drawn from the same Area Planning meeting as the Member they are substituting for.

5.17 It is proposed that the number of substitutes on Committees and Commissions be approved as set out in paragraph 5.15 (Table C).

### **Appointment to Committees**

5.18 Appendix A is a list of Committees and the nominations from each Political Group.

5.19 It is proposed that the Council approves the appointment of Members to the Committees as set out in Appendix A and notes the appointments set out in Appendix B which are in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.

### **Planning and Policy Framework**

5.20 It is recommended that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended, the proposed Policy Framework for 2022/23 (Policies etc reserved to Council) contains the Policies, Plans and Strategies set out below, and that any necessary amendments be made to the Council's Constitution:

- Council Strategy;
- Local Transport Plan;
- Licensing Policy;
- Gambling Policy;
- Plans and strategies which together comprise the Development Plan;
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Statutory Pay Policy Statement;
- Property Investment Strategy.

5.21 Other plans, policies and strategies requiring approval which are not included in the approved Policy Framework and which are not otherwise reserved by law to Council, will be the responsibility of the Council's Executive in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

### **Executive**

5.22 Council are asked to note that paragraph 2.6.5 of Article 6 of the Constitution, will be amended to reflect any changes made to the Executive Portfolios by the Leader of the Council and announced at the Annual Council meeting.

### **Governance and Ethics Committee**

5.23 In addition to the elected Members who will be appointed on a proportional basis to the Governance and Ethics Committee, it is recommended that two co-opted non-voting Parish/Town Councillors also be appointed. In addition two substitute (and also non-voting) Parish/Town Councillors will also be appointed to provide continuity.

5.24 It is also proposed that the Advisory Panel and three Independent Persons be retained.

- 5.25 Following the Redmond Review, it is also recommended that the Council appoint an Independent Person (Audit) to focus on the risk and audit functions of the Governance and Ethics Committee. Details of this appointment will be considered at a future Council meeting following the conclusion of an external selection process to identify a suitable candidate.
- 5.26 It is recommended that Council appoint as non-voting co-opted Parish/Town Councillors to the Governance and Ethics Committee the parish council representatives, and the substitute parish council representatives as detailed in Appendix A.
- 5.27 It is also proposed that Council appoint three Independent Persons namely Lindsey Appleton, Alan Penrith and Mike Wall.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

- 5.28 The Health and Wellbeing Board is created under the relevant provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. A number of regulations linked to Committees have been dis-applied in relation to this Committee such as the proportionality rules and rules pertaining to voting.
- 5.29 The membership of the Board is set out in Appendix A and a number of the Board Members have nominated a named substitute as set out in that Appendix.
- 5.30 Council is asked to note the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Appendix A.

## **6 Proposals**

- 6.1 As detailed in this report, in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, 24 Members wish to be regarded as members of the Conservative Group, 16 Members wish to be regarded as members of the Liberal Democrat Group and 3 Members wish to be regarded as members of the Green Party Group.
- 6.2 Members, and where appropriate substitutes, will be appointed to 10 Committees totalling 85 seats. In this case 50 of these seats will be allocated to Conservative Members, 30 to Liberal Democrat Members and 5 to Green Party Members. The Health and Wellbeing Board is not included in these appointments as it is subject to its own membership requirements.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the appointments to Committees are made in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups and as fully set out in the recommendations and related Appendices.
- 6.4 The Council will continue to appoint two Parish/Town Councillors to the Governance and Ethics Committee, three Independent Persons (Standards) and one Independent Person (Audit). Two substitute Parish/ Town Councillors will be appointed to the Governance and Ethics Committee.



## 7 Other options considered

7.1 None as the Council is required to consider and review membership of committees on an annual basis.

## 8 Conclusion

8.1 Members are asked to agree the appointment of and allocation of seats on the Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

8.2 Members are asked to agree the Council's Policy Framework for 2022/23 as set out in Paragraph 5.20.

## 9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix A – Membership of Committees 2022/2023 (to follow)

9.2 Appendix B - Task Group and Panel Memberships 2022/2023 (to follow)

9.3 Appendix C – Wards covering each Planning Committee

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### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position

Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** All

### Officer details:

Name: Sarah Clarke  
Job Title: Service Director, Strategy & Governance  
Tel No: 01635 519045  
E-mail: sarah.clarke@Westberks.gov.uk

**Appendix C – Wards covering each Planning Committee**

<b>Wards within the Western Planning Area</b>	<b>Wards within the Eastern Planning Area</b>
Lambourn	Basildon
Downlands	Pangbourne
Ridgeway	Bucklebury
Hungerford and Kintbury	Bradfield
Chieveley and Cold Ash	Aldermaston
Newbury Speen	Burghfield and Mortimer
Newbury Central	Theale
Newbury Wash Common	Tilehurst and Purley
Newbury Clay Hill	Tilehurst Birch Copse
Newbury Greenham	Tilehurst South and Holybrook
	Thatcham West
	Thatcham North East
	Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham
	Thatcham Central

# Appointments to Outside Bodies 2022/2023

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	10 May 2022
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Lynne Doherty
<b>Report Author:</b>	Sarah Clarke
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4203

## 1 Purpose of the Report

West Berkshire Council must make annual nominations to the following outside bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association General Assembly

## 2 Recommendations

2.1 Council is requested to approve the appointments in accordance with Appendix A of Member representatives to the following outside bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

2.2 Council is asked to note the appointments as detailed in Appendix A of Member representatives to the:

- Local Government Association General Assembly

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	West Berkshire Council Members are not paid to attend Outside Body meetings but any costs associated with meeting attendance will be met from within existing Members

	Allowances budget, where the Outside Body does not pay these costs			
<b>Human Resource:</b>	None			
<b>Legal:</b>	The Council is required to appoint members to certain bodies, such as the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.			
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None			
<b>Property:</b>	None			
<b>Policy:</b>	Where appropriate, appointments will be made in accordance with Part 13 Appendix J (Protocol for Council Representation on Outside Bodies) of the Council's Constitution			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		x		

<b>Health Impact:</b>		x		
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		x		
<b>Core Business:</b>		x		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Local Government Association, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel Scrutiny Officer			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Council is required to appoint representatives to a range of Outside Bodies. The majority of these appointments were made via an Individual Decision in June 2019 and were aligned to the Council’s electoral cycle, and are not therefore anticipated to change until 2023.
- 4.2 Nominations to the three Outside Bodies, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel and Local Government Association General Assembly are required annually. Appointments, where appropriate, will be made in accordance with Appendix J to Part 13 of the Constitution (Protocol for Council Representatives on Outside Bodies).

## 5 Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

- 5.1 Members are responsible for setting the Fire and Rescue Service operating budget and determining how the service is run. Meetings of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority take place in the evenings, on a quarterly basis, and previously these have taken place at the authority’s Headquarters in Calcot, Reading. It should be noted that a Member appointed to the Fire Authority is expected to attend all Fire Authority meetings and to serve on at least one committee or working party.
- 5.2 Appointments to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority are made on a proportionality basis based on the electoral roll. The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have informed the Council that they require four Member appointments from West Berkshire Council. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council is required

to allocate seats on the Fire Authority reflecting the political balance of the whole Council.

- 5.3 The Council's representatives in 2021/22 were Councillors Dennis Benneyworth, Jeff Brooks, Tony Linden and Garth Simpson.

## 6 Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

- 6.1 The Panel comprises 18 elected members (one from each Authority) and two co-optees. Appointments of elected Members to the Panel are made in accordance with each Authority's own procedures, with a view to ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met, so far as is reasonable practicable.

- 6.2 The balanced appointment objective requires that the Panel should (when taken together):

- Represent all parts of the police area;
- Represent the political make-up of the Authorities;
- Have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

- 6.3 A Member shall be appointed annually to the Panel to hold office matching the Municipal Year, subject to the following provisos that he/she:

Shall cease to be a Member of the Panel if he/she ceases to be a member of:

- The Authority;
- The political group in the Authority when the appointment to hold office was made.

- 6.4 The Council's representative in 2021/22 was Councillor Claire Rowles.

## 7 Local Government Association General Assembly

- 7.1 The Local Government Association is a politically-led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure that local government has a voice with national government. It aims to influence and set the political agenda on issues relevant to councils in order to deliver local solutions.

- 7.2 The General Assembly acts as the 'parliament' of local government, with authorities in LGA membership entitled to have a minimum of one representative. It meets each summer at the LGA's Annual Conference. Membership is reviewed annually.

- 7.3 Four places are available to West Berkshire Council. There is no requirement that the Council allocate seats to the General Assembly in a politically balanced manner. However, the Local Government Association encourages authorities entitled to three or four representatives on the General Assembly to allocate one of those positions to the Opposition Group Leader.

- 7.4 The Council's representatives in 2021/22 were Councillors Lynne Doherty, Graham Bridgman, Dominic Boeck and Lee Dillon.

## 8 Other options considered

Not to appoint representatives which is not recommended for the reasons detailed in the report.

## 9 Conclusion

That the Council should agree and note that the appointments to the organisations set out in this report be made in accordance with Appendix A.

## 10 Appendices

### 10.1 Appendix A – Proposed Appointments to Outside Bodies (to follow)

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#### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Wards affected:** All

#### Officer details:

Name: Sarah Clarke  
Job Title: Service Director, Strategy & Governance  
Tel No: 01635 519045  
E-mail: sarah.clarke@Westberks.gov.uk

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## Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Governance and Ethics Committee – 2021/22

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council on 10 May 2022
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Howard Woollaston
<b>Report Author:</b>	Sarah Clarke
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4198

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on local and national issues relating to ethical standards and to bring to the attention of Members any complaints or other problems within West Berkshire.
- 1.2 To present the Annual Governance and Ethics Report to Full Council.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the content of the report.
- 2.2 The report to be circulated to all Parish/Town Councils in the District for information.

### 3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no financial issues arising from this report. However the costs associated with external investigations may lead to a budget pressure.
<b>Human Resource:</b>	There are no personnel issues associated with this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no legal issues arising from this report. The matters covered by this report are generally requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 in so far as appropriate and the Localism Act 2011 and its supporting regulations.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	The benefits of this process are the maintenance of the Council's credibility and good governance by a high standard of ethical behaviour. The threats are the loss of credibility of the Council if standards fall. Adherence to the requirements of the Code of Conduct also reduce the risk of the Council's decisions being subject to legal challenge.
<b>Property:</b>	There are no property issues associated with this report.
<b>Policy:</b>	There are no policy implications arising from this report.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Health Impact:</b>		X		
<b>ICT or Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities or Business as Usual:</b>		X		Business as usual.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		.
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Finance & Governance Group			

#### 4. Executive Summary

4.1 This report is the Monitoring Officer’s annual report for the Governance and Ethics Committee, which will be presented to Full Council at the Annual meeting. The report will also be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils.

4.2 The key findings identified in the report are:

## Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Governance and Ethics Committee – 2021/22

- (a) Standards of ethical conduct across the district remain good.
- (b) The number of gifts and hospitality declared has remained relatively low during 2021/22 as it did in 2020/21. This is likely to reflect the fact that the country has continued to be subject to restrictions imposed in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

## 5. Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 made fundamental changes to the system of regulation of the standards of conduct for elected and co-opted members of Councils and Parish Councils. This report sets out details of the number and nature of complaints received, and informs Members of any other activity that was taking place around the Code of Conduct regime.
- 5.2 This report will also be presented to Full Council at the Annual meeting and will be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils.

### Background

#### Governance Arrangements

- 5.3 During the Municipal Year 2021/22 the Governance and Ethics Committee was comprised of eleven members (nine District Councillors appointed on a proportional basis and two co-opted non-voting Parish/Town Councillors). The membership for 2022/23 will be agreed at the Annual Council meeting.
- 5.4 Three Independent Persons are appointed by Council and are used on a rotational basis on the Initial Assessment Panel and Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel comprised ten Members: two from the Conservative Party, two from the Liberal Democrat party, two from the Green Party, two parish/town councillors and two independent persons. The membership for 2022/23 will be agreed at the Annual Council meeting.
- 5.5 A revised Code of Conduct was adopted in September 2016. The Code and Governance arrangements are supported by a number of documents including:
  - Terms of Reference for the Governance and Ethics Committee and Advisory Panel;
  - Gifts and Hospitality Protocol;
  - Complaints procedures for breaches of the Code of Conduct;
  - Dispensations procedure;
  - Social Media Protocol.

### Independent Persons

- 5.6 Under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a duty to ensure that it has appointed at least one Independent Person who is consulted before it makes a decision on an allegation it has determined to investigate. The Independent Person may be consulted directly either by the person who has made the complaint or the person the complaint has been made about. Three Independent Persons have therefore been appointed in order to ensure that a conflict situation does not arise.

- 5.7 A person is not considered to be "independent" if:-
- (i) They are or have been, within the last five years, an elected or co-opted Member or officer of the Council or of any Parish Councils within this area. This also applies to committees or sub-committees of the various Councils.
  - (ii) They are a relative or close friend of a current elected, or co-opted, Member or officer of the Council or any Parish Council within its area, or any elected or co-opted member of any committee or sub-committee.
  - (iii) The definition of relative includes the candidate's spouse, civil partner, grandparent, child etc.
- 5.8 In addition The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 require provisions to be made relating to the potential dismissal or disciplining of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Section 151 Officer. A panel needs to be set up to advise on matters relating to the dismissal of these Officers. The Act requires at least two Independent Persons who have been appointed under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 to be appointed to the panel. The role of the Independent Persons therefore includes the requirement of this legislation.
- 5.9 James Rees, Mike Wall MBE and Lindsey Appleton were appointed as the Council's Independent Persons for the 2021/22 Municipal Year. The Council is asked to recognise the significant contribution of the Independent Persons over the past year, and thank them for their ongoing contributions.
- 5.10 A recruitment process of the appointment of Independent Persons for the 2022/23 Municipal Year was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. The appointment process was advertised and a number of applications were received. Following an interview process, it is recommended that Lindsey Appleton, Mike Wall MBE, and Alan Penrith are appointed (see short biographies at Appendix A). The Council will be asked to formally appoint Independent Persons at the Annual Meeting. In addition it is also proposed that the Council is also asked to approve a reserve list of appointable candidates consisting of James Rees, Avril Jones and Julie Byron in the event where the appointed are not able to fulfil their term.

## **Governance and Ethics Committee**

- 5.11 The overall purpose of the Governance and Ethics Committee is to provide effective challenge across the Council and independent assurance on the risk management and governance framework and associated internal control environment to Members and the public, independently of the Executive. The Governance and Ethics Committee is also responsible for receiving the annual Audit Letter and for signing off the Council's final accounts.
- 5.12 The Committee is also charged with promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct throughout the Council. They promote, educate and support Councillors (both District and Parish) in following the highest standards of conduct and ensuring that those standards are fully owned locally. The roles and functions of the Governance and Ethics Committee are set out in the Constitution (Part 2 Articles of the Constitution).
- 5.13 At the conclusion of 2021/22 the Governance and Ethics Committee comprised the following Members:

Conservative Group (5 Members)	Tom Marino (Chairman), Jeff Beck, Rick Jones, Tony Linden and Biyi Oloko
Conservative Substitutes (2 Members)	Graham Pask and Claire Rowles
Liberal Democrat Group (3 Members)	Jeremy Cottam (Vice-Chairman), Geoff Mayes and Andy Moore
Liberal Democrat Substitutes (2 Members)	Adrian Abbs and Owen Jeffery
Green Party Group (1 Member)	David Marsh
Green Party Substitutes (1 Member)	Steve Masters

5.14 The Governance and Ethics Committee has a special responsibility regarding the 56 Town and Parish Councils within the District. It is responsible for ensuring that high standards of conduct are met within the parishes and that all Parish and Town Councillors are aware of their responsibilities under their Codes of Conduct.

5.15 The District Councillors are therefore supported on the Governance and Ethics Committee by two co-opted Parish Councillors who are appointed in a non-voting capacity. Two substitute non-voting parish councillors are also appointed to this Committee. During 2021/22 the Governance and Ethics Committee included the following Parish Councillors:

- Bill Graham (co-opted non-voting Parish Councillor)
- David Southgate (co-opted non-voting Parish Councillor)
- Anne Budd (substitute co-opted non-voting Parish Councillor)
- John Downe (substitute co-opted non-voting Parish Councillor)

5.16 The Council is asked to recognise the contribution of the Parish Councillors and thank them for their contributions.

### Advisory Panel

5.17 The Advisory Panel is responsible for dealing with complaints where evidence of a breach of the Code has been investigated by an independent investigator. The Advisory Panel considers the investigators report. The views of the Advisory Panel are reported to the Governance and Ethics Committee, which makes the formal decision in respect of any allegations which have been investigated where it is considered that a breach of the relevant code of conduct has occurred.

5.18 The District Councillors on the Advisory Panel were representatives of all three political groups within the Council and are not appointed in accordance with the proportionality rules. During 2021/22 the Advisory Panel comprised the following District Councillors:

Conservative Group (2 Members)	Dennis Benneyworth and Alan Law
Liberal Democrats (2 Members)	Phil Barnett and Lee Dillon
Green Party Group (2 Members)	Carolyn Culver and Steve Masters

5.19 During the 2021/22 Municipal Year the following Parish Councillors were appointed to the Advisory Panel:

- Anne Budd
- John Downe

5.20 The Council is asked to thank the Parish Councillors for agreeing to be members of the Panel albeit that it has not had to meet during the 2021/22 financial year.

### The Monitoring Officer

5.21 The Monitoring Officer is a statutory post and in West Berkshire rests with the Service Director Strategy & Governance. The Monitoring Officer (Sarah Clarke) in 2021/22 was supported by two deputies (Leigh Hogan and Shiraz Sheikh). The Monitoring Officer has a key role in promoting and maintaining standards of conduct. The Monitoring Officer also has a statutory responsibility to establish and maintain a register of interests for members and co-opted members of the authority. The Monitoring Officer acts as legal adviser to the Governance and Ethics Committee and Advisory Panel.

### Register of Interests

5.22 All elected Members of West Berkshire Council have completed and submitted their Register of Interest forms. These forms have been published on the Council's website. District Councillors are reminded to review their interests on a regular basis and to notify the Democratic Services Manager of any amendments.

5.23 Parish Councils are reminded via their Clerks to complete and return Declarations of Interest forms to the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

### Local Assessment of Complaints

5.24 Quarter 1 – 2021/22

During this period ten complaints were received and processed by the Monitoring Officer. Nine of these complaints (NDC1/21, NDC2/21, NDC3/21, NDC4/21, NDC5/21, NDC6/21, NDC7/21, NDC8/21 and NDC10/21) pertained to District Councillors. Following the initial assessment it was agreed that no further action should be taken on any of the complaints. There was one complaint (NPC9/21) submitted about a parish councillor. It was agreed that no further action should be taken on the complaint.

5.25 Quarter 2 – 2021/22

During this period ten complaints were received by the Monitoring Officer. Six of these complaints (NDC15/21, NDC16/21, NDC17/21, NDC18/21, NDC19/21 and NDC20/21) pertained to District Councillors. Following the initial assessment it was agreed that no further action should be taken on any of the complaints. Four complaints (NPC11/21, NPC12/21, NPC13/21 and NPC14/21) were received about parish councillors. No further action was taken on the complaints.

5.26 Quarter 3 - 2021/22

Eight complaints were received during the third quarter of 2021/22. Three of these complaints pertained to District Councillors. It was agreed that no further action be taken on NDC26/21. It was agreed that an independent investigator would investigate complaints NDC21/21 and NDC22/21. No further action was taken on the five

## Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Governance and Ethics Committee – 2021/22

complaints (NPC16/20, NPC17/20, NPC18/20, NPC19/20 and NPC20/20) about parish councillors.

### 5.27 Quarter 4 - 2021/22

Four complaints have been received in the final quarter of the year. Two of these complaints pertained to District Councillors (NDC2/22 and NDC4/22) and two pertained to Parish Councillors (NPC1/22 and NPC3/22). It was agreed that an informal resolution be sought for complaint NDC2/22. No further action was taken in relation to NDC1/22. Complaints NDC4/22 and NPC3/22 are due to be considered towards the end of March 2022.

## Year on Year Comparison of Complaints

### 5.28 Table 1 – The Number of District and Parish Council Complaints received 2017/18 – 2021/22

Table 1	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
District Councillors	1	1	9	12	20
Parish Councillors	15	20	5	21	12
Co-Optees	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>

### 5.29 Table 2 - Action Taken on Complaints received 2017/18 to 2021/22.

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Withdrawn/not progressed	2	4	2	7	0
No Further Action	13	14	7	21	27
Other Action	0	2	2	2	1
Investigation	1	2	0	0	2
Outcome Awaited	0	0	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>

5.30 The total number of complaints in 2021/22 has continued at a similar level to the previous year, as shown in Table 1. This is a continuation of the increase in the number of complaints.

5.31 Table 2 shows that, in respect of the complaints received to date during 2021/22 which have been assessed, in the majority of cases no further action was taken on the complaint. To date, two complaints have been referred for investigation this Municipal Year and one case was resolved by some other form of action or informal resolution.

### **Learning Points Arising from Complaints**

5.32 The rise in the number of complaints has continued into 2021/22. However, it should be noted that 15 of the District Councillor complaints were connected to three separate incidents.

5.33 Fourteen of the complaints related to social media activity, although these were limited only three separate incidents. None of these complaints were referred for investigation, and it is not therefore considered that there is a particular issue with social media use. The complaints do however highlight the need for Members to continue to be careful when using Social Media, and to continue to have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Social Media Protocol.

5.34 Six complaints related to councillor conduct in the planning process, none of which were referred for investigation. These complaints do however highlight the need for Members to ensure that they declare any interest fully, to ensure openness and transparency in the decision making process.

5.35 One complaint, which related to an allegation that a Member had failed to declare an interest at a planning meeting, was considered at the Initial Assessment stage and it was determined that no further action should be taken in respect of the complaint. The complainant disagreed, and commenced judicial review proceedings in the High Court. Having considered the written submissions of the parties, the court refused the application for permission to apply for judicial review, and awarded costs in favour of the Council.

5.36 However, it is of note that 27 complaints resulted in no further action. One complaint resulted in 'other' action, seeking an informal resolution. Two complaints (relating to the same incident) were referred for investigation and the outcome of that is awaited.

### **Gifts and Hospitality**

5.37 The Gifts and Hospitality Protocol is incorporated into the Members Code of Conduct and is set out in Appendix H to Part 13 of the Constitution (Codes and Protocols).

5.38 Officers are also subject to restrictions on those Gifts and Hospitality that are deemed to be acceptable under the Officers' Code of Conduct, which is set out in Part 13 of the Constitution. Like Members, Officers are required to declare gifts or hospitality received.

5.39 The intention of the rules governing Gifts and Hospitality is to ensure that the Council can demonstrate that no undue influence has been applied or could be said to have been applied by any service user, supplier or anyone else dealing with the Council and its stewardship of public funds. The rules therefore set out the obligations imposed on Members and Officers to declare relevant gifts and hospitality which have been offered to or received by them.



- 5.40 It should be noted that in addition to the risk that there could be a perception of impropriety, the acceptance of a gift or hospitality could amount to an offence under the Bribery Act 2010.
- 5.41 The Bribery Act 2010 creates a number of offences where a gift or other benefit is given or offered, which may amount to an offence of bribing another person, and/or of being bribed. Therefore, if Members or Officers are offered a 'gift' or other benefit by a third party, this could amount to an offence not just by the person offering the gift, but also by the Member or Officer concerned and by the Council. It is important to note that offences under this legislation can be committed by a person offering a gift or reward, even if the gift is not accepted.
- 5.42 In view of the above, it is very important that both Officers and Members understand the potentially serious implications of accepting gifts when it is not appropriate to do so.
- 5.43 There were no declarations of hospitality received by Members during the year 2021/22. This is no doubt reflective of the fact that we have been operating remotely for the majority of the past year.
- 5.44 There was also a significant reduction in the number of gifts / hospitality declared by officers with 28 declarations made during 2020/21, which is a reduction from 72 in the previous year.
- 5.45 The number of gifts or hospitality received by each directorate, and the number refused can be summarised as follows:

Directorate	Number of Declarations	Number refused
People	11	6
Place	13	4
Resources	4	2

### Government Response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review of local government ethical standards

- 5.46 The Committee on Standards in Public Life published its review of local government ethical standards in January 2019. This included a number of recommendations that would have required legislative changes to be introduced by the Government.
- 5.47 The Government issued its response to the above report on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. In the letter from Kemi Badenoch MP – Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling Up Communities, it was stated that the 'government is committed to working with local authorities and their representative organisations to ensure that local government is supported in reinforcing its reputation for ethical local standards.'
- 5.48 The full response is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-government-response-to-the-committee-on-standards->

[in-public-life-report/government-response-to-the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life-review-of-local-government-ethical-standards](#) .

- 5.49 Some of the notable responses include that the Government has indicated that it will engage with interested parties on the best means to ensure that candidates and councillors are not required to publically disclose their home addresses. However, the government also confirmed that it did not intend to legislate to increase the types of interests that were classified as disclosable pecuniary interests.
- 5.50 Some of the key recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life report related to the need to give additional powers to sanction councillors when found to have breached the Code of Conduct. Although the Government has rejected the recommendation that it introduce powers to allow local authorities to suspend councillors, it does indicate a commitment to engage with sector representatives to seek views on strengthening sanctions.
- 5.51 The recommendation that the Transparency Code be amended to require local authorities to publish details of complaints was not accepted, although it was stated that this could be incorporated in annual reports. It is considered that this report ensures compliance with this recommendation.
- 5.52 The Government acknowledged the proposal that Independent Persons only sit for a maximum term of two years, and agreed that it was important to preserve the independence of the Independent Persons. However, the Government also recognised that it could be difficult to recruit to such positions, and suggested that this recommendation should be a matter of best practice, but subject to local needs. The Government's response in this regard is welcomed, it can be challenging to appoint suitable Independent Persons.

## 6. Proposals

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.
- 6.2 It is proposed that this report also be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils for information, following consideration at the Annual Meeting of Council in May.

## 7. Other options considered

- 7.1 Not to produce the report. There is no legal obligation to produce this report, so not doing so would be an option. However, it is considered that an annual report provides a good overview of work being undertaken, and may assist in identifying any significant problems or developing trends. This overview is also helpful in ensuring full transparency regarding complaints. Not producing this report is therefore not recommended as an option.

## 8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The number of complaints over the past year remains elevated at similar levels to those seen in 2020/21. It is of note that to date, of the 32 complaints received in the past year, only 2 have been referred for investigation. This suggests that Members in West Berkshire continue to maintain high standards of ethical conduct, which is to be applauded.

8.2 The number of Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality has decreased significantly, which is no doubt reflective of the restrictions imposed in response to Covid 19. As Covid restrictions are now being relaxed or removed completely, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer write to both Officers and Members with a reminder of the rules on gifts and Hospitality.

## 9. Appendices

Appendix A - Independent Person short biographies

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**Subject to Call-In:**

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval



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**Wards affected:** All

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**Officer details:**

Name: Sarah Clarke  
Job Title: Service Director: Strategy and Governance  
Tel No: 01635 519596  
E-mail Address: sarah.clarke@westberks.gov.uk

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## Independent Persons - biographies

### **Mike Wall MBE**

*I was born and raised in Tilehurst joining the Cunard Line as a Marine Engineer in the early 60s. Later I pursued a career in Retail which included Marketing, Staff Training and Security. Having children of school age I took a wide interest in Education which led to appointments from Berkshire County Council. In 2018 I was awarded an MBE for Services to Education.*

*Other appointments include. Board Member Reading Prison (Home Office), Magistrate (Lord Chancellors Office). Independent Member Police Misconduct Panel (Thames Valley Police). More recently Independent Person West Berkshire Council.*

### **Lindsey Appleton**

*I left University after graduating with a Degree in Politics.*

*I worked at AWE, initially in the HR Department gaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Personnel and Development.*

*At AWE, I had a variety of roles including HR, Welfare and before retiring, became Head of Ethics. This involved investigating cases of alleged bullying, harassment and developing training in ethical behaviour.*

*Since 2000, I have been a serving Magistrate in Berkshire and for the past 15 years, a Presiding Justice. I have been an Independent Person for WBC for the past 6 years.*

### **Alan Penrith**

*Alan Penrith served as a member of HM Diplomatic Service for 38 years. He held several appointments in London and served overseas in a variety of roles in Africa, North America, the Caribbean and the Middle East where he promoted UK interests and good governance. Latterly Alan specialised in national security issues, countering terrorism and serious organised crime.*

*Alan moved to regional policing in 2017 where he held a senior command position in the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, working closely with police services and partners across the country. Alan lives in Berkshire and is now an independent consultant.*

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# Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	10 May 2022
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Howard Woollaston
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Shiraz Sheikh and Anita Stanbury
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4216

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Following a formal request from Greenham Parish Council, this report sets out the requirements and procedure to undertake a community governance review (CGR) of the Greenham Parish consisting of Common Ward and Sandleford Ward, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) and associated government guidance.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council resolves to:
- proceed with a CGR of the parish of Greenham, in accordance with the requirements of the 2007 Act, and associated guidance, as described in this report;
  - approve the terms of reference in respect of the community governance review, including the proposed timetable, as set out in **Appendix B** to this report;
  - delegate authority to Governance & Ethic Committee to consider and approve draft proposals following initial consultation;
  - delegate authority to Service Lead – Legal & Democratic Services to approve minor amendments and/or typographical amendments pertaining to the final recommendations prior to submission to Local Government Boundary Commission, save for the power to make substantive amendments which is delegated to Governance & Ethics Committee.
  - delegate authority to Service Lead - Legal & Democratic Services to exercise powers under the 2007 Act in relation to the CGR.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
<b>Financial:</b>	It is envisaged that the only costs to the Council will be in respect of officer time in conducting the CGR, which will be met from within existing budgets.			
<b>Human Resource:</b>	The CGR will have to be conducted within existing staff resources.			
<b>Legal:</b>	The Council has power under section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct CGRs. A CGR must be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended) and guidance is issued by the Secretary of State under Section 100 (4) of the 2007 Act. These requirements are outlined in section 4.6 of this report.			
<b>Risk Management:</b>	There are currently no risks envisaged with this.			
<b>Property:</b>	There are no property implications.			
<b>Policy:</b>	None			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		



<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?				
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Health Impact:</b>		X		
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		X		
<b>Core Business:</b>		X		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Councillor Tony Vickers, Councillor Howard Woollaston, Greenham Parish Council, Sarah Clarke (Monitoring Officer) and Joseph Holmes (Executive Director – Resources)			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Greenham Parish Council (GPC) submitted a written request (see **Appendix A** to this report) for the West Berkshire Council (Council) to conduct a community governance review (CGR). The Greenham Parish consists of Common Ward and Sandford Ward. The Sandford Ward was formed following the 2018 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) district boundary review which came into being in 2019 (the Local Plan process had anticipated a significant increase in housing but that has not materialised). Cllr Tony Vickers stood in 2019 local elections, unopposed in Sandford Ward and was elected by default. Since the 2018 district boundary review and the 2019 local elections, the anticipated Sandford development has come forward on the site but the decision is still pending following an appeal.

- 4.2 The proposal received from GPC is to retain Sandleford Ward, with only six (6) electors, and to retain a single parish council seat, whilst re-allocating four (4) of the five (5) parish council seats from Sandleford Ward to Common Ward (or a new Racecourse Ward). This GPC contend will achieve more equal representation for the people of Greenham Parish, until the Sandleford development is occupied by sufficient electors to merit more than one parish council seat. GPC also contend that the Sandleford development will not be achievable until 2027.
- 4.3 In addition, GPC are also requesting to split the current Common Ward into two (2) wards, by potentially creating "Racecourse Ward" to serve the current Racecourse development. The Racecourse development is fairly large, relatively new and completely separate to old Greenham.
- 4.4 An alternative option, not in GPC's request, could be that the Sandleford Ward should be reincorporated back into Common Ward, to improve overall community governance and oversight. This would increase the number of parish council seats in Common Ward from ten (10) up to fifteen (15) parish council seats in total for the four thousand (4000) plus electors. This would reduce the current Greenham Parish from two (2) down to one (1) ward. Sandleford Ward could, in the future, be reconsidered as a potential separate ward; post any Parliamentary Boundary Review amendments, and once elector numbers increase within the proposed Sandleford development, from the current six (6) electors.
- 4.5 The Boundary Commission will need to consent to the CGR as the review falls within the 5 years before the last one was conducted.
- 4.6 A CGR is undertaken by the principal council for the area (i.e. West Berkshire District Council) and is a review of the whole or part of the District to consider one or more of the following:
- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
  - The naming of parishes and the style (i.e. whether to call it a town council or village council etc.) of new parishes;
  - The electoral arrangements for parishes (including the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
  - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.
- 4.7 The legal framework within which principal councils must undertake these reviews is set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended).
- 4.8 The Council has power under section 82 of the 2007 Act to undertake CGRs at any time.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.2 On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Greenham Parish Council (GPC) submitted a written request (see **Appendix A** to this report) for the West Berkshire Council (Council) to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR). The Greenham Parish consists of Common

Ward and Sandleford Ward. The Sandleford Ward was formed following the 2018 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) district boundary review which came into being in 2019 (the Local Plan process had anticipated a significant increase in housing but that has not materialised). Cllr Tony Vickers stood in 2019 local elections, unopposed in Sandleford Ward and was elected by default. Since the 2018 district boundary review and the 2019 local elections, the anticipated Sandleford development has come forward on the site but the decision is still pending following an appeal.

- 5.3 The delay in bringing this report is due to the operational challenges faced by the pandemic, the re-scheduled Police and Crime Commissioner election, a district by-election, a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum, three contested parish elections, and 13 uncontested parish elections. This was alongside an ongoing vacancy in the team. It is only therefore possible to consider at this stage.

## **Background**

- 5.4 The 2007 Act amended the responsibility for parish area reviews from what is now the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to principal councils, subject to adherence to regulations and directions issued by the former Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Electoral Commission. Principal councils in this context include district councils in England. The process for considering a change is via a Community Governance Review (CGR).

- 5.5 A CGR is a review of one or more areas of the Council's area to look at one or more of the following:

- (a) Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- (b) The naming of a parish and the style of new parish (i.e. whether to call it a "village", "community" or "neighbourhood" with the council similarly named as a "village council", "community council" or "neighbourhood council");
- (c) The electoral arrangements for parishes (including council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- (d) Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

- 5.6 A CGR may not change parliamentary or district boundaries; although it might lead to recommendations to the LGBCE to make consequential changes to ward or division boundaries.

## **Proposals**

- 5.7 In summary, the proposal received from GPC is to retain Sandleford Ward, with only six (6) electors, and to retain a single parish council seat, whilst re-allocating four (4) of the five (5) parish council seats from Sandleford Ward to Common Ward (or a new Racecourse Ward), to achieve a perceived more equal representation for the people of Greenham Parish, until the Sandleford development is occupied by sufficient electors to merit more than one parish council seat.

## Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham

- 5.8 In addition, GPC are also requesting to split the current Common Ward into two (2) wards, by potentially creating “Racecourse Ward” out of the current Racecourse development. The Racecourse development is fairly large, relatively new and completely separate to old Greenham.
- 5.9 The reasons cited by GPC for making the request to reallocate four (4) of five (5) parish council seats from Sandleford parish ward to Common parish ward (or into a newly created Racecourse parish ward), are as follows:
- a) To achieve a more equal representation for the people of Greenham parish;
  - b) Until the Sandleford development is delivered, and occupied by sufficient electors to merit more than one parish council seat.
- 5.10 As a further alternate proposal, not proposed by GPC, Sandleford Ward could be reincorporated back into Common Ward. This will improve overall community governance and oversight of the current Sandleford Ward area and activities, from the better represented Common Ward.
- 5.11 This re-merging of wards, would increase the number of parish council seats in Common Ward from ten (10) up to fifteen (15) parish council seats in total for the four thousand (4000) plus electors. These council seats would then be retained within the single ward, or be split between Common Ward, and any potential new ward i.e. Racecourse Ward.
- 5.12 Sandleford Ward could, in the future, be reconsidered as a potential separate ward; post any Parliamentary Boundary Review amendments, and once elector numbers increase within the proposed Sandleford development from the current six (6) electors. With the added services challenges, it could be several years before electoral numbers make Sandleford Ward a viable option as a separate, stand-alone ward. GPC contend that this is unlikely to be until 2027.

## Undertaking a Community Governance Review

- 5.13 The procedure required to conduct a CGR is:-
- a) to agree to the terms of reference (ToR) for the review, including specifying the area under review;
  - b) to then publish and consult on the terms of reference (ToR) with the local electorate and those with an interest;
  - c) taking into account representations received, to agree final recommendations, and if required, to make a community governance reorganisation order to give effect to agreed changes.
- 5.14 Suggested terms of reference for a CGR are (in this case) set out in **Appendix B** for the Council’s consideration. In addition to the reallocation of councillors within Greenham Parish Council, specifically from Sandleford ward to Common ward and for a creation of a new Racecourse ward covering the same area as the electors residing in polling district (GB2), the legislation also requires this Council to make recommendations on other related “electoral arrangements” for Greenham Parish Council, as follows:

## Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham

- a) The year in which ordinary elections of councillors are to be held;
- b) The division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purposes of electing councillors;
- c) The numbers of boundaries of any such wards;
- d) The number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
- e) The name of any such ward.

5.15 It is suggested that the terms of reference (ToR) should propose, at this stage, that other than the reallocation of councillors from Sandleford to Common ward and creation of a Racecourse ward, no further changes be made to the electoral arrangements in respect of that parish council described in paragraph 5.14 above. Currently Greenham parish is divided into two wards i.e. Sandleford ward and Common ward.

5.16 Following the consultation, and taking into account the representations received, the Council must consider the following questions in relation to whether Greenham Parish Council should, or should not, reallocate councillors from Sandleford ward into Common ward, for the purpose of electing parish councillors accordingly; and whether the existing Common ward should be divided into a separate "Racecourse ward", into which these extraneous Sandleford ward seats would operate.

- a) Re the Sandleford Ward - whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
- b) Re the Common Ward - whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient
- c) Re the proposed Racecourse Ward - whether it is desirable that the area of the parish should be separately represented on the parish council.

5.17 Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake a CGR, provided that they comply with a number of duties prescribed in the Act, as follows:

- a) In conducting a CGR, the Council must consult with the following:
  - The local government electors in the area under review (i.e. the parish of Greenham)
  - Greenham Parish Council
  - Any other person or body which appears to have an interest in the review (e.g. local business, local residents' associations, amenity groups, local public and voluntary organisations – such as schools or health bodies)
- b) When undertaking a CGR, the Council must also;
  - Have regard to the need to secure that community governance in the area under review:
    - i. Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
    - ii. Is effective and convenient
  - Take into account any representations received in connection with the review.

5.18 A CGR must also take into account a number of influential factors, including:

- a) The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- b) The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

5.19 It is anticipated that the consultation on the terms of reference (ToR) of this CGR will involve:

- a) Publication of the terms of reference (ToR) on both the District Council's website and Greenham Parish Council's website.
- b) Publicity for the CGR to be displayed, if applicable, in any parish magazine, and on parish notice boards and in community venues within the parish
- c) Press releases
- d) Communication with local community groups.

5.20 A suggested timetable for the conduct of the CGR is included within the draft terms of reference (ToR) see [**Appendix B**].

5.21 The Council is required to complete a CGR within a period of 12 months from the date it publishes the terms of reference.

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 There are two situations when the Council must conduct a CGR. The first is when a valid community governance petition has been submitted, and the second is when the requestor is a Neighbourhood Forum. Otherwise, the Council may conduct a CGR at its discretion. In this case, Greenham Parish Council is asking the Council to use its section 82 power.

6.2 Decline the request on the grounds that a full CGR process was undertaken less than five years ago.

6.3 In the absence of a petition, there is no duty on the Council to undertake a CGR in response to the request. Officer time would not be required, and would be available for other projects.

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 This report is the first step towards carrying out a CGR. Should the Council agree to carry out a CGR, the terms of reference in **Appendix B** will be published, and a six-week period of public consultation will take place. It is anticipated that a formal report on the outcome of the consultation will be submitted to full Council in October 2022.

7.2 If, following the CGR, and following approval of the same by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), the Council decides to make a Community Governance Reorganisation Order in respect of the proposals; and reallocation of parish councillors between wards, and any subsequent increase or decrease in the number of parish councillors in the affected wards, as approved by the CGR, would take effect from the next scheduled parish elections in May 2023.

## 8 Appendices

- 8.1 **Appendix A** - Greenham Parish Council's written submission dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, requesting a community governance review.
- 8.2 **Appendix B** - Proposed terms of reference (ToR) of the community governance review of the Greenham Parish Council (including Sandleford ward and Common ward)
- 8.3 **Appendix C** - A summary of the powers and duties of parish councils
- 8.4 **Appendix D** - A Map of the Parish of Greenham (the area under review)

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### Background Papers:

Boundary Commission Report re West Berkshire ([WBDC 2018 Boundary Review](#))

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** Common Ward and Sandleford Ward

### Officer details:

Name: Shiraz Sheikh  
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### Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

## Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			





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Mr N. Carter  
West Berkshire District Council  
Council Offices  
Market Street  
Newbury  
RG14 5LD

Cc Claire Ockwell, Electoral Services Manager

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Mr Carter,

Greenham Parish Council would like to address the issue of the Sandleford Ward and the gross imbalance of elector numbers between Sandleford (7 electors, 5 Councillors) and the "Common" Ward (the rest of Greenham with over 4,000 electors, with 10 Councillors).

This imbalance primarily results from the WBDC Planning Department reporting to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in December 2017 that the Sandleford development was about to start and that there would be about 1,000 voters living there by 2023. The creation of Wash Common District Ward, including that part of Greenham west of A339, meant that a new parish ward for Sandleford had to be created. It was given 5 of the 15 councillors comprising this parish council on that basis.

-Two months later, planners recognised that the Sandleford development was seriously delayed and it is now very unlikely that any new homes will be built before 2025. However LGBCE was unable or unwilling to amend its proposals.

Looking ahead to the local elections in 2023, Sandleford potentially will still have a small number of electors, whilst the vast majority of Greenham voters would be proportionally, under represented when compared to the Sandleford Ward. The current prediction of Planning is that no new homes are now required from the Sandleford Park site until well after 2023. Therefore it is unlikely that the number of electors in Sandleford Ward will increase significantly until 2027 local elections.

Without those five Sandleford candidates, Greenham parish electors can only potentially elect 10 councillors for Common Ward, since it is unlikely that such a small number of electors will even nominate more than one or two of their five allocated parish representatives, even it were allowed. In 2019, only one candidate was nominated for 5 places on the council and we are still seeking people to be co-opted to make up the deficiency. This will almost certainly be repeated in 2023 unless the warding is adjusted: only 10 Common Ward councillors will be elected, thereby jeopardising the prospects of this council achieving Power of General Competence. Sandleford Ward would probably be again faced with unfilled vacancies, to be filled by co-option.

To rectify this situation Greenham Parish Council requests that a Community Governance Review is undertaken by the District Council. Greenham Parish Council is keen to be involved in this process.

The Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 outlines a number of obligations on principal authorities. The 2007 act was intended to streamline the process of making changes to parish boundaries and electoral arrangements:

- It places 'a duty on principal authorities to have regard to the need to secure that any community governance for the area under review, reflects the identities and interests of the local community in that area, and that it is effective and convenient; relevant considerations which influence judgements against these two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area'.
- The Act also states that it is important that principal councils seek to address parish boundary anomalies when they arise. This point can be applied here as changing the boundary (creating Wash Common District Ward) has resulted in the clear anomaly for Sandleford ward.
- When considering the criteria identified in the 2007 Act, principal councils should consider a number of influential factors, including the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish. The current arrangements in Greenham Parish do not meet these criteria, as the number of councillors within the Sandleford ward is not proportionate to the population of that ward.
- Community cohesion is about local communities where people should feel they have a stake in the society, and in the local area where they live by having the opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives. This may include what type of community governance arrangements they want in their local area. Greenham parishioners could feel that their stake in society is lessened by the reduced number of Councillors due to the boundary changes.

One suggestion for remedying this situation is for the creation of another parish ward, comprising the existing GB2 polling district and called Racecourse Ward. With the Newbury Racecourse development (1500 homes) nearing completion already and having a distinct identity of its own (as well as different tenure arrangements to most of Greenham parish), we feel that it merits having its own representatives at parish level. In addition, there are significant numbers of new homes being created from office conversions in Hambridge Lane (e.g. Overbridge Square).

A new Racecourse Ward could justifiably have four parish councillors, leaving Sandleford Ward with just one.

The Council looks forward to hearing from you so that the matter can be discussed in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Blake  
Clerk to Greenham Parish Council

### Terms of Reference

#### Greenham Parish Council Community Governance Review (CGR) 2022 (Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)

##### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 What is a community governance review?

A community governance review is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area to consider one or more of the following:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to council and parish warding); and,
- grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

A community governance review is required to take into account:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

If the Council is satisfied that the recommendations from a community governance review would ensure that community governance within the area under review will reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient, the Council makes a community governance order.

##### 1.2 Scope of the review

The review will consider:

- The existing electoral arrangements and the boundaries of Greenham Parish Council, and all wards and ward boundaries therein.
- Parish warding – whether the parish should be divided into additional wards, and / or whether the parish should reduce existing wards, for the purpose of electing councillors, and to improve community governance. This includes considering the number and boundaries of any such wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any such wards and the name/s of any such wards.

All other matters that may be considered as part of a community governance review are out of the scope of this review and will therefore not be considered.

## 2. Consultation

### 2.1 How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the CGR.

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, the Council must consult local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review. The Council will therefore:

- publish a Notice and these terms of reference on the Council's website ([www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)) and arrange for copies to be available for public inspection at West Berkshire District Council offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD during normal office hours;
- send a copy of the Notice and these terms of reference to Greenham Parish Council, the Berkshire Association of Local Councils and Ward Members; and
- seek to arrange for the Notice to be published on Greenham Parish Council's website and notice board.

Before making any recommendations, the Council will take account of any representations received during consultations. The Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the community governance review are informed of the recommendations, and the reasons behind them.

The Council will notify each consultee and any other persons or bodies who have made written representations, of the outcome of the review.

## 3. Timetable for this community governance review

3.1 The community governance review will be concluded on the day on which the Council approves its final recommendations, in order for any changes to be implemented in preparation of the District/Parish elections in May 2023.

3.2 The table below sets out the timetable for the review.

Action	Timeframe	Outline of Action
Terms of Reference published	May 2022	Council publishes the terms of reference in accordance with full Council decision on  10 May 2022
Consultation	6 week period starting with publication of terms of reference	Council invites representations from interested parties

Draft proposals are prepared	June/ July 2022	Draft proposals to be considered by the special meeting of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
Draft proposals are published	July/ August 2022	Council publishes draft proposals
Consultation	6 week period starting with publication of draft proposals	Council invites representations from interested parties on the draft proposals
Final recommendations are prepared	September to October 2022	Results of consultation considered by the Local Government Boundary Commission, who shall recommend the extent to which the Council will give effect to the recommendations
Order made	November 2022	Council makes and publishes the community governance order
Order takes effect	March 2023	Dependant on the outcome and recommendations from the LG BCE review ***

#### 4. Background information

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 1972 provides that any parish council must have at least five councillors. No maximum number is prescribed.
- 4.2 When considering the number of councillors to be elected for a parish the Council must have regard to the number of local government electors for the parish and any change to that number that is likely to occur within five years of the date on which these terms of reference are published.
- 4.3 Joint guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in 2010 provides further information on community governance reviews and the factors influencing size and membership of parish councils. On size, the guidance says:

“154. In practice, there is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School, Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO 1992) found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors; and those between 2,501 and 10,000 had nine to 16 councillors. Most parish councils with a population of between 10,001 and 20,000 had between 13 and 27 councillors, while

almost all councils representing a population of over 20,000 had between 13 and 31 councillors.

**155.** The LGBCE has no reason to believe that this pattern of council size to population has altered significantly since the research was conducted. Although not an exact match, it broadly reflects the council size range set out in the National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126; the Circular suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.

**156.** In considering the issue of council size, the LGBCE is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government.

**157.** Principal councils should also bear in mind that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors. In addition, historically many parish councils, particularly smaller ones, have found difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election. This has led to uncontested elections and/or a need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies. However, a parish council's budget and planned or actual level of service provision may also be important factors in reaching conclusions on council size."

4.4 The National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 recommends:

<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	45,000	25
9,000	16		

4.5 The electoral cycle for parish councils is for elections every four years.

## **5 Making representations**

5.1 If you want to make a written comment about the community governance review please send them to: Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, West Berkshire District Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD E-mail: [GPCParishReview@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:GPCParishReview@westberks.gov.uk)

5.2 Written comments must be received by latest 24 June 2022.

5.3 Should you require any further information regarding the review, please contact:

Clare Ockwell: Electoral Services and Land Charges Manager or

Anita Stanbury: Project Manager Digital democracy at

[GPCParishReview@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:GPCParishReview@westberks.gov.uk) or by telephone on: 01635 55 1111

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## Powers and Duties of Parish Councils

FUNCTION	POWERS AND DUTIES	STATUTORY POWERS
<b>Agency Arrangements</b>	Power to arrange for the discharge of functions by another local authority	Local Government Act 1972 s.101
<b>Allotments</b>	Powers to provide allotments Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied	Small Holdings Allotments Act 1908 ss 23, 26 and 42
<b>Archives</b>	Power to make records held available to the public and support local archives	Local Government (Records) Act 1962, ss1 and 4
<b>Baths and Washhouses:</b>	Power to provide public baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936 ss 221, 222,223 and 227
<b>Borrowing</b>	Power to borrow money for statutory functions	Local Government Act 1972 Sch. 13
<b>Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and crematoria*</b>	Power to acquire and maintain	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10: Local Government Act 1972, s 214
	Power to provide	Local Government Act 1972, s.214
	Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials	Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997, s. 1
	Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Local Government Act 1972
<b>Bus Shelters</b>	Power to provide and maintain	Local Government (Miscellaneous) Act 1953 s.4
<b>Bye Laws</b>	Power to make bye-laws for public walks and pleasure ground	Public Health Act 1875, s 164
	Cycle Parks	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.57 (7)
	Swimming pools, bathing places, baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936, s 223

	Open Spaces and Burial Grounds	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 12 and 15
	Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936 s. 198
	Public Bathing	Public Health Act 1936 s. 231
	Hiring of pleasure boats in parks and pleasure grounds	Public Health Amendments Act 1907, s 44(2); Public Health Act 1961, s54
<b>Charities</b>	Duty to receive accounts of parochial charities	Charities Act 1960, s 32
	Power to appoint trustees of parochial charities	Charities Act 1993, s 79
<b>Clocks*</b>	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957,s 2
<b>Closed Churchyards</b>	Powers (and sometimes duty) as to maintain	Local Government Act 1972, s.215
<b>Commons Land and Common Pastures</b>	Powers in relation to inclosure as to regulation and management and as to providing common pasture	Inclosure Act 1845; Local Government Act 1984, s 8(4); Smallholding and Allotments Act 1908, s.34
	Power to protect unclaimed common land from unlawful interference	Commons Registration Act1965,s.9
	Power to manage commons and village greens under a district council scheme	Commons Act 1899, ss 4 & 5
<b>Conference facilities</b>	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities	Local Government Act 1972, s.144
<b>Consultation</b>	Right to be consulted by principal councils if directed by Secretary of State (England) or by Welsh Assembly (Wales)	Local Government and Rating Act1997, s21; Local Government Act 1972, s 33A
<b>Community Centres and Village Halls</b>	Power to provide and equip premises for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

<b>Crime Prevention</b>	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 31
	Power to (a) install equipment, (b) establish schemes and (c) assist others in so doing for the prevention of crime	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 31
<b>Delegated Functions</b>	Power to assume a function delegated by another authority  Power to ensure effective discharge of Council functions  Power to employ someone to carry out Council functions	Local Government Act 1972ss. 101, 111 and 112
<b>Drainage</b>	Power to deal with ponds/ditches	Public Health Act 1936, s. 260
<b>Education</b>	Right to appoint governors of primary schools	School Standards and Framework Act 1988, para 15 of Sch.10
<b>Entertainment and the Arts*</b>	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts	Local Government Act 1972,s145
<b>Environment</b>	Power to act for the benefit of the community by tackling and promoting awareness of environmental issues	Local Government Act 1972,ss 111 and 137
<b>Flagpoles</b>	Power to erect flagpoles in highways	Highways Act 1980, s 144
<b>"Free Resource"</b>	Power to incur expenditure not otherwise authorised on anything which in the council's opinion is in the interests of the area or part of it or all or some of the inhabitants	Local Government Act 1972,s139
<b>Gifts</b>	Power to accept	Local Government Act 1972 s139
<b>Highways</b>	Power to repair and maintain footpaths and bridleways	Highways Act 1980, ss 43 and 50
	Power to light roads and public places	Parish Councils Act 1957 s 3: Highways Act 1980, s 301: Local

		Government Act 1972,Sched. 14 para 27
	Provision of litter bins	Litter Act 1983, 5 and 6
	Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss 57 and 63
	Power to enter into an agreement as to dedication and widening	Highways Act 1980. ss 30 and 72
	Power to provide roadside shelters, and omnibus shelters	Parish Councils Act 1957, s 1
	Consent of Parish Council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway	Highways Act, 1980 ss 47 and 116
	Power to complain to District Council as to protection of rights of way and roadside waste	
	Power to provide traffic signs and other notices	Highways Act 1980, s 130
	Power to plant trees, etc., and to maintain roadside verges	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s 72; Countryside Act 1968
	Power to complain to local highway authority that a highway is unlawfully stopped up or obstructed	Highways Act 1980, s 96
	Power to prosecute for unlawful ploughing of a footpath or bridleway	Highways Act 1980, s 130 Highways Act 1980, s 134
<b>Investments</b>	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment	Trustee Investments Act 1962,s11
<b>Land</b>	Power to acquire land by agreement, to appropriate land and to dispose of	Local Government Act 1972, ss 124, 126 and 127
	Power to accept gifts of land	Local Government Act 1972s139

	Power to acquire land by compulsory purchase	Local Government Act 1972, s 125
	Power to obtain particulars of persons interested in land	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s 16
	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them	Public Health Act 1875, s 16; Local Government Act 1972, Sched. 14, para 27; Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1980, s 44; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s 19
<b>Lighting</b>	Power to light roads and public places	Parish Councils Act 1957, s Highways Act 1980, s 301
<b>Litter* and dog fouling</b>	Provision of receptacles Obligated to keep own land free of litter and dog faces	Litter Act 1983, ss 5 an Environmental Protection Act 1990; Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991
<b>Lotteries</b>	Power to promote	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, s 7
<b>Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms</b>	Powers to provide mortuaries and post-mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936, s 198
<b>Nature Reserves</b>	Power to designate statutory to the nature reserves and marine nature reserves - English Nature can designate sites of specific scientific interest	National Parks and Access Countryside Act 1949, ss 15, 16 and 21; The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982, ss 36 and 39 and Sched.12
	Powers to make management agreements with landowners and the English Nature to manage council-owned reserve land as a nature reserve	
<b>Nuisances</b>	Power to deal with offensive ditches, ponds and gutters	Public Health Act 1936, s 260
<b>Open Spaces</b>	Power to acquire land and maintain	Public Health Act 1875, s 164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10; Commons Act 1899
	Power to acquire land for or to	Public Health Act 1875, s 164;

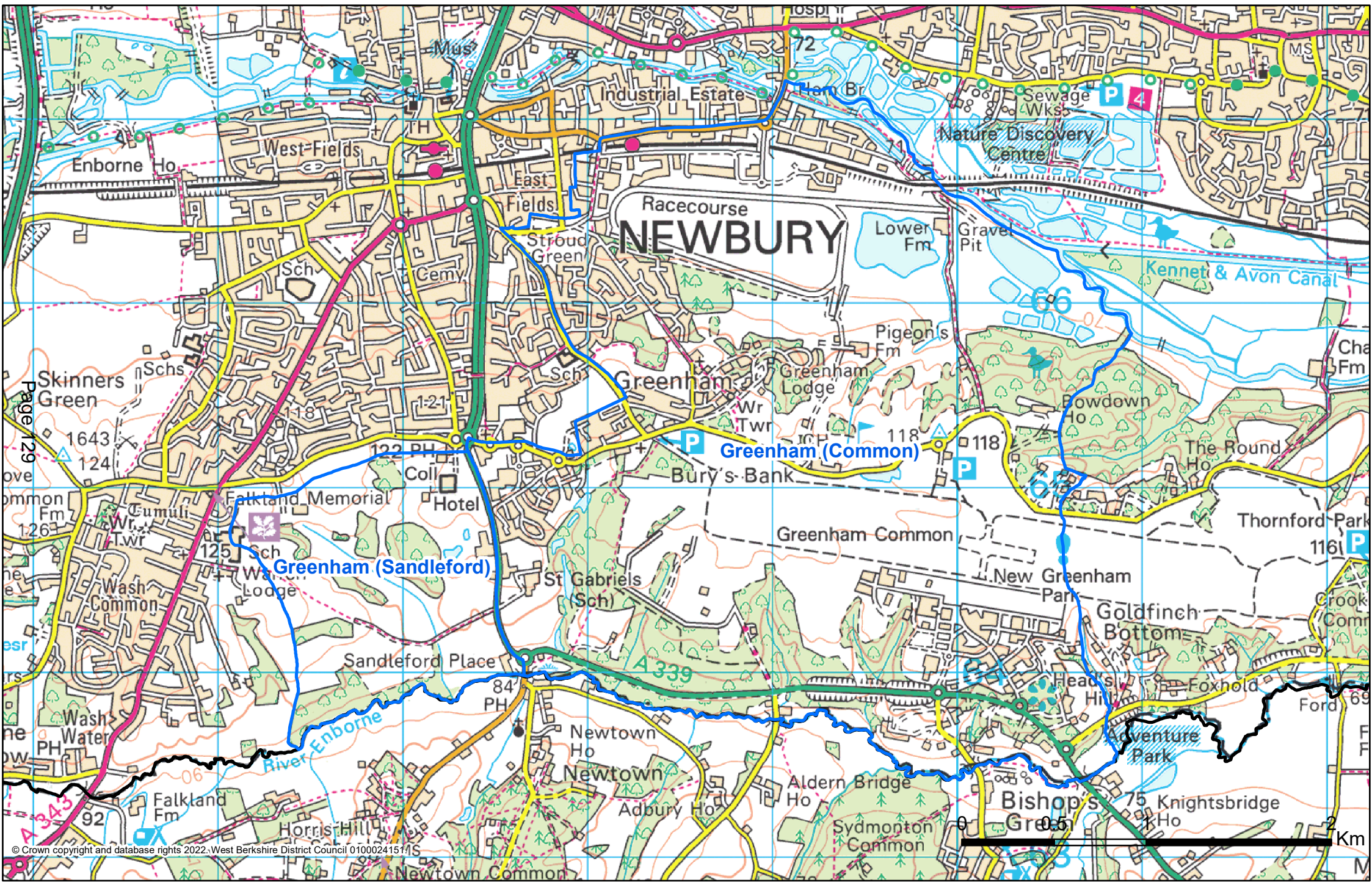
	provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces, and to manage and control them.	Local Government Act 1972, Sched 14, para 27; Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1980, s 44; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s 19.
<b>Parish Property and Records</b>	Powers to direct as to their custody	Local Government Act 1972, s226
<b>Parking Facilities</b>	Power to provide parking places for motor vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss 57 and 63
<b>Planning</b>	Right to be notified of and power to respond to planning applications	Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 1 para 8; Local Government Act 1972, Sched. 15 para 20.
<b>Postal and telecommunications facilities</b>	Power to pay the Post Office, British Telecommunications or any other public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing post or telegraph office or telecommunications facilities	Post Office Act 1954, s 51; Telecommunications Act 1984,s97
<b>Public Buildings and Village Halls</b>	Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies	Local Government Act 1972 s 133
<b>Public Conveniences</b>	Power to provide	Public Health Act 19336, s 87
<b>Public Enquiries</b>	Power to make representations at public enquiries	Local Government Act 1982, s222
<b>Publicise functions</b>	Power to publicise council and local authority functions	Local Government Act 1982, s. 142
<b>Raising of Finances</b>	Power to raise money through them precept	Local Government Act 1982, s150
<b>Records</b>	Power to collect, exhibit and purchase local records	Local Government Act Records) Act 1962 ss 1 and 2
<b>Recreation*</b>	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds,	Public Health Act 1875, s 164; Local Government Act 1972, Sched 14 para 27; Public Health

	and open spaces and to manage and control them.  Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps	Acts Amendment Acts 1890, s 44; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s 19; Commons Act 1899
	Provision of boating pools	Public Health Act 1962, s 54
<b>Seats and Shelters*</b>	Power to provide roadside seats and shelters	Parish Councils Act 1957, s 1
<b>Tourism*</b>	Power to contribute to the encouragement of tourism	Local Government Act 1972, s. 144
<b>Town and Country Planning</b>	Right to be notified of planning applications	Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 1 para 8
<b>Town Status</b>	Power to adopt town status	Local Government Act 1972, ss 245 and 245B
<b>Traffic Calming</b>	Power to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 26
<b>Training</b>	Power to train Councillors	Local Government Act 1972. s175.
<b>Transport*</b>	Power to (a) establish car sharing schemes (b) make grants for bus services, (c) provide taxi-fare concessions; (d) investigate public transport, road use and needs; (e) provide information about public transport services  Community Transport Schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 26-29
<b>Village greens</b>	Power to maintain, to make bylaws for and to prosecute for interference with village greens	Open Spaces Act 1906, s 15 Inclosure Act 1857, s 12, Commons Act 1876, s 29
<b>War Memorials</b>	Power to maintain,, repair, protect and adapt war memorials	War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act 1923, s 1 as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s 133
<b>Water Supply</b>	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water there from.	Public Health Act 1936, s 125

Where a function is marked with an asterisk \*. A council also has the power to give financial assistance to another person or body performing the same function.

NB: Please note that this is a guide to the powers and duties of Parish Councils and does not necessarily represent a comprehensive list of all powers and duties.





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# Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Richard Somner
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Report Author:</b>	Elise Kinderman
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4182

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Following the submission of the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) for Independent Examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in July 2021, and the subsequent examination Hearing Sessions in February 2022, the Inspector has, at the request of the Council, recommended a number of Main Modifications to the plan in order for it to be found sound.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the MWLP and supporting documentation and outline recent advice from Natural England affecting the MWLP examination. Approval is also sought for the Main Modifications and supporting documents to be subject to public consultation, prior to the Inspector making final recommendations on whether the MWLP can be adopted.

## 2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Council grant delegated authority to the Service Director (Development and Regulation) to:
  - i. Agree any necessary amendments to supporting documentation for consultation and any other typographical, presentational, and consequential wording changes to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan prior to publication, in consultation with the Portfolio member for Planning, Transport and Countryside.
  - ii. Publish the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting documents for a six week period in accordance with the West Berkshire Statement of Community Involvement and Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

iii. Following public consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications, consider and summarise the responses received and forward to the Inspector for consideration.

2.2 That following the receipt of a favourable report from the Inspector recommending adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the Plan be brought back to full Council for adoption.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	The Council is committed to producing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Budgetary provision has been made to carry out the relevant work.
<b>Human Resource:</b>	No HR implications identified.
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is being prepared in line with the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>Legal representation has been secured for the examination of the MWLP.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	In the absence of an up to date development plan relating to minerals and waste, planning applications received have to be considered against a dated local policy framework and national policy, increasing the possibility of the authority not being able to consider all relevant local circumstances when making a determination.
<b>Property:</b>	No property implications identified.
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is being prepared in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will provide the planning framework for Minerals and Waste development in West Berkshire.</p>

Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		See Equalities Impact Assessment to the MWLP. No equalities impacts identified.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		See Equalities Impact Assessment to the MWLP. No impacts on those with protected characteristics identified.
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>	✓			See updated Strategic Environmental Assessment /Sustainability Appraisal to the MWLP. This has concluded that overall the MWLP should have a positive impact on all strands of sustainability, economic, environmental and social.
<b>Health Impact:</b>		✓		The MWLP includes policy on public health and amenity. Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal of this policy shows a predominantly neutral effect.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		✓		The Council already has in place the consultation software for carrying out consultations of this nature. Some ICT support will likely be required but not additional to business as usual.
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		✓		Digital services will be employed during consultation. These services are already

				in place and no additional impacts identified.
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	✓			<p>The MWLP is expected to support the following Council Priorities:</p> <p><b>Develop local infrastructure to support and grow the local economy.</b></p> <p>Maintaining a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals directly provides raw materials to deliver essential infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Maintain a green district.</b></p> <p>Policies to protect the environment from the effects of mineral and waste activities and requiring high standard restoration of temporary activities will minimise the impact on the environment of delivering services and achieve long-term environmental gains.</p> <p>Policies prioritising sustainable transport will help to develop more sustainable transport solutions.</p>
<b>Core Business:</b>		✓		The Council is required to produce a Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		✓		Data will be handled in line with Council's Privacy Policy on the Development Plan.
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	All relevant statutory consultation and non-statutory engagement has now taken place. An Independent examiner will now assess the soundness and legal compliance of the MWLP.			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) will replace the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (incorporating the alternations adopted in December 1997 and May 2001) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (adopted 1998) and will provide an up to date planning framework for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire to 2037.

- 4.2 The process of developing the MWLP has already been through several stages of public consultation, starting with the Issues and Options consultation in early 2014, a sites consultation on all sites submitted for consideration in the plan in summer 2016, consultation on the Preferred Options in spring 2017 and a 'Proposed Submission' consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in early 2021.
- 4.3 The MWLP was submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in line with Regulation 22 of Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in July 2021 and the appointed Inspector is Brian J Sims BSc (Hons) CEng MICE MRTPI. Examination hearing sessions took place virtually from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.
- 4.4 Based on the outcomes of the hearing sessions and additional post hearings work undertaken, the Inspector issued his preliminary findings in a Post Hearings Note on 01<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The findings are without prejudice to the final report but the Post Hearings Note recommends a number of modifications to the plan ("Main Modifications") suggested by the Council which the Inspector believes are necessary for the plan to be found sound. A copy of the Post Hearings Note is included at Appendix A. The Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications is set out in Appendix B.
- 4.5 On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Natural England advised a total of 42 Local Authorities (including West Berkshire Council), that projects and plans affecting protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution are required to provide mitigation, in order to meet the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The advice includes the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation (SAC) within West Berkshire and the affected catchment also includes a site proposed for allocation in the MWLP – 'Chieveley Services'. The particular nutrient of concern in this catchment is phosphorous.
- 4.6 Therefore, an update to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken to take account of this advice, although the overall conclusion remains unchanged - that there will be no likely significant effect on European sites as a result of the MWLP. Factual updates have also been made to the SA/SEA. The examining Inspector has agreed that the updates to evidence documents as a result of the NE advice can be consulted upon alongside the consultation on Proposed Main Modifications, where there are few or no changes.
- 4.7 Officers anticipate that the current approach and amendments to the supporting documents will be sufficient to address the recent Natural England advice. However, there is a possibility that Natural England will require further work to be undertaken or require additional changes to the HRA. In this case, in order to progress the MWLP examination in a timely fashion, it is recommended that delegated authority be granted to the Service Director (Development and Regulation) in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside to agree any necessary amendments to the supporting documents and consequential changes to the MWLP prior to publication for consultation.
- 4.8 Any delay to the MWLP examination timetable, will result in a consequential delay to the adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

- 4.9 The Council are required to publically consult on the Main Modifications and revisions to supporting documentation prior to the close of the examination process and receipt of the Inspector’s final report into whether the plan can be adopted. The consultation is required to reflect that of the consultation held at Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Stage, including that it should last for at least six weeks. Therefore, it is proposed to consult on the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications for just over six weeks between **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Wednesday 06<sup>th</sup> July 2022** to take into account the two bank holidays in June.
- 4.10 In addition to ‘Main Modifications’, the Council may propose ‘Additional (minor) Modifications’ to the Plan that do not materially affect the Plan’s policies. However, these modifications are not subject to examination and are not required to be consulted upon. The Council has also prepared a Schedule of Additional Modifications, and these are included at Appendix C.
- 4.11 A ‘Tracked Changes’ version of the MWLP as proposed to be modified that includes all Main and Additional Modifications is included in Appendix D.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 The MWLP sets out the Council’s proposed planning framework for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire to 2037, based on the evidence collected, site assessment work and the outcomes of earlier consultations.
- 5.2 The MWLP sets out comprehensive policies to guide minerals and waste development and proposes the allocation of sites for mineral development to meet the Council’s mineral need over the plan period.

### Background

- 5.3 On 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, Council resolved:

That Full Council grant delegated authority to the Head of Development and Planning to:

1. Agree any minor typographical and presentational changes and factual updates to the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting information prior to publication for consultation.
2. Publish the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission consultation document, and supporting evidence base documents for a six week consultation period in accordance with the West Berkshire Statement of Community Involvement and Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
3. Following public consultation, consider and summarise the responses received, and submit the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting evidence base to the Secretary of State for independent examination



in line with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

- 5.4 Consequently, the Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan was undertaken and the MWLP was submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination in line with Regulation 22 of Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in July 2021.
- 5.5 The Examination process considers whether the MWLP is legally compliant (meets all legal requirements set out in the legislation) and is ‘sound’ (positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy). The appointed Inspector is Brian J Sims BSc (Hons) CEng MICE MRTPI, and the examination hearings took place virtually from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.
- 5.6 The Inspector’s role is to assess whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements and whether it is ‘sound’ (positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy). If the Inspector concludes that the MWLP is sound and meets the necessary tests, it can then be adopted by Council and will form part of the Local Plan for the District.
- 5.7 Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) provides for an Inspector to recommend modifications to a Development Plan Document (where requested to do so by the Local Planning Authority) if they are required in order to make the Plan sound. These are commonly referred to as ‘Main Modifications’.
- 5.8 During the initial stages of examination, the Inspector identified that Main Modifications could be necessary to address the soundness of the MWLP and the Council was invited to make a formal request under section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) for him to recommend Main Modifications to the MWLP, if required, in order for it to be found sound. The Council made this formal request on 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.
- 5.9 The Inspector also requested that a travelling draft Schedule of Proposed Modifications be prepared for his consideration. The Schedule of Proposed Modifications was considered alongside all of the other evidence at the examination hearings sessions.
- 5.10 At the close of the hearing sessions, the Inspector asked the Council to undertake additional work on a number of issues. This work was completed and submitted to the Inspector in February 2022.
- 5.11 Based on the outcomes of the hearing sessions and post hearings work undertaken, the Inspector issued his preliminary findings in a Post Hearings Note on 01<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The findings are without prejudice to the final report but the Post Hearings Note recommends a number of modifications to the plan (“Main Modifications”) suggested by the Council which the Inspector believes are necessary for the plan to be found sound. A copy of the Post Hearings Note is included at Appendix A.
- 5.12 In most cases it is the Council that has proposed the Main Modifications which have been agreed by the Planning Advisory Group before the examination began, but in

some cases the Inspector has amended them in order to make the MWLP capable of adoption. The Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications is included at Appendix B.

- 5.13 On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Natural England advised a total of 42 Local Authorities (including West Berkshire Council), that projects and plans affecting protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution are required to provide mitigation, in order to meet the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The advice includes the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation (SAC) within West Berkshire and the affected catchment also includes a site proposed for allocation in the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan MWLP – ‘Chieveley Services’. The particular nutrient of concern in this catchment is phosphorous.
- 5.14 Therefore, an update to the Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken to take account of this advice, although the overall conclusion remains unchanged - that there will be no likely significant effect on European sites as a result of the MWLP. Factual updates have also been made to the SA/SEA. The examining Inspector has agreed that the updates to evidence documents as a result of NE advice can be consulted upon alongside the consultation on Proposed Main Modifications, where there are few or no changes.
- 5.15 Officers anticipate that the current approach and amendments to the supporting documents will be sufficient to address the recent Natural England advice as there are no expected sources of phosphorus from mineral working. However, there is a possibility that Natural England will require further work to be undertaken or require additional changes to the HRA. In this case, in order to progress the MWLP examination in a timely fashion, it is recommended that delegated authority be granted to the Service Director (Development and Regulation) in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside to agree any necessary amendments to the supporting documents and consequential changes to the MWLP prior to publication for consultation.
- 5.16 It is also necessary for the Main Modifications to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment, and undergo Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) where necessary. Therefore, the Council has produced a SA/SEA & HRA Review Document and updated relevant sections of the SA/SEA, which accompany the Main Modifications. These documents are provided at Appendices E and F.
- 5.17 In addition to these documents the Inspector has requested that the following documents relating to post hearings work required by the Inspector are also provided with the consultation:
- EXAM 8 – Richard Anstis for Tyle Mill – Consultation Note
  - EXAM 9 – Grundon Note on Mortar Sand Supply
  - EXAM 10 – WBC Covering Letter – Post Hearings Tasks
  - EXAM 11 – AM2014 and AM2019 Comparison Note
  - EXAM 12 - Note on Policy 31 – Chieveley Services
  - EXAM 13 – Environment Strategy and MWLP Preparation
  - EXAM 14 – Inert Fill Availability Note

- EXAM 15 – Council Response to Richard Anstis for Tyle Mill Consultation Note

N.B. These documents are all available on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Examination Library Website (under ‘Examination Documents’):  
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwel>

5.18 The Council are required to publically consult on the Main Modifications and updates to supporting documentation prior to the close of the examination process and receipt of the Inspector’s final report into whether the plan can be adopted.

## Proposals

5.19 The Main Modifications generally refer to how the policies or supporting text have been worded and do not substantially change the meaning or the direction of the policy. In most cases it is the Council that has proposed the Main Modifications but in some cases the Inspector has amended them in order to make the MWLP capable of adoption.

5.20 The Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications is set out in Appendix B, with the form of:

- a) ~~bold strikethrough~~ for deletions; and
- b) **bold underlined** for additions of text.

5.21 A ‘Tracked Changes’ version of the MWLP has also been prepared to show the modifications in context, which is included at Appendix D.

5.22 The main changes are summarised as follows:

- a) Inclusion of specific reference to Climate Change within the vision and objectives of the plan (Vision and Objectives 2, 4, 8).
- b) Changes requested by Oxfordshire County Council in relation to aggregate supplies.
- c) Commitment to monitor waste management capacity by waste management type in order to determine future need.
- d) Clarification that the MWLP will cover equine waste.
- e) Clarification of Minerals Safeguarded Infrastructure.
- f) Clarification of the ‘agent of change’ principal in relation to waste management safeguarding.
- g) Deletion of the ‘setting of the AONB’ from policies relating to the AONB, to ensure compliance with the NPPF (Policies 12, 19).
- h) Changes to several policies to change their emphasis from a ‘presumption in favour’ with exceptions, to a criteria for compliance (Policies 4, 5, 7, 15).
- i) Changes to the supporting text to reflect changes made to policies.
- j) Changes to the supporting text for Policy 20 to provide further details in relation to protection of local Biodiversity and Geodiversity in agreement the Environment Agency.

5.23 As a result of the Main Modifications and Natural England advice of March 2022, Officers have reviewed the evidence base and updated the documents where required. The only evidence base documents where updates are required is the SA/SEA & HRA. Changes to these documents have been marked as:

(a) Underlined for additions; and

(b) ~~Strikethrough~~ for deletions.

5.24 In addition to 'Main Modifications', the Council is also proposing a number of 'Additional (minor) Modifications' to the Plan that do not materially affect the Plan's policies. However these modifications are not subject to examination and are not required to be consulted upon. They mainly relate to typographical errors or factual updates to the plan. The Council has also prepared a Schedule of Additional Modifications, and these are included at Appendix C. Additional Modifications are identified in the Tracked Changes version of the plan (Appendix D) as:

(a) Underlined for additions; and

(b) ~~Strikethrough~~ for deletions.

5.25 The Policies Map has also been updated to reflect changes to Safeguarded Site Boundaries since the publication of the Proposed Submission version of the plan. These changes are considered to be additional modifications as they relate to factual changes regarding existing permitted sites. All relevant changes are outlined in the Schedule of Additional Modifications (Appendix C).

5.26 The Main Modifications and supporting documents are now required to be subject to public consultation, and the consultation should reflect that of the consultation held at Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Stage, including that it should last for at least six weeks. Therefore, it is proposed to consult on the Schedule of Main Modifications and supporting documentation for just over six weeks between **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Wednesday 06<sup>th</sup> July 2022** to take into account the two bank holidays in June.

5.27 Copies of the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications and supporting information will be made available for inspection on the Council's website and at the Main Offices at Market Street in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

5.28 Following the consultation, the Council has been asked by the Inspector to make a brief written response to any representations received. All representations and the Council's response will then be sent to the Inspector so that he can prepare his final report. If the Inspector concludes that the MWLP is sound and meets the necessary tests, it can then be adopted by the Council and form part of the Local Plan for the District.

5.29 The proposed recommendations for Council are:

1. That Council grant delegated authority to the Service Director (Development and Regulation) to:

i. Agree any necessary amendments to supporting documentation for consultation and any other typographical, presentational, and consequential

wording changes to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan prior to publication, in consultation with the Portfolio member for Planning, Transport and Countryside.

- ii. Publish the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting documents for a six week period in accordance with the West Berkshire Statement of Community Involvement and Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
  - iii. Following public consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications, consider and summarise the responses received and forward to the Inspector for consideration.
2. That following the receipt of a favourable report from the Inspector recommending adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the Plan be brought back to full Council for adoption.

## 6 Other options considered

- 6.1 No other options considered. The Council is required to have an up to date Minerals and Waste Local Plan and consultation forms a legislative requirement in the development of the Plan.

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 It has been demonstrated that the Inspector of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan believes the Main Modifications put forward by the Council to be necessary in order for the Plan to be found sound, and that these modifications and updates to supporting documentation must be subject to the necessary consultation process.
- 7.2 Additional work has also been undertaken to address the Natural England advice of March 2022, which relates to the River Lambourn SAC, and proposed allocation 'Chieveley Services'. The revisions to the HRA as a result of this will also be consulted upon alongside the Proposed Main Modifications.
- 7.3 It is anticipated that consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications and updates to supporting evidence will take place for just over six weeks between **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Wednesday 06<sup>th</sup> July 2022** to take into account the two bank holidays in June.
- 7.4 Following the consultation all representations will be sent to the Inspector for him to determine whether the MWLP can be recommended for adoption.

## 8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Inspector's Post Hearings Note
- 8.2 Appendix B - Schedule of Main Modifications
- 8.2 Appendix C – Schedule of Additional Modifications

**Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation**

8.3 Appendix D - Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Proposed Modifications) Tracked Changes Version

8.3 Appendix E – SA/SEA & HRA Review Document

8.4 Appendix F – Updated HRA & SA/SEA (relevant sections)

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**Background Papers:**

N/A

**Subject to Call-In:**

Yes:  No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council’s position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** All wards

**Officer details:**

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**WEST BERKSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN (MWLP)  
EXAMINATION**

**POST-HEARING NOTE FROM THE INSPECTOR**

1. At the end of the programmed virtual hearings in early February I undertook to write to WBC by 4 March concerning the procedure for the rest of the Examination.
2. Since then, WBC and two Representors have submitted additional documents, as had been agreed, and these have been added to the Examination library (EXAM8-19)
3. I have considered those documents alongside the evidence given at the hearings.
4. I have reached the view that WBC should now, following established practice, proceed to publish a schedule of Proposed Main Modifications (MMs) for public consultation equivalent to the pre-submission Regulation 19 consultation.
5. The Proposed MMs should be published in the same form as in the previously submitted Document EXAM2 Version 2, updated January 2022. That is with one exception that MM32 on development in the setting of the AONB should be brought forward into Policy 19 but retain its separate reference number to avoid other amendments.
6. Prior to publication, the Sustainability Appraisal should be updated to cover the MMs and published alongside the MM Schedule.
7. In addition, post-hearing documents EXAM8-19 should also be published alongside the MMs.
8. It should be made clear that only representations directly related to the appropriateness of the MMs will be considered and that this further consultation is in no way an opportunity to make fresh representations on the submission version of the MWLP. However, comments on the updates to the SA and documents EXAM8-15 may be considered where relevant (noting that EXAM16-19 were merely copies of previously submitted documents appended to EXAM15).
9. On completion of the MM consultation, WBC is asked to provide a report on the representations received together with its response to those relevant to the MMs or the accompanying documents, in a

similar form to Annex 5 to the SOC Regulation 19 Consultation Response Report.

10. WBC is also asked to keep me informed of the timescale and progress of the MM consultation and should keep its Local Development Scheme up to date in this respect where necessary.
11. Meanwhile, WBC is asked to provide a further copy of the MM Schedule in MS Word and retitled 'Recommended Modifications to the MWLP' and omitting the 'Reason' column. This is ultimately to form the basis of the MM Appendix to my Report.
12. On receipt of the report on the MM consultation I shall take into account all the relevant representations along with the responses of WBC before delivering my report and recommendations.

*Brian Sims*

Inspector

1 March 2022



## Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Main Modifications are shown as:

- **Additional text** (bold text, underlined)
- **~~Deletions~~** (bold text, strikethrough)

Main Modifications are shown in context in a 'Tracked Changes' version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, marked with their MM reference.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM1	2.9	Increasingly construction and demolition waste is being used, where the specification allows, as a substitute for primary aggregates. This poses new and different demands on the construction aggregate supply industry in finding sites and processing capacity to recycle and deliver these materials. <del>Since 2012 the sales of recycled aggregates from sites in West Berkshire have exceeded the sales of primary aggregates won from mineral extraction sites within the district.</del>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM2	Vision	To facilitate the planned delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity which meet the requirements for West Berkshire in accordance with national planning policy. In particular to plan for the delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity in locations which meet the needs of West Berkshire in the most sustainable way, <b><u>and taking into account climate change.</u></b>	To ensure Climate change is specifically mentioned in the vision for the plan. Matter 1, Issue 1 (a)
MM3	M2	To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents, and protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, <b><u>taking into account climate change.</u></b>	To ensure climate change is specifically mentioned in the objectives for the plan. Matter 1, Issue 1 (a)
MM4	M4	To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals, as far as is practical, from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas <b><u>whilst also taking into account the potential for future contribution that should be made from mineral working in West Berkshire towards the aggregate supply needs of other areas.</u></b>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground Matter 1, Issue 1 (b)

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM5	W8	To ensure appropriate protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related to development in accordance with the NPPF <b><u>and taking into account climate change.</u></b>	To ensure climate change is specifically picked up in the objectives for the plan. Matter 1, Issue 1 (a)
MM6	New paragraph after 4.13	<b><u>MHCLG have undertaken the Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2019, which along with sales, reserves and permissions, also includes movements of minerals between Mineral Planning Authorities. Once published, the results of this survey, particularly in relation to movements of aggregate minerals into West Berkshire, will be critical to determining West Berkshire's future projections of need for aggregate minerals. The findings of this survey and any other relevant future surveys will be considered within future LAAs.</u></b>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground. Matter 2, Issue 1 (c)
MM7	Policy 3	<p>In order to ensure the appropriate management of waste arisings within West Berkshire the Council will seek to maintain net self-sufficiency, where the total waste management capacity provided from sites in West Berkshire is greater than the total waste arisings within West Berkshire over the plan period to 2037.</p> <p>The level of need for new waste management capacity to meet net self-sufficiency <b><u>as well as capacity surplus/deficits by waste management type</u></b> will be kept under review through the production of Authority Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>The Council will seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy by requiring waste development proposals to demonstrate that the waste being managed cannot reasonably be managed higher up the waste hierarchy than that proposed.</p>	Matter 4, Issue 1 (a)
MM8	4.23	Therefore there will always be a movement of waste across administrative boundaries, however it is considered that planning for net self-sufficiency should mean that the authority is in the position where the necessary level of waste movement is reduced. It is accepted that West Berkshire will always be reliant on other local authorities to manage some waste arising within West Berkshire. This is because there is no non-hazardous landfill capacity within the authority meaning that such wastes destined for landfill will have to be exported. Similarly there is only a small volume of waste recovery capacity in West Berkshire (there being a small number of facilities that use waste wood to generate electricity or produce heat and some on farm anaerobic digestion capacity). <b><u>However, these potential shortfalls in capacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast</u></b>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
		<u>majority of existing operations and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.</u>	
MM9	New paragraph after para 4.23	<u>National policy does not necessarily expect every waste planning area to provide the full range of facilities required to manage waste arising within the Plan Area, given economies of scale and the operation of the market transcending administrative boundaries. This means that each WPA may aim to achieve self-sufficiency overall ('net' self-sufficiency), which means that flows into and out of the Plan area are balanced and offset. For West Berkshire the lack of capacity to manage residual waste is more than offset by the capacity of facilities providing other forms of waste management in the district such as recycling. Therefore, overall waste management capacity in the district exceeds that of the waste generated and it can be said that the objective of net self-sufficiency can be met. Where a specific lack of capacity exists (for example residual waste management), this has been addressed through the Duty to Cooperate.</u>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM10	New paragraph after new para above	<u>As already outlined, West Berkshire does not have sufficient capacity to manage residual waste either through energy recovery or non-hazardous landfill (The Local Waste Assessment identifies a need for 85,117 tpa for energy recovery and 34,000 tpa for non-hazardous landfill by 2037) . However, notwithstanding this shortfall in capacity, 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 non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity, the surplus capacity at other types of waste management facility in the district more than offsets this shortfall. Therefore, the total waste management capacity in the district still exceeds the quantity of waste generated. The principle of planning for 'net' self-sufficiency has been agreed with other Waste Planning Authorities in the South East of England, through the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) Statement of Common Ground (para 2.1). In addition, Policy 7 allows for proposals for non-hazardous landfill to come forward where they meet the requirements of that policy, and a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to address the lack of non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity over the Plan period.</u>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM11	4.24	<u>However these potential shortfalls incapacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operating and permitted waste management facilities in West</u>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
		<p><del>Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.</del> The Local Waste Assessment (LWA) (2020) that has been produced to inform the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan has considered the volume of waste arisings in West Berkshire by waste stream and also uses various methods to project the volume of waste arisings anticipated at the end of the plan period (2037). The full detail can be found in the LWA but in all cases the Council has sought to use the least conservative (but still reasonable) forecasting method when projecting future waste arisings. Such an approach has been adopted to ensure that the projections in the LWA are sufficiently robust to ensure that the policy approach adopted in the MWLP is the most appropriate.</p>	Statement of Common Ground
MM12	Policy 4	<p>Allocated Sites The following sites are allocated to meet the need for primary aggregates:</p> <p>Sharp Sand and Gravel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tidney Bed, Ufton Nervet (Policy 30 'Tidney Bed')</li> </ol> <p>Soft Sand</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Chieveley Services, Chieveley (Policy 31 'Chieveley Services')</li> </ol> <p>A map showing the location of the allocated sites is given in Appendix 1 'Allocated Sites'.</p> <p><b><u>There will be a presumption in favour of construction aggregate extraction proposals only in the following circumstances Planning permission will be granted for construction aggregate extraction where the following criteria are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is allocated for mineral extraction in this plan, provided that the identified site specific requirements are satisfied; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for a borrow pit; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to the extraction of minerals prior to a planned non mineral development (prior extraction); or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for another beneficial and acceptable use and mineral extraction is a necessary part of the proposed development; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal is required to maintain the requirement provisions in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'.</li> </ul>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
		<p><del>In addition, f</del> <b><u>For soft sand planning permission will additionally be granted for extraction where the following criteria are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is located within an area of search for soft sand; or</li> <li>• For proposals within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the requirements of the exceptional circumstances test in the NPPF are satisfied.</li> </ul> <p><del>Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy</del> <b><u>In addition to the requirements identified in this policy,</u></b> proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	
MM13	New paragraph after 4.39	<p><b><u>For soft sand, the Plan identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Service). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.</u></b></p>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM14	New paragraph after new para above	<p><b><u>As the allocated site cannot be relied upon to fully meet need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Council has also identified areas of search (Figure 3 'Soft Sand Areas of Search') within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.</u></b></p>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM15	4.42	<p><del>As imports from Oxfordshire cannot be relied upon to fully meet the need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Plan also identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Services). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.</del></p>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM16	4.43	<del>The Council has also identified soft sand areas of search (Figure 3 ‘Soft Sand Areas of Search’) within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.</del>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM17	4.40	<b><u>Due to the fact that in recent years the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB),</u></b> <del>For soft sand</del> the Council commissioned a specific Soft Sand Study to investigate all potential supply options for delivering West Berkshire’s identified level of need for soft sand. <del>due to the fact that in recent years, the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</del> The Soft Sand Study concluded that the only realistic alternative to providing for extraction within the AONB in West Berkshire, <b><u>as required by the exceptional circumstances test in paragraph 176 of the NPPF,</u></b> would be to supply soft sand from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire. The Soft Sand Study identifies that <del>part of the current</del> <b><u>some of the</u></b> soft sand sales pattern in Oxfordshire comprises supply to West Berkshire, so this would be a continuation of <del>the current this</del> situation. Therefore, if Oxfordshire were <b><u>to continue</u></b> to make provision to enable <del>the current these</del> levels of sales to continue, then it could be inferred that <del>the current these</del> movements of soft sand from Oxfordshire to West Berkshire will be able to continue. This would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports <del>from Oxfordshire as is currently understood to be the case.</del> However, this would rely on a formal agreement with Oxfordshire County Council to make provision for supplying West Berkshire as well as addressing its own requirements.	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM18	4.41	Therefore, liaison has been undertaken through the Duty to Cooperate regarding whether Oxfordshire County Council could make provision through their emerging Site Allocations Document to enable <del>current the</del> levels of soft sand supply <b><u>as set out in the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy and as identified within their Local aggregates Assessment to continue through their emerging Site Allocations Document.</u></b> A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared regarding the arrangement of soft sand supply between the authorities and outlining agreement from Oxfordshire County Council to make provision to enable <del>current</del> levels of supply to continue which would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports from Oxfordshire, as is currently understood to be the case.	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM19	4.44	It is acknowledged that the one allocated soft sand site is not sufficient to meet the identified requirement for soft sand in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'. However, it is considered that the Council has undertaken all measures to identify potential soft sand supply options for the District as set out in the West Berkshire Soft Sand Study and Soft Sand Topic paper. The shortfall in soft sand supply of 120,000 - 390,000 tonnes, (6,667 – 21,667 tpa) is expected to be made up from windfall sites <b><u>from the soft sand areas of search and if that does not result in sufficient permissions to meet the identified requirement, a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared with Oxfordshire which agrees some supply of soft sand. Supply from Oxfordshire.</u></b>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM20	4.47	Allocated sites identify areas where <b><u>planning permission will be granted if the criteria and policies in the Plan are met. There will be a presumption in favour of development.</u></b> The mineral allocations have been selected as the least damaging potential sites for extraction in terms of the effect on environmental and social sustainability. <b><u>It therefore, follows as a general principle that outside the allocated sites there will be a general presumption against planning permission being granted unless the additional requirements of the policy are met.</u></b>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM21	Policy 5	<p><del>There will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b><u>Priority will be given</u></b> to waste management development proposals (excluding landfill) <b><u>only</u></b> in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing sites with permanent planning permission for waste management development; or</li> <li>- Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8 land uses) or within suitable protected employment areas; or</li> <li>- On previously developed land; or</li> <li>- Agricultural or forestry buildings and their curtilages where they are demonstrated to be redundant; or</li> <li>- In the case of inert waste management facilities, in aggregate quarries and inert landfill sites for the duration of the host facility.</li> </ul> <p>Waste development outside these areas will only be permitted <b><u>where they meet the other relevant policies in the Plan, in exceptional circumstances</u></b> and consideration will be given to the proximity of the proposed development to the source of waste arisings.</p> <p>The co-location of waste management activities within existing permanent waste management sites will be supported, where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable</p>	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground Matter 6, Issue 1 (Policy 5)

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
		harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts. Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy, proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.	
MM22	4.56	<del>The policy seeks to steer waste development away from greenfield sites, giving</del> <b>The Plan gives priority</b> to existing waste sites, industrial and employment areas, the re-use of previously developed land and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings in line with the National Planning Policy for Waste. In the case of inert waste recycling facilities, these often have functional linkages with the restoration of aggregate quarries and inert landfill facilities, and therefore, these are appropriate locations for this type of waste management. Policy 16 'Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure' provides greater detail on this situation. Within the specified areas there will be a presumption in favour of waste management development. However, consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM23	4.58	The main types of waste facility that could be developed in accordance with this policy include, <b>but is not limited to</b> , waste transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, inert waste recycling facilities, energy from waste, Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste facilities and scrap metal facilities.	Oxfordshire County Council Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM24	Policy 6	Planning permission will be granted for specialist waste management facilities, including facilities to manage agricultural, <b>equine</b> and hazardous wastes and waste water where:	Matter 6, Issue 2 (Policy 6)
MM25	Policy 7	<del>There will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b>Proposals for</b> land filling or permanent deposit of waste <b>only will be permitted</b> in active or planned mineral extraction sites where the restoration of the mineral site requires the use of imported materials to achieve an acceptable restoration and afteruse.  Only waste from which no further value can reasonably be obtained shall be landfilled. Proposals for landraising will normally be refused.  <del>In exceptional circumstances p-</del> Permanent deposit of inert material may be permitted where it is an essential element of another beneficial and necessary development proposal.	Matter 6, Issue 1 (Policy 7)



Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM26	Policy 9	<p>'Minerals Safeguarding Areas' (MSAs) have been defined which safeguard the following from sterilisation by non-mineral development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known construction aggregate mineral deposits<sup>29</sup>;</li> <li>• Existing (including those with planning permission yet to be implemented) and allocated mineral extraction sites;</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In addition, the following Minerals Infrastructure is safeguarded against development that would unnecessarily prevent or prejudice the operation of the infrastructure:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential, planned and existing minerals associated infrastructure, including rail sites and mineral processing plant sites.</li> </ul> <p>Non-mineral development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas <b><u>or affecting Minerals Safeguarded Infrastructure</u></b> may be considered acceptable in the following circumstances:</p>	Matter 5, Issue 1
MM27	4.90	<p>Waste management sites are often perceived by the wider community as a bad neighbour use, which can make finding and developing new waste management sites challenging. In addition the demand for land in West Berkshire is generally very high and the availability of land is often constrained. These factors have the potential to inflate land values, meaning that only high value uses are viable. In addition there is a high level of demand for housing development, which further puts pressure on land. <b><u>The NPPF prescribes that existing businesses should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of encroaching development, and that any new development (the 'agent of change') should provide suitable mitigation where existing businesses could have a significant adverse effect on the new development.</u></b> Safeguarding of waste facilities, where they are viable, is important to ensure the existing permitted sites are retained and not lost or sterilised due to competing land uses.</p>	Matter 5, Issue 2
MM28	Policy 12	<i>Exploration and appraisal</i>	Inclusion of 'Setting' contrary to NPPF.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
		<p>Proposals for exploratory drilling for conventional and unconventional oil and gas will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other than in exceptional circumstances;</li> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and</li> <li>• The development proposals provide for the timely and high quality restoration and aftercare of the site.</li> </ul> <p><i>Commercial production</i></p> <p>Proposals for the commercial production of conventional and unconventional oil and gas, or for the establishment of related plant, will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and in the public interest;</li> <li>• A full appraisal for the oil and gas field has been completed;</li> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment do not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and</li> <li>• The proposed location has been demonstrated as the most suitable taking into account all planning considerations.</li> </ul> <p>Particular consideration will be given to the location of hydrocarbon development involving hydraulic fracturing regarding impacts on <b>water quality</b>, water resources, seismicity, local air quality, landscape, noise, traffic and lighting impacts. Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there would not be an unacceptable impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ), Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), or the local environment or community.</p> <p>In addition, proposals for conventional and unconventional oil and gas development must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	<p>Additional wording requested by the EA.</p>

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM29	Policy 14	Proposals for the re-working of old <b>inert</b> landfill sites will only be permitted where all of the following are demonstrated:	Clarification in line with policy title
MM30	Policy 15	<p><del>There will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b>Proposals for</b> permanent construction aggregate infrastructure <b>will be permitted</b> in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing sites with permanent planning permission for mineral processing or handling; or</li> <li>• Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8).</li> </ul> <p>The co-location of construction aggregate infrastructure with existing suitable operations will be supported, where appropriate where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy all proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	Matter 6, Issue 1 (Policy 15)
MM31	Policy 19	<p>Major mineral and waste development proposals within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB will only be considered acceptable in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in the public interest. Consideration will be given to whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an overriding need for the development to take place in the proposed location;</li> <li>• The need for the development can be met in some other way, or from a site outside the AONB; and</li> <li>• Any detrimental impact of the development on the environment, landscape and recreation can be satisfactorily mitigated;</li> </ul> <p>Other minerals and waste development proposals within <del>or affecting the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB will be considered acceptable only where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal is for a small scale facility to meet local needs that can be developed without an unacceptable impact on the environmental and landscape of the area; and</li> <li>• The proposals conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</li> </ul> <p>Restoration and aftercare proposals should seek to enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</p>	Inclusion of 'setting' contrary to NPPF

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM32	Policy 19	<b><u>Development proposals within the setting of the AONB should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the AONB.</u></b>	Additional text to provide clarity on development proposals in the setting of the AONB in line with NPPF 2021.
MM33	5.28	There are currently three SACs within West Berkshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain – <b><u>which supports one of the most extensive known populations of Desmoulin’s whorl snail in the UK. The conservation objective related to the sites’ designation is to maintain the habitat in favourable condition for the Desmoulin’s whorl snail.</u></b></li> <li>• River Lambourn – <b><u>with good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants the river supports Bullhead and Brook Lamprey populations.</u></b></li> <li>• Kennet Valley Alderwoods – <b><u>the woodland forms the largest remaining fragments of damp, ash-alder woodland in the Kennet floodplain. Conservation of the site is dependent upon maintaining a constantly high groundwater level.</u></b></li> </ul>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM34	New paragraph after 5.28	<b><u>The measures specified in this policy will ensure that the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations are satisfied in order to protect these internationally designated sites.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM35	5.31	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated sites which have important wildlife or geological value. There are currently 51 SSSIs within West Berkshire covering 1480 hectares, <b><u>which includes the Rivers Lambourn and Kennet.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM36	5.34	The District contains important watercourses such as the Rivers Kennet, Lambourn and Pang. The rivers Lambourn and Kennet are also designated as SSSIs, <b><u>in addition the river Lambourn is designated as a SAC.</u></b> Mineral working in West Berkshire has historically been concentrated along the Kennet Valley where sharp sand and gravel is predominantly found. Riparian corridors create important linkages for biodiversity and therefore mineral working and restoration in these areas have the potential to contribute towards relevant biodiversity enhancements.	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
MM37	New paragraph after 5.39	<b><u>A buffer zone must be established between a Mineral site and the bank top of a watercourse to protect the river bank and the hydrology of the river. Applicants are likely to need an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency to quarry or excavate minerals within 16 metres of a main river. Therefore the buffer zone should generally be a minimum 16m for main rivers and smaller (minimum 5m) for ordinary watercourses. This zone should be fenced while the mineral site is active and there must be no mineral extraction and no tracking of vehicles or storage of any materials or plant etc unless the habitat is of low ecological value and the activity will not impact on the river. This zone should be included in the red line boundary and enhanced for biodiversity in the restoration plan.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM38	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>This zone may have to be wider when adjacent to the designated Rivers Kennet and Lambourn if the mineral extraction is likely to have an adverse impact on these rivers, for example if the hydrology was likely to be impacted.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM39	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>An additional stand-off zone of no extraction but where, for example, tracking of vehicles and the temporary storage of minerals would be allowed, may also be required at certain sites. This is likely to be required to protect designated rivers such as The River Kennet Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and The River Lambourn SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. The buffer and stand-off zones should be included in the restoration plan, thereby giving opportunities for river restoration and the restoration of the river corridor. These could include the creation or enhancement of wetland habitats and reconnecting the river with its floodplain.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM40	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>Similar buffer/stand-off zones may be required between Waste Sites and watercourses to protect their water quality and hydrology. The width will depend on the specific circumstances, and will be determined as part of the Environmental Permit application.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground
MM41	New paragraph after new	<b><u>Regarding other designated sites (e.g. other SSSIs and SACs that are not river sites), for both Mineral Sites and Waste Sites, the specific distance from the designated site should be determined through consultation with NE, taking into account the activity and the sensitivity of the protected site's designated features.</u></b>	Environment Agency Examination Statement of Common Ground

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
	paragraph above		
MM42	Policy 25 bullet point 3	Avoiding areas vulnerable to climate change and flood risk through application of the Sequential Test, Exception Test and Sequential Approach <del>where appropriate;</del>	Request from EA to strengthen the wording (although not every proposal will require the exception test).
MM43	Monitoring Framework Policy 3, Indicators 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total amount of waste managed within West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b>and <u>management type.</u></b></li> <li>Waste management capacity in West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b>and <u>management type.</u></b></li> </ul>	Matter 4, Issue 1
MM44	4.55	No waste sites are to be allocated through the plan as there is sufficient waste management capacity in existing sites which will be safeguarded over the plan period (Policy 10 'Waste Safeguarding'). However, this policy sets out where <del>there will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b><u>priority will be given to</u></b> waste management development. This approach will enable flexibility for sites to cope with changes in waste practices and allow for new and emerging waste technologies to come forward on existing sites and ensure that old technology can be replaced with new and emerging technologies.	Consequential to proposed modifications of Policy 5
MM45	4.59	Waste developments may be acceptable outside the locations specified in the policy <del>in exceptional circumstances where they meet the requirements of other relevant policies in the plan,</del> including where <b><u>facilities are proposed in rural areas.</u></b> Such facilities would only be acceptable where there is a good relationship between the location of the site and the source of the waste.	Consequential to proposed modifications of Policy 5

Paragraph numbers will be updated where required.

## Proposed Additional Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Additional modifications are shown as:

- Additional text (underlined text)
- ~~Deletions~~ (strikethrough text)

Additional modifications are factual or typographical changes to the plan and therefore, are not subject to further consultation, but are set out here for completeness.

Additional modifications are shown in context in a 'Tracked Changes' version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.



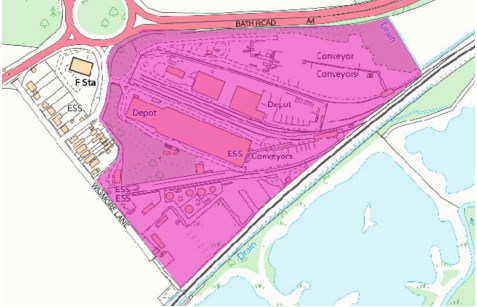
Mod ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	Reason
AM1	All	Update paragraph numbers were required.	Taking into account new paragraphs
AM2	All	Add table numbers	Easier identification of tables
AM3	All policies	Replace policy bullet points with numbers/letters	Easier identification of policy criteria
AM4	1.9	<del>This p</del> <u>Public consultation is being undertaken</u> in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement <u>took place between 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Comments were invited in relation to matters of Legal Compliance, Soundness and whether the Duty to Cooperate had been met. This version of the Plan represents the document that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for independent examination ('Proposed Submission' version).</u>	Updated as consultation has closed.
AM5	1.10 – 1.1	<del>1.10 — The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 4th January 2021 until Monday 15th February 2021.</del>  <del>1.11 — We are inviting comments during this period on the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Comments at this stage should only relate to matters of Legal Compliance, Soundness (whether the Plan is considered to be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in line with paragraph 35</del>	Paragraphs updated to reflect current consultation.

		of the NPPF), and whether the Duty to Cooperate has been met. Further information is included in the Representation Form guidance available online.	
AM6	New para following above	<p><u>Following receipt of the Inspector’s Post Hearings Note the Council are now able to progress to consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications. The consultation forms part of the examination process and representations are invited on the Proposed Main Modifications only as set out in the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications. The Main Modifications are set out in this ‘Tracked Changes’ version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan using the following notation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Additional Text</u></b> (bold underlined text)</li> <li>• <b><del>Deleted text</del></b> (bold strikethrough)</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional Modifications to the plan have also been included, however, these are not subject to consultation. These have been set out using the following notation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Additional text</u> (underlined)</li> <li>• <del>Deleted text</del> (strikethrough)</li> </ul> <p><u>The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 until 5pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</u></p> <p>You can view the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (<u>Proposed Main Modifications</u>) <del>Proposed Submission</del> consultation document and supporting information online at <a href="https://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm">https://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm</a>, or at the Council offices on Market Street, Newbury or online at any of the local libraries.</p> <p><del>We would prefer you to make your Comments</del> <u>can be made</u> online via our website, <del>or however you can also let us know your views</del> by email or post <u>using the representation form available on the website.</u></p>	
AM7	Contact details box	Updated web address to <a href="http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm">http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm</a>	Link to where the final adopted plan will be on the website, rather



			than the proposed submission version
AM8	2.28	<b>Neighbourhood Plans (as they emerge)</b> form part of the development plan. Currently there are nine designated areas in West Berkshire with each parish council at a different stage of plan preparation. Of these <del>one</del> <u>two</u> have been adopted. Neighbourhood Plans are not permitted to consider minerals and waste development.	Update to NP status
AM9	2.37	Footnote 21 updated: "Minerals and Waste Local Plan <u>evidence base</u> Proposed Submission documents: <a href="http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase">http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase</a>	Updated reference to link in footnote.
AM10	2.37	Note added to ecological appraisals as follows: <u>* Ecological Appraisals are not routinely published as they contain sensitive information that may be harmful for protected species if it was made available. Can be made available on request.</u>	To explain that the Ecological appraisals are not available on the website along with the other evidence base documents.
AM11	4.7	The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is accompanied by a <u>Policies map that will setting</u> out, spatially, the various policies in the plan. <del>All mapping information is available on the Council's Interactive Map</del>	Clarification of where to find the policies map.  <u>Policies Map</u> is a hyperlink.
AM12	4.7	Footnote after Policies map added to provide web link to policies map <a href="https://westberks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fccb053d108f4783aefeb01bb03fb77b">https://westberks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fccb053d108f4783aefeb01bb03fb77b</a>	Added foot note for anyone reading a hard copy of the plan.
AM13	Table at 4.85	Ensure list of safeguarded sites is up to date	Ensure lists are as up to date as possible
AM14	Table at 4.88	Concrete batching plants that benefits from permanent planning permission	Typo
AM15	Table at 4.93	Update entry for Colthrop Aggregate Processing Facility: Safeguarded Waste Sites: <del>Colthrop Aggregate processing Facility</del> <u>Colthrop Waste Transfer Facility</u> Type: <del>Recycled Aggregate Waste Transfer Station</del>	Change of ownership and operations
AM16	Table at 4.93	Delete <del>Greenham Business Park Biomass Gasification Plant, Greenham: Biomass Gasification Plant and Wierside, Burghfield</del>	Planning permission lapsed Waste operations have ceased on site. Likely to be granted permission for change of use.

AM17	Table 2 at 4.93	Update sewage treatment works table in line with current Thames Water Sewage Treatment Works asset list. Ensure list is in Alphabetical order	Updated details provided by Thames Water and list in alphabetical order
AM18	4.119	The relative 'value' that can be obtained from re-working an <u>inert</u> landfill site will vary	Clarification in line with policy title
AM19	5.9	The NPPF (paragraph-204 <u>210</u> (h))	Reference updated to NPPF 2021
AM20	5.64	The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2019) sets out details of flood risk for the District taking into account the <del>the</del> most up to date climate change figures. The SFRA provides information for carrying out the sequential and, where required, the exception tests.	Typos
AM21	5.64	Add the following footnote after "...taking into account the most up to date climate change figures..." <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances</a>	Request from EA to provide additional information on where to get the most up to date climate information
AM22	Policy 30 Ecology	Habitat and Ecological assessments will be required	Typo (space added)
AM23	Chapter 7 Monitoring Framework Site Policies	<del>Policy 30: Boot Farm</del> Policy <del>30</del> 4: Tidney Bed Policy <del>31</del> 2: Chieveley Services	Boot Farm should have been deleted. Is not proposed for allocation in the plan.  Policy numbers updated to reflect the numbers in the plan.
AM24	Appendix 2	Updates to safeguarded sites tables to take into account changes since publication.	Ensure lists are as up to date as possible
AM25	Policies Map	Update site area for Grundon Composting facility site (Safeguarded waste site 4).  Current map outline                      Updated map outline	Site area on map does not reflect permitted site area (07/00862/COMIND, granted on appeal)

			
AM26	Table at 4.88	<p>Ensure tables are up to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delete <del>Wigmore Lane North, Central, South</del> with <u>Wigmore Lane Rail Depot</u></li> </ul>	Clarity to ensure that the whole of the Wigmore Lane Rail Depot landholding is safeguarded.
AM27	Policies Map	<p>Update site area for Wigmore Lane Rail Depot site (Safeguarded Mineral Infrastructure)</p> <p>Current map outline</p>  <p>Updated map outline</p> 	Updated site area following request from Network Rail
AM28	Policies Map	Delete Wierside and Greenham Gassification Plant from Waste Safeguarded map layer	<p>Wierside no longer operational.</p> <p>Greenham Gassification Plant planning permission has expired</p>
AM29	Table at para 4.88	Delete <del>Wigmore Lane North Theale, Wigmore Lane Central Theale and Wigmore Lane South Theale</del> and replace with Wigmore Lane Rail Depot Theale	Clarity that it is the whole rail depot area that is safeguarded, not just

			the three sidings (in line with AM28 above).
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**West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan**  
**~~'Proposed Submission' Version~~**  
**Proposed Main Modifications Consultation**

~~November 2020~~

March 2022

**Main Modifications**

Main Modifications are marked by the Mod Ref from the Schedule of Modifications and shown as: **Additional text** (bold text, underlined). ~~Deletions~~ (bold text, strikethrough).

All Main Modifications are subject to consultation.

**Additional Modifications**

Additional modifications (not subject to consultation) are shown as: Additional text (underlined text), ~~Deletions~~ (strikethrough text).

These modifications are not subject to consultation.

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## **1 Introduction**

### **What is the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan?**

- 1.1 The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) will provide the planning framework for Minerals and Waste development in West Berkshire. It will set out the long term vision for mineral and waste development to 2037 and set out the policy context for assessing planning applications for minerals and waste development in the District.
- 1.2 The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will replace all saved policies in the, now dated, Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire Incorporating the alternations adopted in 1997 and 2001 (RMLP) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire, adopted in 1998 (WLPB) for planning decisions in West Berkshire.
- 1.3 The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will shape the future of minerals and waste development within West Berkshire by setting out the development of a new strategy to guide the steady and adequate delivery of minerals and waste sites in a clear and strategic manner.
- 1.4 The plan will include a range of planning policies against which proposals for minerals and waste can be assessed. It will also allocate preferred sites for development to ensure that the needs of the District can be met over the period covered by the plan.

### **Consultation**

- 1.5 An Issues and Options consultation (undertaken in accordance with Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)<sup>1</sup> was carried out in January/February 2014. This consultation set out the issues and options the Council considered necessary to be included within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, asking for comments from members of the public, operators and landowners. The outcome of the consultation has been used to set the framework for the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 1.6 As part of this consultation operators and landowners were invited to submit proposals for potential sites for future minerals and waste development. In the summer of 2016 a public consultation took place on the sites submitted for consideration as part of the plan making process. This consultation was carried out before the Council had carried out site assessment work, to allow comments from the public, operators and landowners to be incorporated into the site selection process.
- 1.7 A further “call for sites” took place between December 2016 and March 2017, mainly aimed at sites in relation to housing and economic development, but it also included the opportunity to submit further minerals and waste sites.

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<sup>1</sup> Town and Country Planning (Local Planning (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended): [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/pdfs/uksi\\_20120767\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/pdfs/uksi_20120767_en.pdf)



1.8 A Preferred Options Consultation took place between 19<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and the consultation document sets out the Council's preferred approach for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, asking for comments on the preferred approach. There is no formal requirement to consult on the emerging plan until the proposed submission version of the plan is published, however, the Council believe that it is important to engage at an early stage of plan making with the public, operators and landowners. Comments made during the Preferred Options consultation have been considered and relevant changes made to the MWLP.

1.9 ~~This p~~ Public consultation ~~is being undertaken~~ in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement<sup>2</sup> took place between 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Comments were invited in relation to matters of Legal Compliance, Soundness and whether the Duty to Cooperate had been met. This version of the Plan represents the document that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for independent examination ('Proposed Submission' version).

1.10 ~~The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 until Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.~~

1.11 ~~We are inviting comments during this period on the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Comments at this stage should only relate to matters of Legal Compliance, Soundness (whether the Plan is considered to be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in line with paragraph 35 of the NPPF), and whether the Duty to Cooperate has been met. Further information is included in the Representation Form guidance available [online](#).~~

X.XX Following receipt of the Inspector's Post Hearings Note the Council are now able to progress to consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications. The consultation forms part of the examination process and representations are invited on the Proposed Main Modifications only as set out in the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications. The Main Modifications are set out in this 'Tracked Changes' version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan using the following notation:

- **Additional Text** (bold underlined text)
- **~~Deleted Text~~** (bold strikethrough text)

X.XX Additional Modifications to the plan have also been included, however, these are not subject to consultation. These have been set out using the following notation:

- Additional Text (underlined text)
- ~~Deleted Text~~ (strikethrough text)

X.XX The consultation will run for just over 6 weeks from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 until 5pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> Statement of Community Involvement: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=38265&p=0>

- 1.12 You can view the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications Submission consultation document and supporting information online at <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm> or at the Council offices on Market Street, Newbury or online at any of the local libraries.
- 1.13 ~~We would prefer you to make your e~~ Comments can be made online via our website or, ~~however you can also let us know your views~~ by email or post using the representation form available on the website.
- 1.14 ~~Alternatively, if you would simply like more information on the consultation or help to comment online, please phone and speak to a member of the minerals and waste team.~~

## Contact Details

<i>Consultation Portal:</i>	<a href="http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/kse">http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/kse</a>
<i>Website:</i>	<a href="http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm">http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpmm</a>
<i>Email:</i>	<a href="mailto:mwdpd@westberks.gov.uk">mwdpd@westberks.gov.uk</a>
<i>Post:</i>	Minerals and Waste Planning Team, West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD.
<i>Telephone:</i>	01635 519111

## 2 Background

### About West Berkshire

- 2.1 West Berkshire is a unitary authority of 704 square kilometres (272 square miles), located in South East England. Approximately 90% of the district is considered to be rural in character. The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally important and legally protected landscape, designated for the quality of its scenic beauty, covering approximately 74% of the district.
- 2.2 Approximately 44% of the population live in rural areas of the district, dispersed across a large number of towns, villages and smaller settlements. The remainder of the population are focused in the urban areas of Newbury and Thatcham and the urban areas of Calcot, Tilehurst and Purley-on-Thames to the east of the district.
- 2.3 West Berkshire is part of the Thames Valley which is recognised as the most productive sub-region in the UK<sup>3</sup>. Employment provision in West Berkshire is diverse and employment rates remain high.
- 2.4 West Berkshire is well connected in transport terms. At the centre of the district is an important road interchange where the east-west M4 motorway intersects with the north-south A34. There are road connections to larger centres such as Reading,

<sup>3</sup> Thames Valley Berkshire LEP: <http://thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/>

Oxford, Swindon, Basingstoke and London. Mainline railway services to London and the south west of England run through the south of the District.

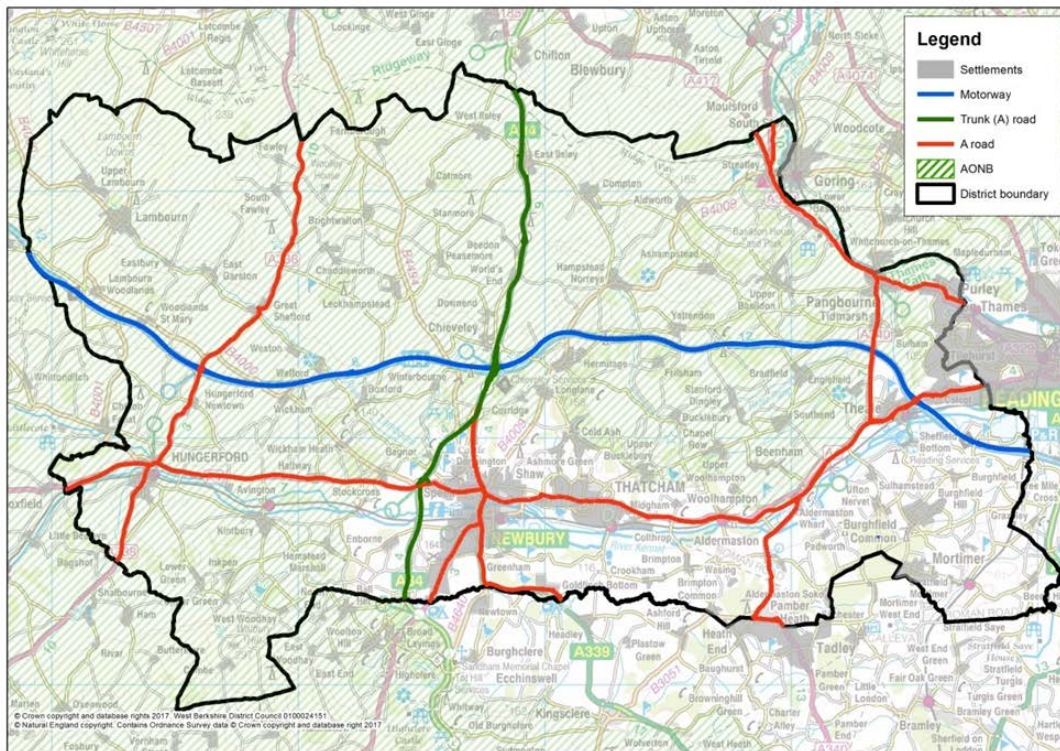


Figure 1: West Berkshire

### Minerals in West Berkshire

- 2.5 In West Berkshire, the main mineral deposits that occur are construction aggregates, namely sharp sand and gravel (primarily used to make concrete) and soft sand (primarily used for mortar production). A limited amount of marine aggregate is imported into West Berkshire, by rail and road, for use within the authority and surrounding area. West Berkshire has no deposits of hard rock, therefore, demand for these types of minerals is met by material that is imported, by rail, to West Berkshire.

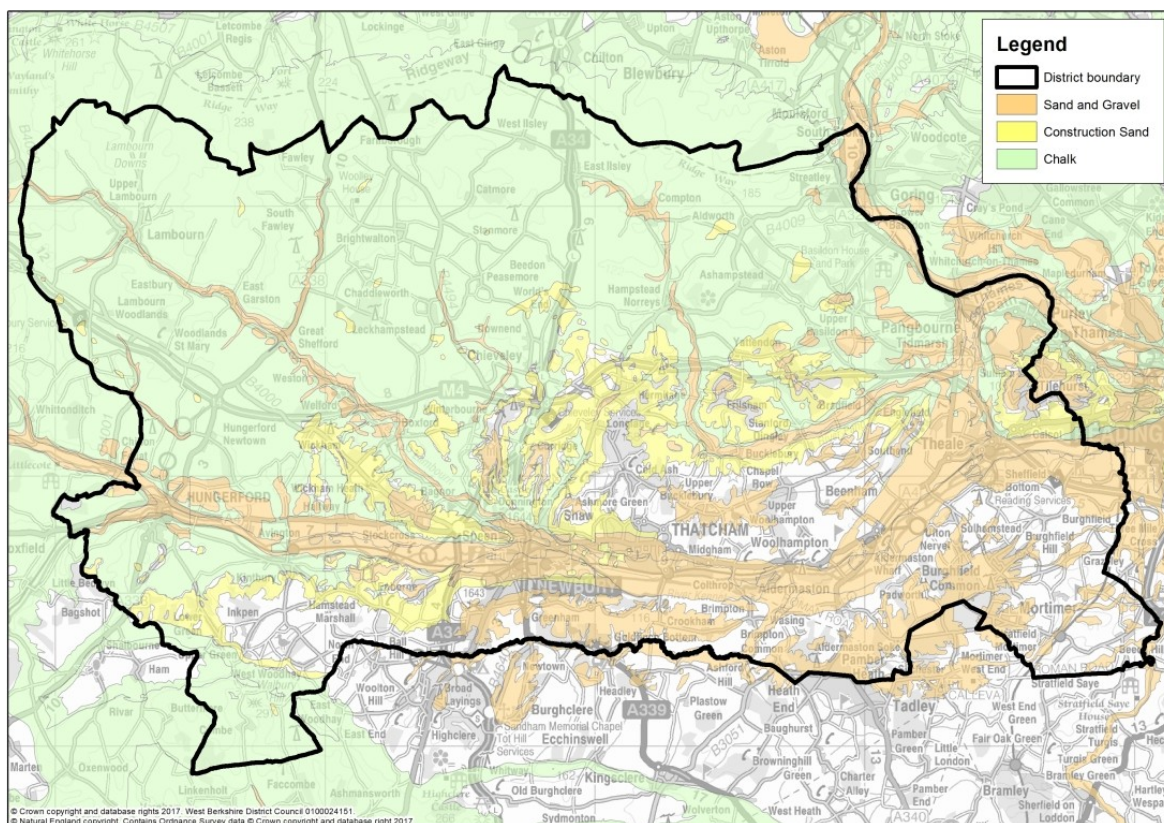


Figure 2: West Berkshire Mineral Resources

- 2.6 West Berkshire has been a significant producer of aggregates for many years, and over the last decade approximately 4 million tonnes of primary aggregates have been sold from quarries within West Berkshire. Years of aggregate production in the district has reduced the availability of the aggregate resources, and the high quality sharp sand and gravel deposits found throughout the Kennet valley between Newbury and Reading have seen a significant reduction in the volume of reserves that remain in situ for future working.
- 2.7 Historically the majority of soft sand deposits that have been worked in West Berkshire have been those found in the North Wessex Downs AONB, in particular an outcrop found around Junction 13 of the M4. The British Geological Survey has indicated that there are soft sand deposits located outside the AONB, but these have not been worked in recent years.
- 2.8 Sand and gravel quarrying does not require blasting and due to the shallow nature of the deposits they are relatively short lived in comparison to hard rock quarries. However, the process of minerals extraction and transportation can have a significant effect on the local environment while the operations take place.
- 2.9 Increasingly construction and demolition waste is being used, where the specification allows, as a substitute for primary aggregates. This poses new and different demands on the construction aggregate supply industry in finding sites and processing capacity to recycle and deliver these materials. **Since 2012 the sales**

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~~of recycled aggregates from sites in West Berkshire have exceeded the sales of primary aggregates won from mineral extraction sites within the district.~~

- 2.10 Historically chalk and clay have been worked in West Berkshire for small scale specialised purposes. There are also deposits of deep coal underlying areas of West Berkshire along with outcrops of shales that may contain shale gas. None of these minerals are currently exploited, although they may offer potential for the future should there be the demand.

### **Waste in West Berkshire**

- 2.11 There are various waste types that arise in West Berkshire, all of which need to be managed in some way or another. The three principal waste streams are:
- **Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)** – This includes household waste and other waste collected by waste collection authorities. This waste stream includes a considerable amount of recyclable material as well as a biodegradable element and invariably a fraction of hazardous waste material (eg. batteries or paint)
  - **Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I)** - This includes waste that arises from wholesalers, catering establishments, shops and offices, factories and industrial plants. This can include a range of materials such as food, paper, card, wood, glass, plastic and metals. Broadly the volume of C&I waste arising is approximately double that of LACW.
  - **Construction, Demolition and Excavation Wastes (CD&E)** – This includes waste from the construction, repair, maintenance and demolition of buildings, structures, roads and other infrastructure and the excavation of sites. It is usually made up of bricks, concrete, hardcore, subsoil and topsoil, but can include timber, metal, plastics and occasionally hazardous waste materials. This is the predominant waste stream in West Berkshire.
- 2.12 Other waste streams within West Berkshire include radioactive waste, hazardous waste, sewage sludge and agricultural and equine waste.
- 2.13 West Berkshire both imports and exports waste, but the volume of waste managed in West Berkshire exceeds the total amount of waste that arises within the authority. This appears to be principally due to a significant amount of construction and demolition waste management capacity within West Berkshire.

## Cross Boundary Issues

- 2.14 There are movements of both minerals and waste across administrative boundaries. With respect to minerals large volumes are imported via rail to the railhead depots that exist in West Berkshire. These are either used at these sites, which also host manufacturing facilities that produce concrete and asphalt, or the aggregates are exported as raw materials by road. It is known that these railhead sites serve a far wider area than West Berkshire so a proportion of the material imported by rail is subsequently exported by road. It is believed that West Berkshire used to be a significant producer of land won sand and gravel used in the construction industry, but a consistent decline in sales of construction aggregates from sites in West Berkshire in recent years suggests that the level of exports of these minerals won from sites in the District has declined.
- 2.15 Waste also crosses administrative boundaries, and it is understood that one of the larger waste movements that takes place is the importation of construction, demolition and excavation waste into West Berkshire for processing. Much of the imported waste, once processed, is subsequently exported as recycled aggregate, soils or as fill material used in the restoration of extraction sites.
- 2.16 The fact that minerals and waste transcend authority boundaries means that the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) is a key tool necessary for the delivery of a sound minerals and waste plan. The Localism Act of 2011 introduced a Legal requirement to co-operate under section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as inserted by section 110 of the Localism Act 2011)<sup>4</sup>, commonly referred to as the “Duty to Cooperate”.
- 2.17 DtC, is regarded as the tool for delivering strategic planning at a local level and requires councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively, and on an ongoing basis, in relation to planning for strategic issues. The DtC aims to promote a culture change and spirit of partnership working on strategic cross boundary issues.
- 2.18 West Berkshire acknowledges that both minerals and waste are strategic matters, in the terms of section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>5</sup>, and therefore West Berkshire Council will engage constructively, actively, and on an ongoing basis, in any process where there are cross-boundary issues or impacts.
- 2.19 As part of the DtC, the Berkshire Unitary Authorities have signed two memoranda of understandings, in order to form an ongoing basis for implementing the DtC for planning in the former county of Berkshire. These memoranda of understanding are not intended to be legally binding, nor do they form a statement of policy, rather they are intended to provide a statement on the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities understanding of how joint working on strategic planning, including minerals and waste plan making, will proceed.
- 2.20 Similarly, under this requirement enacted through the Localism Act 2011, West Berkshire Council has signed up to a Statement of Common Ground (SCG) that has

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<sup>4</sup> Localism Act 2011 Section 110 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/section/110/enacted>

<sup>5</sup> Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 33A  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/33A>

been signed by a number of the waste planning authorities that make up the former South East region. The purpose of this SCG is to underpin effective cooperation, consistency and collaboration between the Waste Planning Authorities in the South East, to aid in addressing strategic cross boundary issues that relate to planning for waste management.

- 2.21 A SCG specifically relating to strategic cross-boundary minerals and waste issues in West Berkshire has also been prepared in accordance with paragraph 27 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **Other Plans and Programmes**

- 2.22 Planning policies for West Berkshire need to be prepared in the context of national planning policy, and with regard to other local plans and strategies produced by the Council and other organisations.

### **National Plans and Programmes**

- 2.23 National policies on planning matters are contained in the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**<sup>6</sup>, **National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)**<sup>7</sup> and the **technical guidance** to the NPPF<sup>8</sup>.
- 2.24 The **Waste Management Plan for England** was published in 2013. It broadly aimed to move beyond the current throwaway society to a “zero waste economy” in which material resources are re-used, recycled or recovered wherever possible, and only disposed of as the option of very last resort. The strategy aims to:
- Decouple waste growth from economic growth
  - Set national landfill diversion target to meet and exceed the EU targets
  - Facilitate the development of necessary waste infrastructure
  - Increase levels of recycling and energy recovery.

**Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England**<sup>9</sup> was published in 2018 and highlights the Government’s priorities to achieve a circular economy as part of the transition to a sustainable economy. It builds on measures in the 25 year environment plan and sets out how the country will preserve its stock of material resources by minimising waste and promoting resource efficiency.

### **“Local” Plans and Programmes**

- 2.25 The **South East Plan** (the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East) was revoked on the 25th March 2013, under the Regional Strategy for the South East (Partial Revocation) Order 2013<sup>10</sup>. Two policies remain extant following the partial revocation of the South East Plan and only one policy: policy NRM6 (relating to the Thames

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<sup>6</sup> NPPF: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

<sup>7</sup> NPPW: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

<sup>8</sup> Technical guidance to the NPPF: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>9</sup> DEFRA, (2018). *Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England*. [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> South East Plan: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/427/contents/made>

Basin Heaths Special Protection Area)<sup>11</sup>, is relevant to the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

- 2.26 The **West Berkshire Core Strategy (2012)**<sup>12</sup> sets out the long term, strategic vision for development in West Berkshire to 2026. It sets a target of delivery of 10,500 new homes by 2026 and allocates two strategic sites for development as well as setting the spatial framework for future development.
- 2.27 **Housing Site Allocations DPD (2017)**<sup>13</sup> sits under the Core Strategy to allocate the remainder of the housing requirement to 2026 and includes policies to guide development in the countryside.
- 2.28 **Neighbourhood Plans (as they emerge)**<sup>14</sup> form part of the development plan. Currently there are nine designated areas in West Berkshire with each parish council at a different stage of plan preparation. Of these ~~one has~~ two have been adopted. Neighbourhood Plans are not permitted to consider minerals and waste development.
- 2.29 Some of the policies of the **West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 – 2006**<sup>15</sup> have been saved and so form part of the development plan. The policies of particular relevance to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan relate to environmental nuisance and pollution control, noise pollution and hazardous substances.
- 2.30 The Council has started a review of the current Local Plan (made up of the West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 – 2006 (saved 2007), Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2006 – 2026) and Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (2017)) to cover the period up to 2037.
- 2.31 When adopted the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for West Berkshire and sit alongside and complement the other development plan documents that form part of the statutory development plan.
- 2.32 The **Council Strategy (2019 – 2023)**<sup>16</sup> sets out the wider strategic objectives of the Council. The Council Strategy outlines that the Council's vision and purpose is to "work together to make West Berkshire an even greater place in which to live, work and learn". There are four strategic aims to support the vision:
- Great Place
  - Sustainable and Innovative Together
  - Protected and Cared for
  - Open for Business
- 2.33 The **Local Transport Plan (LTP)**<sup>17</sup> was adopted in 2011 and sets the framework for the delivery of all aspects of transport and travel for West Berkshire to 2026.

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<sup>11</sup> See pages 99 to 100 of The South East Plan

<sup>12</sup> West Berkshire Core Strategy: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/corestrategy>

<sup>13</sup> Housing Site Allocations DPD: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/hsa>

<sup>14</sup> Neighbourhood Plans: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning>

<sup>15</sup> West Berkshire District Local Plan: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=28783>

<sup>16</sup> Council Strategy: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=27946>

<sup>17</sup> Local Transport Plan: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/ltp>



- 2.34 Approximately 74% of West Berkshire is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan<sup>18</sup> is another important consideration in the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The management plan is driven by the primary purpose of the AONB designation – conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. It places a strong emphasis on the delivery of an integrated and sustainable approach, with vibrant rural economies and communities.
- 2.35 The Council's **Waste Management Plan**<sup>19</sup> was adopted in 2002, setting out the Council's plan for waste management to 2022. The strategy aims to maximise composting and recycling rates in the district. Veolia Environmental Services were appointed to deliver the waste management contract in 2008. In 2008 a new Household Waste Recycling Centre opened in Newbury, with a new Integrated Waste Management Facility opening in Padworth in 2011.
- 2.36 The Minerals and Waste Local Plan also needs to take into account other plans such as **Community Plans**<sup>20</sup> (also known as Parish Plans) produced by the local communities of West Berkshire. These types of plans identify the economic, environmental and social issues important to a particular area and set out a vision for the local community.

### Evidence Base

- 2.37 The Local Plan has to be based on a robust and credible evidence base. The Council has carried out or commissioned technical background work to help inform the process. This includes the following studies, all of which are available to download from the Council's website<sup>21</sup>.
- Local Aggregate Assessments (LAA)
  - Local Waste Assessment (LWA)
  - Minerals Evidence Paper
  - Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR)
  - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)
  - Landscape and Visual Assessment
  - Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)
  - Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)
  - Soft Sand Study and Topic Paper
  - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal\*
  - Heritage Assessment
  - Transport Topic Paper
- 2.38 Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) has also been produced alongside the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. A SA/SEA must accompany all development plan documents produced. This is a tool that highlights any significant environmental, social or economic effects of the plan. It assesses the

<sup>18</sup> AONB Management Plan: <http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/About-Us/aonb-management-plan.html>

<sup>19</sup> Waste Management Plan: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=27743>

<sup>20</sup> Community Planning: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29110>

<sup>21</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan ~~evidence base~~ Proposed Submission documents: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

\* Ecological Appraisals are not routinely published as they contain sensitive information that may be harmful for protected species if it was made available. Can be made available on request.

plan against a number of sustainability objectives in order to identify the impacts. The appraisal is fully integrated into the plan making process so that it can inform and influence the plan as it evolves.

- 2.39 All the documents that form part of the evidence base for the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan contain numerous technical terms and acronyms. As opposed to including a glossary in each and every publication the Council has produced a single 'living' Glossary<sup>22</sup> that will continue to be updated with new terms and acronyms.

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<sup>22</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Glossary: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

### 3 Vision and Objectives

- 3.1 The vision and objectives of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan provide the basis for the development of the overarching strategy, policies and proposals for minerals supply and waste management through the plan period to 2037.
- 3.2 The objectives seek to address the issues identified in the production and consultation involved in the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, taking into account relevant national and local policies.

#### Vision

To facilitate the planned delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity which meet the requirements for West Berkshire in accordance with national planning policy. In particular to plan for the delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity in locations which meet the needs of West Berkshire in the most sustainable way, **and taking into account climate change.**

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#### Strategic Objectives

- 3.3 The vision leads to a set of objectives which have been prepared through consultation and which reflect the direction given by other plans and strategies in the District. The strategic objectives represent the key delivery outcomes that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan should achieve. It is critical to the success of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan that these objectives are realised.

#### Minerals Objectives

M1	To encourage the most appropriate use of all mineral resources and the re-use of recycled minerals and secondary aggregates, having regard to the need to ensure that there is a sufficient supply, whilst maintaining the long term conservation of primary aggregates.
M2	To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents and protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, <b><u>taking into account climate change.</u></b>
M3	Where practicable to locate minerals development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised.
M4	To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals, as far as is practical, from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas <b><u>whilst also taking into account the potential for future contribution that should be made from mineral working in West Berkshire towards the aggregate supply needs of other areas.</u></b>

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M5	To identify sites for future mineral extraction which will provide for the continued extraction of minerals, having regard to the need to avoid demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.
M6	To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of proven mineral resources by other forms of development and to safeguard existing and planned rail head sites together with existing and planned concrete batching facilities, coated road stone manufacturing facilities and sites that handle, process and distribute recycled and secondary aggregates.
M7	To provide for the recovery and reuse of aggregate from construction and demolition waste in order to reduce the requirement for new primary resources to a minimum.
M8	To ensure that mineral sites are progressively restored at the earliest opportunity to a high standard, beneficial and viable after-use that delivers meaningful measurable net gains for biodiversity, including the establishment of coherent ecological networks.

### Waste Objectives

W1	To seek to prevent the generation of waste arisings at source, and to support and encourage initiatives designed to achieve this.
W2	To enhance waste management in West Berkshire in line with the Waste Hierarchy through the provision of capacity for the re-use of waste materials, the preparation for the reuse of materials, the recycling of waste and the recovery of materials that cannot be recycled and to minimise the quantities of residual waste needing final disposal while recognising that this will continue to be required.
W3	To provide a flexible approach to the delivery of waste management facilities of appropriate capacity and type to achieve net self-sufficiency within the West Berkshire area.
W4	To enable the delivery of the West Berkshire Waste Management strategy and increase the proportion of waste managed further up the waste hierarchy.
W5	To locate waste management facilities so that wherever possible they minimise the distances that waste is transported for management and disposal, and to minimise adverse traffic effects of waste management development.
W6	To safeguard existing waste management facilities, which are appropriately located, from competing forms of development that might otherwise constrain their continued operation or lead to their loss.
W7	To ensure appropriate protection of the quality of life of those who live and work in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development.
W8	To ensure appropriate protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development in accordance with the NPPF <b>and taking into account climate change.</b>
W9	Where practicable to locate waste development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised.

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### **Overarching Spatial Strategy**

- 3.4 Minerals development can only take place where the resources are found. Within West Berkshire, where sand and gravel are the main minerals extracted, this occurs along the river valley between Newbury and Reading for sharp sand and gravel, and in the 'Reading Beds' for soft sand, a bedrock deposit outcropping in the higher ground above the Kennet Valley.
- 3.5 Waste development will be directed to the most appropriate locations including consideration of the proximity to the sources of waste arisings.

## 4 Strategic Policies

- 4.1 This section of the Plan sets out the policies to deliver the Council's minerals and waste planning strategy for the plan period to 2037.
- 4.2 The Plan makes provision for a steady and adequate supply of construction aggregates over the plan period through the allocation of sites for mineral extraction sites as well as through encouraging the use of secondary and recycled aggregates.
- 4.3 The Plan includes a range of locational policies that provide a preferred spatial strategy for the provision of new waste management facilities that may be needed over the plan period.
- 4.4 The strategy also sets out the proposals for safeguarding of mineral resources and infrastructure as well as waste infrastructure to ensure the ongoing supply of both mineral resources and waste management capacity in the future. Policies on restoration and after use of mineral sites reflect the importance of these matters to the residents of West Berkshire to ensure that mineral extraction enhances the environment and to provide amenities for the public.
- 4.5 Where sites have been allocated, they are accompanied by a specific site policy setting out key requirements for any planning application submitted for the site.
- 4.6 There is also a suite of development management policies that set the broad framework against which all minerals and waste proposals will need to be assessed.
- 4.7 The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is accompanied by a [Policies map](#)<sup>23</sup> that will setting out, spatially, the various policies in the plan. ~~All mapping information is available on the Council's [Interactive map](#).~~

### Policy 1

#### Sustainable Development

When considering minerals and waste development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Policy for Waste and the associated Planning Guidance.

Minerals and waste development proposals that accord with the policies in this plan will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

- 4.8 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has a presumption in favour of sustainable development at its heart. Therefore, the Council's plan is based upon this principle as demonstrated by the vision, objectives and policies of the plan.

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<sup>23</sup> Interactive Policies Map

<https://westberks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fccb053d108f4783aefeb01bb03fb77b>

- 4.9 The policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan should be read in conjunction with other documents that form part of the Statutory Development Plan for West Berkshire. In addition, the Minerals and Waste Local Plan must be read as a whole.

## Landbank and Need

### Policy 2

#### Landbank and Need

The need for aggregate minerals to supply the construction market in West Berkshire should be met, where possible, from recycled and secondary aggregates in preference to primary aggregates to minimise the need to extract primary aggregates. Provision will be made for a minimum of 350,000 tonnes of recycled and secondary aggregate capacity.

In order to ensure a steady and adequate supply of primary construction aggregates (sand and gravel), the Council will seek to maintain landbanks of permitted reserves of sharp sand and gravel and soft sand of at least 7 years based on the latest Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA), and take into account the need to maintain sufficient productive capacity to enable the rates in the LAA to be realised.

The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will aim to deliver at least 1,630,000 tonnes of construction aggregates from primary sources to meet the identified needs of West Berkshire over the plan period to 2037, comprised of 840,000 tonnes of sharp sand and gravel and 790,000 tonnes of soft sand. The level of need for primary construction aggregates and state of the landbank will be kept under review through the production of a LAA on an annual basis.

- 4.10 Minerals make a significant contribution to the nation's prosperity and quality of life, and aggregate minerals are needed to build new communities and maintain existing ones. The NPPF requires in the first instance, that as far as practicable, planning policies should take account of the contribution of recycled and secondary materials to the supply of minerals before considering the extraction of primary materials. In order to encourage the production of recycled and secondary materials, this policy includes a minimum requirement for capacity, based on the past three year average sales (rounded up), as recommended in the Local Aggregates Assessment. There are adequate processing facilities for this demand of recycled aggregates and the plan also seeks to safeguard these sites (Policy 10 'Waste Safeguarding) to ensure the level of contribution these sites provide can be maintained. There are no known sources of notable secondary aggregates within West Berkshire. While recycled aggregates locally have primarily been used in low grade construction, improvements in technology mean that there may be scope in the future for production of higher quality material which may be able to replace more and more primary minerals.
- 4.11 In addition, the NPPF requires that Minerals Planning Authorities should make provision for ensuring an adequate and steady supply of primary aggregates for the construction industry by means of maintaining a landbank.
- 4.12 A landbank is a stock of mineral planning permissions, which together allow sufficient aggregate minerals to be extracted to meet a defined period at a given rate of supply. Landbanks of aggregate minerals reserves are also used as the principal indicator of the future security of aggregate minerals supply, and to indicate the additional provision that needs to be made for new aggregate extraction and alternative supplies in mineral plans.



- 4.13 The NPPF requires Minerals Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates through preparing an annual Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) from which future planned provision should be derived based on a rolling average of 10-years aggregates sales and an assessment of all supply options (including marine dredged, secondary and recycled sources), and other relevant local information.

**X.XX MHCLG have undertaken the Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2019, which along with sales, reserves and permissions, also includes movements of minerals between Mineral Planning Authorities. Once published, the results of this survey, particularly in relation to movements of aggregate minerals into West Berkshire, will be critical to determining West Berkshire's future projections of need for aggregate minerals. The findings of this survey and any other relevant future surveys will be considered within future LAAs.**

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- 4.14 The NPPF also confirms that Mineral Planning Authorities ensure that sufficient resources are identified to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years of supply for sand and gravel throughout the plan period.
- 4.15 The minerals evidence that supports the Minerals and Waste Local Plan confirms that the average level of primary construction aggregates that have been sold from sites in West Berkshire over the last 10 years (2010 – 2019) is 156,233 tonnes (comprised of 128,581 tonnes sharp sand and gravel; 27,652 tonnes soft sand). However, the Local Aggregates Assessment has determined that other relevant local factors are significant enough to maintain the 2018 10 year average annual requirement rate of 189,233 tonnes of sharp sand and gravel, and 43,730 tonnes of soft sand (232,964 total sand and gravel).
- 4.16 In accordance with the NPPF this figure has been used to calculate the level of need over the plan period (to 2037). Assuming that West Berkshire continues to supply construction aggregates to the market at a rate of 232,964 tonnes per annum then approximately 4.2 million tonnes of construction aggregates will need to be supplied in the period to 2037.
- 4.17 The minerals evidence confirms that at the end of 2019 there was approximately 2.57 million tonnes of sand and gravel reserves permitted at sites in West Berkshire. Taking these permitted reserves into account means that the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan will need to meet a need for approximately 1.63 million tonnes of construction aggregates to 2037. This is comprised of approximately 840,000 tonnes of sharp sand and gravel, and 790,000 tonnes soft sand.
- 4.18 It is noted that the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (RMLP) sets out a number of preferred areas, designed to meet the needs of that plan. There remain two sites identified in the adopted RMLP located in West Berkshire estimated to contain circa 1,700,000 tonnes of sharp sand and gravel that have not yet been worked, or been the subject of planning applications. There is no certainty over whether these sites will ever be worked (and indeed having been allocated for over 15 years and no application having been forthcoming it seems unlikely). Therefore, the West Berkshire MWLP does not take these reserves into account, and is proposing to provide for the complete requirement identified over the plan period.

- 4.19 The NPPF and planning practice guidance states that separate landbanks should be calculated and maintained for any aggregate materials of a specific type or quality which have a distinct and separate market. In West Berkshire there are principally two types of construction aggregates that have been worked: sharp sand and gravel (primarily used in the manufacture of concrete) and soft sand (primarily used in the manufacture of mortar). There are also deposits of hoggin found within West Berkshire (usually used as dug), however in recent years these deposits have been processed and sold as sharp sand and gravel.
- 4.20 With no hard rock reserves in West Berkshire, all hard rock requirements are met through imports, mainly by rail. Approximately 60% of total aggregates sales in West Berkshire is hard rock. It has been assumed that a large proportion of the imported aggregate sold from three rail depots in West Berkshire is then exported from the district by road. The plan seeks to safeguard the rail head sites (Policy 9 'Minerals Safeguarding') to ensure that this important mineral resource can be retained.

### Net Self Sufficiency in Waste Management

#### Policy 3

#### Net Self-sufficiency in Waste Management

In order to ensure the appropriate management of waste arisings within West Berkshire the Council will seek to maintain net self-sufficiency, where the total waste management capacity provided from sites in West Berkshire is greater than the total waste arisings within West Berkshire over the plan period to 2037.

The level of need for new waste management capacity to meet net self-sufficiency **as well as capacity surplus/deficits by waste management type** will be kept under review through the production of Authority Monitoring Reports.

MM7

The Council will seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy by requiring waste development proposals to demonstrate that the waste being managed cannot reasonably be managed higher up the waste hierarchy than that proposed.

- 4.21 Achieving net self-sufficiency in waste management and disposal capacity requires the provision of waste treatment and disposal capacity that is equal to or greater than the volume of waste arisings.
- 4.22 West Berkshire is too small an area to plan effectively for all waste streams. This is primarily due to the level of waste arisings and issues around economies of scale. Much of the specialist waste arisings in the district are too low to make a specific waste treatment or disposal method viable. This is probably true of all plan areas as all waste planning authorities will generate small volumes of very specialised waste, such as hazardous or radioactive waste, that would be uneconomical to manage locally.
- 4.23 Therefore there will always be a movement of waste across administrative boundaries, however it is considered that planning for net self-sufficiency should mean that the authority is in the position where the necessary level of waste movement is reduced. It is accepted that West Berkshire will always be reliant on

MM8

other local authorities to manage some waste arising within West Berkshire. This is because there is no non-hazardous landfill capacity within the authority meaning that such wastes destined for landfill will have to be exported. Similarly there is only a small volume of waste recovery capacity in West Berkshire (there being a small number of facilities that use waste wood to generate electricity or produce heat and some on farm anaerobic digestion capacity). **However, these potential shortfalls in capacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operations and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.**

**X.XX National policy does not necessarily expect every waste planning area to provide the full range of facilities required to manage waste arising within the Plan Area, given economies of scale and the operation of the market transcending administrative boundaries. This means that each WPA may aim to achieve self-sufficiency overall ('net' self-sufficiency), which means that flows into and out of the Plan area are balanced and offset. For West Berkshire the lack of capacity to manage residual waste is more than offset by the capacity of facilities providing other forms of waste management in the district such as recycling. Therefore, overall waste management capacity in the district exceeds that of the waste generated and it can be said that the objective of net self-sufficiency can be met. Where a specific lack of capacity exists (for example residual waste management), this has been addressed through the Duty to Cooperate.**

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**X.XX As already outlined, West Berkshire does not have sufficient capacity to manage residual waste either through energy recovery or non-hazardous landfill (The Local Waste Assessment identifies a need for 85,117 tpa for energy recovery and 34,000 tpa for non-hazardous landfill by 2037) . However, notwithstanding this shortfall in capacity, 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 non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity, the surplus capacity at other types of waste management facility in the district more than offsets this shortfall. Therefore, the total waste management capacity in the district still exceeds the quantity of waste generated. The principle of planning for 'net' self-sufficiency has been agreed with other Waste Planning Authorities in the South East of England, through the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) Statement of Common Ground (para 2.1). In addition, Policy 7 allows for proposals for non-hazardous landfill to come forward where they meet the requirements of that policy, and a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to address the lack of non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity over the Plan period.**

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4.24 **However these potential shortfalls in capacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operating and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.**-The Local Waste Assessment (LWA) 2020 that has been produced to inform the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan has considered the volume of waste arisings in West Berkshire by waste stream and also uses various methods to project the volume of waste arisings anticipated to arise at the end of the plan period (2037). The full detail can be found in the LWA but in all cases the Council has sought to use the least conservative (but still reasonable) forecasting method identified when projecting future waste arisings. Such an approach has been adopted to ensure that the projections in the LWA are sufficiently

MM11

robust to ensure that the policy approach adopted in the MWLP is the most appropriate.

- 4.25 The following table (from the LWA) illustrates the estimated volume of waste, by waste stream that is presently arising and the projected level of waste arisings at 2037 as well as a summary of the estimated waste management capacity available at existing sites in West Berkshire. This gives an estimation of the shortfall/surplus of capacity for each waste stream at the end of the Plan period.

Table 4.1: Arisings and Capacity (permanent, operational) Summary in West Berkshire

Waste Stream	Chosen Baseline Arisings (t)	Projected Arisings 2037 (t)	Capacity (t)	Shortfall/Surplus at 2037 (t)
LACW	74,897	85,500	118,000	+32,500
CDE	462,903	574,000	634,250 (+87,700m <sup>3</sup> *)	+60,250
C&I	165,812	255,000	450,950**	+195,950
Hazardous	15,303	15,100	17,100	+2,000
Sewage Sludge	3,916	4,114	7,300	+3,186
Radioactive	1,372m <sup>3</sup> ***	1,372m <sup>3</sup>	20m <sup>3</sup>	-
Equine	52,800	52,800	4,000	-
Other	-	-	400	-
<b>Total***</b>	<b>607,017</b>	<b>933,714</b>	<b>1,227,600</b> <b>(+87,700m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>+293,886</b>

\* Inert waste landfill capacity is temporary, and has been excluded from net self-sufficiency calculations.

\*\* Rounded up from 450,948

\*\*\*Radioactive arisings based on lifetime total over the Plan period (24,700/18).

\*\*\*\* Excluding Radioactive, Equine and Other wastes.

- 4.26 This table above shows that the operational permanently consented waste infrastructure in West Berkshire (see Tables 3.2 – 3.7 of the LWA), could manage over 1 million tonnes of waste arisings per year.
- 4.27 In addition it is understood that at the end of 2018 there was around 87,700 m<sup>3</sup> of inert waste landfill/recovery capacity in West Berkshire (with 1.25 million m<sup>3</sup> having yet to be created through consented mineral extraction), see Table 3.7 of the LWA. It is estimated that somewhere in the region of 933,333 m<sup>3</sup> of additional landfill capacity (expected to be inert) could be generated over the life of the plan through the restoration of the allocated mineral extraction sites identified in this plan.
- 4.28 In addition, several of the existing consented waste management (recycling and transfer) sites in West Berkshire currently operate under temporary permissions (see Tables 3.2 – 3.7 of the LWA). The temporary facilities currently operating only provide around 110,000 tonnes of recycling and transfer capacity, illustrating that the vast majority of the consented capacity (approximately 1.2 million tonnes) is provided by sites with permanent planning permission.
- 4.29 As can be seen from the above tables the total annual capacity of the existing permanent waste management sites in West Berkshire is understood to be 1,227,600 tonnes. When compared to the worst case projected total annual waste arisings for 2037 of 933,714 tonnes, it can be seen that there is headroom of 293,886 tonnes.

- 4.30 In addition, the LWA has shown that there is sufficient capacity for recycling targets to be met for Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste, with capacity to meet future targets as well. For both LACW and C&I waste, the circular economy target to recycle 65% with no more than 10% waste to landfill by 2035 has been applied<sup>24</sup>. This results in the following requirements at the end of the plan period (2037):

Table 4.2: Estimated Management Capacity Required to Meet Circular Economy Targets by the end of the Plan Period (tonnes).

2037	Recycle (65%)	Implied Recovery (25%)	Landfill (10%)	Total
<b>LACW</b>	55,564	21,371	8,548	85,483
<b>C&amp;I</b>	165,739	63,746	25,498	254,983

Source: LWA (2020) Tables 4.4 and 6.7 (worst case scenario)

- 4.31 The total current capacity for C&I waste management to achieve the 65% recycling target is approximately 450,950 tonnes (LWA Table 3.3) which is more than the 165,739 tonnes required by 2035. For LACW, current capacity is 69,000 tonnes (LWA Table 4.3) which is also in excess of the relevant recycling target of 55,564 tonnes by 2035.
- 4.32 For CDE waste, which is not required to achieve the same circular economy targets as LACW and C&I waste, the Waste Framework Directive specifies that at least 70% should be prepared for reuse, recycled or recovered by 2020<sup>25</sup>. Permanent operational capacity to manage the recyclable element of CDE waste equates to 634,250 tonnes per annum (LWA Table 3.4). This is in excess of the approximately 242,962 tonnes of CDE waste (70% of 347,089 tonnes total CDE arisings in 2018) required to be prepared for reuse, recycled or recovered by 2020 in line with the Waste Framework Directive, and is even sufficient to manage the total estimated CDE waste arisings over the Plan period (352,000 – 574,000 tpa).
- 4.33 The level of operational, permanently consented waste management capacity in West Berkshire is currently above the estimated levels of waste arisings (in 2018). The level of consented capacity currently also exceeds the projected level of waste arisings in 2037, and there is sufficient capacity to achieve the circular economy and Waste Framework Directive targets. It is therefore apparent, based on the evidence supporting the plan, that there is no need for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to identify any new sites for the delivery of additional waste management capacity to meet the needs of the authority over the life of the plan.
- 4.34 The Council undertook several call for sites as part of the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (in 2014 and 2016) and a number of 'waste sites' were submitted for consideration as part of this process. However as the LWA has shown that there is no need for additional waste management capacity within the district the sites have not been considered for allocation. All but one of the sites were existing waste management sites 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, and as detailed in Policy 7 'Location of Development – Landfill and Permanent Deposit of Waste to Land' it is considered

<sup>24</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/targets.htm>

that inert waste from which no more value can be obtained should be used in the restoration of permitted minerals sites to ensure that such sites can be restored to an acceptable landuse in a timely manner. As stated above the proposed minerals sites for allocation will result in the demand for around 933,333 cubic metres of material to be used in the restoration of these sites.

- 4.35 In addition, given the other policies that are proposed as part of the plan it is considered that there is no need to allocate existing permanent waste sites for waste development given that a presumption in favour of replacement or additional facilities at existing waste facilities is proposed under the policy on the location of waste facilities (Policy 5 'Location of Development – General Waste Management Facilities').
- 4.26 The proposed policy on the safeguarding of waste facilities (Policy 10 'Waste Safeguarding') is deliberately protective of the existing permanent waste management capacity in West Berkshire to ensure that existing consented capacity is not lost, to ensure the maintenance of a position of net self-sufficiency in terms of waste management capacity.
- 4.37 The monitoring of whether the authority remains in a position whereby it is achieving net self-sufficiency in waste management capacity will need to be kept under review once the plan has been adopted to ensure that this policy position remains an appropriate approach. Monitoring of waste management capacity on a regular basis will be undertaken as part of the monitoring of the plan, in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and it is recommended that the local waste assessment be updated on a regular basis.

## Location of Development

### Policy 4

#### Location of Development – Construction Aggregates

##### *Allocated Sites*

The following sites are allocated to meet the need for primary aggregates:

##### Sharp Sand and Gravel

1. Tidney Bed, Ufton Nervet (Policy 30 'Tidney Bed')

##### Soft Sand

2. Chieveley Services, Chieveley (Policy 31 'Chieveley Services')

A map showing the location of the allocated sites is given in Appendix 1 'Allocated Sites'.

**There will be a presumption in favour of construction aggregate extraction proposals only in the following circumstances. Planning permission will be granted for construction aggregate extraction where the following criteria are met:**

- a. The site is allocated for mineral extraction in this plan, provided that the identified site specific requirements are satisfied; or
- b. The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for a borrow pit; or
- c. The extraction proposal relates to the extraction of minerals prior to a planned non mineral development (prior extraction); or
- d. The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for another beneficial and acceptable use and mineral extraction is a necessary part of the proposed development; or
- e. The extraction proposal is required to maintain the requirement provisions in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'.

**In addition, f For soft sand planning permission will additionally be granted for extraction where the following criteria are met:**

- f. The site is located within an area of search for soft sand; or
- g. For proposals within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the requirements of the exceptional circumstances test in the NPPF are satisfied.

**Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy In addition to the requirements identified in this policy,** proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

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- 4.38 For sharp sand and gravel, the plan identifies, through the allocation of one site, sufficient resources to meet the landbank requirement for the plan period. This site provides a supply of approximately one million tonnes of construction aggregates. The outcomes of consultation, further assessment in terms of viability and changes to the landbank requirement have influenced the selection of the sites in the plan. The details of the sites proposed for allocation are set out in the chapter 6 'Site Allocation Policies'.

4.39 This figure of one million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel that could be delivered from the allocated site is above the arithmetic minimum level of 840,000 tonnes that the plan needs to provide in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'. However, there are a variety of factors that can impact upon the actual yield of minerals from an extraction site, and it would not be practicable to only allocate part of the proposed site. In addition, it will assist in maintaining sufficient production capacity as required by Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'.

**X.XX For soft sand, the Plan identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Service). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper<sup>26</sup>). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.**

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**X.XX As the allocated site cannot be relied upon to fully meet need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Council has also identified areas of search (Figure 3 'Soft Sand Areas of Search') within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.**

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~~4.42 As imports from Oxfordshire cannot be relied upon to fully meet the need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Plan also identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Services). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.~~

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~~4.43 The Council has also identified soft sand areas of search (Figure 3 'Soft Sand Areas of Search') within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.~~

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4.40 **Due to the fact that in recent years the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), For soft sand,** the Council commissioned a specific Soft Sand Study to investigate all potential supply options for delivering West Berkshire's identified level of need for soft sand. ~~due to the fact that in recent years, the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty~~

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<sup>26</sup> <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>



~~(AONB)~~–The Soft Sand Study concluded that the only realistic alternative to providing for extraction within the AONB in West Berkshire, **as required by the exceptional circumstances test in paragraph 176 of the NPPF**, would be to supply soft sand from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire. The Soft Sand Study identifies that ~~part of the current~~ **some of the** soft sand sales pattern in Oxfordshire comprises supply to West Berkshire, so this would be a continuation of ~~the current~~ **this** situation. Therefore, if Oxfordshire were **to continue** to make provision to enable ~~the current these~~ levels of sales to continue, then it could be inferred that ~~the current these~~ movements of soft sand from Oxfordshire to West Berkshire will be able to continue. This would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports ~~from Oxfordshire~~ **as is currently understood to be the case**. However, this would rely on a formal agreement with Oxfordshire County Council to make provision for supplying West Berkshire as well as addressing its own requirements.

4.41 Therefore, liaison has been undertaken through the Duty to Cooperate regarding whether Oxfordshire County Council could make provision through their emerging Site Allocations Document to enable ~~current the~~ levels of soft sand supply **as set out in the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy and as identified within their Local Aggregates Assessment to continue through their emerging Site Allocations Document**. A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared regarding the arrangement of soft sand supply between the authorities and outlining agreement from Oxfordshire County Council to make provision to enable ~~current~~ levels of supply to continue which would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports from Oxfordshire, as is currently understood to be the case.

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4.44 It is acknowledged that the one allocated soft sand site is not sufficient to meet the identified requirement for soft sand in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'. However, it is considered that the Council has undertaken all measures to identify potential soft sand supply options for the District as set out in the West Berkshire Soft Sand Study and Soft Sand Topic paper. The shortfall in soft sand supply of 120,000 - 390,000 tonnes, (6,667 – 21,667 tpa) is expected to be made up from windfall sites **from the soft sand area of search and if that does not result in sufficient permissions to meet the identified requirement, a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared with Oxfordshire which agrees some supply of soft sand. supply from Oxfordshire.**

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4.45 It is anticipated that these measures combined will enable the requirement for soft sand identified in Policy 2 to be met. Monitoring indicators are included in the monitoring schedule to ensure that the supply of soft sand is able to be calculated over the Plan period. Where this is demonstrating that the requirement for soft sand is not being met, then this would trigger a review of the Plan, and consideration of the options for soft sand supply again.

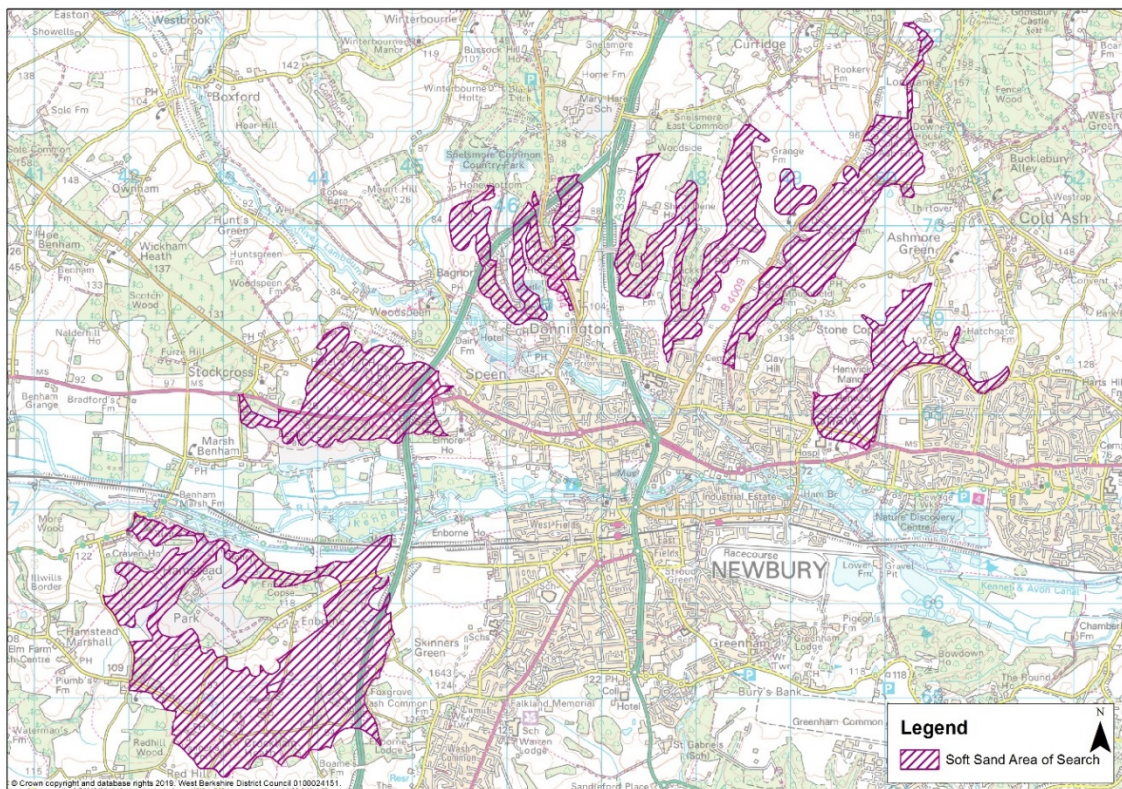


Figure 3: Soft Sand Areas of Search

4.46 Within identified allocated sites there will be a strong presumption in favour of development for the extraction of sand and gravel, subject to consideration of the detailed proposals against the site specific requirements. Consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.

4.47 Allocated sites identify areas where **planning permission will be granted if the criteria and policies in the Plan are met. there will be a presumption in favour of development.** The mineral allocations have been selected as the least damaging potential sites for extraction in terms of the effect on environmental and social sustainability. ~~**It therefore, follows as a general principle that outside the allocated sites there will be a general presumption against planning permission being granted unless the additional requirements of the policy are met.**~~

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4.48 The policy recognises that there could be other circumstances when mineral extraction proposals might be considered acceptable.

4.49 The first identified situation is the development of borrow pits that meet the specific needs of a construction project, such as a specific road development. This is detailed further in Policy 8 'Borrow Pits'.

4.50 There is a presumption in favour of planning permission being granted for prior extraction proposals, where mineral extraction takes place in advance of significant development and where a viable mineral resource would otherwise be sterilised, as referred to in Policy 9 'Minerals Safeguarding'.

- 4.51 Other developments, such as the creation of marinas or agricultural reservoirs which have the potential to provide minerals as part of the extraction operations that would be required in the delivery of such developments, may also be considered acceptable.
- 4.52 Another general presumption in favour of mineral extraction, is where sites are needed in order to enable the requirement provisions in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need' to be met. This may be where, for example an allocated site has not come forward as anticipated.
- 4.53 Finally, in recognition that the allocated site for soft sand is not sufficient on its own to meet the requirement specified in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need', the additional criteria allow sites to be considered in soft sand areas of search, or in situations where they satisfy the requirements of the exceptional circumstances test in the NPPF (for proposals within the AONB).
- 4.54 All development proposals will be considered on their own individual merits and consideration will be given to the specific justifications provided for the proposals. All proposals will be considered against policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

## Policy 5

### Location of Development – General Waste Management Facilities

~~There will be a presumption in favour of~~ **Priority will be given to** waste management development proposals (excluding landfill) ~~only~~ in the following areas:

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- a. Existing sites with permanent planning permission for waste management development; or
- b. Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8 land uses) or within suitable protected employment areas; or
- c. On previously developed land; or
- d. Agricultural or forestry buildings and their curtilages where they are demonstrated to be redundant; or
- e. In the case of inert waste management facilities, in aggregate quarries and inert landfill sites for the duration of the host facility.

Waste development outside these areas will ~~only~~ be permitted **where they meet the other relevant policies in the plan in exceptional circumstances** and consideration will be given to the proximity of the proposed development to the source of waste arisings.

The co-location of waste management activities within existing permanent waste management sites will be supported, where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts.

Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy, proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

4.55 No waste sites are to be allocated through the plan as there is sufficient waste management capacity in existing sites which will be safeguarded over the plan period (Policy 10 'Waste Safeguarding'). However, this policy sets out ~~where there will be a presumption in favour of~~ **priority will be given to** waste management development. This approach will enable flexibility for sites to cope with changes in waste practices and allow for new and emerging waste technologies to come forward on existing sites and ensure that old technology can be replaced with new and emerging technologies.

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4.56 ~~The policy seeks to steer waste development away from greenfield sites, giving~~ **The Plan gives** priority to existing waste sites, industrial and employment areas, the re-use of previously developed land and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings in line with the National Planning Policy for Waste. In the case of inert waste recycling facilities, these often have functional linkages with the restoration of aggregate quarries and inert landfill facilities, and therefore these are appropriate locations for this type of waste management. Policy 16 'Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure' provides greater detail on this situation. Within the specified areas there will be a presumption in favour of waste management development. However, consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.

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4.57 With respect to the co-location of new waste sites within existing permitted waste management sites particular consideration will need to be given to cumulative impacts. Proposed developments will need to demonstrate that they will not generate unacceptable impacts on their own, or in conjunction with existing waste facilities that will continue to operate at the site in question.

4.58 The main types of waste facility that could be developed in accordance with this policy include, **but is not limited to,** waste transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, inert waste recycling facilities, energy from waste, Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste facilities and scrap metal facilities.

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4.59 Waste developments may be acceptable outside the locations specified in the policy ~~in exceptional circumstances,~~ **where they meet the requirements of other relevant policies in the plan,** including where facilities are proposed in rural areas. Such facilities would only be acceptable where there is a good relationship between the location of the site and the source of the waste.

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**Policy 6**

**Location of Development - Specialist Waste Management Facilities**

Planning permission will be granted for specialist waste management facilities, including facilities to manage agricultural, **equine** and hazardous wastes and waste water where:

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- a. Sites are proposed within the areas identified in the location of waste management facilities policy; or

- b. There is a clear proven and overriding need for the proposed facility to be sited in the proposed location; and
- c. The proposals and any associated equipment or operations do not have an unacceptable environmental impact or unacceptable impacts on communities.

In addition, proposals for specialist waste management facilities must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

- 4.60 There are a number of waste streams that require specialist treatment that might need to be managed in specific locations. These can occur as part of municipal, C&I or C&D waste streams or as specialist waste streams themselves. Waste considered to require specialist waste management facilities can include (but is not limited to), hazardous waste including clinical and veterinary waste, equine and agricultural waste, waste water and sewage sludge. Anaerobic Digestion and composting facilities may also be considered under this policy.
- 4.61 Specialist waste management facilities are often most sustainably located close to the sources of the waste product, therefore, there can be a need for these facilities within areas otherwise considered unsuitable for waste development. Proposals would need to demonstrate that there is an overriding proven need for a new facility to be developed at the location proposed taking into account matters such as the location of the waste arisings, the nature of the waste, the throughput of the site and the nature of the waste management development proposed.
- 4.62 Specialist waste facilities, such as those dealing with equine and agricultural waste, may need to be located in areas that would not otherwise be acceptable, such as rural locations or within the AONB, to be close to the source of the waste. For example on farm waste facilities that derive their feedstock from the farm itself. Appropriate mitigation measures would be required to ensure such proposals do not generate an unacceptable level of harm to the character of the area or the local community.
- 4.63 Consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.

**Policy 7**

**Location of Development – Landfill and Permanent Deposit of Waste to Land**

~~There will be a presumption in favour of Proposals for~~ land filling or permanent deposit of waste only will be permitted in active or planned mineral extraction sites where the restoration of the mineral site requires the use of imported materials to achieve an acceptable restoration and afteruse.

Only waste from which no further value can reasonably be obtained shall be landfilled. Proposals for landraising will normally be refused.

~~In exceptional circumstances p~~ Permanent deposit of inert material may be

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permitted where it is an essential element of another beneficial and necessary development proposal.

Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

- 4.64 Due to a number of legislative and fiscal factors, including the landfill tax, the waste hierarchy, EU Directives and planning policies, the volume of waste landfilled in the UK has dramatically reduced in previous decades. As such there is only very limited demand for new landfill sites and existing sites are generally taking longer to complete.
- 4.65 The only landfill sites in West Berkshire that received waste in the last decade are those that accepted non-recyclable inert waste. This inert waste, that is usually derived from the construction, demolition and excavation waste stream is generally used in the restoration of former mineral workings, to achieve acceptable landforms.
- 4.66 This policy ensures that non-recyclable waste material is used for the restoration of mineral sites and not diverted to other sites / uses other than in exceptional circumstances. This is to ensure that there is sufficient material to enable the satisfactory restoration of mineral sites.
- 4.67 Whilst this policy would apply to the deposit of inert waste as well as non-inert wastes, it is considered unlikely that any proposals for non-inert waste will come forward over the life of the plan. Whilst there does not appear to be a significant demand for non-inert landfill within West Berkshire, a proposal may come forward during the plan period, and therefore, planning permission could be granted providing it complies with the policy.
- 4.68 Following completion of any landfill site, the site will need to be restored and there would be a period of after-care during which time the site would need to be managed to prevent unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment. As such Policy 17 'Restoration and Afteruse of Sites' is particularly relevant to such proposals.
- 4.69 It is recognised that there may occasionally be situations where the importation and placement of waste material from which no value can be obtained is deposited as part of another development, such as in the creation of flood defences or proposals for built development where a change in levels across a site is required. Whilst such proposals will generally be resisted (to ensure that there is sufficient material available to restore mineral sites), there may be exceptional benefits of such developments which override this general resistance. Due to the visual and landscape implications involved with land raising proposals, which create alien features in the landscape, landraising will normally be refused.
- 4.70 Activities which involve the permanent deposit of inert waste to land may be

considered to be disposal<sup>27</sup> (landfill) or recovery<sup>28</sup> operations. Whether the deposit of inert waste to land constitutes disposal or recovery depends on the specific characteristics and true purpose of the development. It also depends on whether the activity is being considered from a planning or an environmental permitting perspective. This is due to the fact that the Environment Agency have requirements for determining whether an activity requires a permit as a landfill, or a recovery operation, which may differ from the Waste Planning Authority view where certain types of permanent deposit are considered to be of beneficial use, e.g. mineral site restoration.

- 4.71 A permit must be obtained from the Environment Agency for the disposal or recovery of waste, in addition to planning permission. It is best practice that these applications are progressed simultaneously to minimise the extent of additional work and ensure integrated and timely decisions<sup>29</sup>.

### **Policy 8**

#### **Borrow Pits**

Planning permission will be granted for borrow pits to supply raw materials to serve major construction projects where:

- a. There is a need for minerals which cannot reasonably be supplied from existing aggregate producing sites, including primary aggregates and primary aggregate substitutes; or
- b. The transport of mineral from existing sites to the construction project would be detrimental to the environment and local amenities because of the scale, location and timing of the operations; and
- c. The site lies, on or in close proximity to the project; and
- d. The mineral can be transported to the point of use without leading to unacceptable impacts on the public highway network; and
- e. The site can be restored to a satisfactory after-use promptly following extraction without the need to import material other than that generated by the construction project itself or through the use of material that can be brought to the site without leading to unacceptable impacts on the public highway network;

Where planning permission is granted, conditions will be imposed to ensure that operations are time-limited and that all mineral extracted is used only for the specified project.

In addition, proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

- 4.72 Borrow pits are temporary mineral workings opened locally to supply material for

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<sup>27</sup> Disposal is the fifth and final stage of the waste hierarchy and includes the final fate of waste that is unable to be managed higher up the waste hierarchy (any operation which is not recovery).

<sup>28</sup> Recovery is the fourth stage of the waste hierarchy and includes any operation other than recycling where the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other primary material which would otherwise have been used.

<sup>29</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance for Waste Paragraph 052 Reference ID: 28-052-20141016 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste>.

a specific construction project. This is normally a large project where a substantial amount of aggregate needs to be supplied over a relatively short period. Examples include road building schemes, or the construction of a reservoir, although they can also be used in association with smaller projects.

- 4.73 It is recognised that, in some cases, it could be preferable to open up a borrow pit close to the project site to ensure the availability of the necessary supplies and to avoid the need to import material by lorry from further afield, reducing the impact on the road network. This also provides the opportunity to release otherwise unviable deposits.
- 4.74 The policy provides flexibility in the sourcing of aggregates for specific construction projects where there is a high level of demand for aggregates over a relatively short period. The developer will be required to demonstrate that the borrow pit represents the most suitable source of material to meet the demand, and that adequate environmental safeguards can be implemented effectively.
- 4.75 Consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.



## Safeguarding

### Policy 9

#### Minerals Safeguarding

'Minerals Safeguarding Areas' (MSAs) have been defined which safeguard the following from sterilisation by non-mineral development:

- a. Known construction aggregate mineral deposits ;
- b. Existing (including those with planning permission yet to be implemented) and allocated mineral extraction sites;

**In addition, the following Minerals Infrastructure is safeguarded against development that would unnecessarily prevent or prejudice the operation of the infrastructure:**

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Potential, planned and existing minerals associated infrastructure, including rail sites and mineral processing plant sites.

Non-mineral development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas **or affecting Minerals Safeguarded Infrastructure** may be considered acceptable in the following circumstances:

- c. The proposal would not prejudice or detrimentally affect the extraction of underlying mineral resources, or the operation of a planned or existing mineral extraction site, or the operation of potential, planned or existing minerals associated infrastructure; or
- d. It can be demonstrated that the underlying mineral is of no economic, or potential economic value, or that the mineral could not be extracted from the site for other valid planning reasons; or
- e. Where a mineral resource underlies a prospective development site and prior extraction, or partial prior extraction of the mineral resources can be undertaken in advance of, or as part of, the proposed development; or
- f. It can be demonstrated that the need for the proposed development outweighs the need to conserve the mineral resources, or maintain the operational capability of the minerals associated infrastructure; or
- g. The proposed development is aligned with the specifications for a site allocated within an adopted Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan, and the allocation was considered in light of this safeguarding policy.

4.76 Minerals are a valuable, but limited, natural resource that can only be won where they naturally occur. Safeguarding of viable or potentially viable mineral deposits from sterilisation by surface development is an important component of sustainable development. Safeguarding means taking a long-term view to ensure that sufficient resources will be available for future generations, and importantly choices remain open about where future mineral extraction might take place with the least environmental impact.

4.77 Safeguarding of minerals in MSAs will be achieved by ensuring that non-mineral development is steered elsewhere, or that extraction of the underlying minerals takes place prior to the non-mineral development proceeding (known as prior extraction).

4.78 The chalk and clay deposits in West Berkshire are not actively worked, and have not been commercially extracted for decades. Therefore these deposits are not considered of sufficient importance to warrant safeguarding. The key mineral deposits in West Berkshire are construction aggregates (soft sand and sharp sand and gravel). The deposits of these construction aggregates are relatively shallow, and their location often closely coincides with the existing pattern of settlement and development. Therefore, there is potential for new non-mineral surface development to be proposed on, or close to, these important mineral deposits.

4.79 The extent of the MSAs that have been identified (see below map and the policies map) are based on information about aggregate sand and gravel resources from the British Geological Survey and other sources of geological information, plus existing mineral working permissions and the nature and duration of the operations. In some instances the MSAs apply to sand and gravel deposits beneath existing urban areas. This is to ensure that the existence of the sand and gravel and the possibility for prior extraction is taken into account if and when proposals for large scale redevelopment are proposed and considered.

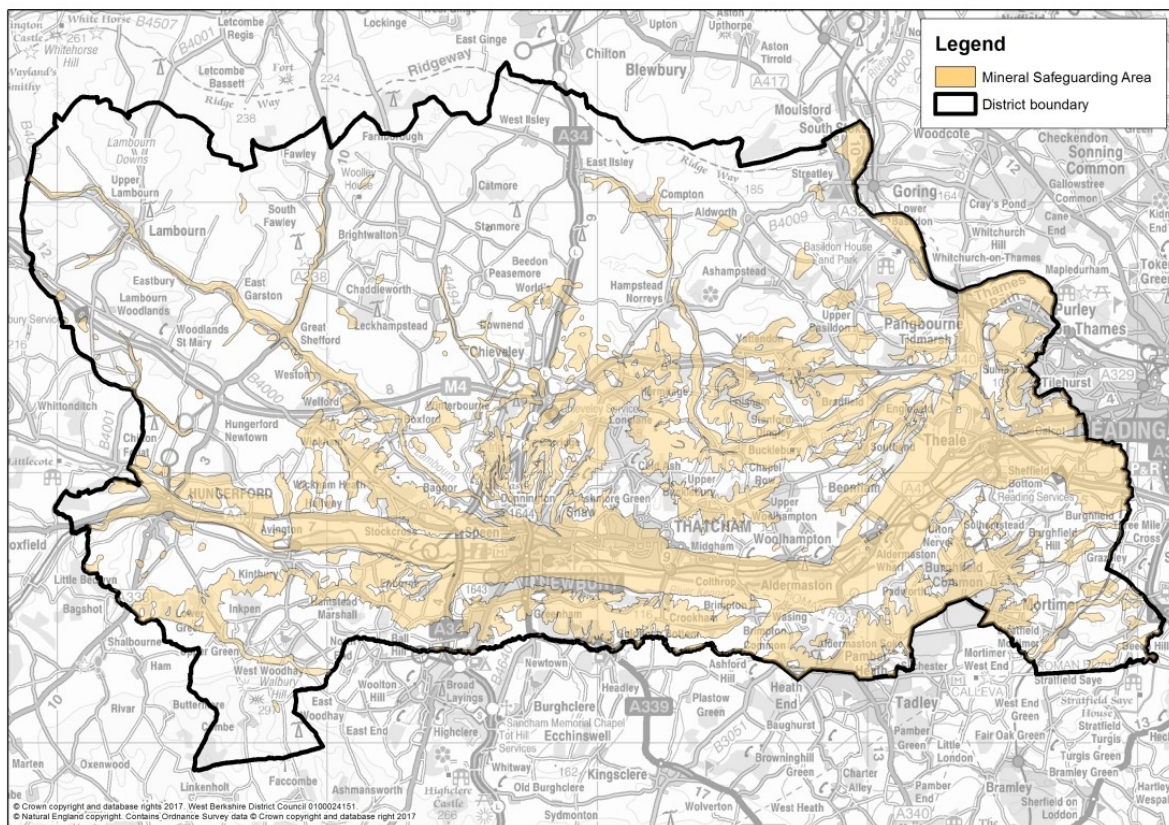


Figure 4: Mineral Safeguarding Areas

4.80 The policy does not mean that other forms of (non-mineral) development should not take place where sand and gravel deposits occur, but does mean that developers will need to show that they have fully explored the quality, extent and possibility for the extraction and use of the underlying sand and gravel when preparing their development proposals, through a Minerals Resource Assessment. The policy includes provision for projects of overriding importance to proceed where this can be demonstrated.

- 4.81 When assessing non-minerals development proposals within MSAs the Minerals Planning Authority will take into account the size and nature of the proposed development, the availability of alternative locations and the need for and urgency of the proposed development. Account will also be taken of the quality and quantity of the sand and gravel that could be recovered by prior extraction and the practicality and environmental impacts of doing so. Where non-mineral development is proposed on or close to minerals associated infrastructure that is not operational at the time of the application, consideration will be given to whether there is a reasonable prospect that the relevant infrastructure will become operational again in the future.
- 4.82 Proposed non-mineral development should not operationally prejudice an existing or allocated minerals site. This could occur where a non-mineral development is considered adjacent to a minerals site, but once built the impact of the minerals site on the new development is so significant that the minerals site is unable to continue working. This could be as a result of dust, noise or a number of other factors that only become an issue when sensitive receptors are present in the vicinity of a minerals site.
- 4.83 The onus of assessing the case for the potential commercial value (actual or potential) of the underlying mineral deposit lies with the developer. It will be necessary for the developer to determine the depth and quality of sand and gravel deposits on the site and to undertake an assessment of the practicality of prior extraction, either for use in the development itself or elsewhere. Consideration should be made of whether extraction of part of the sand and gravel deposit within the site could be undertaken, even if removal of the whole deposit appears impractical.
- 4.84 It is important to ensure that the environmental impacts of the development are contained. Due to the predominantly shallow nature of the deposits, it is not considered likely that the actual extraction will give rise to sufficient additional environmental effects over and above those of the development operation itself to preclude prior extraction.
- 4.85 The following sites are safeguarded under this policy as those with planning permission (either implemented, or yet to be implemented). New sites that are developed in line with policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will also be safeguarded<sup>30</sup>.

**Mineral Extraction Sites Safeguarded**

<b>Existing Permitted Mineral Extraction Sites</b>
Wasing Lower Farm, Wasing
Kennetholme, Thatcham
Craven Keep, Hamsterad Marshall
Harts Hill Quarry, Upper Bucklebury
Moores Farm, Pingewood
Copyhold Farm, Curridge

<b>Allocated Mineral Extraction Sites</b>
Tidney Bed, Ufron Nervet
Chieveley Services, Chieveley

<sup>30</sup> The authority monitoring report will update this list on a regular basis, where appropriate

- 4.86 It is also important that the infrastructure that supports the supply of minerals is safeguarded. Minerals infrastructure may be of a relatively low land value and could be vulnerable to pressures for redevelopment for other uses, however, they could be difficult or impossible to replace if lost to other uses. The continued operation of mineral infrastructure could also be prejudiced by other, non-compatible development being located on nearby land. Applications for non-mineral development would need to provide information as to how the operation of the mineral safeguarded infrastructure would not be prevented or prejudiced by the development.
- 4.87 The policy seeks to safeguard the following infrastructure:
- Existing and permitted mineral extraction sites and the processing and other ancillary plant and facilities associated with them
  - Aggregate rail depots
  - industrial manufacturing plant using minerals, such as concrete batching and concrete product plants
  - processing and other plant and facilities for the production or supply of recycled and/or secondary aggregate materials
- 4.88 The following sites are safeguarded under this policy as providing minerals associated infrastructure. New sites that are developed as a result of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will also be safeguarded<sup>31</sup>.

**Minerals Infrastructure Sites Safeguarded**

<b>Railhead sites</b>
<del>Wigmore Lane Rail Depot</del>
<del>Wigmore Lane North Theale</del>
<del>Wigmore Lane Central Theale</del>
<del>Wigmore Lane South Theale</del>
<b>Other</b>
Colthrop Mineral Processing Plant, Thatcham
Concrete batching plants that benefits from permanent planning permission
Marley Tile Factory, Beenham

- 4.89 Details of all the minerals safeguarding sites are set out in Appendix 2 ‘Safeguarded Sites’.

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<sup>31</sup> The Authority Monitoring Report will update this list on an annual basis, where appropriate

## Policy 10

### Waste Safeguarding

Sites for waste management development that provide waste management capacity shall be safeguarded from encroachment or loss to other forms of development for the duration of the relevant permission.

Non waste development that might result in a loss of permanent waste management capacity will be considered in the following circumstances:

- a. The waste management facility is no longer required and will not be required within the plan period; or
- b. An alternative site providing an equal or greater level of waste management capacity of the same type has been found, granted permission and shall be developed and operational prior to the loss of the existing site; or
- c. The proposed development is aligned with the specifications for a site allocated within an adopted Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan, and the allocation was considered in light of this safeguarding policy.

In the case of encroaching development it will need to be demonstrated that there are adequate mitigation measures proposed as part of the encroaching development to ensure that the proposed development is adequately protected from any potential adverse impacts from the existing waste development.

- 4.90 Waste management sites are often perceived by the wider community as a bad neighbour use, which can make finding and developing new waste management sites challenging. In addition the demand for land in West Berkshire is generally very high and the availability of land is often constrained. These factors have the potential to inflate land values, meaning that only high value uses are viable. In addition there is a high level of demand for housing development, which further puts pressure on land. **The NPPF prescribes that existing businesses should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of encroaching development, and that any new development (the 'agent of change') should provide suitable mitigation where existing businesses could have a significant adverse effect on the new development.** Safeguarding of waste facilities, where they are viable, is important to ensure the existing permitted sites are retained and not lost or sterilised due to competing land uses.
- 4.91 Where non-waste development is proposed on or close to a waste facility that is not operational at the time of the application, consideration will be given to whether there is a reasonable prospect that the relevant facility will become operational again in the future.
- 4.92 The Council currently has adequate waste sites to meet net self-sufficiency for waste management capacity over the period to 2037, and therefore, no new facilities are proposed to be allocated in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. However, this means that safeguarding of the existing permitted waste sites is even more important in order to ensure the maintenance of waste management capacity within West Berkshire.

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- 4.93 The following sites are safeguarded under this policy. Any new waste sites that are permitted will also be safeguarded<sup>32</sup>.

#### Existing Waste Sites Safeguarded

<b>Safeguarded Waste Sites</b>	<b>Type</b>
A4 Breakers, Beenham	Metal Recycling
AWE (Aldermaston & Burghfield)	Specialist treatment, transfer and storage (VLLW, LLW, ILW)
Avon Site, Colthrop, Thatcham	Materials Recycling Facility
Beenham Industrial Estate (Composting), Beenham	Composting Facility
Beenham Industrial Estate (Materials Recycling), Beenham	Materials Recycling Facility
Colthrop <del>Waste Tranfer Facility</del> <del>Aggregate Processing Facility</del> , Thatcham	<del>Waste transfer station</del> <del>Recycled aggregate</del>
Computer Salvage Specialists, Newbury	WEEE
Computer Salvage Specialists, Thatcham	WEEE
Copyhold Farm, Chieveley	Inert Waste Materials Recovery Facility
<del>Greenham Business Park Biomass Gasification Plant, Greenham</del>	<del>Biomass Gasification Plant</del>
Hillfoot Farm, Chapel Row	Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant
Martins Collins Enterptises	Rubber Processing
Membury Airfield, Lambourn	Waste solvent disposal, disposal and recovery of oils and minerals
Moores Farm	Inert Waste Materials Recovery Faciliity
Newtown Road Household Waste Recycling Centre, Newbury	Household Waste Recycling Centre
Old Stocks Farm Waste, Aldermaston	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility
Newbury Sewage Treatment Works, Thatcham	Sewage Treatment Works
Padworth Breakers, Padworth	Metal Recycling
Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility, Padworth	Integrated Waste Management Facility
Park Farm, Upper Lambourn	Composting of equine waste
Reading Quarry, Pingewood	Construction & Demolition Recycling
Rookery Farm, Curridge Green	Plastic Processing
SSE Distribution Centre, Thatcham	Waste Transfer Facility
Thatcham Block Works, Thatcham	PFA Recycling Facility
Theale Quarry, Sheffield Bottom	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility
Wasing Lower Farm, Aldermaston	Inert Landfill
<del>Weirside, Burghfield</del>	<del>Materials Recovery Facility</del>
Whitehouse Farm, Tadley	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility
Woodside Recycling, Wokefield	Paper Waste Transfer Station

<sup>32</sup> The Authority Monitoring Report will update this list on an annual basis, where appropriate

**Sewage Treatment Works (other than those included above)**

Aldermaston	<u>Ashampstead</u>	<u>Basildon Park</u>	Beenham	Bishops Green
Boxford	<u>Briff Lane</u> Bucklebury	Burghfield	Chapel Row	Chieveley
Compton	East Ilsley	East Shefford	Fawley	Hampstead Norreys
Hamstead Marshall	Hungerford	Kintbury	<u>Leckhampstead</u>	Lower Basildon
<del>Leckhampstead</del>	Midgham	<del>Stratfield</del> Mortimer	Pangbourne	Streatley
<del>Ashampstead</del>	Sulhampstead	Tylers Lane Bucklebury	Welford	Wickham
<u>Winterbourne</u>	<u>Woolhampton</u>	<u>Yattendon</u>		

- 4.94 Details of all the waste safeguarded sites are set out in Appendix 2 'Safeguarded Sites'.
- 4.95 Where proposals come forward that encroach on a waste site safeguarded under this policy the non-waste development will need to provide the necessary mitigation measures as part of the development that is proposed to ensure the proposed development is adequately protected from any potential adverse impacts from the existing waste development.

## Other Minerals and Waste

### Policy 11

#### Chalk and Clay

Proposals for the extraction of chalk and clay will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated;

- a. That the minerals are required to meet a specific local need which cannot be met from existing permitted sites or by secondary and recycled aggregates;
- b. The development site and associated equipment will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community;
- c. That the proposals conserve and enhance landscape, biodiversity and amenity;
- d. Environmental impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level; and
- e. The development proposals provide for timely and high quality restoration and aftercare of the site;

In addition, proposals for chalk and clay extraction must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

- 4.96 The geological outcrops of chalk in West Berkshire are fairly extensive, with more limited clay deposits, however despite the extent of these deposits there are currently no active workings within West Berkshire.
- 4.97 Chalk deposits are located to the north of West Berkshire. Historically pulverised chalk has been used as a liming agent for agricultural land, and sometimes as 'fill' material in civil engineering projects. Much of the area where the chalk deposits exist are located within the North Wessex Downs AONB.
- 4.98 Clay deposits (London Clay) are located along the Kennet Valley to the east of Thatcham, with some more limited areas surrounding Newbury to the north, west and south and have historically been used for brick and tile making, and more latterly for lining landfill sites.
- 4.99 There are currently no active sites in West Berkshire for chalk or clay, and since the adoption of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire in 1995 there have been no planning applications received for the extraction of these minerals in West Berkshire. This lack of historic interest does not preclude sites from coming forward in the future, however, no sites for chalk or clay extraction were submitted to the Council for consideration through the "Call for Sites" that took place as part of the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 4.100 Whilst there is no apparent demand for new workings, and there is no requirement to maintain a landbank, proposals that may come forward would be considered under this policy.
- 4.101 Proposals for extraction of non-aggregate minerals will be judged on their merits at the time of the application, with particular regard to whether the material is needed to meet a specific local requirement.



## Policy 12

### Energy Minerals

#### *Exploration and appraisal*

Proposals for exploratory drilling for conventional and unconventional oil and gas will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:

- a. The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within ~~or in the setting of~~ the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other than in exceptional circumstances;
- b. The development site and associated exploratory equipment will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and
- c. The development proposals provide for the timely and high quality restoration and aftercare of the site.

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#### *Commercial production*

Proposals for the commercial production of conventional and unconventional oil and gas, or for the establishment of related plant, will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:

- d. The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within ~~or in the setting of~~ the North Wessex Downs AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and in the public interest;
- e. A full appraisal for the oil and gas field has been completed;
- f. The development site and associated exploratory equipment do not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and
- g. The proposed location has been demonstrated as the most suitable taking into account all planning considerations.

Particular consideration will be given to the location of hydrocarbon development involving hydraulic fracturing regarding impacts on **water quality**, water resources, seismicity, local air quality, landscape, noise, traffic and lighting impacts. Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there would not be an unacceptable impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ), Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), or the local environment or community.

In addition, proposals for conventional and unconventional oil and gas development must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

4.102 Energy minerals are broadly defined as those minerals that are used to produce electricity, fuels and heating. Hydrocarbons, comprising petroleum (oil and natural gas liquids) and gas, are fossil fuels which naturally occur in concentrations trapped in structures and reservoir rocks beneath the earth's surface. The UK is very dependent on oil and gas, the gas primarily being used to generate electricity, and the oil being used mainly to derive fuels for transportation purposes on land, at sea, and in the air. Oil and gas are also used to heat homes, in industrial processes, and (in the case of oil) in the manufacture of nearly all synthetic items.

4.103 Oil and gas resources, often referred to as 'hydrocarbons', can be broadly split into two categories, conventional and unconventional. Conventional oil and gas refers to

reserves which are located in relatively porous rock formations (often limestone and sandstone). Conventional extraction methods usually involve drilling a borehole into the rock and then pumping out the resources.

- 4.104 Unconventional hydrocarbons require methods for extraction that are not normally necessary in conventional extraction. Resources are usually obtained from less porous rock, which historically was considered too impermeable for extraction to be economically viable. Recent technological advancements have made such extraction economically viable. Unconventional hydrocarbons include coal bed methane, shale oil and shale gas. Extraction of these unconventional hydrocarbons can include hydraulic fracturing (in particular in the extraction of shale gas).
- 4.105 There are no known commercial resources of oil and gas in West Berkshire, although viable resources have been identified and are being worked in some neighbouring counties. The proposed approach to the possible exploitation of oil and gas resources is to allow exploratory drilling under controlled conditions, and to require any commercial exploitation to be fully justified in terms of balancing need against environmental and other considerations, taking into account the specific arrangements for working, restoration, ancillary development and associated activities.
- 4.106 The northern part of the district is understood to be underlain by a significant coal seam. However, it is deep underground and is not currently considered viable for extraction. The depth of the deposit means that open cast mining would be impractical and any exploitation would need to be by underground mining, or possibly through unconventional methods, such as underground coal gasification<sup>33</sup>.
- 4.107 The regulatory process of obtaining consent to exploit energy minerals is the same for both conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) are responsible for the issuing of Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences in competitive offerings (licence rounds) which grant exclusivity to operators who receive a licence in the area. The licence does not give consent for drilling or any other operations. Planning permission must also be sought, and can only be sought in areas covered by a licence. A permit must also be obtained from the Environment Agency, and this is usually after planning permission has been granted. The Health and Safety Executive can also be involved in regulating well design and operation. At present there are no Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences that cover the plan area. However this does not mean that licences will not be issued in the future or that proposals will not be forthcoming.
- 4.108 Exploration activities include drilling, which can be the most intrusive part of the development. Drilling can have visual, light and noise impacts as well as an impact on the local road network. Night time drilling is required to ensure boreholes do not close up during a break in the drilling meaning that lighting is required. The duration of the exploration stage is limited. Appraisal takes the form of longer-term testing of an exploratory well. Production phases involving additional facilities such as pipelines, storage facilities and export terminals.

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<sup>33</sup> Underground coal gasification is the combustion of underground coal seams in situ in order to produce synthetic gas

- 4.109 Proposals will be assessed against the relevant part of the policy, and will need to comply with all relevant policies set out in the plan. At each stage following exploration, developers will be required to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the requirements of the previous stage sufficiently to justify progression to the next.
- 4.110 Following completion of the production phase sites should be restored in line with Policy 17 'Restoration and After-use of Sites'.

### **Policy 13**

#### **Radioactive Waste Treatment and Storage at AWE**

Facilities for the storage and/or management of ILW, LLW and VLLW radioactive waste will be acceptable within the Nuclear Licensed area and/or Environmental Permitted areas at AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield where:

- a. There is a proven need for the facility; and
- b. A notable proportion of the material to be managed arises from within West Berkshire

- 4.111 There are two MOD nuclear sites located in West Berkshire, the AWE Aldermaston site and the AWE Burghfield site. Together, these two sites are responsible for the design, manufacture and support of the UK's nuclear deterrent.
- 4.112 As a consequence of the work and activities carried out at the two AWE sites radioactive waste material is produced, meaning that small volumes of radioactive waste may require storage and treatment. It is acknowledged that radioactive waste can be generated from a variety of other sources, such as health facilities and industrial operations, and from both nuclear and non-nuclear activities.
- 4.113 The volume of radioactive waste projected to arise in West Berkshire over the life of the plan is relatively small. Radioactive waste is split into classifications depending on the level of radiation and heat produced as part of the radioactive decay process. These are:
- High level radioactive waste (HLW)
  - Intermediate level radioactive waste (ILW) and
  - Low level radioactive waste (LLW)
  - A further subset of LLW is Very low level radioactive waste (VLLW)
  - Higher Activity Radioactive Waste (HAW)
- 4.114 It is understood that the AWE sites generate ILW, LLW, VLLW and some HAW which includes ILW and some LLW that is unsuitable for disposal at the Low Level Waste Repository. There are already long term contracts in place for the management of these waste arisings.
- 4.115 Facilities to manage radioactive waste are highly specialised and expensive to develop and in West Berkshire the location of such facilities would be constrained to the AWE sites through this policy. It is not expected that development proposals for the management of radioactive waste will come forward on either of the AWE sites

over the course of the plan, however this policy provides a framework for the consideration of proposals for treatment and storage of radioactive waste if such developments do come forward.

- 4.116 Proposals would need to demonstrate that there is a proven need for a new facility to be developed and also demonstrate that a notable proportion of the waste to be managed has arisen from within West Berkshire.
- 4.117 Consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.

#### **Policy 14**

##### **Reworking Old Inert Landfill Sites**

Proposals for the re-working of old inert landfill sites will only be permitted where all of the following are demonstrated:

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- a. The material that was landfilled and to be re-worked is demonstrated to be inert material;
- b. The proposals would produce replacement aggregate material;
- c. It is demonstrated that the proposals conserve and enhance landscape, biodiversity and amenity;
- d. The development site and associated equipment will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and
- e. The development proposals provide for the timely and high quality restoration and aftercare of the site.

In addition, proposals for re-working old inert landfill sites must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

- 4.118 West Berkshire has a relatively large number of former landfill sites that have been infilled with waste materials and restored back to a variety of land uses. However, the material that has been deposited in the ground includes valuable materials and the re-working of inert landfill sites to recover such discarded material has been cited as a potential method to reclaim the value stored in old landfill sites.
- 4.119 The relative 'value' that can be obtained from re-working an inert landfill site will vary depending on the material deposited and the costs associated with obtaining the necessary permits and implementing the necessary controls to protect the locality within which the site is located. Generally it is expected that greater 'value' could be obtained from re-working non inert sites due to the presence of materials such as plastics, textiles and greater volumes of metals, however the costs associated with the necessary protective controls are such that these sites are unlikely to be viable for re-working.
- 4.120 Whilst inert landfill sites may not contain significant volumes of more 'valuable' materials it is likely that there would be less environmental or amenity issues as, by its very nature, the material being re-worked is inert.

- 4.121 The reworking of former inert landfill sites can result in the recovery and sale of excavated materials and the increase of landfill capacity through the creation of new void space by excavating the deposited waste. The potential for the inert landfill sites in West Berkshire to be re-worked is currently an unknown and it is likely that considerable work may need to be undertaken to ascertain the 'value' of the sites in West Berkshire by any potential developer.
- 4.122 However, despite the lack of clarity on this matter, there have been tentative approaches by potential developers and this policy would provide the necessary policy framework to facilitate the consideration of such proposals should they be forthcoming.

## Infrastructure

### Policy 15

#### Location of Permanent Construction Aggregates Infrastructure

~~There will be a presumption in favour of Proposals for~~ permanent construction aggregate infrastructure will be permitted in the following areas:

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- a. Existing sites with permanent planning permission for mineral processing or handling; or
- b. Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8).

The co-location of construction aggregate infrastructure with existing suitable operations will be supported, where appropriate where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts.

Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy all proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.

- 4.123 There are known to be a number of existing permanent facilities in West Berkshire that are associated with the construction aggregates industry. These include, aggregate processing plants, asphalt production plants, a factory that manufactures concrete roofing tiles, a factory that manufactures concrete building blocks, a cement importation and distribution depot, rail depots for importing aggregate, numerous concrete batching plants as well as construction aggregate sales areas.
- 4.124 These facilities, some of which are strategic in nature due to the area they serve, are all necessary to support the construction industry within West Berkshire, and further afield. They also provide notable levels of local employment.
- 4.125 This policy sets out where there will be a presumption in favour of the development of new construction aggregate infrastructure to enable flexibility over the way that this industry develops over the plan period and allow sites to cope with changes in practise (such as mineral processing plants acquiring silt presses). This should allow for new and emerging technologies to come forward on existing sites so that old technology can be replaced.
- 4.126 The policy seeks to steer development towards existing industrial locations found in and around the urban areas in West Berkshire. Within these areas there will be a presumption in favour of these types of mineral development. However, consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.
- 4.127 With respect to the co-location of new minerals infrastructure on existing sites particular consideration will need to be given to cumulative impacts. Proposed developments will need to demonstrate that they will not generate unacceptable

impacts on their own, or in conjunction with existing facilities that may continue to operate at the site in question.

## **Policy 16**

### **Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure**

Proposals for the erection of temporary mineral processing plant and associated ancillary plant together with inert waste processing plant / facilities will be permitted at mineral extraction sites, where all of the following are demonstrated:

- a. It can be demonstrated that there are clear operational linkages between the temporary infrastructure proposed and the mineral extraction site;
- b. The temporary infrastructure is located within, or adjacent to, the boundary of the extraction site;
- c. The temporary infrastructure proposed will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or local amenity;
- d. In the case of mineral processing plant, it is used solely to process minerals arising from within the extraction site in which it is located;
- e. In the case of associated ancillary plant, the plant is supplied by minerals arising from within the extraction site in which it is located;
- f. In the case of waste plant / facilities the waste produced is used in the restoration of the mineral site within which it is located; and
- g. The temporary infrastructure is removed at such time as fill operations are complete, and the site is subsequently restored.

- 4.128 Mineral extraction sites are, by their nature, temporary uses of land as once the underlying minerals have been extracted the site ceases operating and the site is restored.
- 4.129 However during the operational period it is common practice for temporary mineral processing plants to be located at the active mineral site. In the case of large sites other temporary infrastructure, such as concrete batching plants that use the minerals won from the site in the production of concrete, can also be considered acceptable. Such on site infrastructure can reduce the vehicle movements associated with mineral extraction sites as they reduce the need for minerals to be transported to a separate location for processing (with the silt being returned to the extraction site).
- 4.130 If a mineral site is to utilise waste material in its restoration it can also be more sustainable to locate a temporary waste processing facility at the extraction site so that imported waste can be adequately processed to remove any re-usable waste in order that only non-recyclable waste is deposited as part of the landfilling operations.
- 4.131 All proposals for temporary facilities will need to demonstrate their linkage to the mineral site in question and all such infrastructure will need to be removed upon the completion of the mineral extraction / infilling operations.
- 4.132 Consideration will also need to be given to all other policies in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.

## 5.0 Development Management Policies

These policies set the broad framework against which all minerals and waste proposals will need to be assessed.

### Restoration and After Use

#### Policy 17

##### Restoration and After-use of Sites

Mineral development proposals and temporary waste proposals will be permitted where they include provision for high quality restoration and aftercare of the site within a timescale appropriate to the development, together with the delivery of a beneficial after-use of the site, and provide at least 10% net gains for biodiversity measured using a biodiversity metric agreed with the Local Authority.

A Restoration Plan and outline Aftercare Scheme should accompany any application for temporary mineral and waste development proposals.

Proposals for restoration should take into account all of the following:

- a. Landscape character and quality that is in keeping with the character and setting of the local area;
- b. Air, soil and water quality, including the restoration of best and most versatile agricultural land;
- c. Flood risk management including provision for climate change resilience;
- d. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement, with a focus on restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and the habitats and species identified in the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy<sup>34</sup>, habitat creation that contributes to ecological networks, wildlife corridors and stepping stones between habitats, contributing where relevant to the objectives of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.
- e. Areas identified in the Berkshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan, where relevant.
- f. The promotion provision or enhancement of recreational facilities and green infrastructure; and
- g. Options for after-use that are appropriate to the surrounding location including where necessary the means of securing this in the long-term.

Proposals for mineral development should be worked progressively and restored in a phased manner at the earliest opportunity.

In exceptional circumstances, the Council may seek bonds or financial guarantees from the applicant to secure the satisfactory restoration of minerals sites in a timescale appropriate to the development and to secure appropriate aftercare.

- 5.1 Mineral extraction is a temporary operation and therefore, sites must be restored following mineral workings to an agreed restoration scheme. Restoration of a mineral site can have major environmental and other benefits through providing for a range of

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<sup>34</sup> Or future replacement for the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy, or a biodiversity action plan recognised by the Local Authority covering the Plan area.



after-uses. Restoration also provides an opportunity to provide net gains in biodiversity, as required by the NPPF.

- 5.2 Sand and gravel deposits in West Berkshire are relatively shallow (normally around 2-3m in depth), meaning sites are worked over a much shorter time span than hard rock deposits. This also means that the area of extraction is typically more extensive. This inevitably places increased emphasis on restoration issues, such as the phasing of restoration and the nature of the after-use. The after-uses include agriculture, forestry or amenity. Amenity can be widely interpreted to include a range of recreation uses and/or nature conservation. Restoration can provide local community benefits which may offset the impact of working.
- 5.3 While restoration back to the existing use is not necessarily precluded, restoration of mineral workings is regarded as an opportunity to achieve wider environmental and public benefits and the Council will work co-operatively with the landowner and mineral company to seek the provision of economic and environmental benefits, making a positive contribution to the vicinity through restoration.
- 5.4 This can include improvements to the long-term appearance of the landscape, creation of habitats for wildlife, the provision of new public access and recreation and flood alleviation measures. Multi use restoration strategies can be used to maximise the benefits after mineral working has ceased. Restoration should be to the highest standards consistent with the identified acceptable after-use. A number of factors need to be considered when determining the most appropriate restoration and after-use of a mineral site.
- 5.5 Restoration provides considerable potential both for linking existing areas of habitat and creating new areas of habitat for wildlife, contributing towards existing ecological networks and supporting priority habitats. Conservation organisations can provide invaluable advice when formulating restoration proposals, and applicants will be encouraged to contact relevant organisations at an early stage.
- 5.6 Hydrology is particularly important in West Berkshire as the majority of deposits are located along the river valleys, meaning there are potential effects on ground and surface water. However the restoration of mineral sites has the potential to deliver hydrological benefits including flood mitigation measures.
- 5.7 The policy also seeks to promote the prompt restoration of minerals sites following extraction, using progressive restoration of phased excavation where possible to ensure that the restored landscape is compatible with its context and intended after-use.
- 5.8 The restoration scheme for a development site will need to be informed by the Landscape Character Assessments (LCA)<sup>35</sup> and the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)<sup>36</sup> for the District and individual sites<sup>37</sup>. The after-care of a restored site will be required to take place for a minimum of 5 years, following completion of the restoration.

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<sup>35</sup> Landscape Character Assessments: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/lca>

<sup>36</sup> Historic Landscape Characterisation: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/historicenvironmentprojects>

<sup>37</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

- 5.9 The NPPF (paragraph ~~210~~ 204 (h)) confirms that local planning authorities should provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity to be carried out to high environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions, where necessary. However it goes on to state that bonds or other financial guarantees to underpin planning conditions should only be sought in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.10 The PPG clarifies that financial guarantees to cover restoration and aftercare costs will normally only be justified in exceptional cases. Such cases, include:
- very long-term new projects where progressive reclamation is not practicable, such as an extremely large limestone quarry;
  - where a novel approach or technique is to be used, but the minerals planning authority considers it is justifiable to give permission for the development;
  - where there is reliable evidence of the likelihood of either financial or technical failure, but these concerns are not such as to justify refusal of permission.
- 5.11 The PPG goes on to state that, where an operator is contributing to an established mutual funding scheme, such as the Mineral Products Association Restoration Guarantee Fund or the British Aggregates Association Restoration Guarantee Fund, it should not be necessary for a minerals planning authority to seek a guarantee against possible financial failure, even in such exceptional circumstances.
- 5.12 Whilst these comments are acknowledged, there have been a number of instances in West Berkshire where the restoration of minerals sites has been delayed for an extended period or a site has been restored to a less than satisfactory standard. There have been instances where a change in land ownership has taken place once mineral extraction has taken place and prior to restoration being concluded. There have also been instances where the approved landform has been provided in accordance with the approved plans, but the aftercare of the site has been less than satisfactory resulting in the full benefits of the approved restoration not being fully realised. In all these instances the restoration guarantee funds referred to in the PPG are not applicable as these funds can only be drawn upon in the exceptional circumstance where a mineral operator becomes financially insolvent, as such it provides no safeguards against the situations that have occurred in West Berkshire.
- 5.13 Such situations like this are problematic in that minerals sites are not restored at the earliest opportunity or to the high environmental standards envisaged when planning consent is granted. This generates resentment and dissatisfaction within the host communities and results in the delay of the delivery of the benefits that high quality restoration can deliver. It also results in opposition to new mineral extraction sites. The restoration of minerals sites is considered to be one of the key aspects of mineral development as, ultimately, the restoration of the mineral site is the legacy of the development. The consultations carried out in respect of the ~~WBMWLP~~ confirms that the restoration of mineral sites is clearly very important to the residents of West Berkshire.
- 5.14 The use of financial guarantees, bonds or legal agreements to secure funds to ensure that the Council can undertake restorative operations if a developer fails to

comply with planning conditions relating to the provision of timely and high quality restoration will therefore be considered alongside all applications for mineral extraction. Clearly if such funds are not required they would be returned to the application upon the completion of the aftercare of the site.

## Landscape

### Policy 18

#### Landscape

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the proposals protect and enhance the character of the site and its surrounding landscape, townscape and cultural heritage of the local area.

### Policy 19

#### Protected Landscapes

Major<sup>38</sup> minerals and waste development proposals within ~~or in the setting of~~ the North Wessex Downs AONB will only be considered acceptable in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in the public interest. Consideration will be given to whether;

- a. There is an overriding need for the development to take place in the proposed location;
- b. The need for the development can be met in some other way, or from a site outside the AONB; and
- c. Any detrimental impact of the development on the environment, landscape and recreation can be satisfactorily mitigated

Other minerals and waste development proposals within ~~or affecting the setting of~~ the North Wessex Downs AONB will be considered acceptable only where:

- d. The proposal is for a small scale<sup>39</sup> facility to meet local needs that can be developed without an unacceptable impact on the environment and landscape of the area; and
- e. The proposals conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.

Restoration and aftercare proposals should seek to enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.

**Development proposals within the setting of the AONB should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the AONB.**

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<sup>38</sup> Major development in the context of the AONB is development that, by reason of its scale, character or nature, has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the natural beauty, distinctive character, and remote and tranquil nature of the North Wessex Downs AONB. Whether a proposed development in these designated areas will be classed as major or minor development, will be a matter for the Planning Authority taking into account the proposal in question and the local context.

<sup>39</sup> Development that is on a site having an area of less than 0.5 hectare or the erection of a building, or buildings where the floor space to be created is less than 500 square metres.

- 5.15 Conserving and enhancing the distinctive landscape character of the District is given considerable weight in line with national policy. As set out above West Berkshire is a very rural authority and the landscape varies across the district. As landscape character varies depending on location, a suitable approach to development in one part of the district may not be acceptable in another.
- 5.16 Approximately 74% of the District is part of the North Wessex Downs AONB<sup>40</sup> which adjoins the Chilterns AONB along the River Thames (the District boundary), before sweeping south, encircling Newbury to encompass the northern reaches of the rolling chalk hills of the Hampshire Downs. The AONB is characterised by the quality of its chalk landscape which ranges from remote open downland, dramatic skyline escarpments, contracting wooded downland, and the small intimate settled river valleys of the Lambourn and Pang.
- 5.17 Outside the AONB, the River Kennet, from Newbury to Reading, lies within a distinctive broad corridor of an open lowland landscape characterised by a variety of wetland habitats including wet meadow, reed bed and restored gravel workings.
- 5.18 Settlements also form a key component of the landscape. A variety of rural settlement forms can be seen from the nucleated patterns common on the chalk downs, to the more dispersed patterns found in the southern part of the District. The townscape of a settlement considers the relationship of exterior structures in a town and how they determine the distinctive character of the area.
- 5.19 Within the AONB, the major mineral deposit is chalk, with small areas of sharp sand and gravel along the rivers Lambourn and Pang, and small areas of soft sand deposits. Policy 19 'Protected Landscapes' requires exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated for the extraction of minerals within the AONB, in line with national policy, due to the potential for serious impacts that mineral development may have on these areas of natural beauty, taking into account the recreational opportunities that they provide.
- 5.20 Major development in the AONB will need to demonstrate it is in the public interest before being allowed to proceed. Decisions on whether a proposal is in the public interest will be made on a case by case basis and consideration given to the need for the development (both locally and nationally), alternative sites or ways to meet the identified need and the effects of the proposal on the environment including on the landscape, taking account of any mitigation measures. As stated in the policy the differentiation between major and minor development is a matter for the planning authority taking into account the proposal in question and the local context.
- 5.21 Development which might be considered to be small scale in the context of this policy could be development that is on a site having an area of less than 0.5 hectare or the erection of a building, or buildings where the floor space to be created is less than 500 square metres.
- 5.22 Where there is a specific local need for small scale waste management facilities, (for example agricultural or equine waste facilities, or local sewage treatment facilities) these can form part of the rural landscape and the policy makes provision for this.

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<sup>40</sup> AONB Management Plan <http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/about-us/management-plan-recent-reports.html>

- 5.23 It is envisaged that these policies will protect and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness through the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). This provides the framework for informed decisions to be made.
- 5.24 There are a number of relevant landscape assessments covering the District<sup>41</sup>, including the:
- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape Character Assessment (2002)
  - West Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment (2019)
  - Site specific landscape and visual appraisals (2016)<sup>42</sup>
- 5.25 LCA is particularly valuable when looking at landscape sensitivity, whether that be the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, or its sensitivity to a particular type of change. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA) will form an important part of any planning application coming forward for a minerals or waste site.

### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

#### **Policy 20**

##### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

Development proposals should conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, delivering at least 10% net gains for biodiversity measured using a biodiversity metric agreed with the Local Authority.

The degree of protection given will be appropriate to the status of the site or species in terms of its international, national or local importance.

In all cases, development should avoid significant harm to biodiversity. Where this is not possible, the harm should be adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for. In addition:

Development that is likely to result in a significant effect (either alone or in combination with other projects) on internationally designated sites including Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, any sites identified to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites or species, and European Protected Species will need to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations.

Development should not normally have an adverse effect on nationally designated sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), unless the benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the likely impact on the site concerned, and any broader impacts on the national network of sites.

Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees should be wholly exceptional, where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat.

<sup>41</sup> Landscape Character Assessments: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/lca>

<sup>42</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

Development should normally avoid harm to local interest sites including Local Wildlife Sites, Local Geological Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and Local Nature Reserves unless the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the harm.

Proposals should seek to actively pursue the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, and the habitats and species identified in the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy<sup>43</sup>, areas identified in the Berkshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan, and habitat that contributes to ecological networks, wildlife corridors and stepping stones between habitats, including Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

- 5.26 West Berkshire supports a rich and diverse range of biodiversity and geodiversity assets which reflect both the underlying geology and soils and the traditional management practices that have been carried out over many years. The policy aims to provide a framework for conserving and enhancing richness and diversity for its own sake, and also for the positive contribution that biodiversity and geodiversity make to the overall quality of life and sense of place for communities.
- 5.27 The most important sites for biodiversity and individual wildlife species have received statutory protection under international and national legislation. Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are internationally important. Candidate SACs and proposed SPAs are afforded the same level of protection as those already designated.
- 5.28 There are currently three SACs within West Berkshire:
- Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain **- which supports one of the most extensive known populations of Desmoulin's whorl snail in the UK. The conservation objective related to the sites' designation is to maintain the habitat in favourable condition for the Desmoulin's whorl snail.**
  - River Lambourn – **with good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants the river supports Bullhead and Brook Lamprey populations.**
  - Kennet Valley Alderwoods – **the woodland forms the largest remaining fragments of damp, ash-alder woodland in the Kennet floodplain. Conservation of the site is dependent upon maintaining a constantly high groundwater level.**

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**X.XX The measures specified in this policy will ensure that the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations are satisfied in order to protect these internationally designated sites.**

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- 5.29 There are no SPAs within the District, although a small part of the east of the District (approximately 256 hectares) around Beech Hill is within 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The 5km boundary has been determined by Natural England as a buffer area to regulate development near the SPA. It is possible that certain types of development could impact on the SPA up to 7km from the boundary of the site.

<sup>43</sup> Or future replacement for the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy, or a biodiversity action plan recognised by the Local Authority covering the Plan area.

Development proposals within the 5km and 7km will require screening to assess whether they will have a likely significant effect on the SPA. Where a significant effect exists or cannot be excluded, an Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 would need to be undertaken. Proposals will only be permitted if they do not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA. The Thames Basin Heaths SPA Delivery Framework will be used to guide assessment and any avoidance or mitigation measures that may be needed. It is not anticipated that any development will come forward within the 5km or 7km buffer. No sites have been proposed for allocation within these areas and there are no existing minerals or waste sites to be safeguarded within this area. Any future proposals will need to be assessed against this policy.

- 5.30 Screening for HRA has been carried out on the Plan<sup>44</sup>. It was concluded that the Plan, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the European sites within the District or those within 5km of the District boundary.
- 5.31 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated sites which have important wildlife or geological value. There are currently 51 SSSIs within West Berkshire covering 1480 hectares, **which includes the Rivers Lambourn and Kennet.** MM35
- 5.32 The District contains a range of habitats and geological features of local significance designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Local Geological Sites (LGS). There are currently 493 LWSs covering 6,325 hectares and five LGSs covering 15 hectares. LWSs are non-statutory sites of significant biodiversity value. These sites represent local character and distinctiveness, and have an important role to play in meeting local and national targets for biodiversity conservation. The criteria for LWSs have been devised and agreed across the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. LWS and LGS designations will continue to be assessed by the Council throughout the lifetime of the plan, following recommendations by the Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum (for LWSs) and the Berkshire Geoconservation Group (for LGSs), in order to keep them up to date.
- 5.33 Ancient Woodland is also identified as important in national policy and is the most extensive natural habitat remaining in West Berkshire. Ancient semi-natural woodland currently covers 2,894 hectares of the district.
- 5.34 The District contains important watercourses such as the Rivers Kennet, Lambourn and Pang. The rivers Lambourn and Kennet are also designated as SSSIs, **in addition the river Lambourn is designated as a SAC.** Mineral working in West Berkshire has historically been concentrated along the Kennet Valley where sharp sand and gravel is predominantly found. Riparian corridors create important linkages for biodiversity and therefore mineral working and restoration in these areas have the potential to contribute towards relevant biodiversity enhancements. MM36

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<sup>44</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

- 5.35 The Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy<sup>45</sup> builds upon national and regional targets for biodiversity enhancement. Therefore, the Council will seek opportunities to support the delivery of the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy. There are many opportunities for biodiversity and geological enhancement across the District.
- 5.36 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) have been identified by the Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum and agreed by the South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF). There are 17 areas which have currently been identified, either whole or in part, across the District. BOAs are not a statutory designation or a constraint upon development, rather they are areas where biodiversity improvements are likely to have the most beneficial results at a strategic scale. The Council will pursue net gains for biodiversity in and around BOAs.
- 5.37 Regulation 41 of the Habitats Regulations 2017<sup>46</sup> requires the encouragement of the management of features in the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. These features are defined as linear features, or stepping stones, which are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. The protection of these natural habitats and networks across the District will avoid or repair fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats and ultimately conserve and enhance priority natural areas and the connections between them. Watercourses and their associated riparian corridors are prime examples of these connecting features.
- 5.38 West Berkshire has a rich geological resource. Some nationally important geological sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Local Geology Sites (LGS) (formerly known as Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites – RIGS) are sites within the district that are considered worthy of protection for their Earth Science or geodiverse importance, but are not already protected as SSSIs. At present there are 8 Local Geological Sites within West Berkshire identified in the The Berkshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan<sup>47</sup>.
- 5.39 Previously unknown geological features and remains of importance may be discovered as part of mineral workings. Where such finds are discovered it is important that every effort is made to protect those of potential international or national importance. Where it is not possible to afford the same protection to finds of more local importance, they should be appropriately recorded. Where possible, access to all significant geological finds should be provided for educational purposes.

**X.XX A buffer zone must be established between a Mineral site and the bank top of a watercourse to protect the river bank and the hydrology of the river. Applicants are likely to need an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency to quarry or excavate minerals within 16 metres of a main river. Therefore the buffer zone should generally be a minimum 16m for main rivers and smaller (minimum 5m) for ordinary watercourses. This zone should be fenced while the mineral site is active and there must be no mineral extraction and no tracking of vehicles or storage of any materials or plant etc unless the habitat is of low ecological value and the activity will not impact on the river. This zone**

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<sup>45</sup> Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy: <http://berkshirelnp.org/images/Biodiversity%20Strategy%20Small.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> Habitats Regulations 2017 Reg 41 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/regulation/41/made>

<sup>47</sup> Berkshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan: [https://berksgeoconservation.org.uk/docs/Berkshire\\_LGAP.pdf](https://berksgeoconservation.org.uk/docs/Berkshire_LGAP.pdf)



should be included in the red line boundary and enhanced for biodiversity in the restoration plan.

**X.XX This zone may have to be wider when adjacent to the designated Rivers Kennet and Lambourn if the mineral extraction is likely to have an adverse impact on these rivers, for example if the hydrology was likely to be impacted.**

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**X.XX An additional stand-off zone of no extraction but where, for example, tracking of vehicles and the temporary storage of minerals would be allowed, may also be required at certain sites. This is likely to be required to protect designated rivers such as The River Kennet Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and The River Lambourn SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. The buffer and stand-off zones should be included in the restoration plan, thereby giving opportunities for river restoration and the restoration of the river corridor. These could include the creation or enhancement of wetland habitats reconnecting the river with its floodplain.**

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**X.XX Similar buffer/stand-off zones may be required between Waste Sites and watercourses to protect their water quality and hydrology. The width will depend on the specific circumstances, and will be determined as part of the Environmental Permit application.**

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**X.XX Regarding other designated sites (e.g. other SSSIs and SACs that are not river sites), for both Mineral Sites and Waste Sites, the specific distance from the designated site should be determined through consultation with NE, taking into account the activity and the sensitivity of the protected site's designated features.**

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## **Agricultural Land**

### **Policy 21**

#### **Agricultural Land and Soils**

Minerals and waste development proposals that involve significant development of best and most versatile agricultural land will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternatives for the development proposals.

Development proposals should make provision for the management and use of soils in order to maintain soil quality.

Restoration of mineral extraction sites to agricultural land will be permitted where the restoration proposals demonstrate that the quality of the agricultural land will be conserved or enhanced as part of the restoration, and that there will be no net loss in best and most versatile agricultural land.

5.40 The quality of agricultural land varies across the District. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a national method for assessing the quality of farmland to ensure that the best and most versatile agricultural land is protected for agricultural use.

- 5.41 There are five grades of agricultural land, 1 - 4 with grade 3 subdivided into 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined as grade 1, 2 and 3a. This land is considered to be the most flexible, productive and efficient for producing future crops for food and non-food uses (eg. Biomass, fibres and pharmaceuticals). Therefore National policy indicates that local planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.
- 5.42 Minerals development will only be considered on the best and most versatile agriculture land, where it can be demonstrated that the long term potential of the agricultural land can be safeguarded and where the restoration and aftercare proposals preserve the long-term potential for the agricultural land to be restored back to the same or higher grade.
- 5.43 Where appropriate, agricultural land classification survey information should be provided alongside any application made. Proposals for waste development should be capable of avoiding best and most versatile agricultural land and permanent development involving the loss of such land will not normally be permitted.
- 5.44 Soils removed from mineral extraction sites will need to be handled in accordance with best practice guidance and the soils stored on site for use in the restoration of the site. Due to the importance of the restoration of mineral sites, the Council will need to be satisfied that the restoration of a site to agriculture will conserve, or ideally enhance the quality of the agricultural land through appropriate restoration techniques before permission is granted.

## Transport

### Policy 22

#### Transport

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the transport activities associated with the proposal will not result in unacceptable impact to the efficient and effective operation of the relevant transport network, road safety, local amenity or the environment.

Sustainable modes of transport will be encouraged, in particular the use of rail and/or water where this is practicable and aligned to the other policies in the plan.

Using an appropriate assessment method, proposals will be required to demonstrate all of the following:

- a. Safe and appropriate access arrangements, considering the scale and nature of the movements associated with the development;
- b. That the highway network is able to accommodate the traffic flows that would be generated;
- c. That there would be no unacceptable adverse impact on the environment or the local community;

- d. That the proposal will seek to make use of the strategic highway network and the West Berkshire Freight Route Network (FRN);
- e. That appropriate emission control and reduction measures are in place; and
- f. Consideration of sustainable travel to the site for staff and visitors and facilities to support this where appropriate.

- 5.45 All development generates transport impacts and National Policy encourages the use of sustainable transport, including the transportation of both minerals and waste.
- 5.46 Within West Berkshire the majority of minerals and waste transportation takes place via the road network, with some material, mainly hard rock and a limited amount of marine sand and gravel, imported to the district by rail. While the Kennet and Avon canal runs through the centre of the District it is not currently used for the transportation of minerals or waste.
- 5.47 The Council published its Freight Strategy in 2014 as part of the Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 – 2026) (LTP3)<sup>48</sup>. The strategy recognises that the movement of freight and how it is routed has implications for national and strategic road networks, but also for local communities. The extensive network of secondary and tertiary roads in the District generally act as distributor roads from the main highways to locations within the District. The Freight Strategy sets out the West Berkshire Freight Route Network (FRN).

### **Road**

- 5.48 The West Berkshire FRN was devised in 2009. The FRN consists of a series of preferred freight routes that show the most appropriate routes in the district for HGV movements. District Access Routes have been identified as the main access routes from the Strategic Road Network (A34/M4) to key freight destinations. Local Access routes, are local roads that are not intended for HGV movements, although it is recognised that, due to the location of minerals sites specifically, some local access routes may have to be used to reach the District Access Routes and the Strategic Road Network. The FRN will need to be taken into account by any proposals coming forward.
- 5.49 Road Safety is a key consideration for developments, especially where freight movements are involved. Particular focus should be given to the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and other vulnerable road users.
- 5.50 In West Berkshire air quality is strongly linked to transport, and therefore, where air quality is, or could become a cause for concern, the Council will seek to manage it through transport related measures.

### **Rail**

- 5.51 Rail transport is already used for moving aggregates from the West Country to markets in London and the South East, including within West Berkshire itself. While there is may be some scope for growth, the level of growth is partly constrained by

<sup>48</sup> Local Transport Plan <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/ltp>

the capacity on the rail network itself and providing new siding sites can be very costly. The rail head sites within the district that import aggregates are of strategic importance and will be safeguarded through the plan (Policy 9 'Minerals Safeguarding').

### **Waterways**

- 5.52 There are two sections of navigable waterways in the District. Firstly the Kennet and Avon Canal running east/west from Reading through Newbury and Hungerford before going on towards Bristol. The second is the River Thames around Purley-on-Thames, Pangbourne and Streatley. While the canal could provide opportunities for waterborne transport, the River Thames is removed from the majority of mineral resources and waste sites in the district therefore, it is unlikely that it would provide a viable alternative to road transport.
- 5.53 The canal is almost exclusively used by leisure and tourism activities and therefore, the movement of minerals and waste could impact on the recreational opportunities offered by the waterway.
- 5.54 All development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they minimise the impact of travel on the environment and help to tackle climate change.
- 5.55 Sufficient assessment of the transport impacts of the development need to take place, this may be through a technical note, Transport Statement or Transport Assessment depending on the size and potential impact of the proposed site. Where appropriate, Travel Plans, will be encouraged to support the use of sustainable modes of travel for staff and visitors to the proposed site.

### **Public Rights of Way**

#### **Policy 23**

#### **Public Rights of Way**

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the proposals do not adversely affect the Public Right of Way (PROW) network. When considering the adverse impacts consideration will be given to whether:

- a. Satisfactory diversions to Public Rights of Way can be provided that are both convenient and safe for users of the Public Rights of Way;
- b. In the case of temporary minerals and waste development, the proposals include the creation of an acceptable alternative route both during operations and following restoration of the site;
- c. Where Public Rights of Way are to be reinstated this should be done as soon as is practicable; and
- d. Opportunities are proposed that would secure appropriate, improved access, to the countryside.

- 5.56 There are 1183 km (735 miles) of public rights of way in West Berkshire, compared to a Council road network of 1272 km (790 miles). Public rights of way are made up of the following:

- 61% public footpaths, over which the right of way is on foot only.
- 17% public bridleways, for use by the public on foot, bicycle and on horseback or leading a horse.
- 8% restricted byways, used as ~~for~~ bridleways but with the addition of non-mechanically propelled vehicles, thereby giving a right of access for horse-drawn carriages.
- 14% byways open to all traffic, for use by all the above plus vehicular traffic, with the main use being by walkers and horse-riders.

5.57 Public Rights of Way play an important role in enabling access to the countryside and the consequential benefits on health and wellbeing. Given the extent of the public rights of way in West Berkshire, proposed minerals and waste sites will often be located close to rights of way and mineral deposits are often close to, or crossed by rights of way.

5.58 It is important that rights of way remain accessible to users throughout the lifetime of minerals and waste operations and that users' safety is not compromised by the activity on site. In some circumstances it will be necessary for a right of way to be diverted during the operation of the site. Temporary diversions will only be acceptable if the restoration scheme provides routes to the same standard as the original right of way and reinstated as soon as practicable. Where this is not possible it may be preferable to divert the route permanently.

5.59 When determining planning applications consideration will be given to both the impacts of a proposal on the public rights of way network together with the impact on the amenity value of the public right of way.

5.60 The restoration of minerals sites has the potential to enhance the public rights of way network and proposals will be expected to enhance and improve rights of way as well as increase permissive access as part of restoration schemes. Regard should be given to the Councils Rights of Way Improvement Plan<sup>49</sup> as part of this process.

## **Flooding**

### **Policy 24**

#### **Flooding**

Minerals and waste development proposals should seek to avoid areas at highest risk of flooding through the application of the Sequential Test, Exception Test and the sequential approach as appropriate.

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where:

- a. It can be demonstrated that the development would not increase the risk of flooding (from any source), both to the site itself and the surrounding area and proposals shall seek to reduce flooding;

<sup>49</sup> Rights of Way Improvement Plan <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29147>

- b. Flood protection, resilience and resistance measures are provided as part of the development proposals;
- c. Sustainable Drainage Systems are incorporated into the scheme;
- d. There would be no net increase in surface water run-off; and proposals shall seek to reduce surface water run-off; and
- e. The impact of the development in terms of flood risk can be managed through robust flood compensation and mitigation measures and proposals shall seek to reduce flood risk.

All sources of flood risk need to be taken into account in addition to how flood risk could be impacted upon by climate change.

- 5.61 The risk of flooding in West Berkshire is widespread, arising not only from rivers, but also from surface water and groundwater. The policy aims to achieve flood risk management wherever possible, steering vulnerable development away from areas affected by flooding.
- 5.62 It is recognised that minerals working and processing (except for sand and gravel working) are classified as “less vulnerable”, with sand and gravel workings classified as “water-compatible development”. Therefore, minerals development can take place within the flood zone. Water-compatible development can take place within flood zone 3b (the functional flood plain), with “less vulnerable” development considered acceptable in flood zone 3a. The presence of flood zones can impact on the restoration and after-use proposed for a minerals site, as landfilling is considered to be a “more vulnerable” use and therefore, should not be permitted in flood zone 3, without the 'exceptions test' being carried out.
- 5.63 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Environment Agency have produced guidance on carrying out the Sequential and Exceptions Tests<sup>50</sup>. The sequential test requires the comparison of sites being proposed with other available sites to find out which has the lowest flood risk. The sequential test is required if the site is in flood zone 2 or 3 and a sequential test has not already been carried out for the development type on the proposed site. The sequential test directs development to areas of lowest flood risk. The sequential approach should be used at a site level to seek to locate facilities such as processing plant and offices in areas of lowest flood risk. The Exception test only applies where development may need to be carried out in situations where suitable sites at lower risk of flooding are not available.
- 5.64 The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2019)<sup>51</sup> sets out details of flood risk for the District taking into account the ~~the~~ most up to date climate change figures<sup>52</sup>. The SFRA provides information for carrying out the sequential and, where required, the exception tests.

<sup>50</sup> Sequential and Exception Tests: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-the-sequential-test-for-applicants>

<sup>51</sup> SFRA 2019 <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/sfra>

<sup>52</sup> Flood Risk Climate Change Allowances <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>

- 5.65 The policy seeks to ensure that development provides appropriate measures for the management of rainfall (surface water) as an essential element of reducing flood risk to both sites and their surroundings. Where appropriate the policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan seek to look for opportunities to increase flood resilience through the restoration of mineral sites.
- 5.66 Sustainable drainage methods (SuDs) should be incorporated into proposals for both minerals and waste development. A range of methods can be used taking into account the topography, geology and soil conditions of a site and its surrounding areas. Further information on SuDs can be found in the SFRA and the Quality Design West Berkshire SPD (2006). A specific SuDs SPD has been developed<sup>53</sup>. While these relate more to the development of housing or commercial/retail development the principles are relevant to minerals and waste sites.
- 5.67 The Environment Agency will be consulted where it has indicated that it wishes to be involved in the planning process and in line with their Flood Risk Standing Advice.

### Climate Change

#### Policy 25

#### Climate change

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the proposals demonstrate how they will minimise their impact on the causes of climate change. Development proposals should reduce vulnerability and provide resilience to the impacts of climate change by:

- a. Minimising greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging more sustainable use of resources, through the location and design of the site and transport arrangements;
- b. Provision of on-site renewable and low carbon energy technologies;
- c. Avoiding areas vulnerable to climate change and flood risk through application of the Sequential Test, Exception Test and Sequential Approach **where appropriate**;
- d. Provision of adaptation and mitigation measures as required; and
- e. Provision of potential benefits through site restoration and after use.

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- 5.68 Local Plans are required by the NPPF to take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should avoid increasing vulnerability to the range of impacts that arise from climate change. Where new development is proposed in areas which are considered vulnerable, care needs to be taken to ensure that the risks are managed through suitable adaptation measures such as green infrastructure and habitat connectivity.
- 5.69 Carbon emissions from transport associated with HGVs involved in the minerals and waste industry is a key source of greenhouse gas emissions in the district. Therefore

<sup>53</sup> Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document, December 2018.  
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=46526&p=0>

the Council will seek to reduce the impact of transport as well as reducing the need to travel where possible. This can be done by promoting the use of alternatives to road transport as well as seeking to encourage the location of development near to the markets that it serves.

- 5.70 Although mineral extraction and waste management are energy intensive businesses there are a number of ways quarry sites and waste management facilities could reduce their energy use. Practices should be adopted to help reduce the energy use of individual quarries and waste management sites. In addition the use of recycled and secondary aggregates is encouraged to reduce the need for extraction of primary aggregates.
- 5.71 Carbon sinks will be encouraged as part of habitat creation (e.g. through wetland or woodland creation) during the restoration of sites. Well-designed and planned restoration can assist in establishing ecological networks which are more resilient and enable the movement of wildlife as it adapts to a changing climate.
- 5.7 Former mineral extraction sites can also play a role in increasing resilience to flooding by providing additional flood storage capacity as part of the site restoration and after-care.
- 5.74 Methane emissions from biodegradable waste in landfill account for approximately 40% of all UK methane emissions, equating to approximately 3% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Waste management, therefore, can play an important role in mitigating levels of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5.75 The waste hierarchy plays a key role in mitigating the impacts of climate change by focusing on reducing the amount of waste produced and increasing the amount of waste reused, recovered or recycled. This helps to divert biodegradable waste away from landfill, reducing methane emissions, as well as minimising the demand for new resources which generate greenhouse gases in their production.

## **Public Health, Environment and Amenity**

### **Policy 26**

#### **Public Health, Environment and Amenity**

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where all of the following are demonstrated:

- a. The development would not result in unacceptable impacts on air quality including any adverse impacts on Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs);
- b. The development would not result in unacceptable impacts on the intrinsic quality and quantity of water resources (including ground and surface waters) including any adverse impacts on Source Protection Zones (SPZ)<sup>54</sup>;

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<sup>54</sup> The Environment Agency's 'Approach to groundwater protection' (February 18) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/692989/Environment-Agency-approach-to-groundwater-protection.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/692989/Environment-Agency-approach-to-groundwater-protection.pdf) includes guidance on acceptable development in relevant Source Protection Zones.



- c. The development would not result in unacceptable impacts from lighting, noise, dust, odour, emissions, pollution, vibration and litter, including impacts that are generated by traffic associated with the site;
- d. The development would not result in unacceptable impacts on land stability; and
- e. Consideration has been given to public health and safety, amenity, quality of life of local communities and the natural, built and historic environment;

Appropriate mitigation measures relating to all these matters shall be included within the proposals and all reasonable opportunities must be taken to conserve and enhance the environment and amenity of the area.

- 5.76 Minerals extraction and waste management facilities by their nature have the potential to generate adverse amenity impacts that could impact upon local communities. However minerals extraction and waste management facilities are critical to support the needs of local communities.
- 5.77 National policy states that when granting planning permission for mineral development there should be no unacceptable adverse impacts on human health, and that for waste sites there should be consideration of the likely impacts on the local environment and amenity. Therefore, it is important that an acceptable balance is maintained between meeting the identified need for minerals and waste sites and protecting the local environment and amenity of residents who are likely to be affected by the operations.
- 5.78 Proposals which are likely to give rise to pollution and/or health issues, should be submitted with the full details of these issues together with any proposed or integral mitigation measures. Where applicable the relevant health and pollution control authorities will be consulted.
- 5.79 The Environment Agency and the Council's Environmental Health Service both implement controls that can potentially overlap with the planning process. The Planning process focuses on the acceptable use of land and the impact of the use proposed. The NPPW confirms that planning authorities should work on the assumption that the relevant pollution control regime will be properly applied and enforced, so it can be assumed that the pollution control regimes will operate effectively to control emissions to air and discharges to water, etc. Planning conditions therefore should not normally be used to control matters that are the subject of an environmental permit, or other legislative control.
- 5.80 This does not mean that these issues are not considered as part of the planning process, but that the planning process needs to complement, not duplicate, the pollution control regimes. Possible impacts include noise and vibrations from traffic accessing sites, processing plants and on site activities; visual intrusion; dust; debris on the road; run off from sites to protected waters and the impact of HGVs / traffic associated with a development site. These impacts understandably cause concerns for communities living near to sites, and therefore need to be satisfactorily controlled. However, there are various measures that can be implemented to ensure that the impacts of a development proposal on the locality are reduced to an acceptable level.

- 5.81 Development proposals coming forward will be expected to include appropriate mitigation measures such as, but not limited to: the use of natural vegetation for screening that can reduce the visual impact and potential noise nuisance of a site to an acceptable level. It is acknowledged that some noisy, short term activities which are considered unacceptable may be unavoidable to facilitate development. Various controls can be used to manage dust, litter and odour problems, and wheel washing and sheeting of lorries can prevent debris from being deposited on the road network. The phasing of mineral working, the choice of routes, as well as the location and suitability of access arrangements for vehicles can all influence the acceptability of the site.
- 5.82 Local liaison groups between an operator and the local community have traditionally been a useful way of ensuring that all parties potentially impacted upon by the development are able to discuss issues and solutions. These will continue to be encouraged to provide an open forum for discussions to take place around the issues that can arise from an active site that can impact upon local communities.

### **Historic Environment**

#### **Policy 27**

##### **Historic Environment**

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the proposals conserve and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets of the district, both designated and non-designated, including the setting where relevant. The degree of protection given will be appropriate to the status of the Heritage Asset.

Where proposals are likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset and/or the historic environment, consideration will be given to:

- a. The scale of harm or loss of significance;
- b. Whether there is an overriding need for and public benefit of the development that outweighs any harm or loss of significance;
- c. Whether there are any reasonable alternative ways to meet the need for the development; and
- d. Whether the impact of the development on the historic environment and/or heritage assets can be satisfactorily mitigated.

Where the loss (wholly or in part) of a heritage asset is considered acceptable in principle, the applicant will be required to record and advance understanding of the significance of that asset in a manner proportionate to its importance and to disseminate the findings.

- 5.83 A heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as a building, monument, site, place, or area of landscape, which because of its heritage interest is identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are irreplaceable, and therefore, should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. They can include both designated and non-designated assets. The significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its setting. Designated assets are assessed at the highest significance and

some are afforded statutory protection. West Berkshire has the following designated heritage assets.

Designated Heritage Asset	Number in West Berkshire	Comment
Scheduled Monuments	Approx. 90	
Battlefields	1	
Listed buildings (grade I and II*)	Approx. 1900	
Registered parks and gardens (grade I and II*)	12	Aldermaston Court, Sandlesford Priory and Shaw House are on the Heritage at Risk register

- 5.84 Non-designated assets are usually recorded in the local Historic Environmental Record (HER). These are generally of regional or local importance and may have an equal significance to the designated assets. In West Berkshire there are over 5000 assets listed on the HER.
- 5.85 Conservation Areas are areas of architectural or historic interest with a distinctive character or appearance that it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There currently are 53 Conservation Areas in West Berkshire.
- 5.86 The significance of assets can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the asset itself, or its setting. Proposals for minerals and waste development need to include appropriate measures to minimise the impact of development on West Berkshire's heritage, historic environment and archaeology. In November 2013 an Assessment of the Archaeological Resource in Aggregate areas of West Berkshire<sup>55</sup> was published. The primary aim of the project was to improve the quality and quantity of available archaeological data in respect of potential aggregate producing areas within West Berkshire, and to facilitate more informed advice concerning the impacts and mitigation of aggregates extraction.
- 5.87 As part of the application process the application will need to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by the proposals as well as detail the contribution made by the setting of the asset, as required by paragraph 189 of the NPPF. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance but sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.
- 5.88 Where development is proposed at a site which includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, the application will need to be accompanied by an initial desk-based archaeological assessment to determine the

<sup>55</sup> Archaeological Resource in Aggregates areas of West Berkshire:  
[http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/wberks\\_eh\\_2013/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/wberks_eh_2013/)

nature and significance of any archaeological assets, the contribution of the setting to that significance, as well as any potential impacts on the assets or their setting.

- 5.89 Depending on the outcome of this desk based assessment it is possible that an archaeological field evaluation of the site, together with potential mitigation measures will be required to facilitate the determination of the proposal against this policy.
- 5.90 Addressing heritage considerations early on in the planning process, before planning applications are submitted, means that there is greater scope to avoid or minimise any potential adverse impacts. Where development proposals have the potential to affect heritage assets, they should be accompanied by an assessment of the significance and setting of the assets and the potential impact the development will have. Such assessment should be proportionate to the significance of the asset, taking into account the HER and setting out, where appropriate, the results of field evaluation. Details of proposed mitigation measures should also be provided along with the provision for recording and archiving of information in relation to any heritage assets to be lost. Where there is potential for heritage assets, but these have not been identified, provision will need to be made for monitoring and recording.

## Design

### Policy 28

#### Design

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the proposals respect and enhance the character and appearance of the area. Minerals and waste development proposals will be expected to demonstrate high quality design throughout all stages of the development, including restoration and aftercare where appropriate.

The design of built facilities should be of a high quality and contribute to achieving sustainable development. Good design relates not only to the appearance of a development but to the way it functions. Development shall contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place.

- 5.91 The NPPF places great importance on the design of the built environment and its role in achieving sustainable development. Planning has the potential to drive up design standards across all types of development and the Council will seek to secure high quality design in all development proposals.
- 5.92 In order to demonstrate that high quality design is achieved all proposals for minerals and waste development should be demonstrated to be appropriate in scale and character to the location and surrounding area. This should take into account any planned new development or regeneration opportunities.
- 5.93 Development proposals, where appropriate, should use high-quality building materials made from recycled or secondary sources. All potential opportunities to minimise the use of primary aggregates should be considered.

- 5.94 It will need to be demonstrated that the proposals reduce the need for transport and provide enhancements to the local amenity, considering the potential impacts development may have on the local community.
- 5.95 Applications will be expected to be supported by high-quality proposals for restoration and after-care (where appropriate). Full consideration needs to be given to design throughout the entire life of the development proposed.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

#### **Policy 29**

##### **Cumulative Impacts**

Minerals and waste development proposals will be permitted where the proposed development would not result in an unacceptable cumulative adverse impact on the environment or amenity of an area, either in relation to the collective effect of different impacts, or as a result of the effects of a number of developments occurring concurrently or successively.

- 5.96 National policy requires that cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality are taken into account as part of the planning decision process.
- 5.97 Cumulative impacts that are relevant to the determination process can occur in a number of ways:
- cumulative impacts of a number of separate effects from a single site.
  - cumulative impacts of a single (or more) effects generated from two or more developments.
- 5.98 Adverse cumulative impacts could include a variety of issues such as levels of noise, dust, vibration and artificial light. Impacts on the highway network could also occur with increased HGV movements and the road safety impacts associated with higher traffic levels. Similarly visual and landscape impacts could be generated by multiple sites operating at the same time in the same locality.
- 5.99 As part of the application process consideration will need to be given to cumulative impacts of proposed minerals and waste development proposals on the receiving environment, and the capacity of the locality to accept the impacts that are proposed.

## 6.0 Site Allocation Policies

### Sharp Sand and Gravel

#### Policy 30 Tidney Bed

<b>Site Address:</b>	Bath Road, Sulhamstead/Ufton Nervet		
<b>Centre grid ref:</b>	SU 6169 9721		
<b>Parish:</b>	Ufton Nervet	<b>Site ID:</b>	MW015
<b>Extraction:</b>	Extraction of approximately 1,000,000 tonnes of sand and gravel		
<b>Restoration:</b>	Restoration proposed as agriculture using inert infill and biodiversity enhancements.		
<b>Site Area:</b>	34 ha		

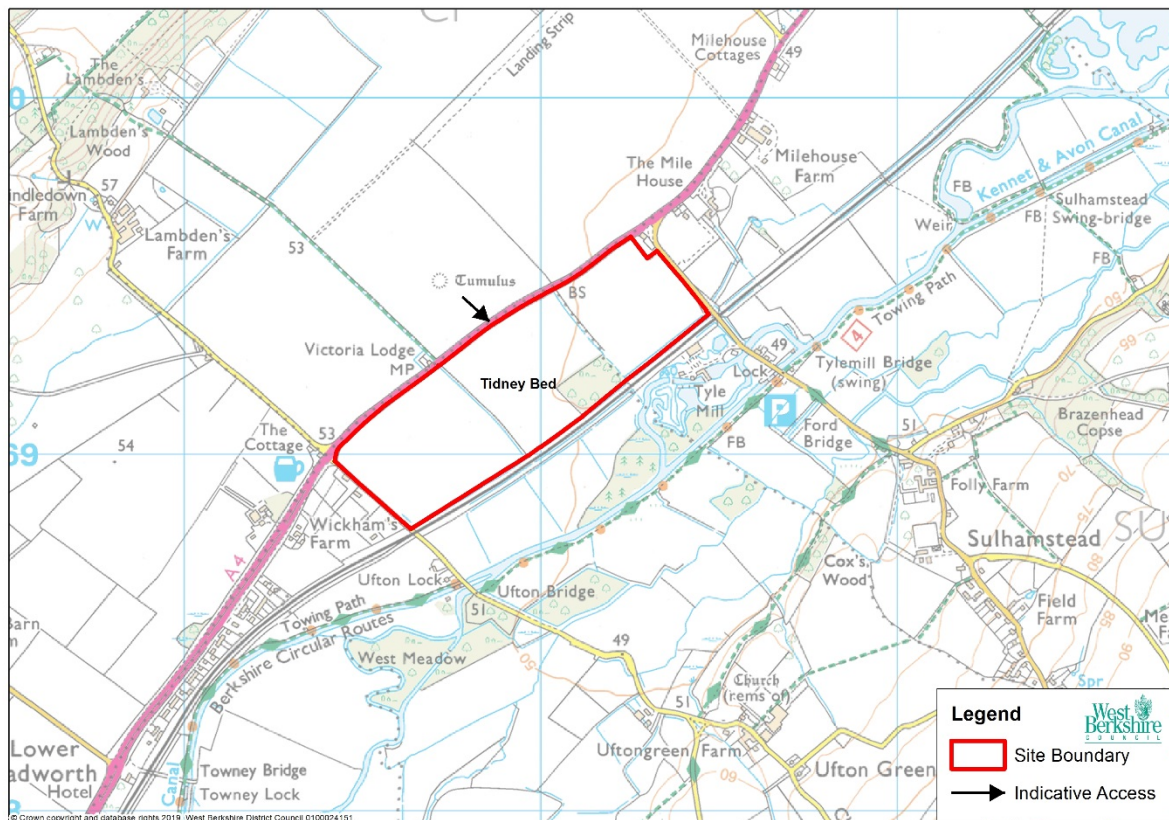


Figure 5 Tidney Bed Location Map

#### Site Context:

The site at Tidney Bed is located to the south of Bath Road (A4), between Ufton Lane and Sulhamstead Hill, approximately 0.75km to the north-west of the village of Sulhamstead in West Berkshire.

The site is currently in agricultural use and comprises three fields of arable land, a copse of broadleaved woodland and an area of marshy grassland. The Berkshire & Hampshire railway line runs along the southern boundary of the site.

#### Planning Requirements/Considerations:

**Landscape:** Development of the site will need to be subject to a detailed *Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* to determine the exact area of the site suitable for extraction in landscape terms. Extraction of the site would need to be phased with progressive restoration to minimise the impact on the landscape. Permanent planting in advance of any works being carried out should be placed along the northern edge of area 21.2 as defined in the Council's Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites (October 2016)<sup>56</sup>. Temporary bunding should be used to screen views from the River Kennet and the canal and from the A4. Development of the site should be carried out in line with the recommendations set out in the Council's Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites (October 2016).

**Highways/Transport:** A *Transport Assessment* will be required to support development of the site. This will need to include a Road Safety Audit, consider access to the site and include details of haul routes to and from the site. Access would be either via a new junction on to the A4, or onto Ufton Lane and then onto the A4. Any access onto Ufton Lane would need to involve widening Ufton Lane from the site access to the A4.

**Ecology:** *Habitat and Ecological assessments* will be required to support any planning application setting out any mitigation measures needed to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on West Berkshire's biodiversity assets. In addition, a baseline assessment of the biodiversity of the site using a biodiversity metric agreed with the Local Authority should be undertaken.

Surveys to be completed in support of a planning application must include:

- Protected species surveys including
  - a breeding bird survey,
  - a badger survey
  - bat activity surveys.
- all ponds within a 250m radius of the site should be assessed for their suitability as breeding habitat for great crested newts.

The woodland within the site should be retained and protected; in addition, retention and protection of trees and hedgerows in line with BS5837:2012 is required. Development of the site should be carried out in line with the ecological requirements set out in the Council's "Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (February 2019)"<sup>57</sup>.

**Agricultural Land and Soils:** An *Agricultural Land Classification Report* should be submitted with any planning application to determine whether any Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land is present. A soil handling and management plan should be submitted, including proposals to safeguard BMV land where applicable.

**Heritage:** A *Heritage Impact Assessment*, and *archaeological desk based assessment and field evaluation*, taking into account the potential impacts on the significance of heritage and archaeological assets, will be required to support any planning application.

**Flooding/Hydrology:** A *Flood Risk Assessment* would be required taking into account all sources of flooding. The requirements outlined in section 6.2.2 of the Council's Level 1

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<sup>56</sup> Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/34126>

<sup>57</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

SFRA must be adhered to<sup>58</sup>. Impacts on flooding and hydrology from the proposed restoration with inert fill will also need to be assessed.

**Amenity:** Detailed *noise and dust surveys* should be carried out and a *lighting, noise, dust, and vibration management plan* should be submitted, setting out any mitigation needed to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on local amenity.

**Restoration/Aftercare:** A *Restoration Plan and outline Aftercare Scheme* should accompany any planning application for the site. The site should be restored, with the removal of all bunds, reinstatement of internal hedgerow boundaries and providing at least 10% net gains for biodiversity measured using a biodiversity metric agreed with the Local Authority. Restoration of the site should take into account the requirements set out in the Council's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (February 2019) and Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites (October 2016)<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>58</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

<sup>59</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>



## Soft Sand

### Policy 31 Chieveley Services

<b>Site Address:</b>	Land adjacent to the M4/A34 Chieveley Services, Oxford Road, Newbury		
<b>Centre grid ref:</b>	SU 4827 7232		
<b>Parish:</b>	Chieveley	<b>Site ID:</b>	MW005
<b>Extraction:</b>	Extraction of between 400,000 and 670,000 tonnes of soft sand		
<b>Restoration:</b>	Restoration proposed as agriculture to existing levels using inert infill		
<b>Site Area:</b>	22.3 ha		

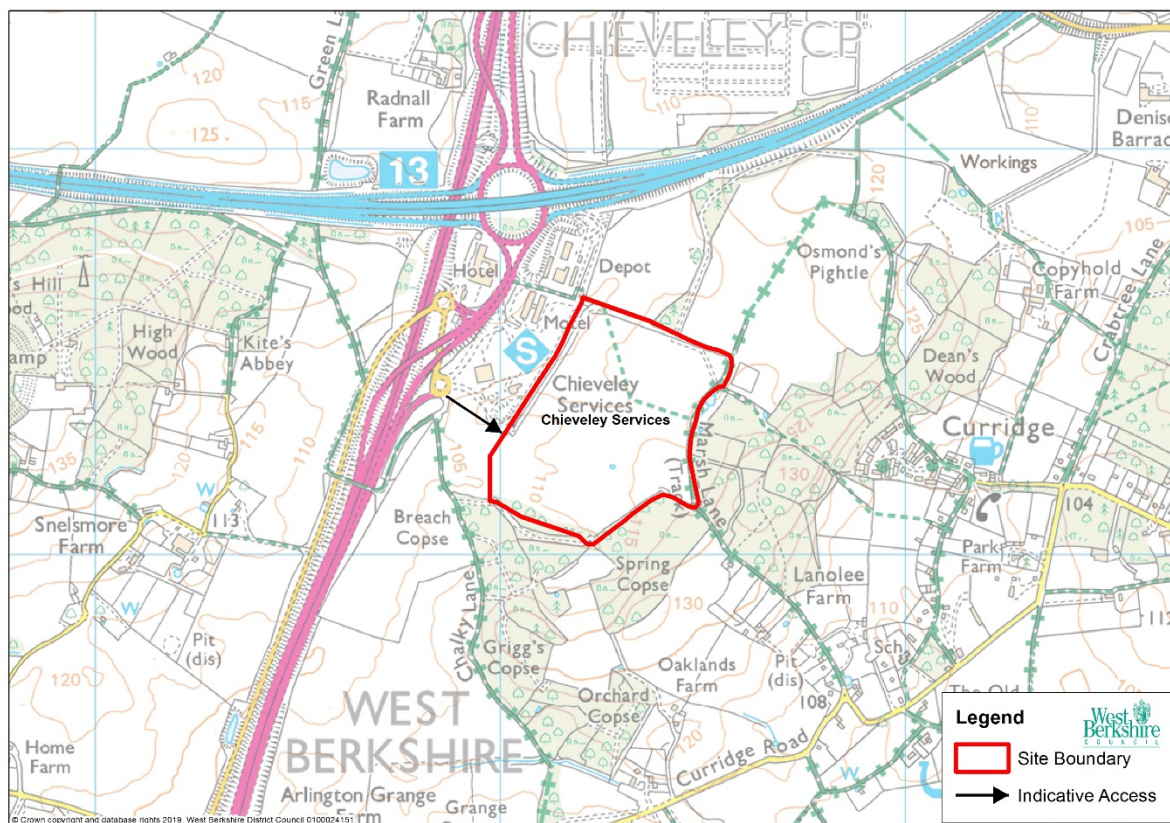


Figure 6 Chieveley Services Location Map

#### Site Context:

The site at Chieveley Services, is located to the south-east of Chieveley Services (of the M4), and approximately 1.1km to the south-east of Chieveley village.

The site comprises a field of mainly arable land, with a hedgerow and tree line separating the arable land from an area of semi-improved grassland to the south. There are two mature oak trees located within the arable land, and the site boundaries are marked by adjacent woodland and hedgerows.

#### Planning Requirements/Considerations:

**Landscape:** Development of the site will need to be subject to a detailed *Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* to determine the exact area of the site suitable for extraction in landscape terms. Extraction of the site would need to be phased with progressive restoration

to minimise the impact on the landscape. Development of the site should be carried out in line with the requirements set out in the Council's "Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites (October 2016)<sup>60</sup>".

**Rights of Way:** The Rights of Way crossing the site should be retained or diverted during the working of the site, and reinstated as part of the restoration of the site. Appropriate buffers should be provided to the other rights of way adjacent to the site.

**Highways/Transport:** A *Transport Assessment* and *Site Management Plan* will be required to support development of the site given the proximity of the site to the Strategic Road Network. This will need to clearly set out how the site would operate, the predicted number of vehicle movements (hourly/daily), demonstrate the site's viability and likely impact on the SRN and include consideration of the access to the site and details of haul routes to and from the site.

**Ecology:** *Habitat and Ecological assessments* will be required to support any planning application setting out any mitigation measures needed to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on West Berkshire's biodiversity assets. The following surveys should be submitted in support of any planning application:

- botanical survey,
- invertebrate survey,
- bat surveys,
- reptile surveys,
- amphibian surveys of nearby ponds,
- bird surveys;
- survey for badger setts and badger activity

The mature trees and linear woodland subject to Tree Preservation Order 201/21/0861 to the south of the site should be retained and protected in line with BS5837:2012. Development of the site should be carried out in line with the ecological requirements set out in the Council's "Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (February 2019)"<sup>61</sup>

**Agricultural Land and Soils:** An *Agricultural Land Classification Report* should be submitted with any planning application to determine whether any Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land is present. A soil handling and management plan should be submitted, including proposals to safeguard BMV land where applicable.

**Heritage:** A *Heritage Impact Assessment*, and *archaeological desk based assessment and field evaluation*, taking into account the potential impacts on the significance of heritage and archaeological assets will be required to support any planning application.

**Flooding/Hydrology:** A *Flood Risk Assessment* would be required taking into account all sources of flooding. The requirements outlined in section 6.2.2 of the Council's Level 1 SFRA<sup>62</sup> must be adhered to.

**Amenity:** Detailed *noise and dust surveys* should be carried out and a *lighting, noise, dust, and vibration management plan* should be submitted setting out any mitigation needed to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on local amenity.

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<sup>60</sup> Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites:

<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

<sup>61</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence:

<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

<sup>62</sup> SFRA 2019: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/sfra>

**Restoration/Aftercare:** Any application must be accompanied by a *comprehensive Restoration Plan and outline Aftercare Scheme*. The site should be restored to arable and pasture fields with all bunding removed and levels seamlessly restored to blend with the surrounding topography, providing at least 10% net gains for biodiversity. The PRoW crossing the site should be restored and opportunities for further public access/creation of new access links should be explored. Restoration of the site should take into account the requirements set out in the Council's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (February 2019) and Landscape and Visual Assessment of Potential Mineral and Waste Sites (October 2016)<sup>63</sup>.

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<sup>63</sup> Minerals and Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission documents and evidence:  
<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase>

## 7.0 Monitoring Framework

### Implementation and Monitoring Framework

The overarching delivery of minerals and waste development will be carried out through Development Management and associated activities. This would typically include:

- Assessing planning applications;
- Compliance monitoring of permitted minerals and waste developments; and
- Monitoring and enforcement relating to unauthorised development.

It may also be that planning decisions made by other planning authorities including provisions within other local development plans, Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO), other associated developments, and major infrastructure projects may impact on the ability of the Plan to delivery.

Applicants considering minerals and waste development will be required to submit planning applications for consideration before any development takes place. All proposals will need to meet other environmental, amenity and economic policies as set out within the Plan.

The key delivery partners in this respect will be the statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) in conjunction with mineral and waste operators and other interested bodies.

The Implementation and Monitoring Plan is intended to deliver the aims of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The following table shows the links between the implementation and monitoring of the Minerals and Waste Plan policies. The terms used in the header of the table shown below are:

- **Plan Policy and link to objectives:** This is the Policy number and name in the Plan, and the link that the policy has to the SA/SEA and Plan objectives.
- **Indicator:** Proposed outcome (or limitation) - this is the intended outcome of the Policy
- **Target:** Proposed target to illustrate whether the policies are operating as intended.
- **Trigger (threshold) for policy review:** Proposed threshold, where applicable, which if breached a review of the policy/plan may be required, depending on the circumstances.

## Strategic Policies

Local Plan Policy <i>And link to objectives</i>	Indicator	Target	Trigger
Policy 1: Sustainable Development <i>Contributes towards objectives M2, M5 and SA/SEA objectives 1 – 14.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of appeals allowed.</li> <li>• Minerals and waste applications determined within nationally set time periods.</li> </ul>	<p>No more than 1 appeal allowed per year.</p> <p>100% applications determined within the target / agreed timescale.</p>	<p>One application decided outside of agreed timescales.</p> <p>More than 1 appeal allowed per year.</p>
Policy 2: Landbank / Need <i>Contributes towards Plan objective M4 and SA/SEA objective 11.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permitted reserves for sharp sand and gravel and soft sand.</li> <li>• Production capacity for sharp sand and gravel and soft sand.</li> <li>• Landbanks for sharp sand and gravel and soft sand.</li> <li>• Allocated sites with planning permission</li> <li>• Annual sales of sharp sand and gravel and soft sand.</li> <li>• Recycled / Secondary aggregate production capacity.</li> </ul>	<p>Production capacity maintained at annual requirement rates.</p> <p>Landbanks maintained for at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 years for sharp sand and gravel</li> <li>• 7 years for soft sand</li> </ul> <p>Recycled and Secondary capacity maintained at specified rate.</p>	<p>Landbank equivalent to less than seven years of need based on the calculations in the latest LAA.</p> <p>Production capacity falls below annual requirement rates for more than one year.</p> <p>Recycled and Secondary capacity falls below specified rate.</p>
Policy 3: Net self-sufficiency in Waste Management  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M7, W1, W2, W3, W4 and SA/SEA objectives 9,10,11.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total amount of waste managed within West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b><u>and management types.</u></b></li> <li>• Waste management capacity in West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b><u>and management types.</u></b></li> <li>• Waste imports and exports.</li> </ul>	<p>Retention of adequate sites to maintain net self-sufficiency of waste management facilities.</p>	<p>Permitted waste management capacity in West Berkshire below the volume of waste arising such that net self-sufficiency cannot be achieved.</p>

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Local Plan Policy <i>And link to objectives</i>	Indicator	Target	Trigger
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste arisings</li> </ul>		
Policy 4: Location of Development – Construction Aggregates  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M5 and SA/SEA objectives 6, 11, 12, 13, 14.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of applications approved on land given priority by the policy.</li> <li>Number of applications approved on land outside areas given priority by the policy.</li> <li>Location of permissions granted under the policy.</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 5: Location of Development – General Waste Management Facilities  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives W1, W6 and SA/SEA objectives 6, 9, 12, 13.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of permissions granted under the policy.</li> <li>Number of facilities approved on land given priority by the policy.</li> <li>Number of facilities approved on greenfield land.</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 6: Location of Development - Specialist Waste Management Facilities  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives W4, W5 and SA/SEA objectives 9, 10.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of applications associated with specialist waste management facilities granted permission in accordance with the policy.</li> <li>Location of permissions granted under the policy.</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 7: Location of Development – Landfill and Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of facilities approved on land given priority by the policy.</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.

Local Plan Policy <i>And link to objectives</i>	Indicator	Target	Trigger
Deposit of Waste to Land  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives W2, W3, W4 and SA/SEA objective 9.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved on land outside areas given priority by the policy.</li> <li>• Number of applications permitted for permanent deposit of inert waste for restoration purposes and beneficial use.</li> <li>• New landfill capacity approved.</li> </ul>		
Policy 8: Borrow Pits  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M2 and SA/SEA objectives 10, 11.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications for borrow pits.</li> <li>• Number of applications for borrow pits permitted on land given priority by the policy/ in accordance with the policy.</li> <li>• Permissions granted in accordance with the policy.</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 9: Safeguarding – Minerals  <i>Contributes towards Plan objective M6 and SA/SEA objective 11.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of non-minerals applications responded to with mineral safeguarding advice.</li> <li>• Number and type of safeguarded mineral infrastructure sites.</li> <li>• Number of safeguarded aggregates rail depots</li> <li>• Applications approved contrary to mineral safeguarding advice.</li> </ul>	No loss of mineral safeguarded sites / infrastructure to non-minerals development.  No applications approved contrary to mineral safeguarding advice.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) against mineral safeguarding advice.  Loss of safeguarded minerals sites and infrastructure.
Policy 10: Safeguarding Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of non-waste applications responded to with waste safeguarding advice.</li> </ul>	No net loss of waste safeguarded sites / infrastructure to non-waste development.	Permitted waste management capacity below the volume of waste arisings, such that net self-

Local Plan Policy And link to objectives	Indicator	Target	Trigger
<i>Contributes towards Plan objective W6 and SA/SEA objective 9.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of waste safeguarded sites/areas.</li> <li>• Applications approved contrary to waste safeguarding advice.</li> <li>• Waste arisings</li> </ul>	No applications approved contrary to waste safeguarding advice.	<p>sufficiency can no longer be achieved.</p> <p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) against waste safeguarding advice.</p> <p>Loss of waste safeguarded sites / infrastructure.</p>
Policy 11: Chalk and Clay  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M2 and SA/SEA objective 11.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications associated with chalk and clay extraction.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 12: Energy Minerals  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M2 and SA/SEA objective 11.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications associated with exploration, appraisal and development of oil, gas and unconventional hydrocarbons.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with Policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 13: Radioactive Waste Treatment and Storage at AWE  <i>Contributes towards Plan objective W4 and SA/SEA objective 9.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications associated with storage and / or management of radioactive waste at AWE.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.



<b>Local Plan Policy And link to objectives</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Trigger</b>
<p>Policy 14: Reworking old inert landfill sites</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objective M7 and SA/SEA objective 9.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications associated with reworking old inert landfill sites</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that are not in line with the policy.
<p>Policy 15: Permanent Aggregate Infrastructure</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M4 and SA/SEA objectives 10,11,12.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications for permanent construction aggregates infrastructure.</li> <li>• Number of applications on land given priority by the policy.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
<p>Policy 16: Temporary minerals and waste Infrastructure</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M7, W3 and SA/SEA objectives 8, 9, 10, 13.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications for temporary minerals and waste infrastructure.</li> <li>• Number of applications on land given priority by the policy.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.

## Development Management Policies

Local Plan Policy <i>And link to objectives</i>	Indicator	Target	Trigger
<p>Policy 17: Restoration and After-use of Sites</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objective M8 and SA/SEA objectives 4, 6, 12.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> <li>• Number of schemes delivering 10% net gains in biodiversity or above.</li> <li>• Number of sites being restored or in aftercare.</li> </ul>	<p>All applications approved providing satisfactory restoration and aftercare proposals.</p> <p>All applications approved with restoration leading to at least 10% net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 18: Landscape</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M2, W8 and SA/SEA objective 6.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	<p>No permissions granted contrary to landscape advice.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 19: Protected Landscapes</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objective M2, M4, W8 and SA/SEA objective 6.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted within / impacting on a protected landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>All applications approved seeking to protect and enhance the AONB.</p> <p>No permissions granted contrary to landscape / Natural England advice within protected landscape areas.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 20: Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions within or impacting on specified biodiversity areas.</li> </ul>	<p>No permissions granted contrary to ecology / Natural England advice.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>

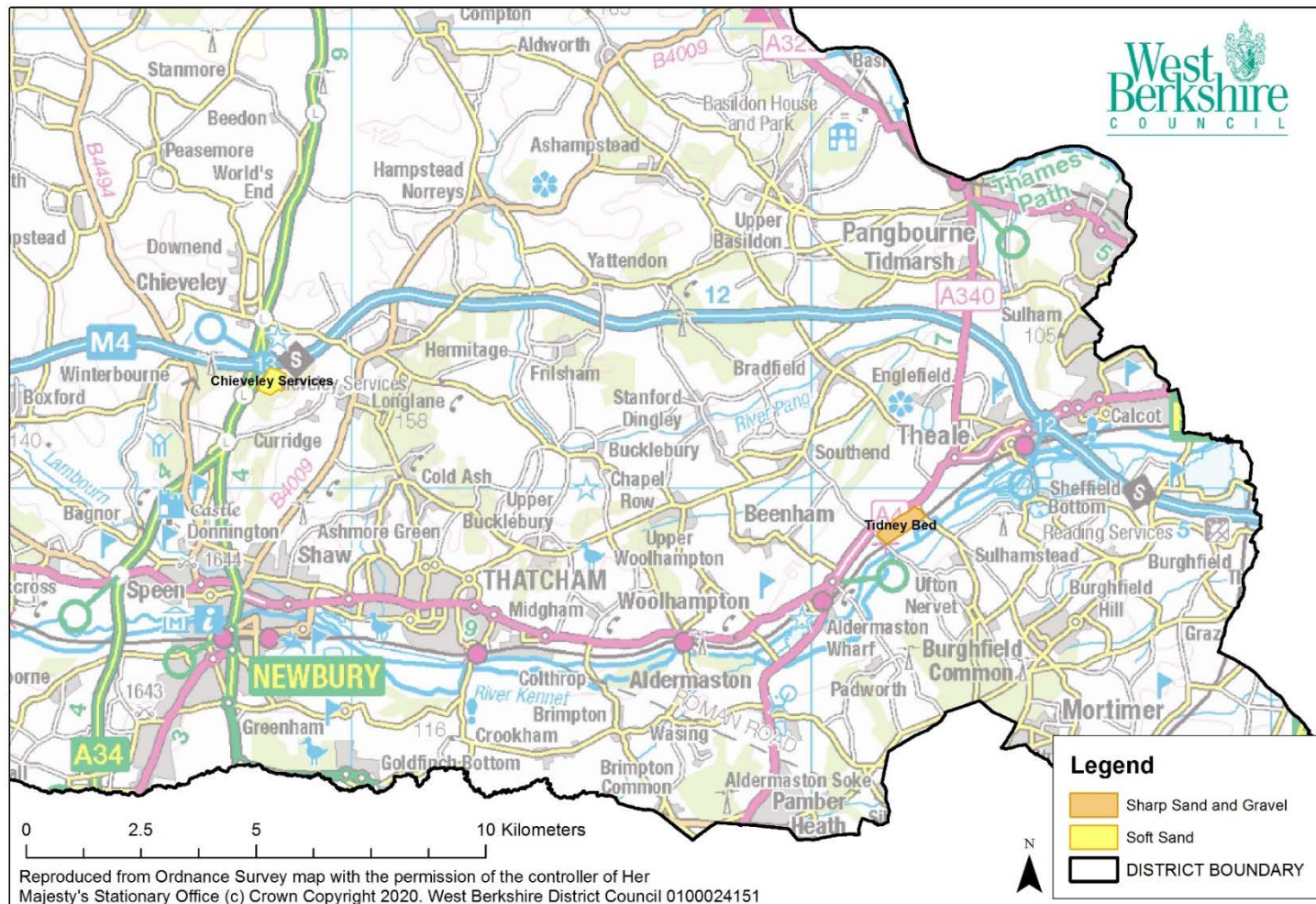
Local Plan Policy And link to objectives	Indicator	Target	Trigger
<i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M2, M8, W8 and SA/SEA objective 1.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> <li>• Number of applications delivering 10% net gains in biodiversity or above.</li> </ul>	<p>All relevant applications seeking to provide at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	
<p>Policy 21: Agricultural Land and Soils</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M2, W8 and SA/SEA objective 4.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications involving significant development of BMV agricultural land.</li> <li>• Area of BMV land lost to minerals and waste development.</li> <li>• Permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> <li>• Number of applications with proposed restoration to agricultural land and area of BMV land affected.</li> </ul>	<p>Minimise loss of best and most versatile agricultural land as a result of minerals and waste development.</p> <p>No permissions granted contrary to Natural England advice.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 22: Transport</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M6, W5 and SA/SEA objectives 10, 13.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to Local Highway Authority / Highways England advice.</li> </ul>	<p>No permission granted contrary to Local Highway Authority / Highways England advice.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>
<p>Policy 23: Public Rights of Way</p> <p><i>Contributes towards Plan objective M2, W7 and SA/SEA objective 12.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions granted resulting in diversion or closure of PROW.</li> <li>• Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	<p>No permissions granted contrary to rights of way advice.</p> <p>100% applications determined in accordance with policy.</p>	<p>More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.</p>

Local Plan Policy And link to objectives	Indicator	Target	Trigger
Policy 24: Flooding  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M3, W9 and SA/SEA objective 3.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to EA advice.</li> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> <li>Number of schemes including flood risk mitigation / benefits.</li> </ul>	No permissions granted contrary to flooding advice.  No permission granted contrary to the sequential, and where appropriate, the exception tests.  Flood risk reduced as a result of applications where relevant.  100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 25: Climate Change  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M3, W9 and SA/SEA objectives 2, 8.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	No permission granted contrary to the sequential, and where appropriate, the exception tests.  100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 26: Public Health, Environment and Amenity  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M2, W7 and SA/SEA objectives 2, 7, 12, 13.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency / Public Health / Environmental Health advice</li> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure)</li> </ul>	No permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency and Environmental Health Officer advice.  100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 27: Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to Historic England advice</li> </ul>	No permissions granted contrary to Historic England / Conservation Officer advice.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.

Local Plan Policy And link to objectives	Indicator	Target	Trigger
<i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M5, W8 and SA/SEA objective 5.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure)</li> </ul>	100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	
Policy 28: Design  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M2, W7 and SA/SEA objective 6.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure)</li> </ul>	No permissions granted contrary to advice.  100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Policy 29: Cumulative Impacts  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M2, M4, M5, W7, M8 and SA/SEA objectives 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted contrary to the policy (departure).</li> </ul>	Permissions are satisfactory when considering all relevant cumulative factors in view of minerals and waste planning.  100% applications determined in accordance with policy.	More than one proposal approved (within the plan period) that is not in line with the policy.
Site policies Policy 30: Boot Farm Policy 304: Tidney Bed Policy 312: Chieveley Services  <i>Contributes towards Plan objectives M1, M2, M4, M5, M8 SA/SEA objectives 1 - 14</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of permissions granted</li> </ul>	Adequate permissions granted to meet landbank requirements.	Permitted reserves equivalent to less than seven years of need based on the need calculations in the latest LAA.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Site Allocations



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Figure 7 Allocated Sites Location Map

## Appendix 2 Safeguarded Sites

The details of the sites safeguarded by policies 9 and 10 are set out below. The details are correct as of November 2020, and the list of safeguarded sites will be kept up to date by the AMR.

### Mineral Safeguarded Sites

**Existing Permitted Sites** (Letter refers to location shown on safeguarding map)

Map Ref.	Site Name	Address	Notes
A	Craven Keep	Park Lane, Hamstead Marshall	Inactive (planning permission implemented)
B	Harts Hill Quarry	Harts Hill Road, Upper Bucklebury	
C	Kennetholme	Brimpton Road, Midgham	Extraction complete. Restoration underway Application for extension of time for restoration permitted
D	Moores Farm	Pingewood	
E	Wasing Lower Farm	Wasing, Aldermaston	Inactive (planning permission implemented)
F	Copyhold Quarry	Copyhold Farm, Curridge	Extraction complete. Restoration underway

### Allocated Sites

Map Ref.	Site	Address
H-F	Tidney Bed	Bath Road, Sulhamstead / Ufton Nervet
I-G	Chieveley Services	Chieveley

### Railhead Sites

Map Ref.	Site	Address
J	Wigmore Lane North	Theale
K	Wigmore Lane Central	Theale
L	Wigmore Lane South	Theale

H	<u>Wigmore Lane Rail Depot</u>	<u>Theale</u>
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### Minerals Infrastructure Sites

Map Ref.	Site	Address
M-I	Colthrop Mineral Processing Plant	Colthrop Industrial Estate, Colthrop Lane, Thatcham
N-J	Marley Tile Factory	Grange Lane, Beenham
	Concrete Batching Plants <i>(Not shown on map)</i>	Enterprise Way, Thatcham Boundary Road, Newbury Grange Lane, Beenham Bone Lane, Newbury Youngs Industrial Estate, Aldermaston Hambridge Lane, Newbury Berrys Lane, Burghfield Wigmore Lane, Theale Colthrop Mineral Processing Plant, Thatcham Theale Quarry, Theale <u>Pingewood Road, Reading</u>



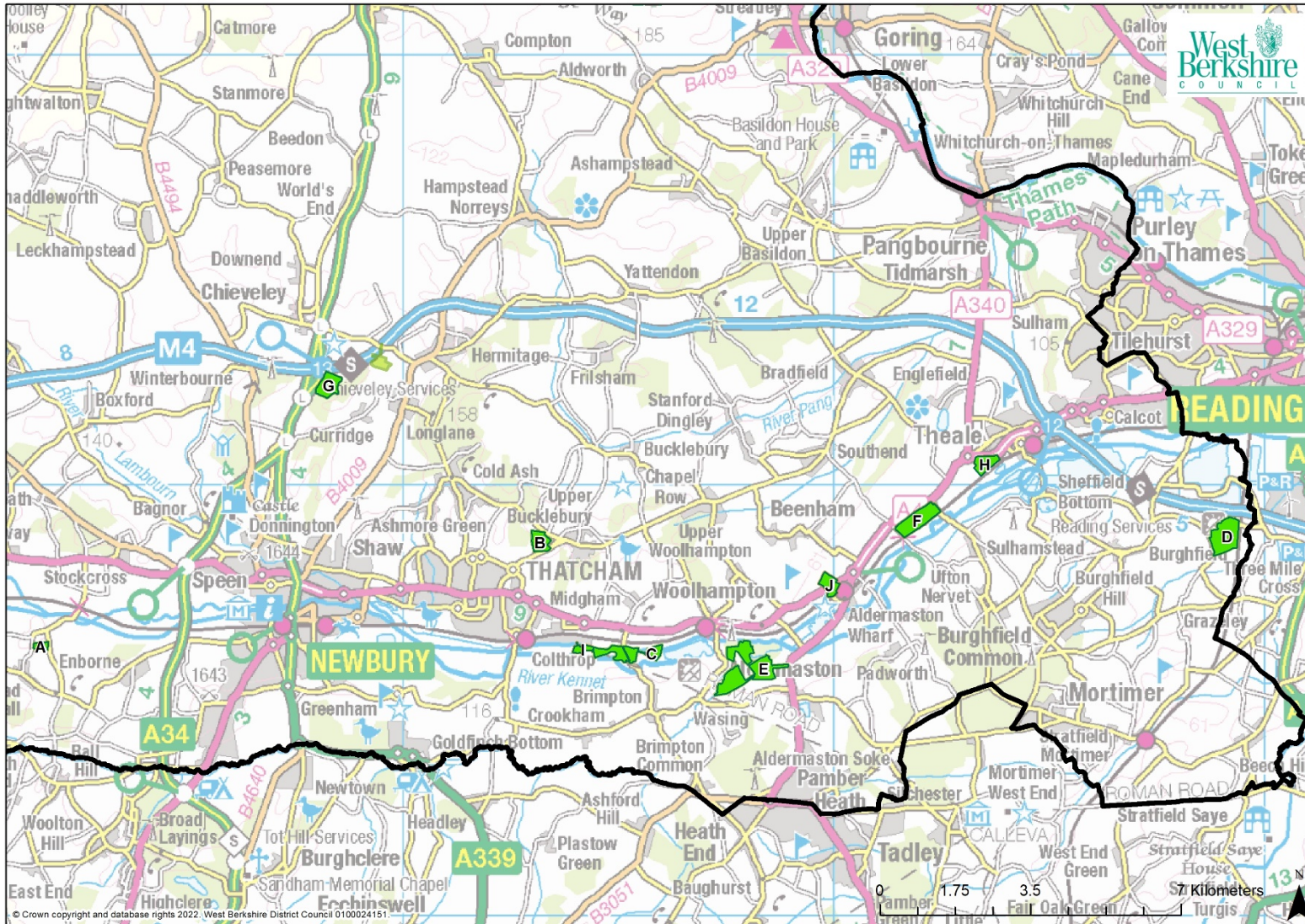


Figure 8 Mineral Safeguarded Sites

## Waste Safeguarded Sites

**Existing Waste Sites** (Number refers to location shown on safeguarding map)

Map Ref.	Site	Address	Use
1	A4 Breakers	Sevenacre Copse, Grange Lane, Beenham, RG7 5PT	Metal Recycling
<u>2</u>	<u>Aldermaston Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Aldermaston</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Ashampstead Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Ashampstead</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>2</u> <u>4</u>	AWE (Aldermaston & Burghfield)	Aldermaston & Burghfield	Specialist treatment, transfer and storage (VLLW, LLW, ILW)
<u>5</u>	<u>AWE (Burghfield)</u>	<u>Burghfield</u>	<u>Specialist treatment, transfer and storage (VLLW, LLW, ILW)</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Basildon Park Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Basildon</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>4</u> <u>7</u>	Beenham Industrial Estate (Composting)	Grange Lane, Beenham, RG7 5PY	Composting Facility
<u>5</u> <u>8</u>	Beenham Industrial Estate (Materials Recycling)	Grange Lane, Beenham, RG7 5PY	Materials Recycling Facility
<u>9</u>	<u>Beenham Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Beenham</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Bishops Green Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Bishops Green</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Boxford Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Boxford</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>Briff Lane Bucklebury Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Bucklebury</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>Burghfield Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Burghfield</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>Chapel Row Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Chapel Row</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>Chieveley Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Chieveley</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>6</u> <u>16</u>	Colthrop Aggregate Processing Facility	Colthrop Industrial Estate, Colthrop Lane, Thatcham, RG19 4NT	<u>Recycled aggregate</u>

17	<del>Avon Site, Colthrop Waste Transfer Facility</del>	Colthrop Business Park, Colthrop Lane, Thatcham	<del>Materials Recycling Facility Waste Transfer Station</del>
<u>18</u>	<u>Compton Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Compton</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>7</u> <u>19</u>	Computer Salvage Specialists (Newbury)	5 Abex Road, Newbury, RG14 5EY	WEEE
<u>8</u> <u>20</u>	Computer Salvage Specialists (Thatcham)	Aylesford Way, Thatcham	WEEE
<u>9</u> <u>21</u>	Copyhold Quarry	Copyhold Farm, Curridge, RG19 9DR	Inert Waste Materials Recovery Facility, Inert Landfill
<u>22</u>	<u>East Ilsley Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>East Ilsley</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>East Shefford Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>East Shefford</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>Fawley Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Fawley</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
40	<del>Greenham Business Park Biomass Gasification Plant</del>	<del>Buckner-Croke Way, Greenham Business Park, Greenham, RG19 6HW</del>	<del>Biomass Gasification Plant</del>
<u>25</u>	<u>Hampstead Norreys Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Hampstead Norreys</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>26</u>	<u>Hamstead Marshall Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Hamstead Marshall</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>44</u> <u>27</u>	Hillfoot Farm	Hillfoot, Chapel Row, RG7 6PG	Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant
<u>28</u>	<u>Hungerford Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Hungerford</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>29</u>	<u>Kintbury Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Kintbury</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>30</u>	<u>Leckhampstead Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Leckhamstead</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>

<u>31</u>	<u>Lower Basildon Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Lower Basildon</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>42</u> <u>32</u>	Martins Collins Enterprises	Coukoo Copse, Lambourn Woodlands, Membury Airfield	Rubber Processing
<u>43</u> <u>33</u>	Membury Airfield	Rambury Road, Lambourn, RG17 7TY	Waste solvent disposal, disposal and recovery of oils and minerals
<u>34</u>	<u>Midgham Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Midgham</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>44</u> <u>35</u>	Moores Farm	Pingewood	Inert Waste Materials Recovery Facility, Inert Landfill
<u>36</u>	<u>Mortimer Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Stratfield Mortimer</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>45</u> <u>37</u>	Newbury Sewage Treatment Works	Lower Way, Thatcham, RG19 3TL	Waste Water / Sewage Treatment
<u>46</u> <u>38</u>	Newtown Road Household Waste Recycling Centre	Newtown Road, Newbury, RG20 9BB	Household Waste Recycling Centre
<u>47</u> <u>39</u>	Old Stocks Farm Waste	Paices Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4PG	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility
<u>48</u> <u>40</u>	Padworth Breakers	Wrays Farm, Rag Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4NY	Metal Recycling
<u>49</u> <u>41</u>	Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility	Padworth Lane, Lower Padworth, Reading, RG7 4JF	Integrated Waste Management Facility
<u>42</u>	<u>Pangbourne Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Pangbourne</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>20</u> <u>43</u>	Park Farm	Upper Lambourn, Hungerford, RG17 8RD	Composting of equine waste
<u>21</u> <u>44</u>	Reading Quarry	Berrys Lane, Burghfield Skip Waste Recycling & Transfer Station, Biomass boiler	and material drying, Construction & Demolition Recycling
<u>22</u> <u>45</u>	Rookery Farm	Curridge Green, Thatcham, RG18 9EA	Reprocessing for scrap plastic chipping

<del>23</del> <u>46</u>	SSE Distribution Centre	Enterprise Way, Thatcham	Waste Transfer Facility
<u>47</u>	<u>Streatley Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Streatley</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>48</u>	<u>Sulhamstead Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Sulhampstead</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>24</u> <u>49</u>	Thatcham Block Works	Enterprise Way, Thatcham	PFA Recycling Facility
<u>25</u> <u>50</u>	Theale Quarry	Deans Copse Road, Theale	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility, RDF Processing, Wood & Plastic processing, Inert Aggregates Recycling Facility
<u>51</u>	<u>Tylers Lane Bucklebury Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Bucklebury</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>26</u> <u>52</u>	Wasing Lower Farm	Lower Farm, Wasing Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 4LY	Inert Landfill
<u>53</u>	<u>Welford Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Welford</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>27</u>	<del>Weirside</del>	<del>Burghfield Bridge, Reading, RG30 3XN</del>	<del>Materials Recovery Facility</del>
<u>28</u> <u>54</u>	Whitehouse Farm (soil Screening & Storage)	Silchester Road, Tadley, RG26 2PZ	Waste Recycling and Transfer Station
<u>55</u>	Whitehorse Farm (WRTF)	Silchester Road, Tadley, RG26 2 PZ	Skip waste Recycling & Transfer Hazardous waste transfer station
<u>56</u>	<u>Wickham Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Wickham</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>57</u>	<u>Winterbourne Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Winterbourne</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>

<u>29</u> <u>58</u>	Woodside Recycling	Woodside Farm, Goodboys Lane, Reading, RG7 1ND	Paper Waste Transfer Station
<u>59</u>	<u>Woolhampton Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Woolhampton</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>
<u>60</u>	<u>Yattendon Sewage Treatment Works</u>	<u>Yattendon</u>	<u>Sewage Treatment</u>

Map Ref.	Site	Address	Use
1	A4 Breakers	Sevenacre Copse, Grange Lane, Beenham, RG7 5PT	Metal Recycling
2	AWE (Aldermaston & Burghfield)	Aldermaston & Burghfield	Specialist treatment, transfer and storage (VLLW, LLW, ILW)
3	Avon Site, Colthrop	Colthrop Business Park, Colthrop Lane, Thatcham	Materials Recycling Facility
4	Beenham Industrial Estate (Composting)	Grange Lane, Beenham, RG7 5PY	Composting Facility
5	Beenham Industrial Estate (Materials Recycling)	Grange Lane, Beenham, RG7 5PY	Materials Recycling Facility
6	Colthrop <u>Waste Transfer Aggregate Processing Facility</u>	Colthrop Industrial Estate, Colthrop Lane, Thatcham, RG19 4NT	<u>Waste Transfer Station</u> Recycled aggregate
7	Computer Salvage Specialists (Newbury)	5 Abex Road, Newbury, RG14 5EY	WEEE
8	Computer Salvage Specialists (Thatcham)	Aylesford Way, Thatcham	WEEE
9	Copyhold Quarry	Copyhold Farm, Curridge, RG19 9DR	Inert Waste Materials Recovery Facility, Inert Landfill
10	Greenham Business Park Biomass Gasification Plant	Buckner Croke Way, Greenham Business Park, Greenham, RG19 6HW	Biomass Gasification Plant
11	Hillfoot Farm	Hillfoot, Chapel Row, RG7 6PG	Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant
12	Martins Collins Enterptises	Coukoo Copse, Lambourn Woodlands, Membury Airfield	Rubber Processing

13	Membury Airfield	Rambury Road, Lambourn, RG17 7TY	Waste solvent disposal, disposal and recovery of oils and minerals
14	Moores Farm	Pingewood	Inert Waste Materials Recovery Facility, Inert Landfill
15	Newbury Sewage Treatment Works	Lower Way, Thatcham, RG19 3TL	Waste Water / Sewage Treatment
16	Newtown Road Household Waste Recycling Centre	Newtown Road, Newbury, RG20 9BB	Household Waste Recycling Centre
17	Old Stocks Farm Waste	Paices Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4PG	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility
18	Padworth Breakers	Wrays Farm, Rag Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4NY	Metal Recycling
19	Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility	Padworth Lane, Lower Padworth, Reading, RG7 4JF	Integrated Waste Management Facility
20	Park Farm	Upper Lambourn, Hungerford, RG17 8RD	Composting of equine waste
21	Reading Quarry	Berrys Lane, Burghfield Skip Waste Recycling & Transfer Station, Biomass boiler	and material drying, Construction & Demolition Recycling
22	Rookery Farm	Curridge Green, Thatcham, RG18 9EA	Reprocessing for scrap plastic chipping
23	SSE Distribution Centre	Enterprise Way, Thatcham	Waste Transfer Facility
24	Thatcham Block Works	Enterprise Way, Thatcham	PFA Recycling Facility
25	Theale Quarry	Deans Copse Road, Theale	Waste, Recycling and Transfer Facility, RDF Processing, Wood & Plastic processing, Inert Aggregates Recycling Facility
26	Wasing Lower Farm	Lower Farm, Wasing Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 4LY	Inert Landfill
27	Weirside	Burghfield Bridge, Reading, RG30 3XN	Materials Recovery Facility

28	Whitehouse Farm	Silchester Road, Tadley, RG26 2PZ	Skip waste Recycling & Transfer Hazardous waste transfer station
29	Woodside Recycling	Woodside Farm, Goodboys Lane, Reading, RG7 1ND	Paper Waste Transfer Station

Sewage Treatment Works (not shown on map)

Aldermaston	Bucklebury	Burghfield	Beenham	Bishops Green
Boxford	East Ilsley	East Shefford	Chapel Row	Chieveley
Compton	Hungerford	Kintbury	Fawley	Hampstead Norreys
Hamstead Marshall	Midgham	Stratfield Mortimer	Pangbourne	Lower Basildon
Leckhamstead	Sulhampstead	Tylers Lane Bucklebury	Welford	Streatley
Ashampstead				Wickham



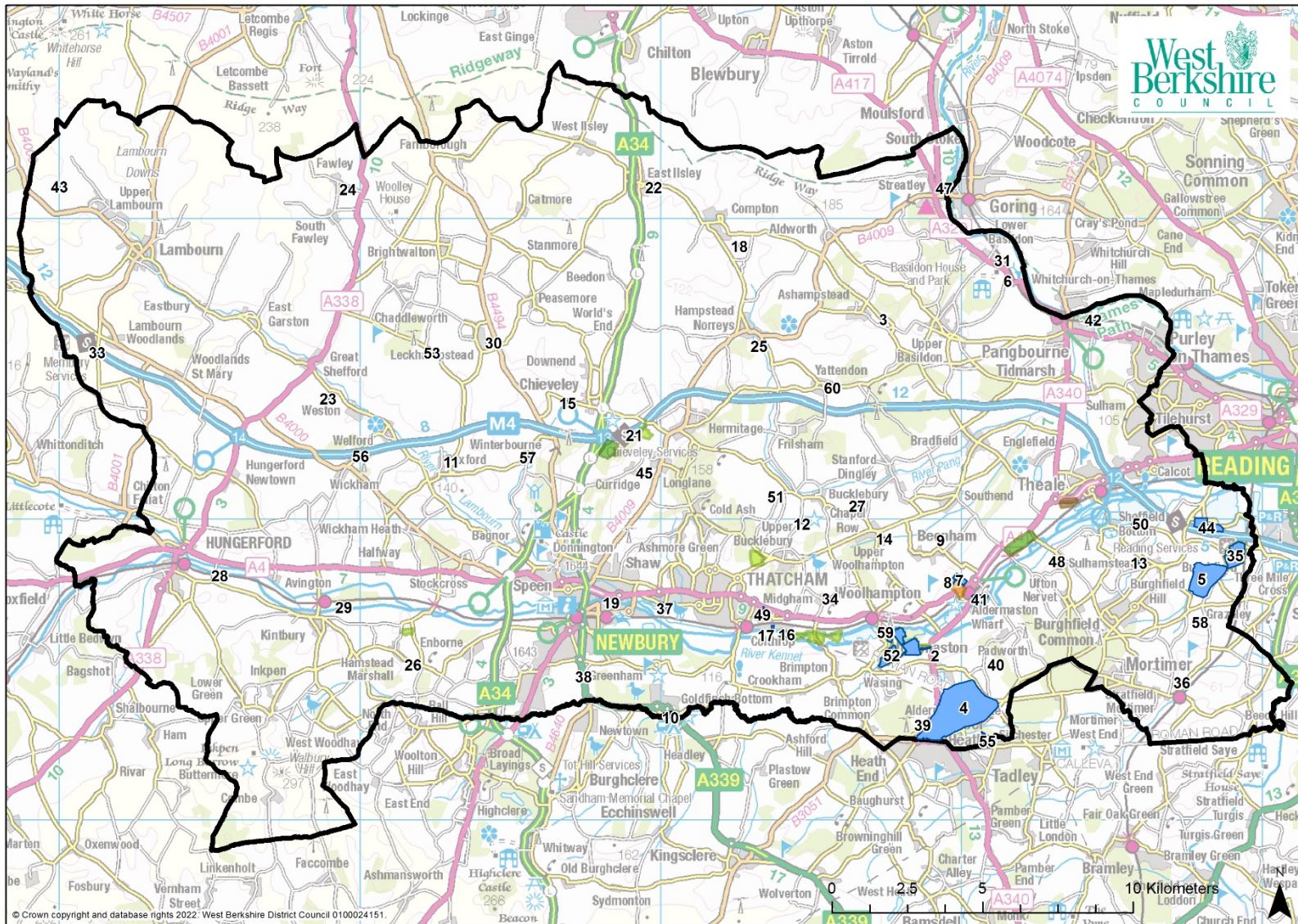


Figure 9 Waste Safeguarded Sites

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## Appendix 8 - SA/SEA and HRA review of Main Modifications

**Appendix 8 - Review of SA/SEA and HRA in light of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan****1 Introduction**

A number of Main Modifications have been proposed to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan in order for it to be found sound and, ultimately so it can be adopted by the Council. As these modifications propose changes to the plan they have been reviewed in light of the SA/SEA objectives to determine whether the changes have resulted in any changes to the outcomes of the SA/SEA and in relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The table below sets out the Proposed Main Modifications and the outcome of the HRA and SA/SEA review. Where changes have been made to the HRA, SA/SEA or the SA/SEA appendices this is noted and the changes are shown in the updated HRA, SA/SEA and accompanying appendices.

For clarification the main modifications are shown as:

- **Additional text** (bold text, underlined)
- **~~Deletions~~** (bold text, strikethrough)

A number of Additional Modifications have also been made to the plan, however, these do not change the substance of the plan, and therefore, have not been subject to SA/SEA review.

All modifications are shown in context in the 'Tracked Changes' version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

## 2 Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Review

The HRA has been reviewed in light of the proposed Main Modifications and no changes or updates are required. The HRA has been updated following updated information from Natural England regarding the status of the River Lambourn SAC. However, this does not change the outcome of the HRA.

## 3 SA/SEA Review

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM1	2.9	Increasingly construction and demolition waste is being used, where the specification allows, as a substitute for primary aggregates. This poses new and different demands on the construction aggregate supply industry in finding sites and processing capacity to recycle and deliver these materials. <del>Since 2012 the sales of recycled aggregates from sites in West Berkshire have exceeded the sales of primary aggregates won from mineral extraction sites within the district.</del>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM2	Vision	To facilitate the planned delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity which meet the requirements for West Berkshire in accordance with national planning policy. In particular to plan for the delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity in locations which meet the needs of West Berkshire in the most sustainable way, <u>and taking into account climate change.</u>	The Vision was not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but it has been assessed for compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the compatibility of the Vision with the SA/SEA objectives.
MM3	M2	To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents, and protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, <u>taking into account climate change.</u>	The Objectives were not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but they were assessed for their compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the compatibility of the MWLP Objectives with the SA/SEA Objectives.
MM4	M4	To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals, as far as is practical, from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments and	The Objectives were not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but they were assessed for their compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		Conservation Areas <b><u>whilst also taking into account the potential for future contribution that should be made from mineral working in West Berkshire towards the aggregate supply needs of other areas.</u></b>	compatibility of the MWLP Objectives with the SA/SEA Objectives.
MM5	W8	To ensure appropriate protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related to development in accordance with the NPPF <b><u>and taking into account climate change.</u></b>	The Objectives were not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but they were assessed for their compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the compatibility of the MWLP Objectives with the SA/SEA Objectives.
MM6	New paragraph after 4.13	<b><u>MHCLG have undertaken the Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2019, which along with sales, reserves and permissions, also includes movements of minerals between Mineral Planning Authorities. Once published, the results of this survey, particularly in relation to movements of aggregate minerals into West Berkshire, will be critical to determining West Berkshire's future projections of need for aggregate minerals. The findings of this survey and any other relevant future surveys will be considered within future LAAs.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM7	Policy 3	<p>In order to ensure the appropriate management of waste arisings within West Berkshire the Council will seek to maintain net self-sufficiency, where the total waste management capacity provided from sites in West Berkshire is greater than the total waste arisings within West Berkshire over the plan period to 2037.</p> <p>The level of need for new waste management capacity to meet net self-sufficiency <b><u>as well as capacity surplus/deficits by waste management type</u></b> will be kept under review through the production of Authority Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>The Council will seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy by requiring waste development proposals to demonstrate that the waste being managed cannot reasonably be managed higher up the waste hierarchy than that proposed.</p>	<b>No:</b> Change is related to monitoring of waste capacity and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM8	4.23	Therefore there will always be a movement of waste across administrative boundaries, however it is considered that planning for net self-sufficiency should mean that the authority is in the position where the necessary level of waste movement is reduced. It is accepted that West Berkshire will always be reliant on other local authorities to manage some waste arising within West Berkshire. This is because there is no non-hazardous landfill capacity within the authority meaning that such wastes destined for landfill will have to be exported. Similarly there is only a small volume of waste recovery capacity in West Berkshire (there being a small number of facilities that use waste wood to generate electricity of produce heat and some on farm anaerobic digestion capacity). <b><u>However, these potential shortfalls in capacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operations and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM9	New paragraph after para 4.23	<b><u>National policy does not necessarily expect every waste planning area to provide the full range of facilities required to manage waste arising within the Plan Area, given economies of scale and the operation of the market transcending administrative boundaries. This means that each WPA may aim to achieve self-sufficiency overall ('net' self-sufficiency), which means that flows into and out of the Plan area are balanced and offset. For West Berkshire the lack of capacity to manage residual waste is more than offset by the capacity of facilities providing other forms of waste management in the district such as recycling. Therefore, overall waste management capacity in the district exceeds that of the waste generated and it can be said that the objective of net self-sufficiency can be met. Where a specific lack of capacity exists (for example residual waste management), this has been addressed through the Duty to Cooperate.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM10	New paragraph	<b><u>As already outlined, West Berkshire does not have sufficient capacity to manage residual waste either through energy recovery or non-hazardous landfill (The Local Waste Assessment identifies a need for 85,117 tpa for</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
	after new para above	<p><b><u>energy recovery and 34,000 tpa for non-hazardous landfill by 2037)</u></b>. <b><u>However, notwithstanding this shortfall in capacity, 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 non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity, the surplus capacity at other types of waste management facility in the district more than offsets this shortfall. Therefore, the total waste management capacity in the district still exceeds the quantity of waste generated. The principle of planning for ‘net’ self-sufficiency has been agreed with other Waste Planning Authorities in the South East of England, through the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) Statement of Common Ground (para 2.1). In addition, Policy 7 allows for proposals for non-hazardous landfill to come forward where they meet the requirements of that policy, and a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to address the lack of non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity over the Plan period.</u></b></p>	
MM11	4.24	<p><del><b>However these potential shortfalls incapacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operating and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.</b></del>The Local Waste Assessment (LWA) (2020) that has been produced to inform the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan has considered the volume of waste arisings in West Berkshire by waste stream and also uses various methods to project the volume of waste arisings anticipated at the end of the plan period (2037). The full detail can be found in the LWA but in all cases the Council has sought to use the least conservative (but still reasonable) forecasting method when projecting future waste arisings. Such an approach has been adopted to ensure that the projections in the LWA are sufficiently robust to ensure that the policy approach adopted in the MWLP is the most appropriate.</p>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM12	Policy 4	<p>Allocated Sites The following sites are allocated to meet the need for primary aggregates:</p>	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		<p>Sharp Sand and Gravel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tidney Bed, Ufton Nervet (Policy 30 'Tidney Bed')</li> </ol> <p>Soft Sand</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Chieveley Services, Chieveley (Policy 31 'Chieveley Services')</li> </ol> <p>A map showing the location of the allocated sites is given in Appendix 1 'Allocated Sites'.</p> <p><b><u>There will be a presumption in favour of construction aggregate extraction proposals only in the following circumstances Planning permission will be granted for construction aggregate extraction where the following criteria are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is allocated for mineral extraction in this plan, provided that the identified site specific requirements are satisfied; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for a borrow pit; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to the extraction of minerals prior to a planned non mineral development (prior extraction); or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for another beneficial and acceptable use and mineral extraction is a necessary part of the proposed development; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal is required to maintain the requirement provisions in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In addition, for soft sand planning permission will additionally be granted for extraction where the following criteria are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is located within an area of search for soft sand; or</li> <li>• For proposals within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the requirements of the exceptional circumstances test in the NPPF are satisfied.</li> </ul>	<p>policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.</p>



Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		<del>Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy</del> <u>In addition to the requirements identified in this policy</u> , proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.	
MM13	New paragraph after 4.39	<u>For soft sand, the Plan identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Services). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.</u>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM14	New paragraph after new para above	<u>As the allocated site cannot be relied upon to fully meet need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Council has also identified areas of search (Figure 3 'Soft Sand Areas of Search') within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.</u>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM15	4.42	<del>As imports from Oxfordshire cannot be relied upon to fully meet the need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Plan also identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Services). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.</del>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM16	4.43	<del>The Council has also identified soft sand areas of search (Figure 3 ‘Soft Sand Areas of Search’) within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.</del>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM17	4.40	<del><b>Due to the fact that in recent years the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB),</b></del> For soft sand the Council commissioned a specific Soft Sand Study to investigate all potential supply options for delivering West Berkshire’s identified level of need for soft sand. <del><b>due to the fact that in recent years, the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</b></del> The Soft Sand Study concluded that the only realistic alternative to providing for extraction within the AONB in West Berkshire, <u><b>as required by the exceptional circumstances test in paragraph 176 of the NPPF,</b></u> would be to supply soft sand from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire. The Soft Sand Study identifies that <del><b>part of the current some of the</b></del> soft sand sales pattern in Oxfordshire comprises supply to West Berkshire, so this would be a continuation of <del><b>the current this</b></del> situation. Therefore, if Oxfordshire were <u><b>to continue</b></u> to make provision to enable <del><b>the current these</b></del> levels of sales to continue, then it could be inferred that <del><b>the current these</b></del> movements of soft sand from Oxfordshire to West Berkshire will be able to continue. This would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports <del><b>from Oxfordshire as is currently understood to be the case.</b></del> However, this would rely on a formal agreement with Oxfordshire County Council to make provision for supplying West Berkshire as well as addressing its own requirements.	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM18	4.41	Therefore, liaison has been undertaken through the Duty to Cooperate regarding whether Oxfordshire County Council could make provision through their emerging Site Allocations Document to enable <del><b>current the</b></del> levels of soft sand	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		supply <b>as set out in the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy and as identified within their Local aggregates Assessment to continue through their emerging Site Allocations Document.</b> A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared regarding the arrangement of soft sand supply between the authorities and outlining agreement from Oxfordshire County Council to make provision to enable <b>current</b> levels of supply to continue which would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports from Oxfordshire, as is currently understood to be the case.	of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM19	4.44	It is acknowledged that the one allocated soft sand site is not sufficient to meet the identified requirement for soft sand in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'. However, it is considered that the Council has undertaken all measures to identify potential soft sand supply options for the District as set out in the West Berkshire Soft Sand Study and Soft Sand Topic paper. The shortfall in soft sand supply of 120,000 - 390,000 tonnes, (6,667 – 21,667 tpa) is expected to be made up from windfall sites <b>from the soft sand areas of search and if that does not result in sufficient permissions to meet the identified requirement, a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared with Oxfordshire which agrees some supply of soft sand. Supply from Oxfordshire.</b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM20	4.47	Allocated sites identify areas where <b>planning permission will be granted if the criteria and policies in the Plan are met. There will be a presumption in favour of development.</b> The mineral allocations have been selected as the least damaging potential sites for extraction in terms of the effect on environmental and social sustainability. <b>It therefore, follows as a general principle that outside the allocated sites there will be a general presumption against planning permission being granted unless the additional requirements of the policy are met.</b>	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM21	Policy 5	<b>There will be a presumption in favour of</b> <u>Priority will be given</u> to waste management development proposals (excluding landfill) <b>only</b> in the following areas:	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing sites with permanent planning permission for waste management development; or</li> <li>- Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8 land uses) or within suitable protected employment areas; or</li> <li>- On previously developed land; or</li> <li>- Agricultural or forestry buildings and their curtilages where they are demonstrated to be redundant; or</li> <li>- In the case of inert waste management facilities, in aggregate quarries and inert landfill sites for the duration of the host facility.</li> </ul> <p>Waste development outside these areas will only be permitted <b><u>where they meet the other relevant policies in the Plan, in exceptional circumstances</u></b> and consideration will be given to the proximity of the proposed development to the source of waste arisings.</p> <p>The co-location of waste management activities within existing permanent waste management sites will be supported, where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts. Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy, proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM22	4.56	<p><del>The policy seeks to steer waste development away from greenfield sites, giving</del> <b><u>The Plan gives priority</u></b> to existing waste sites, industrial and employment areas, the re-use of previously developed land and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings in line with the National Planning Policy for Waste. In the case of inert waste recycling facilities, these often have functional linkages with the restoration of aggregate quarries and inert landfill facilities, and therefore, these are appropriate locations for this type of waste management. Policy 16 'Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure' provides greater detail on this situation. Within the specified areas there will be a presumption in favour of waste management development. However, consideration will also need to be</p>	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		given to all other polices in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.	
MM23	4.58	The main types of waste facility that could be developed in accordance with this policy include, <b>but is not limited to</b> , waste transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, inert waste recycling facilities, energy from waste, Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste facilities and scrap metal facilities.	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan by providing clarification, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM24	Policy 6	Planning permission will be granted for specialist waste management facilities, including facilities to manage agricultural, <b>equine</b> and hazardous wastes and waste water where:	<b>No:</b> The change provides further clarity to the policy, it does not change the substance of the policy and therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM25	Policy 7	<p><del>There will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b>Proposals for</b> land filling or permanent deposit of waste <b>only will be permitted</b> in active or planned mineral extraction sites where the restoration of the mineral site requires the use of imported materials to achieve an acceptable restoration and afteruse.</p> <p>Only waste from which no further value can reasonably be obtained shall be landfilled. Proposals for landraising will normally be refused.</p> <p><del>In exceptional circumstances p</del> <b>Permanent deposit of inert material may be permitted where it is an essential element of another beneficial and necessary development proposal.</b></p>	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM26	Policy 9	<p>'Minerals Safeguarding Areas' (MSAs) have been defined which safeguard the following from sterilisation by non-mineral development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known construction aggregate mineral deposits<sup>29</sup>;</li> <li>• Existing (including those with planning permission yet to be implemented) and allocated mineral extraction sites;</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In addition, the following Minerals Infrastructure is safeguarded against</u></b></p>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the policy. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		<p><b><u>development that would unnecessarily prevent or prejudice the operation of the infrastructure:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential, planned and existing minerals associated infrastructure, including rail sites and mineral processing plant sites.</li> </ul> <p>Non-mineral development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas <b><u>or affecting Minerals Safeguarded Infrastructure</u></b> may be considered acceptable in the following circumstances:</p>	
MM27	4.90	<p>Waste management sites are often perceived by the wider community as a bad neighbour use, which can make finding and developing new waste management sites challenging. In addition the demand for land in West Berkshire is generally very high and the availability of land is often constrained. These factors have the potential to inflate land values, meaning that only high value uses are viable. In addition there is a high level of demand for housing development, which further puts pressure on land. <b><u>The NPPF prescribes that existing businesses should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of encroaching development, and that any new development (the ‘agent of change’) should provide suitable mitigation where existing businesses could have a significant adverse effect on the new development.</u></b></p> <p>Safeguarding of waste facilities, where they are viable, is important to ensure the existing permitted sites are retained and not lost or sterilised due to competing land uses.</p>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM28	Policy 12	<p><i>Exploration and appraisal</i></p> <p>Proposals for exploratory drilling for conventional and unconventional oil and gas will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other than in exceptional circumstances;</li> </ul>	<b>Yes:</b> The reference to water quality in the policy has improved the SA/SEA score in relation to the impact on water quality (from ? / - to ? / +) however, this has not impacted on the overall SA/SEA assessment of the policy.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and</li> <li>• The development proposals provide for the timely and high quality restoration and aftercare of the site.</li> </ul> <p><i>Commercial production</i></p> <p>Proposals for the commercial production of conventional and unconventional oil and gas, or for the establishment of related plant, will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and in the public interest;</li> <li>• A full appraisal for the oil and gas field has been completed;</li> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment do not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and</li> <li>• The proposed location has been demonstrated as the most suitable taking into account all planning considerations.</li> </ul> <p>Particular consideration will be given to the location of hydrocarbon development involving hydraulic fracturing regarding impacts on <b>water quality</b>, water resources, seismicity, local air quality, landscape, noise, traffic and lighting impacts. Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there would not be an unacceptable impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ), Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), or the local environment or community.</p> <p>In addition, proposals for conventional and unconventional oil and gas development must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	
MM29	Policy 14	Proposals for the re-working of old <b>inert</b> landfill sites will only be permitted where all of the following are demonstrated:	<b>No:</b> the change provides further clarity to the policy in line with the policy title (re-working old

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
			Inert Landfill Sites), it does not change the substance of the policy and therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM30	Policy 15	<p><del>There will be a presumption in favour of Proposals for</del> permanent construction aggregate infrastructure <b><u>will be permitted</u></b> in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing sites with permanent planning permission for mineral processing or handling; or</li> <li>• Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8).</li> </ul> <p>The co-location of construction aggregate infrastructure with existing suitable operations will be supported, where appropriate where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy all proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM31	Policy 19	<p>Major mineral and waste development proposals within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB will only be considered acceptable in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in the public interest. Consideration will be given to whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an overriding need for the development to take place in the proposed location;</li> <li>• The need for the development can be met in some other way, or from a site outside the AONB; and</li> <li>• Any detrimental impact of the development on the environment, landscape and recreation can be satisfactorily mitigated;</li> </ul>	<b>No:</b> The changes to the policy provides clarification for proposals within the setting of the AONB in line with the NPPF. However, this has not changed the outcome of the SA/SEA as the policy still seeks to protect and enhance the AONB.



Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM32		<p>Other minerals and waste development proposals within <del>or affecting the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB will be considered acceptable only where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal is for a small scale facility to meet local needs that can be developed without an unacceptable impact on the environmental and landscape of the area; and</li> <li>• The proposals conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</li> </ul> <p>Restoration and aftercare proposals should seek to enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</p> <p><b><u>Development proposals within the setting of the AONB should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the AONB.</u></b></p>	
MM33	5.28	<p>There are currently three SACs within West Berkshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain – <b><u>which supports one of the most extensive known populations of Desmoulin’s whorl snail in the UK. The conservation objective related to the sites’ designation is to maintain the habitat in favourable condition for the Desmoulin’s whorl snail.</u></b></li> <li>• River Lambourn – <b><u>with good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants the river supports Bullhead and Brook Lamprey populations.</u></b></li> <li>• Kennet Valley Alderwoods – <b><u>the woodland forms the largest remaining fragments of damp, ash-alder woodland in the Kennet floodplain. Conservation of the site is dependent upon maintaining a constantly high groundwater level.</u></b></li> </ul>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM34	New paragraph after 5.28	<b><u>The measures specified in this policy will ensure that the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations are satisfied in order to protect these internationally designated sites.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM35	5.31	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated sites which have important wildlife or geological value. There are currently 51 SSSIs within West Berkshire covering 1480 hectares, <b><u>which includes the Rivers Lambourn and Kennet.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM36	5.34	The District contains important watercourses such as the Rivers Kennet, Lambourn and Pang. The rivers Lambourn and Kennet are also designated as SSSIs, <b><u>in addition the river Lambourn is designated as a SAC.</u></b> Mineral working in West Berkshire has historically been concentrated along the Kennet Valley where sharp sand and gravel is predominantly found. Riparian corridors create important linkages for biodiversity and therefore mineral working and restoration in these areas have the potential to contribute towards relevant biodiversity enhancements.	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM37	New paragraph after 5.39	<b><u>A buffer zone must be established between a Mineral site and the bank top of a watercourse to protect the river bank and the hydrology of the river. Applicants are likely to need an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency to quarry or excavate minerals within 16 metres of a main river. Therefore the buffer zone should generally be a minimum 16m for main rivers and smaller (minimum 5m) for ordinary watercourses. This zone should be fenced while the mineral site is active and there must be no mineral extraction and no tracking of vehicles or storage of any materials or plant etc unless the habitat is of low ecological value and the activity will not impact on the river. This zone should be included in the red line boundary and enhanced for biodiversity in the restoration plan.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM38	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>This zone may have to be wider when adjacent to the designated Rivers Kennet and Lambourn if the mineral extraction is likely to have an adverse impact on these rivers, for example if the hydrology was likely to be impacted.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM39	New paragraph	<b><u>An additional stand-off zone of no extraction but where, for example, tracking of vehicles and the temporary storage of minerals would be</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
	after new para paragraph above	<b><u>allowed, may also be required at certain sites. This is likely to be required to protect designated rivers such as The River Kennet Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and The River Lambourn SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. The buffer and stand-off zones should be included in the restoration plan, thereby giving opportunities for river restoration and the restoration of the river corridor. These could include the creation or enhancement of wetland habitats and reconnecting the river with its floodplain.</u></b>	the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM40	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>Similar buffer/stand-off zones may be required between Waste Sites and watercourses to protect their water quality and hydrology. The width will depend on the specific circumstances, and will be determined as part of the Environmental Permit application.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM41	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>Regarding other designated sites (e.g. other SSSIs and SACs that are not river sites), for both Mineral Sites and Waste Sites, the specific distance from the designated site should be determined through consultation with NE, taking into account the activity and the sensitivity of the protected site's designated features.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM42	Policy 25 bullet point 3	Avoiding areas vulnerable to climate change and flood risk through application of the Sequential Test, Exception Test and Sequential Approach <b>where appropriate;</b>	<b>No:</b> The change removes unnecessary text from the policy rather than making any change to the substance of the policy. It does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM43	Monitoring Framework Policy 3, Indicators 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total amount of waste managed within West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b><u>and management type.</u></b></li> <li>Waste management capacity in West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b><u>and management type.</u></b></li> </ul>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM44	4.55	No waste sites are to be allocated through the plan as there is sufficient waste management capacity in existing sites which will be safeguarded over the plan period (Policy 10 'Waste Safeguarding'). However, this policy sets out where <b><u>there will be a presumption in favour of priority will be given to</u></b> waste	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore,

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		management development. This approach will enable flexibility for sites to cope with changes in waste practices and allow for new and emerging waste technologies to come forward on existing sites and ensure that old technology can be replaced with new and emerging technologies.	it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM45	4.59	Waste developments may be acceptable outside the locations specified in the policy <del>in exceptional circumstances where they meet the requirements of</del> <b>other relevant policies in the plan</b> , including where facilities are proposed in rural areas. Such facilities would only be acceptable where there is a good relationship between the location of the site and the source of the waste.	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

### 3.1 Updates to the SA/SEA tables in Appendix 5

As noted above the Main Modifications have only resulted in updates to one of the assessment tables in Appendix 5. This updated table is included below, as well as having been updated within Appendix 5 of the SA/SEA.

#### 3.1.1 Policy 12: Energy Minerals (MM28)

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	2/- +/?	Depending on the energy mineral to be extracted there is potential for a negative impact on water quality.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no detrimental impact on water quality. <u>The policy now specifically includes</u>	There is potential for a negative impact on environmental sustainability, depending on the energy mineral to be extracted, without mitigation measures

				<u>reference to protecting water quality.</u>	in the short/medium term. In the long term, as mineral extraction is temporary in nature, there should be a neutral impact on sustainability. <u>The modification to the policy in relation to water quality should help to minimise any impact on environmental sustainability.</u>
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	? / -	Some forms of energy mineral extraction require significant amount of water, therefore, there could be an impact on water resources, depending on the mineral resource to be extracted.	Mitigation measures, including consideration of water conservation, would be required.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	-	Sites put forward for consideration under this policy could be located on the best and most versatile agricultural land	Mitigation measures would be required, including restoration back to agriculture and retention of soils for the restoration scheme.	There is a potentially negative impact on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term, however, in the longer term with good restoration there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	-	There is potential for a negative impact on soil quality.	Mitigation measure would be required, including retention and storage of soils for the restoration of the site.	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		

<p>5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance</p>	<p>Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the historic environment.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the historic environment.</p>	<p>There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.</p>
<p>6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character</p>	<p>Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Unlikely to be an impact on townscape</p>		<p>There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.</p>
	<p>Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the <del>historic environment</del> <u>landscape</u>.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the landscape. The policy states that development in the AONB would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.</p>	
<p>7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire</p>	<p>Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Mineral extraction can impact on air quality, with dust and traffic emission associated with the site.</p>	<p>Mitigation, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.</p>	<p>There is a potential negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures. In the longer term there should be a neutral impact as minerals development is only temporary in nature.</p>
<p>8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable</p>	<p>Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The policy is focused on the extraction of primary energy minerals.</p>		<p>There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental sustainability.</p>

sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery and recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	There are limited opportunities for rail/water transport.		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term while the sites are operational. In the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should not be an impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Extracted material will require transportation from the sites, which is likely to be by road, therefore, there is potential for a negative impact on the transport network.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures would be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates and the policy does not propose safeguarding of energy mineral deposits.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates.		

12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0 / +	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity, however, restoration of any sites considered under this policy could result in improvements to open space amenity.		Overall there is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability, however there could be a negative impact on social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being provided in the short/medium term. In the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be no impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Mineral extraction can have an impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there would be unlikely to be an impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Development of sites for energy mineral extraction would have a positive impact on the economy.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Any site coming forward could provide employment opportunities.		

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium term

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall



neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting the need for energy minerals.

The main modification (MM28) to this policy has slightly changed the SA/SEA assessment in terms of the impact on water quality, as protection of water quality is now specifically referred to in the policy. However, this has not changed the overall SA/SEA assessment for the policy.

#### **4 Conclusion**

The Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan have been reviewed in light of the HRA and the SA/SEA. The Proposed Main Modifications do not require any changes to the HRA and where changes have been made to the SA/SEA as a result of the Main Modification they have not changed the overall outcome of the assessment.

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## 1. Introduction

### **Requirement for Habitat Regulations Assessment**

~~Under the provisions of European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive)<sup>1</sup>, transposed into British law by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>2</sup>, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to assess the potential effects of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of any European sites designated for their importance to nature conservation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>3</sup>. These sites form a system of internationally important sites throughout Europe and are known collectively as the 'Natura 2000 network'. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of interest to the EU in a favourable condition.~~

European sites provide valuable ecological infrastructure for the protection of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species of exceptional importance within the EU. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPA), designated under European Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive)<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at paragraph 181~~176~~<sup>5</sup> requires that sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat) are treated as if they are fully designated European sites for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them.

~~Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that local authorities have a duty to ensure that all the activities they regulate have no adverse effect on the integrity of any of the Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, a~~ An HRA must assess the possible effects of proposed plans on any Natura 2000 sites. This includes screening for potential impacts on European sites. If there is a probability or a risk that there will be significant effects on site integrity, alone, or in-combination with other relevant plans or projects, (having regard to the site's conservation objectives) then the plan or project must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of its implications on the site.

Depending on the outcome of the HRA, the local authority may need to amend the plan to eliminate or reduce potentially damaging effects on the European site. If adverse effects on the integrity of sites cannot be ruled out, the plan can only be adopted where there are no alternative solutions that would have a lesser effect and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest sufficient to justify adopting the plan despite its effects on the European sites.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

<sup>2</sup> Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/regulation/41/made>

<sup>3</sup> Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents>

<sup>4</sup> European Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive): <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

<sup>5</sup> National Planning Policy Framework: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

Update March 2022: The HRA has been updated in the light of advice from Natural England regarding protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution, including the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in West Berkshire. Other amendments include removing references to European Legislation since the UK left the European Union on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and other factual updates. Changes are shown using the format of underline for additions and ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

There are four stages to the Habitats Regulations Assessment as outlined in Table 1.1 below:

Table 1.1: HRA stages

<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment - stage</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Screening exercise	The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant
Appropriate Assessment	The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts should be provided
Assessment of alternative solutions	The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s)
Compensatory measures	An assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should proceed. This is not a standard part of the process and will only be carried out in exceptional circumstances.

This document constitutes stage 1 of the assessment and screens the potential of the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan for its likely effects, either alone or in combination.

***What is the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan***

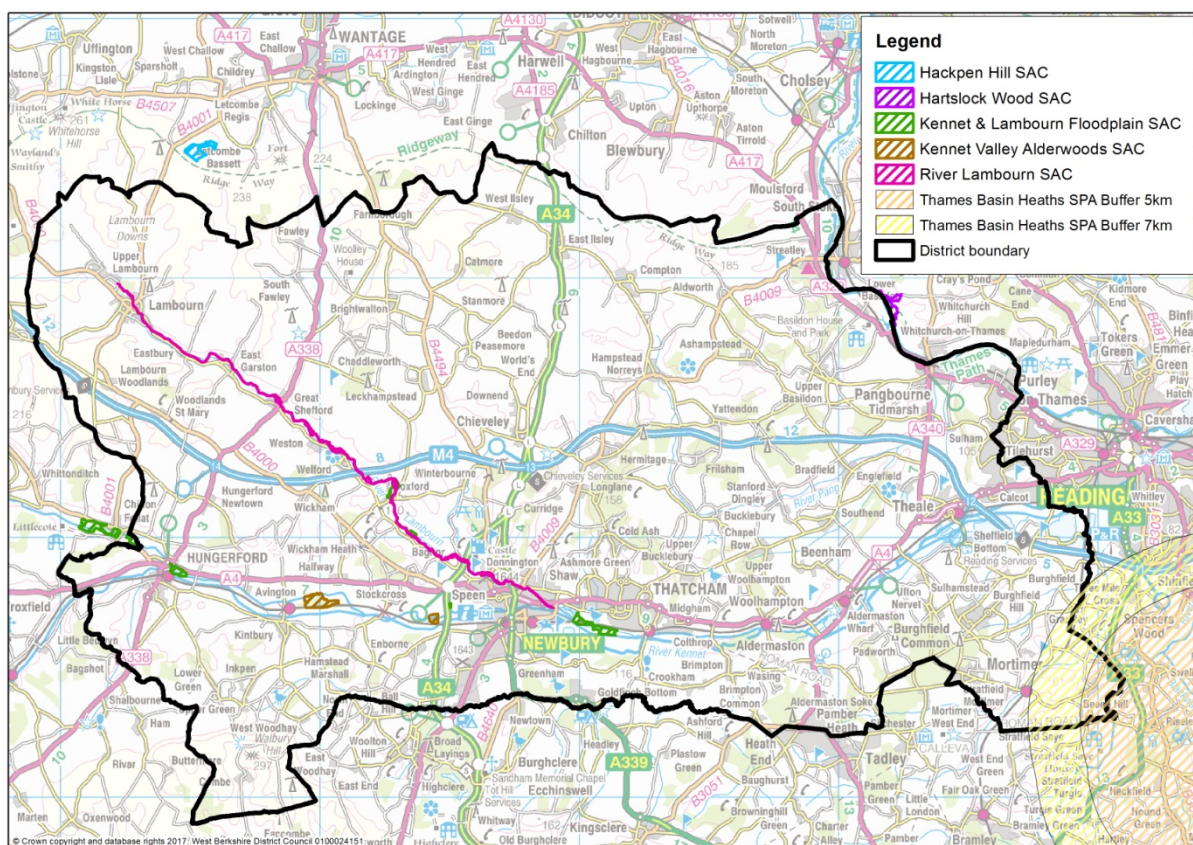
The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will replace the existing saved minerals and waste planning policies as set out in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (incorporating alterations) (2001) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998).

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will cover the period to 2037, setting out new policies to manage mineral and waste development in West Berkshire.

***Natura 2000 sites within West Berkshire***

Within the boundaries of West Berkshire there are three designated SACs, and within 5km of the boundaries of West Berkshire, there are two SACs. While there is no SPA within West Berkshire, the south-eastern area of the District falls within the 5km boundary of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The 5km boundary has been determined by Natural England as a buffer area to regulate development near the SPA.

The map below shows the location of the SACs and the SPA buffers.



The **Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC** is a composite site of approximately 114 hectares located within West Berkshire and Wiltshire. The cluster of sites selected in the Kennet and Lambourn valleys support one of the most extensive known populations of Desmoulin’s whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*) in the UK. The conservation objective related to the sites’ designation is to maintain in favourable condition, the habitat for the population of Desmoulin’s whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*).

The **River Lambourn SAC** is a site of approximately 27 hectares located wholly within West Berkshire and consists of the River Lambourn water body. The Lambourn supports Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) populations inhabiting chalk streams in central southern England. Good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants provide an excellent habitat for the species. The presence of Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) is also a qualifying feature of the site. In March 2022, Natural England released a list of habitats sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrients, where new development may have an adverse effect by contributing

additional nutrients and therefore where nutrient neutrality is a potential solution to enable development to proceed. The River Lambourn SAC was included in this list as being in unfavourable condition due to high concentrations of the nutrient Phosphorus and a Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA) was defined.

The **Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC** consists of two sites of approximately 56 hectares in total located within West Berkshire in the Kennet floodplain. Its general site characteristic is of broad leaved deciduous woodland. The woodlands are the largest remaining fragments of damp, ash-alder woodland in the Kennet floodplain area. The conservation of the site is dependent upon maintaining a constantly high groundwater level.

**Hartslock Wood SAC** is located just outside the West Berkshire boundary in South Oxfordshire. **Hackpen Hill** is a 35.8 hectare SAC site located in the Vale of White Horse approximately 2km north of West Berkshire's border.

The **Thames Basin Heaths SPA** is a composite site covering an area of some 8,274 hectares, consisting of 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) scattered from Hampshire in the west, to Berkshire in the north, through to Surrey in the south east. The site supports important breeding populations of a number of birds of lowland heath, especially Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*). None of the SPA is located within the borders of West Berkshire; however the 5km buffer outlined by Natural England covers a small portion of West Berkshire's eastern area. The only settlement in West Berkshire that is within the 5km buffer is the village of Beech Hill (which is outside the District's settlement hierarchy where development will be focused). There are no additional settlements within the 5-7km buffer.

## **2. Description of the plan or project and description and characteristics of other plans or projects that in combination have the potential to have significant effects on the Natura 2000 site/s.**

The West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will set out the overall planning framework and vision for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire to 2037.

Plans and projects from neighbouring authorities also need to be considered. The following is a list of relevant documents which may impact upon the SACs identified:

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Plan, Policy or Proposal</b>
Oxfordshire County Council	Minerals and Waste Local Plan provides a basis for policy and strategy for minerals and waste on a countywide basis. <u>Site allocations underway. MWLP review underway.</u>
Hampshire CC	Minerals and Waste Local Plan ( <u>adopted 2013</u> ) provides a basis for policy and strategy for minerals and waste on a countywide basis. <u>The plan was reviewed in 2018 and no updates were required.</u>
Wiltshire Council	Core Strategy; and

	Minerals and Waste Local Plan provides a basis for policy and strategy for minerals and waste on a countywide basis.
Vale of the White Horse	Core Strategy/Site Allocations
South Oxfordshire	Core Strategy/Site Allocations
Basingstoke & Deane BC	Core Strategy
Reading BC	Core Strategy

For the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, the following plans and projects, in addition to those detailed above also need to be considered:

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Plan, Policy or Proposal</b>
<i>Bracknell Forest BC</i>	<i>Core Strategy</i>
<i>Wokingham</i>	<i>Core Strategy</i>
<i>Hart District Council</i>	<i>Core Strategy</i>
<i>Central Berkshire (Bracknell Forest, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham and Reading)</i>	<i>Emerging Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan (at examination)</i>

### 3. Identifying potential effects

This HRA screening report will determine whether the matters proposed for the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will raise any issues either alone or in combination with other plans and projects within West Berkshire or neighbouring areas. If the screening of the plan identifies potential effects, or there is uncertainty regarding potential effects, then further more detailed appropriate assessment is required.

The table below is a list of potential effects that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, in combination with other plans, may have on the SAC sites and SPA sites.

<b>Effect</b>		<b>Comment</b>
Fragmentation of Habitat		Due to many years of urban and agricultural activities, the SACs and SPA are already fragments of habitat that have not been developed upon. Further development may have the effect of causing further fragmentation of habitats and/or severance or blocking of movement corridors.
Predation	Vermin	Waste sites have the potential to attract vermin which could impact on fauna species by preying on bird eggs and out-competing other species.
	Invasive species	This could affect the habitat structure of sites.
Hydrology – alteration / pollution / enrichment	Leachate	Contaminants can reach a habitat by leaching through soil and groundwater. Chemicals released in this manner could have a range of impacts depending on their source.
	Traffic	Vehicle movements to/from a site could lead to pollution on the road surface which could run-off and contaminate the habitats surrounding the road.

	Water use	Extraction of minerals and processing of minerals and/or waste can require large amounts of water which could result in the reduction of the natural water table or affect river levels which could impact on drying out of sites and changing of habitats.
	Water Pollution	Water pollution can result in a number of impacts on sensitive habitats including reducing the number of in-stream species, eutrophication and siltation.
	Groundwater	Infilling of worked minerals sites could impact on groundwater flow which could result in less water reaching certain sites.
Disturbance	Noise	This can disturb birds and other animal species, potentially disrupting breeding/feeding/roosting or causing migration. Noise can arise from processing on a site or from traffic movements to/from a site.
	Lighting	Provision of lighting at night time, or security lighting, can cause disturbance to birds, invertebrates and mammals using nearby habitats.
	Traffic	Vehicle movements to/from a site could increase level of disturbance through increased noise and vibration.
	Impact of building	Construction of buildings for minerals/waste processing could impact on birds by affecting take off/landing routes and increasing cover for predatory birds.
Air Pollution	Dust	Commonly created from minerals and waste sites. It can affect the growth of plants and pollute water courses.
	Traffic	Vehicle movements to/from a site can result in emissions which can impact on air pollution.
	Aerial Pollution	Waste management development can result in aerial pollution which can impact on flora and fauna.



**4. Screening Tables**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain</b>	
Site Designation	SAC	
Location of International Site	SU313704	
Description of International Site	<p>Supports extensive population of Desmoulin’s Whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)</p> <p>The site is predominately Reed Sweet-grass (<i>Glyceria maxima</i>) swamp of tall sedges at the river margins, in ditches and in depressions in wet meadows.</p>	
Conservation Objectives of International Site	<p>Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat for the population of European importance of Desmoulin’s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)</p> <p>Currently the majority of the site is in a favourable condition. Maintaining this condition is dependent on minimising scrub incursion to wetland, fen and grassland habitats. Risks to the declining condition stem from spread of invasive weeds, poor woodland and land management and run-off effecting water quality.</p>	
Aspects of the plan that could impact on International Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land bank / Need</li> <li>• Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management</li> <li>• Restoration and after-use</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact</li> <li>• Minerals Safeguarding</li> <li>• Waste Safeguarding</li> <li>• Location of Development (construction aggregates, waste management facilities, landfill)</li> <li>• Borrow Pits</li> <li>• Specialist Waste Management</li> <li>• Chalk and Clay</li> <li>• Energy Minerals</li> <li>• Reworking of old landfill sites</li> <li>• Temporary infrastructure (waste, construction aggregate)</li> <li>• Permanent construction aggregate infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Potential causes of significant effects	Likely Significant Effect	Details

Fragmentation		N	No land take from protected sites will be required to deliver the objectives set out in the MWLP
Predation	Vermin	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin's whorl snail is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development. In addition, no waste facilities are specifically proposed as part of the MWLP.
	Invasive species	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Hydrology	Leachate	N	<p>It is generally considered that clean water is a habitat requirement of the Desmoulin's whorl snail, although research undertaken in relation to this is limited. There is a risk that leachate from waste facilities may enter the water course and pollute the water making the habitat unsuitable for this species.</p> <p>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. In addition, no waste facilities are specifically proposed as part of the MWLP. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</p>
	Water use	N	<p>The Desmoulin's whorl snail requires permanently wet, usually calcareous, swamps, fens and marshes, boarding river, lakes and ponds, or in river floodplains. It is highly dependent on maintenance of existing hydrological conditions. If water hungry developments are located close to the SAC there is a risk that the requirement for large amount of water could lead to drying of the floodplain.</p> <p>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</p>
	Water pollution	N	It is generally considered that clean water is a habitat requirement of the Desmoulin's whorl snail, although research undertaken in relation to this is limited. There is a risk that leachate from waste facilities, or an influx of nutrients may

			<p>enter the watercourse and pollute the water, making the habitat unsuitable for this species.</p> <p>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</p>
	Groundwater	N	<p>Dewatering is a key process of the extraction of sand and gravel. This can have impacts on groundwater flows up to 2km from the extraction site. The Desmoulin's whorl snail requires permanently wet, usually calcareous, swamps, fens and marshes, boarding river, lakes and ponds, or in river floodplains. It is highly dependent on maintenance of existing hydrological conditions.</p> <p>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</p>
Disturbance	Noise	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin's whorl snail is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Lighting	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin's whorl snail is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Traffic	N	The local area is already serviced by the A4. It is not anticipated that development would result in significant increases in traffic sufficient to cause likely significant effects on the SAC.
	Impact of building	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin's whorl snail is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Vibration	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin's whorl snail is not

			considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
Air Pollution	Dust	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin’s whorl snail is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Traffic (inc. emissions)	N	<p>This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because the Desmoulin’s whorl snail is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.</p> <p>This risk is considered low as developments would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning that the chances of leachates escaping any facility are low.</p>
Other Plans and projects	<p><b>West Berkshire Council</b>  <i>Core Strategy / Housing Site Allocations DPD</i> – deliver 10,500 new homes to 2026. Focus for housing is within the settlement hierarchy (Urban Areas – Newbury, Thatcham, Eastern Urban Area, Rural Service Centres – Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Theale, Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Service Villages – Kintbury, Great Shefford, Compton, Chieveley, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Woolhampton, Bradfield Southend, Aldermaston). The River Lambourn SAC has areas in close proximity to Newbury and Thatcham. These documents were subject to their own HRA.</p> <p><u>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the early draft published for consultation in December 2020 shows the majority of development in the district taking place in the Newbury and Thatcham Spatial Area, with a significant strategic site proposed in Thatcham. This area is downstream of the SAC and therefore, it is considered unlikely to impact on the SAC. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</u></p> <p><del>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</del></p> <p><b>Hampshire County Council</b>  <i>Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (adopted 2013)</i></p>		

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	<p>Sand and gravel deposits clustered in Hampshire are largely in the south east corner (New Forest Area) along the northern boundary and patchy throughout the rest of the County. Of particular relevance to the West Berkshire MWLP are the deposits along the north Hampshire border around the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and within 5km of the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC. These mineral deposits are protected from other development. ‘Mineral Resources Areas’ have been identified in the north east corner around the Thames Basin Heaths SPA area (6 mineral extraction sites within 500m, 3 mineral extraction sites between 500m and 2.5km). These same sites also form ‘Landfill Potential Sites’ showing they would have a more long-term use.</p> <p>It is expected that development projects in north east Hampshire will accommodate waste management facilities.</p> <p><b>Wiltshire Council</b>  <i>Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy (adopted 2009)</i>                  Mineral resources throughout Wiltshire are determined by geology, with the same geology creating important landscape and natural habitats. Therefore, mineral resources often occur within important environmental designations, such as the AONB. Past, current and proposed mineral workings are located towards the north, west and south of the country, avoiding the area adjacent to West Berkshire.</p> <p><i>Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy (adopted 2009)</i>                  Current waste facilities are largely located in more urban areas of the district. Landfill facilities are in areas geologically suited to mineral extraction. As with mineral sites this generally avoids the areas adjacent to West Berkshire, although there are current waste facilities within 5km of West Berkshire and it is proposed that new waste facilities are located within 16km of strategically significant cities (inc. Swindon). This zone covers land adjacent to West Berkshire. Therefore, the plan for waste in Wiltshire could have an effect on the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC in terms of site locations or travel routes.</p>	
Are the potential impacts of the Plan likely to be significant?		
Alone?	N	No likely significant effects have been identified at the MWLP level as the focus of any waste and mineral development in the area would be located downstream from the SAC.
In combination with other plans/projects?	N	Additional development is proposed for Thatcham through the West Berkshire Housing Site Allocations (HSA) DPD, however, this is not likely to impact on the SAC as it is located downstream of the SAC and the HSA DPD has been subject to separate HRA screening.

		Any waste and minerals development coming forward in the area would be located downstream from the SAC.
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<b>Site Name</b>	<b>River Lambourn</b>
Site Designation	SAC
Location of International Site	SU398739
Description of International Site	<p>Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation. The Lambourn is an example of sub-type 1 in central southern England, a chalk stream discharging into the middle reaches of the Thames system.</p> <p>The Lambourn supports Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) populations that inhabit chalk streams in central southern England. Good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants provide excellent habitat for the species.</p> <p>The Brook lamprey is a qualifying species but is not the primary reason for designation. The Brook lamprey requires clean gravel beds for spawning and soft marginal silt or sand for the larvae. It spawns mostly in part of the river where the current is not too strong.</p>
Conservation Objectives of International Site	<p>To maintain in a favourable condition the: Floating formations of Water Crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus</i>) of plain and sub-mountainous rivers;</p> <p>To maintain, in a favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) and Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>).</p> <p>The River Lambourn component SSSI units are all in unfavourable condition, due to siltation, inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures, inland flood defence works, invasive freshwater species, and water pollution from agricultural run off. <u>In March 2022, Natural England released a list of habitats sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrients, where new development may have an adverse effect by contributing additional nutrients and therefore where nutrient neutrality is a potential solution to enable development to proceed. The River Lambourn SAC was included in this list as being in unfavourable condition due to high concentrations of the nutrient Phosphorus and a Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA) was defined.</u></p>
Aspects of the plan that could impact on International Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land bank / Need</li> <li>• Borrow Pits</li> <li>• Specialist Waste Management</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management</li> <li>• Landscape and Protected Landscapes</li> <li>• Restoration and after-use</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact</li> <li>• Minerals Safeguarding</li> <li>• Waste Safeguarding</li> <li>• Location of Development (construction aggregates, waste management facilities, landfill)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chalk and Clay</li> <li>• Energy Minerals</li> <li>• Reworking of old landfill sites</li> <li>• Temporary infrastructure (waste, construction aggregate)</li> <li>• Permanent construction aggregate infrastructure</li> </ul>
Potential causes of significant effects		Likely Significant Effect	Details
Fragmentation		N	No land take from European and Ramsar sites will be required to deliver the objectives set out in the MWLP.
Predation	Vermin	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Invasive species	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Hydrology	Leachate	N	All the interest features of the SAC designation rely on clean water to survive. The three species for which the River Lambourn is designated are at risk of nitrification of the watercourses. An influx of nutrients could lead to growth of other plants which might out-compete the Water Crowfoot resulting in a decline in its population. The Brook lamprey relies on a clear migration pathway and the



			<p>Bullhead requires clear, shallow waters, both of which would be implicated if increased vegetation occurred as a result of leachate entering the water.</p> <p><u>No waste sites are allocated within the MWLP. Two minerals sites are allocated, the closest of which is 3.8km north of the SAC, located within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA). Given that there are no expected sources of phosphorous from mineral extraction, nor from restoration using uncontaminated inert fill, it is considered unlikely development of the site would impact on the SAC.</u></p> <p><u>The policies in the plan seek to manage development across the district, and direct development to the most suitable locations. Policy 20 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) requires that development likely to result in a significant effect on internationally designated sites will need to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations. The presence of the AONB further limits the scope for minerals and waste developments to take place in this area.</u></p> <p><u>Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</u></p> <p><del>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan. In addition, the risk is considered low as development would be required to comply with the Environment Agency guidelines, meaning that the chance of leachates escaping are low.</del></p>
	Water use	N	<p>If facilities require large amounts of water this could lead to use of groundwater supplies which could lead to drying of the floodplain habitat.</p> <p><u>No waste sites are allocated within the MWLP. Two minerals sites are allocated, the closest of which is 3.8km north of the SAC, located within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA). Given that there are no expected sources of phosphorous from mineral extraction, nor from restoration using uncontaminated</u></p>

			<p><u>inert fill, it is considered unlikely development of the site would impact on the SAC.</u></p> <p><u>The policies in the plan seek to manage development across the district, and direct development to the most suitable locations. Policy 20 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) requires that development likely to result in a significant effect on internationally designated sites will need to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations. The presence of the AONB further limits the scope for minerals and waste developments to take place in this area.</u></p> <p><del>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</del></p>
	Water pollution	N	<p><u>All the interest features of the SAC rely on clean water. Pollutants/sediment entering the water course may result in mortalities of fish species or changes in the habitat. The water quality of the river has been determined to exceed the acceptable levels for phosphorus at all units and a Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA) defined (March 2022).</u></p> <p><u>No waste sites are allocated within the MWLP. Two minerals sites are allocated, the closest of which is 3.8km north of the SAC, located within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA). Given that there are no expected sources of phosphorous from mineral extraction, nor from restoration using uncontaminated inert fill, it is considered unlikely development of the site would impact on the SAC.</u></p> <p><u>The policies in the plan seek to manage development across the district, and direct development to the most suitable locations. Policy 20 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) requires that development likely to result in a significant effect on internationally designated sites will need to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations. The presence of the AONB</u></p>

			<p><u>further limits the scope for minerals and waste developments to take place in this area.</u></p> <p><del>However, it is understood that any development would be located downstream from the SAC. It is therefore, considered there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</del> In addition, the risk is considered low as development would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning the chance of pollutants escaping any facility, or resulting sedimentation are low.</p> <p>All three species for which the SAC is designated rely on clean water. There is a risk that increased transportation to and from facilities may increase the chances of polluted run-off from roads entering the water courses, therefore, negatively impacting on water quality.</p> <p>The M4, A4 and A34 all dissect the watercourse meaning the river is already exposed to road runoff. It is not anticipated that the potential predicted low increase in traffic to/from the sites would significantly change the risk posed to water quality.</p> <p><u>It is therefore, considered there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</u></p>
	Groundwater	N	<p>If facilities require large amounts of water this could lead to use of groundwater supplies which could lead to drying of the floodplain habitat.</p> <p><u>No waste sites are allocated within the MWLP. Two minerals sites are allocated, the closest of which is 3.8km north of the SAC, located within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area (NNCA). Given that there are no expected sources of phosphorous from mineral extraction, nor from restoration using uncontaminated inert fill, it is considered unlikely development of the site would impact on the SAC.</u></p>

			<p>The policies in the plan seek to manage development across the district, and direct development to the most suitable locations. Policy 20 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) requires that development likely to result in a significant effect on internationally designated sites will need to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations. The presence of the AONB further limits the scope for minerals and waste developments to take place in this area.</p> <p>However, it is understood that sites likely to come forward as part of the plan are located downstream of the SAC. Therefore, it is considered that there is no likely significant effect from the plan.</p>
Disturbance	Noise	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Lighting	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Traffic	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Impact of building	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Vibration	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
Air Pollution	Dust	N	This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not

	Traffic (inc. emissions)	N	<p>considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.</p> <p>This hazard is considered to have a negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC because fish species and Crowfoot are not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.</p>
Other Plans and projects	<p><b>West Berkshire Council</b>  <i>Core Strategy / Housing Site Allocations DPD</i> – deliver 10,500 new homes to 2026. Focus for housing is within the settlement hierarchy (Urban Areas – Newbury, Thatcham, Eastern Urban Area, Rural Service Centres – Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Theale, Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Service Villages – Kintbury, Great Shefford, Compton, Chieveley, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Woolhampton, Bradfield Southend, Aldermaston). The River Lambourn SAC has areas in close proximity to Newbury and Thatcham. These documents were subject to their own HRA.</p> <p>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage <u>the early draft published for consultation in December 2020 shows the majority of development in the district taking place in the Newbury and Thatcham Spatial Area, with a significant strategic site proposed in Thatcham. This area is downstream of the SAC and therefore, it is considered unlikely to impact on the SAC.</u> The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</p> <p><b>Wiltshire Council</b>  <i>Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy (adopted 2009)</i>                      Mineral resources throughout Wiltshire are determined by geology, with the same geology creating important landscape and natural habitats. Therefore, mineral resources often occur within important environmental designations, such as the AONB. Past, current and proposed mineral workings are located towards the north, west and south of the county, avoiding the area adjacent to West Berkshire.</p> <p><i>Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy (adopted 2009)</i>                      Current waste facilities are largely located in more urban areas of the district. Landfill facilities are in areas geologically suited to mineral extraction. As with mineral sites this generally avoids the areas adjacent to West Berkshire, although there are current waste facilities within 5km of West Berkshire and it is proposed that new waste facilities are located within 16km of strategically significant cities (inc. Swindon). This zone covers land adjacent to</p>		

	West Berkshire. Therefore, the plan for waste in Wiltshire could have an effect on the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC in terms of site locations or travel routes.	
Are the potential impacts of the Plan likely to be significant?		
Alone?	N	<p>No likely significant effects have been identified at the MWLP level. <u>Mineral development is considered unlikely to result in leachate/pollutants which would find their way into the water course. Given the allocations within the plan and the distance from the SAC this further reduces the potential for any impact on the SAC. There are a small number of existing waste sites that fall along the River Lambourn SAC or within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area. These sites are ‘safeguarded’, however, no new/additional development is expected on these sites which would impact on the SAC.</u></p> <p><del>The SAC is considered less vulnerable as the focus of any waste or mineral developments, should they occur, will be downstream of the SAC itself. Furthermore, Risks are considered low as development would <u>have to be</u> complying with Environment Agency guidelines meaning the chance of leachates/pollutants escaping is low.</del></p>
In combination with other plans/projects?	N	Additional development is proposed for Thatcham and Newbury, however, this is not likely to significantly impact on the SAC as they are located downstream.

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Kennet Valley Alderwoods</b>	
Site Designation	SAC	
Location of International Site	SU398675	
Description of International Site	<p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>).</p> <p>These, the largest fragments of alder-ash woodland on the Kennet floodplain, lie on alluvium overlain by a shallow layer of moderately calcareous peat.</p>	
Conservation Objectives of International Site	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition, with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features for which the land is designated – Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland.</p> <p>This site is in a favourable condition.</p>	
Aspects of the plan that could impact on International Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land bank / Need</li> <li>• Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management</li> <li>• Landscape and Protected Landscapes</li> <li>• Restoration and after-use</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact</li> <li>• Minerals Safeguarding</li> <li>• Waste Safeguarding</li> <li>• Location of Development (construction aggregates, waste management facilities, landfill)</li> <li>• Borrow Pits</li> <li>• Specialist Waste Management</li> <li>• Chalk and Clay</li> <li>• Energy Minerals</li> <li>• Reworking of old landfill sites</li> <li>• Temporary infrastructure (waste, construction aggregate)</li> <li>• Permanent construction aggregate infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Potential causes of significant effects	Likely Significant Effect	Details

Fragmentation		N	No land take from European and Ramsar sites will be required to deliver the objectives set out in the plan.
Predation	Vermin	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the woodland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Invasive species	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Hydrology	Leachate	N	The focus of development would be located some distance (at least 14km downstream) from the SAC, therefore, there is no likely significant impact from the plan. Even if development was to take place closer to the site the risk is considered low as development would be required to comply with the Environment Agency guidelines, meaning that the chance of leachate escaping is low. In addition, no waste facilities are specifically proposed as part of the MWLP.
	Water use	N	<p>The SAC is wet woodland, therefore, relies on specific groundwater levels in order to maintain an appropriate level of soil moisture for the woodland to support the species for which it is designated.</p> <p>There is a risk that large amount of development may lead to use of groundwater supplies which could lead to the lowering of groundwater levels in the floodplain habitat. The River Kennet passes through the SAC and the floodplain provides a lot of the soil moisture.</p> <p>However, the focus of development would be located some distance (at least 14km downstream) from the SAC, therefore, there is no likely significant impact from the plan.</p>
	Water pollution	N	There is potential, if sites are located close to the SAC boundary, that water pollutants may reach the habitats for which the site is designated. However, the risk is considered low as waste developments would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning that the chance of water pollutants escaping any facility is low.



	Groundwater	N	<p>The SAC is wet woodland, therefore, relies on specific groundwater levels in order to maintain an appropriate level of soil moisture for the woodland to support the species for which it is designated.</p> <p>There is a risk that a large amount of development may lead to use of groundwater supplies which could lead to the lowering of groundwater levels in the floodplain habitat.</p> <p>However, The focus of development would be located some distance (at least 14km downstream) from the SAC, therefore, there is no likely significant impact from the plan.</p>
Disturbance	Noise	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the woodland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Lighting	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the woodland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Traffic	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Impact of building	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the woodland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
	Vibration	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the woodland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output type at anticipated levels from regulated development.
Air Pollution	Dust	N	<p>Air quality is of importance in maintaining the health of the trees. High levels of aerial pollution, such as dust, could result in reduced vigour and possible increased tree mortality, if present at high enough levels.</p> <p>However, the focus of any development would be located some distance (at least 14km) from the SAC, therefore, there is no likely significant impact from the plan.</p>

			Even if development was to take place closer to the site, the risk is considered low as development would be required to comply with the Environment Agency guidelines, meaning that the chance of high levels of dust is low.
	Traffic (inc. emissions)	N	<p>Air quality is of importance in maintaining the health of the trees. High level of aerial pollution such as nitrous oxide may result in reduced vigour and increased tree mortality if it is present in high enough concentrations.</p> <p>Significant changes in traffic levels are considered to be minimal in this area due to the main link road near to this SAC being the A4, an already busy road. It is not anticipated that significant increase in traffic along this road would result from development of sites in this area.</p>
	Aerial pollutants	N	<p>Air quality is of importance in maintaining the health of the trees. High level of aerial pollution such as nitrous oxide may result in reduced vigour and increased tree mortality if it is present in high enough concentrations.</p> <p>There is potential that if facilities are located in close proximity to the SAC aerial pollutants may reach the habitats for which the site is designated. However, the focus of development would be located some distance (at least 14km downstream) from the SAC, therefore, there is no likely significant impact from the plan. In addition, the risk is considered low, as developments would be complying with the Environment Agency guidelines, meaning that the chances of aerial pollutants being released at significant levels from any site area low.</p>
Other Plans and projects	<p><b>West Berkshire Council</b>  <i>Core Strategy / Housing Site Allocations DPD</i> – deliver 10,500 new homes to 2026. Focus for housing is within the settlement hierarchy (Urban Areas – Newbury, Thatcham, Eastern Urban Area, Rural Service Centres – Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Theale, Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Service Villages – Kintbury, Great Shefford, Compton, Chieveley, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Woolhampton, Bradfield Southend, Aldermaston). The River Lambourn SAC has areas in close proximity to Newbury and Thatcham. These documents were subject to their own HRA.</p>		

	<p><u>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the early draft published for consultation in December 2020 shows the majority of development in the district taking place in the Newbury and Thatcham Spatial Area, with a significant strategic site proposed in Thatcham. This area is downstream of the SAC and therefore, it is considered unlikely to impact on the SAC. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</u></p> <p><del>Work has started on the new Local Plan for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</del></p> <p><b>Hampshire Country Council</b>  <i>Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (adopted 2013)</i>                  Sand and gravel deposits are clustered in Hampshire are largely in the south east corner (New Forest Area) along the northern boundary and patchy throughout the rest of the County. Of particular relevance to the West Berkshire MWLP are the deposits along the north Hampshire border around the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and with 5km of the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC. These mineral deposits are protected from other development. 'Mineral Resources Areas' have been identified in the north east corner around the Thames Basin Health SPA area (6 mineral extraction sites within 500m, 3 mineral extraction sites between 500m and 2.5km). These same sites also form 'Landfill Potential Sites' showing they would have a more long-term use.</p> <p>It is expected that development projects in north east Hampshire will accommodate waste management facilities.</p>	
	<p>Are the potential impacts of the Plan likely to be significant?</p>	
Alone?	N	<p>It is recognised that there is potential for harm to the SAC from aerial pollution from both waste and mineral sites, both chemical aerial pollution and water use.</p> <p>However, no likely significant effects have been identified. The development will be focused downstream of the SAC, reducing the potential for harm.</p>
In combination with other plans/projects?	N	<p>While additional development is proposed for Newbury and Thatcham, this is not likely to impact on the SAC as it is located downstream from the SAC.</p>

<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Thames Basin Heaths</b>	
Site Designation		SPA	
Location of International Site		SU878566 (approx. centre point)	
Description of International Site		<p>The mosaic of habitats which form the internally important lowland heathland are dependent on active heathland management.</p> <p>Large UK breeding populations of Nightjar (7.8%), Woodlark (9.9%) and Dartford warbler (27.8%)</p>	
Conservation Objectives of International Site		<p>A common conservation objective has been set for the whole of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA – Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 bird species of European importance, with particular reference to lowland heathland and rotationally managed plantation.</p> <p>The majority of the site is in unfavourable, but recovering condition. The main threat to the condition of the SPA is recreational pressure from nearby residential development.</p>	
Aspects of the plan that could impact on International Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land bank / Need</li> <li>• Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management</li> <li>• Landscape and Protected Landscapes</li> <li>• Restoration and after-use</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact</li> <li>• Minerals Safeguarding</li> <li>• Waste Safeguarding</li> <li>• Location of Development (construction aggregates, waste management facilities, landfill)</li> <li>• Borrow Pits</li> <li>• Specialist Waste Management</li> <li>• Chalk and Clay</li> <li>• Energy Minerals</li> <li>• Reworking of old landfill sites</li> <li>• Temporary infrastructure (waste, construction aggregate)</li> <li>• Permanent construction aggregate infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Potential causes of significant effects		Likely Significant Effect	Details
Fragmentation		N	No land take from European and Ramsar sites will be required to deliver the objectives set out in the MWLP.

Predation	Vermin	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat. The risk is also considered to be low as development would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning the chance of any leachate escaping any facility is low.
	Invasive species	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Hydrology	Leachate	N	There is potential where facilities are located within close proximity to the SPA boundary for leachate to reach the habitats for which the site is designated, thus changing the habitat structure that the birds rely upon.  The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for these to be significant impacts on the habitat. The risk is also considered to be low as development would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning the chance of any leachate escaping any facility is low.
	Water use	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat.
	Water pollution	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat.
	Groundwater	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat.
Disturbance	Noise	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat. The risk is also considered to be low as development would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning noise emanating from sites should be low.
	Lighting	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for significant impacts on the habitat.
	Traffic	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.

	Impact of building	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SPA, because the site’s features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
	Vibration	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat.
Air Pollution	Dust	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause likely significant effect on the SPA, due to the fact that facilities will be complying with Environment Agency regulations. It is unlikely that they will release sufficient levels of dust to cause harm to the bird species for which the SPA is designated.
	Traffic (inc. emissions)	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SPA, as it is not anticipated that there will be significant increases in traffic resulting from the development of sites in the area
	Aerial pollutants	N	The focus of development is outside the buffer zones, therefore it is considered that there is negligible potential for there to be significant impacts on the habitat. The risk is also considered to be low as development would be complying with Environment Agency guidelines, meaning the chance of any aerial pollutants escaping any facility is low.
Other Plans and projects	<p><b>West Berkshire Council</b>  <i>Core Strategy / Housing Site Allocations DPD</i> – deliver 10,500 new homes to 2026. Focus for housing is within the settlement hierarchy (Urban Areas – Newbury, Thatcham, Eastern Urban Area, Rural Service Centres – Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Theale, Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Service Villages – Kintbury, Great Shefford, Compton, Chieveley, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Woolhampton, Bradfield Southend, Aldermaston). None of these areas are within the SPA buffer zones. These documents were subject to their own HRA.</p> <p><u>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the early draft published for consultation in December 2020 shows the majority of development in the district taking place in the Newbury and Thatcham Spatial Area, with a significant strategic site proposed in Thatcham. This area is outside of the 7km buffer from the SAC and therefore, it is considered unlikely to impact on the SAC. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</u></p>		

<p>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</p>		
<p>Are the potential impacts of the Plan likely to be significant?</p>		
<p>Alone?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A small area of West Berkshire, to the south east, is located within the 5km and 7km buffer zone to the SPA. There are no mineral deposits within West Berkshire close to the SPA, and limited potential for waste development and therefore, it is concluded that there is negligible potential for mineral or waste development sufficiently close to the SPA to result in significant impact on the habitats.</p> <p>However, no likely significant effects have been identified. The development will be focused outside the SPA buffer zones, reducing the potential for harm.</p>
<p>In combination with other plans/projects?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Despite the fact that there are large amounts of development currently around the SPA, it is not expected that the proposed MWLP will contribute to these impacts as there are no major mineral deposits in close proximity to the SPA, and waste development is likely to be focused elsewhere in the district.</p>

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Hartslock Wood</b>
Site Designation	SAC
Location of International Site	SU619789
Description of International Site	<p>The chalk grassland mostly consists of a mosaic of shorter-turf NVC type CG2 Festuca ovina-Avenula pratensis grassland and taller CG3 Bromus erectus grassland. The site supports one of only three UK populations of Monkey Orchid (Orchis simian), a nationally rare Red Data Bood Species.</p> <p>Open patches show a rich flora including local species such as Southern Wood-rush (Luzula forester), Wood Barley (Hordelymus europaeus) and Narrow-lipped Helleborine (Epipactis leptochila).</p>
Conservation Objectives of International Site	<p>The conservation objective is subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition, with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features for which the land is designated – Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland and Calcareous grassland.</p> <p>The site is currently in a favourable condition.</p>
Aspects of the plan that could impact on International Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land bank / Need</li> <li>• Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management</li> <li>• Landscape and Protected Landscapes</li> <li>• Restoration and after-use</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact</li> <li>• Minerals Safeguarding</li> <li>• Waste Safeguarding</li> <li>• Location of Development (construction aggregates, waste management facilities, landfill)</li> <li>• Borrow Pits</li> <li>• Specialist Waste Management</li> <li>• Chalk and Clay</li> <li>• Energy Minerals</li> <li>• Reworking of old landfill sites</li> <li>• Temporary infrastructure (waste, construction aggregate)</li> <li>• Permanent construction aggregate infrastructure</li> </ul>



Potential causes of significant effects		Likely Significant Effect	Details
Fragmentation		N	No land take from European and Ramsar sites will be required to deliver the objectives set out in the MWLP.
Predation	Vermin	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
	Invasive species	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Hydrology	Leachate	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is a long distance from any potential sites and therefore, any potential hazards from the development of sites will not reach the SAC.
	Water use	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
	Water pollution	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
	Groundwater	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
Disturbance	Noise	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
	Lighting	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.

	Traffic	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Impact of building	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
	Vibration	N	The hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site's features of interest are considered unlikely to be vulnerable to this hazard.
Air Pollution	Dust	N	<p>Air quality is of importance in maintaining the health of trees. High levels of aerial pollution such as dust might lead to reduced vigour of trees and increased tree mortality if it is present in high enough concentrations.</p> <p>The SAC is not located within close proximity to safeguarded areas or allocated sites and such facilities are regulated by the Environment Agency, therefore, the risks of impacts from dust are considered low.</p>
	Traffic (inc. emissions)	N	<p>Air quality is of importance in maintaining the health of trees. High levels of aerial pollution such as dust might lead to reduced vigour of trees and increased tree mortality if it is present in high enough concentrations.</p> <p>The SAC is not located within close proximity to safeguarded areas or allocated sites and such facilities are regulated by the Environment Agency, therefore, the risks of impacts from increased traffic movements are considered low. The nearest road is the A329, and it is not considered that sites would significantly increase traffic along this road to lead to sufficient increase to cause a likely significant effect on the trees for which the SAC is designated.</p>
Other Plans and projects	<p><b>West Berkshire Council</b>  <i>Core Strategy / Housing Site Allocations DPD</i> – deliver 10,500 new homes to 2026. Focus for housing is within the settlement hierarchy (Urban Areas – Newbury, Thatcham, Eastern Urban Area, Rural Service Centres – Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Theale, Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Service Villages – Kintbury, Great Shefford, Compton, Chieveley, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Woolhampton, Bradfield Southend, Aldermaston). The River</p>		

	<p>Lambourn SAC has areas in close proximity to Newbury and Thatcham. These documents were subject to their own HRA.</p> <p><u>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the early draft published for consultation in December 2020 shows the majority of development in the district taking place in the Newbury and Thatcham Spatial Area, with a significant strategic site proposed in Thatcham. This area is approximately 14km from the SAC and therefore, it is considered unlikely to impact on the SAC. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</u></p> <p><del>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The new Local Plan will be subject to its own HRA.</del></p> <p><del>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The new Local Plan will be subject to its own HRA.</del></p>	
	<p><b>Oxfordshire County Council</b> Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy</p> <p>Past and existing permitted mineral working areas in Oxfordshire are clustered to the west of Oxford with another cluster between Oxford and Didcot. There are a few in the north towards Banbury. There are also small workings in the south east and south west. Proposed extraction sites are roughly 5km from Hartslock Wood SAC.</p> <p>Proposed waste sites are clustered around towns of Banbury, Oxford, Bicester and around Abingdon/Didcot/Wantage. None are within 5km of Hartslock Wood SAC.</p>	
	<p>Are the potential impacts of the Plan likely to be significant?</p>	
	<p>Alone?</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>In combination with other plans/projects?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>There are no other areas of significant development within close proximity to the SAC.</p>



<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Hackpen Hill</b>	
Site Designation	SAC	
Location of International Site	SU352847	
Description of International Site	<p>Hackpen Hill is an extensive area of unimproved chalk grassland in the Downs. The site has a variety of aspect and gradients, with the grassland dominated by Red Fescue (<i>Festuca Rubra</i>) and Upright brome (<i>Bromus erectus</i>). The herb flora includes a significant population of early gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>), Frog Orchid (<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>), Horseshoe Vetch (<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>), Common Rock-rose (<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>) and Dwarf Thistle (<i>Crisium acaule</i>).</p>	
Conservation Objectives of International Site	<p>The conservation objectives are subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition, with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features for which the land is designated – lowland calcareous grassland.</p> <p>The site is in favourable condition.</p>	
Aspects of the plan that could impact on International Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land bank / Need</li> <li>• Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management</li> <li>• Landscape and Protected Landscapes</li> <li>• Restoration and after-use</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact</li> <li>• Minerals Safeguarding</li> <li>• Waste Safeguarding</li> <li>• Location of Development (construction aggregates, waste management facilities, landfill)</li> <li>• Borrow Pits</li> <li>• Specialist Waste Management</li> <li>• Chalk and Clay</li> <li>• Energy Minerals</li> <li>• Reworking of old landfill sites</li> <li>• Temporary infrastructure (waste, construction aggregate)</li> <li>• Permanent construction aggregate infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Potential causes of significant effects	Likely Significant Effect	Details

Fragmentation		N	No land take from European and Ramsar sites will be required to deliver the objectives set out in the MWLP.
Predation	Vermin	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Invasive species	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Hydrology	Leachate	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Water use	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Water pollution	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Groundwater	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because grassland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output at anticipated levels from regulated developments.
Disturbance	Noise	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because grassland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output at anticipated levels from regulated developments.
	Lighting	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because grassland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output at anticipated levels from regulated developments.
	Traffic	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
	Impact of building	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.

	Vibration	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because grassland is not considered to be vulnerable to this hazard output at anticipated levels from regulated developments.
Air Pollution	Dust	N	While there is a theoretical threat from aerial pollution such as dust which could damage the vegetation on site. However the site is 2km from the West Berkshire border and a large distance from any potential sites. Therefore, it is considered that the risk to this site is low.
	Traffic (inc. emissions)	N	This hazard is considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect on the SAC, because the site is some distance from any potential sites, therefore, any potential hazards are unlikely to reach the SAC.
Other Plans and projects	<p><b>West Berkshire Council</b>  <i>Core Strategy / Housing Site Allocations DPD</i> – deliver 10,500 new homes to 2026. Focus for housing is within the settlement hierarchy (Urban Areas – Newbury, Thatcham, Eastern Urban Area, Rural Service Centres – Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Theale, Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Service Villages – Kintbury, Great Shefford, Compton, Chieveley, Hermitage, Cold Ash, Woolhampton, Bradfield Southend, Aldermaston). The River Lambourn SAC has areas in close proximity to Newbury and Thatcham. These documents were subject to their own HRA.</p> <p><u>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the early draft published for consultation in December 2020 shows the majority of development in the district taking place in the Newbury and Thatcham Spatial Area, with a significant strategic site proposed in Thatcham. This area is approximately 24km from the SAC and therefore, it is considered unlikely to impact on the SAC. The Local Plan Review will be subject to its own HRA.</u></p> <p><del>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The new Local Plan will be subject to its own HRA.</del></p> <p><del>Work has started on the Local Plan Review for West Berkshire, although as this is still at an early stage the potential impacts on protected sites are unknown. The new Local Plan will be subject to its own HRA.</del></p> <p><b>Oxfordshire County Council</b>  Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy</p>		

	<p>Past and existing permitted mineral working areas in Oxfordshire are clustered to the west of Oxford and between Oxford and Didcot. There are a few in the north towards Banbury. There are also small workings in the south east and south west. Proposed extraction sites are roughly 5km from Hartslock Wood SAC.</p> <p>Proposed waste sites are clustered around towns of Banbury, Oxford, Bicester and around Abingdon/Didcot/Wantage. None are within 5km of Hackpen Hill SAC.</p> <p><b>Vale of White Horse</b> Proposed development sites just over 5km from the site</p>	
Are the potential impacts of the Plan likely to be significant?		
Alone?	No	This is an isolated site in terms of its location relative to potential waste and minerals development. It is considered that the interest features for which the site is designated are not vulnerable to any of the potential hazards which may result from minerals and waste development. Where there is potential for harm it is not considered that development will be close enough to the site for hazards to have a significant impact on the SAC.
In combination with other plans/projects?	No	There are no other significant development proposals or plans within close proximity of the SAC.

*Sites*

None of the sites allocated for development in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan are close to or adjacent to a SAC, or fall within the 7km or 5km SPA buffer, although the allocated mineral site at Chieveley Services is just within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area for the River Lambourn SAC. Given the nature of mineral extraction and the distance from the SAC it is not anticipated that the development of the site would impact on the SAC. No other allocated sites are within close proximity to any SAC or the SAP and therefore, it is unlikely there would be any ~~Therefore, the development of the allocated sites would not result in a significant impact, on any SAC or the SPA.~~



### **Assessment Outcomes**

The policy approach and allocated sites in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan mean that overall there is unlikely to be a significant impact on any European and Ramsar sites as a result of the plan. The geology of West Berkshire and the environmental designation of the AONB, mean that minerals development is focused along the Kennet Valley between Thatcham and Theale. The plan does not propose to allocate sites for waste development, rather to safeguard existing waste facilities. A small number of these safeguarded waste sites fall along the River Lambourn SAC or within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area. However, no new/additional development is expected on these sites which would impact on the SAC. ~~, none of which are close to any European and Ramsar sites.~~

### **In combination effects**

The screening has identified other relevant plans and projects, and discussed the potential for them to have in combination effects on a European site. The HRA concluded that the integrity of the European sites within the district and those within 5km of the district boundary would not be impacted.

### **Summary**

The findings of the screening demonstrate that the policies and sites for allocation in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will not have any adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

The policy approach sets out where development will be considered appropriate and what factors will need to be considered. All applications coming forward on allocated sites must comply with relevant policies; these allocations are judged not to have adverse impacts on European Sites, either alone or in combination.

The policies set out in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will direct and manage new development and are not considered to have an effect on any European or Ramsar sites.

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Appendix 5 – SA/SEA of Policies included in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Key: Effects of policy on SA Objectives

++	+	?	0	-	--
Significantly Positive	Positive	Uncertain	Neutral	Negative	Significantly Negative

Policy 1: Sustainable Development

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on biodiversity		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on water quality		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on water resources		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on flood risk		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on best and most versatile agricultural land		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on soil quality		

best and most versatile agricultural land	Would previously developed land be utilised?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on use of previously developed land		short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on the historic environment		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on townscape		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on air quality		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on renewable energy capacity		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste,	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on landfill		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long

minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled		term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on rail/waterborne transport		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on the transport network		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on safeguarding primary aggregates		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on use of recycled aggregates		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on open space amenity		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on odour		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on noise		

	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on light pollution		the work the impact should be neutral or positive
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on the economy		There should be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long term. Some temporary development may have short/medium term impacts, but following completion of the work the impact should be neutral or positive
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	The policy should result in a positive impact on employment		

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Positive	High	District Wide	Permanent	Long Term

There will be an overall positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy's aim is to ensure sustainable development is achieved in line with the direction of the NPPF. There is some potential for short/medium term impacts on any element of sustainability as a result of temporary development, such as mineral workings, but in the long term mitigation measures and restoration will result in natural or positive impacts on all elements of sustainability.

**Policy 2: Landbank and Need**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		There is an uncertain impact on environmental as a result of this policy which seeks to extraction mineral resources, which could alter the geodiversity of the area being developed, while providing opportunities for greater understanding and interpretation of local geology.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	?	Mineral extraction changes the local geology by extracting the mineral resource, however, extraction can provide opportunities for increased understanding and interpretation of local geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	There is unlikely to be an impact on water quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	There is unlikely to be an impact on water resources		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	There is unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on best and most versatile agricultural land		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability,

soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality		especially in the longer term with good restoration.
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use,	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	+	The policy seeks to encourage the use of recycled aggregates which would reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as a result of the policy encouraging the use of recycled aggregates.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being	+	The policy seeks to encourage the use of recycled aggregates.		

recovery and recycling of waste	reused, recovered and/or recycled?				
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of rail or waterborne transportation.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the transport network.		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	?	The policy promotes the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in preference to primary aggregates therefore, minimising the need to extract primary aggregates.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to promote the use of recycled and secondary aggregates before the use of primary aggregates.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	The policy seeks to encourage the use of recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise levels.		



	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	<b>+</b>	Mineral extraction and inert landfilling is likely to be beneficial for the local and wider economy providing direct and indirect employment in the medium term (during the working of the site).		There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and supply of primary aggregates to the construction industry.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	<b>+</b>	Mineral extraction and inert landfilling is likely to be beneficial for the local and wider economy providing direct and indirect employment in the medium term (during the working of the site).		

<b>Summary of Effects</b>				
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium Term
Overall the inclusion of this policy in the local plan is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive impacts on economic sustainability as the policy will support the delivery of sites to meet the district's need for construction materials and provide employment as well as encouraging the use of recycled and secondary aggregates before virgin material.				

**Policy 3: Net-Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on best and most versatile agricultural land		There is a potentially positive impact on environmental

soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality		sustainability through the use of previously developed land.
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	+	While the policy doesn't make reference to the location of waste development, it is likely that waste development will take place on previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	+	The policy seeks to drive waste up the waste hierarchy		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to drive waste up the waste hierarchy, promoting reuse and recycling.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	The policy seeks to drive waste up the waste hierarchy which would encourage reuse, recovery and recycling of waste.		

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on the transport network	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.	There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as waste is driven up the waste hierarchy.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	The policy seeks to drive waste up the waste hierarchy which will encourage recycling and reuse of waste	
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution	

14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Self-sufficiency of waste management will have a positive impact on the economy.		There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Waste management facilities provide a source of employment.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
Overall the inclusion of this policy in the local plan is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are a limited number of potential positive impacts resulting from the policy in relation to environmental and economic sustainability. In terms of environmental sustainability the policy seeks to move waste up the waste hierarchy, which promotes the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste over disposal. In terms of economic sustainability the policy will have a positive impact through the creation of jobs and the benefits to the economy that the waste industry can have, especially in relation to the provision of reuse, recovery and recycling of materials which have an economic value. No potentially negative sustainability impacts have been identified.					
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.					

#### Policy 4: Location of Development – Construction Aggregates

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		There is an uncertain impact on environmental as a result of this policy which seeks to extraction mineral resources, which could alter the geodiversity of the area being developed, while providing opportunities for greater understanding and interpretation of local geology.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	?	Mineral extraction changes the local geology by extracting the mineral resource, however, extraction can provide opportunities for increased understanding and interpretation of local geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	?	There may be an impact on water quality depending on the location of the site being considered and the processing methods used on site.	Consideration of the SPZs, hydrological assessments and mitigation measures may be required	There is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability as the impact will depend on the specific site locations and works on site. Mitigation measures and monitoring would ensure no significant impacts occur and in the longer term there should be a neutral impact once works have stopped on site.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	?	There may be an impact on water resources depending on the location of the site being considered and the processing methods used on site.	Mitigation measures may be required if it is shown that there could be an impact on water resources.	

3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	?	There may be an impact on flood risk depending on the site being considered as some of the allocated sites are at risk of flooding.	Mineral extraction is water compatible, however, mitigation measures may be required. There is scope that in the longer term restoration of the sites could result in reduced flood risk.	There is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term as the impact will depend on the sites being considered, however, in the longer term the impact should be neutral, or even positive if flood risk can be reduced as part of the restoration of the site/s.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability, especially in the longer term with good restoration.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality.		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There is a potentially unknown/negative impact as a result of the policy, as the policy could allow for development of sites within the AONB where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Mitigation measures would be required to ensure there is no long term negative impact.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	? / -	The policy includes criteria for the consideration of soft sand sites, including consideration of exceptional circumstances which may allow for sites in the AONB to come forward, where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated, therefore, there could be a negative impact on landscape. The	Mitigation measures would be required.	

			policy also allocates a site for soft sand extraction within the AONB.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on air quality, with dust and traffic emissions associated with the site	Mitigation, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures. In the longer term there should be a neutral impact as minerals development is only temporary in nature.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery or recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	The location of the allocated sites means that alternatives to road transport are unlikely.		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term as there are no alternatives to road transport for the sites proposed for allocation through the policy.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on transport networks.  For the allocated sites vehicle movements from the sites are considered low and therefore, unlikely to impact on the transport network.		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates although		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of

through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate			development of the site would provide primary aggregates for construction purposes.		extraction of primary aggregates, rather than the use of recycled or secondary aggregates.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	-	Sites considered under this policy will be for the supply of primary aggregates, therefore, could have a negative impact on the use of recycled and secondary aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0 / ?	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Overall there is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability, however there could be a negative impact on social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being provided in the short/medium term. In the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be no impact on sustainability
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity, however, restoration of any sites considered under this policy could result in improvements to open space amenity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there would be unlikely to be an impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Mineral extraction is likely to be beneficial for the local and wider economy providing direct and indirect employment in the medium term (during the working of the site).		There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and supply of primary aggregates to the construction industry.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Mineral extraction is likely to be beneficial for the local and wider economy providing direct and indirect employment in the medium term (during the working of the site).		
<b>Summary of Effects</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	

Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium term
<p>Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are some potential negative environmental and social impacts as a result of this policy, especially in relation to the potential for soft Sand sites in the AONB to come forward where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. However, these are only likely to be short/medium term as mineral extraction is only temporary in nature and appropriate mitigation measures would be required. Following restoration of any site considered under the policy the overall impact should be neutral. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability as the policy sets out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for mineral extraction.</p> <p>The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.</p>				

**Policy 5: Location of Development – General Waste Management Facilities**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	+	The policy states where there would be a presumption in favour of development. This does not include agricultural land, therefore, the policy seeks to protect agricultural land from waste development.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	+	The policy states where there would be a presumption in favour of development, which includes use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.



archaeological importance					
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	-	There could be an impact on townscape as the policy states that there would be a presumption in favour of development on sites that could be close to urban areas.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no negative impacts result from the development.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy without adequate mitigation measures being put in place.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Waste sites could have an impact on air quality.	Mitigation, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	+	The policy sets out where there will be a presumption in favour of waste development, this could include facilities to produce renewable energy.		There is potential for a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as a result of opportunities for renewable energy facilities to be provided under this policy.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	?	The policy includes provision for the use of aggregate quarries for inert fill as part of their restoration.		There is potential for a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy would allow for recycling/reuse of waste facilities. There is some scope for an unknown environmental as a result of inert infill at aggregate quarries for use as part of restoration proposals.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	The policy sets out where there will be a presumption in favour of waste development, this could include facilities for waste processing for reuse, recovery or recycling of waste.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on rail or waterborne transport		There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability without mitigation measures.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	There could be an impact on transport networks as waste sites are likely to result in traffic movements to/from a site.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures, may be required.	

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates although development of the site would provide primary aggregates for construction purposes.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as the policy sets out locations were waste facilities, including those for processing recycled aggregates and construction and demolition waste could be carried out.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	The policy sets out where there will be a presumption in favour of waste development, this could include facilities for waste processing for recycling aggregates/construction and demolition wastes		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Overall there is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability, however there could be a negative impact on social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being provided.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	? / -	Waste sites have the potential to impact on tranquillity. However, the policy seeks to direct waste uses to locations where their uses are less likely to impact.	Mitigation measures may be required.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	-	Waste sites could have an impact on odour.	Mitigation measures would be required.	Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	Wastes sites could have an impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	-	Wastes sites could have an light pollution	Mitigation measures will be required.	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	The development of waste sites could have a positive impact on the economy, especially where processing of waste produces recycled/secondary products that can be resold.		There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and supply of recycled/secondary products for resale.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	New waste sites could result in employment opportunities.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative sustainability impacts identified, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. However, mitigation measures would be required and should reduce the impact, in many cases resulting in a neutral impact. There are also a number of potential positive impacts as a result of the policy on environmental and economic sustainability, through the use of previously developed land, and the impact on the economy of waste management facilities, especially those processing waste material for recycled/secondary materials.

The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.

**Policy 6: Location of Development – Specialist Waste Management Facilities**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		There is a potential unknown impact on environmental sustainability as the impact would depend on the proposals bring considered, however, the policy wording and mitigation measures would ensure no negative impacts.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	? / +	Depending on the sites being considered under this policy there may be an impact on water resources. The policy wording requires no unacceptable impacts on the environment or communities.	Mitigation measures may be required.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability..
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	? / +	Sites being considered under this policy could be on previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	?	Specialist waste management sites are likely to be located close to waste arisings, which could be within urban areas, therefore, there could be an impact on townscape.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no negative impacts on townscape.	There is potential for an unknown impact on environmental sustainability depending on the location of sites considered under this policy. Mitigation measures will ensure no long term negative impacts.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	?	Specialist waste management sites are likely to be located close to waste arisings, therefore there could be an impact on landscape	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no negative impacts on landscape.	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on renewable energy.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as proposals considered under the policy could include sites for reuse, recovery and recycling or waste.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	Specialist waste management facilities could include an element of processing for reuse, recovery or recycling		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on rail or waterborne transportation as treated water is likely to be released directly into local water courses.		There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability as there are limited transport options, however, mitigation measures would mitigate this impact.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Specialist waste management facilities could result in additional traffic movements.	Traffic management measures may be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as

through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate					proposals considered under the policy could include sites recycling of aggregates/construction and demolition waste
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	Specialist waste management facilities could include an element of recycling		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	?	Development of a specialist waste management facility could impact on the amount of open space amenity in an area.	Alternative open space amenity would need to be provided.	There is an unknown impact on social sustainability. The policy would allow development for specialist waste where there is a local need, this could result in the loss of open space. However, mitigation measures would ensure an overall neutral impact.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	-	There is potential for an impact on odour depending on the waste being managed	Odour mitigation measures would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on economic and social sustainability; however, mitigation measures should reduce this impact.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	There is potential for an impact on noise depending on the waste being managed	Noise mitigation measures would be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Proposals considered under this policy are likely to have a positive impact on the local economy.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	New facilities would generate employment.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are some potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts as a result of this policy; however, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce this impact. There are potential positive economic and environmental sustainability impacts, economically in terms of employment and supporting the local economy.					
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.					

**Policy 7: Location of Development – Landfill and Permanent Deposit of Waste to Land**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	-	Landfilling can impact on water quality.	Careful consideration of the material used for landfilling and impacts on hydrology would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of landfilling, however, mitigation measures and consideration of hydrology of a site should mitigate this impact.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0 / +	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land, although landfilling as part of a restoration scheme could result in improvements to agricultural land.		There is likely to be an overall neutral effect on sustainability, although restoration of a site incorporating infilling could help to restore a site to its former agricultural quality
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	The policy does not seek to utilise previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		

and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	+	Infilling of a former quarry site could result in implements to the character of the landscape.		There is a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on renewable energy.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	-	The policy specifically relates to landfill. However, it does only allow waste from which no further value can reasonably be obtained be landfilled.	The policy requires that only waste from which no further value can be reasonable be obtained should be used for landfilled.	There is potential for a negative impact on environmental sustainability as the policy allows for landfilling. There is scope for reuse, recovery and recycling of waste material prior to landfilling, which will help to mitigate the impact.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	?	The policy relates to landfilling, but requires that only waste from which no further value can be reasonably obtained should be used, therefore, the policy does encourage reuse, recovery and recycling before the remainder is landfilled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on rail or waterborne transport		There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability without mitigation measures, in the short/medium term. Following the completion of infilling the impact should be neutral.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	There could be an impact on transport networks as a result of importing material for infilling.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures, may be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates although development of the site would provide primary aggregates for construction purposes.		There is potential for a negative impact on environmental sustainability as the policy allows for landfilling. There is scope for reuse, recovery and recycling of waste material prior to landfilling,

the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	? / -	The policy relates to landfilling, but requires that only waste from which no further value can be reasonably obtained should be used, therefore, the policy does encourage reuse, recovery and recycling before the remainder is landfilled.		which will help to mitigate the impact.
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Without mitigation measure in the short/medium term there would be potential for a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability, however, in the longer term, once infilling has been completed there should be an overall neutral impact.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	? / -	Infilling would have the potential to impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures may be required.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.	Mitigation measures would be required.	Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. In the longer term following completion of the infilling the impact should be neutral.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	There could be an impact on noise associated with infilling.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution	Mitigation measures will be required.	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs, however this would only be short/medium term.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	During the infilling phase there would be job creation.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary / Permanent	Short / medium / Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are a number of potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts associated with this policy, they are likely to be short/medium term impacts associated with the infilling process itself, but following completion of the works, there could be a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the restoration of the site.					
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.					



**Policy 8: Borrow Pits**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	?	Depending on the restoration proposed there could be a positive impact on flood management.		There could be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy depending on the restoration scheme proposed.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	?	Depending on the location of the proposed borrow pit there could be an impact on the historic environment.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no negative impacts.	There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered. Mitigation measures could be used to ensure no negative impacts result from the development of borrow pits. However, in the long term, following restoration there should be an overall neutral impact.

6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered. Mitigation measures could be used to ensure no negative impacts result from the development of borrow pits. However, in the long term, following restoration there should be an overall neutral impact.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	?	Depending on the location of the proposed borrow pit there could be an impact on the character of the landscape.	Mitigation measures would be required during the works and adequate restoration provided.	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	There could be an impact on air quality during the working of the proposed borrow pit.	Mitigation measures, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.	There could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term, but in the long term once the works have been completed there should be an overall neutral impact.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on renewable energy.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery and recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on rail or waterborne transport		There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability without mitigation measures, in the short/medium term. Following restoration of the site the impact should be neutral.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road	-	There could be an impact on transport networks as a result of importing material for infilling.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures, may be required.	

	network and the Strategic Road Network)?				
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Without mitigation measure in the short/medium term there would be potential for a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability, however, in the longer term, once the site has been restored there should be an overall neutral impact.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	There is potential for a negative impact on tranquillity during the working of the site.	Mitigation measures may be required.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.	Mitigation measures would be required.	There could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term, but in the long term once the works have been completed and the site restored there should be an overall neutral impact.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	There could be an impact on noise during the working of the site.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution	Mitigation measures will be required.	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Borrow pits provide locally sourced material for a specific construction project, therefore, there policy would have a positive impact.		There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and supply of primary aggregates to the construction industry.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Works on the site would result in job creation.		

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium Term

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are a number of potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts associated with this policy, they are likely to be short/medium term impacts associated with the working of the site itself, following restoration of the site the overall impact should be neutral. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the supply of raw materials for construction projects.

**Policy 9: Minerals Safeguarding Policy**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy, due to the potential to change the geology of an area through mineral extraction.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	? / -	The policy seeks to safeguarding mineral deposits, if these deposits are to be extracted there would be an impact on the local geology.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	+	The policy will seek to safeguard rail head sites, which allow for material to be transported by rail.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy safeguards rail head sites allowing for material to be transported by rail rather than road.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	+	The policy will seek to safeguard rail head sites, which allow for material to be transported by rail.		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	++	The policy seeks to safeguard primary aggregates.		There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as the policy seeks to safeguard primary aggregates from non-minerals development.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		

possible and appropriate	aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?				
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise.		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	? / +	The policy seeks to safeguard primary aggregates from non-mineral development, meaning that primary aggregates will remain available to support the construction industry.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of the policy to safeguard primary aggregates.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	?	If safeguarded sites were to come forward for mineral development there would be a positive impact on employment.		

<b>Summary</b>				
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	long term
<p>Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy, with a significantly positive environmental and economic impact as a result of safeguarding primary aggregates. There is also a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to safeguard rail head sites, which will allow for material to be transported by rail, reducing reliance on road transport. There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of extraction on the local geology of an area. There is a possible positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of the policy as should sites within safeguarded areas come forward for mineral extraction this would provide primary aggregates for the construction industry.</p> <p>The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA.</p>				

**Policy 10: Waste Safeguarding**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	+	The policy seeks to safeguard sites for waste development that are existing permanent waste sites, therefore, protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land from development.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy safeguarding existing waste sites for waste uses.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	+	The policy seeks to safeguard sites for waste development that are existing permanent waste sites, therefore, making use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		

7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality as sites to be safeguarded are already in existing use as waste sites.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.	
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill	There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites to allow continued processing of waste materials.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	The policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites to allow for continued processing of waste materials.	
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on rail or waterborne transport	There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy safeguards rail head sites allowing for material to be transported by rail rather than road.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on transport networks.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates	There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as the policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites to allow for continued waste processing.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	The policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites to allow for continued processing of waste materials.	



12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity. Sites to be safeguarded are in existing use as waste sites.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour. Sites to be safeguarded are in existing use as waste sites.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise. Sites to be safeguarded are in existing use as waste sites.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution. Sites to be safeguarded are in existing use as waste sites.	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy. Sites to be safeguarded are in existing use as waste sites.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability as the sites are in existing use as waste sites.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment. Sites to be safeguarded are in existing use as waste sites.	

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	long term

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites, and therefore, there are likely to be positive environmental sustainability impacts in relation to waste management and reuse and recycling of waste materials and on the use of previously developed land. The policy is not predicted to have any negative impacts on sustainability.

**Policy 11: Chalk and Clay**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	+	Restoration of an extracted site can result in improvements for flood management.		There is a possible positive impact in relation to all elements of sustainability as a result of improved flood mitigation.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	-	Sites put forward for consideration under this policy could be located on the best and most versatile agricultural land	Mitigation measures would be required, including restoration back to agriculture and retention of soils for the restoration scheme.	There is a potentially negative impact on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term, however, in the longer term with good restoration there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	-	There is potential for a negative impact on soil quality.	Mitigation measure would be required, including retention and storage of soils for the restoration of the site.	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	?	Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the historic environment.	Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the historic environment.	There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There may be an unknown impact on the environmental

and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	?	Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the historic environment.	Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the landscape	sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on air quality, with dust and traffic emission associated with the site.	Mitigation, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures. In the longer term there should be a neutral impact as minerals development is only temporary in nature.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on renewable energy.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery and recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	Due to the location of the chalk/clay deposits in West Berkshire, there are limited opportunities for rail/water transport.		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term while the sites are operational. In the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should not be an impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Extracted material will require transportation from the sites, which is likely to be by road, therefore, there is potential for a negative impact on the transport network.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures would be required.	

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates and the policy does not propose safeguarding of chalk/clay deposits.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0 / +	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity, however, restoration of any sites considered under this policy could result in improvements to open space amenity.		Overall there is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability, however there could be a negative impact on social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being provided in the short/medium term. In the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be no impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Mineral extraction can have an impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there would be unlikely to be an impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Extraction of chalk and clay would need to meet a local need, which would benefit the local economy.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Any site coming forward could provide employment opportunities.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall neutral impact on					

sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of improved flood mitigation possibilities and economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting local needs to material.

**Policy 12: Energy Minerals**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	? / - + / ?	Depending on the energy mineral to be extracted there is potential for a negative impact on water quality.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no detrimental impact on water quality. <u>The policy now specifically includes reference to protecting water quality.</u>	There is potential for a negative impact on environmental sustainability, depending on the energy mineral to be extracted, without mitigation measures in the short/medium term. In the long term, as mineral extraction is temporary in nature, there should be a neutral impact on sustainability. <u>The modification to the policy in relation to water quality should help to minimise any impact on environmental sustainability.</u>
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	? / -	Some forms of energy mineral extraction require significant amount of water, therefore, there could be an impact on water resources, depending on the mineral resource to be extracted.	Mitigation measures, including consideration of water conservation, would be required.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	-	Sites put forward for consideration under this policy could be located on the best and most versatile agricultural land	Mitigation measures would be required, including restoration back to agriculture and retention of soils for the restoration scheme.	There is a potentially negative impact on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term, however, in the longer term with good restoration there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	-	There is potential for a negative impact on soil quality.	Mitigation measure would be required, including retention and storage of soils for the restoration of the site.	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to		

			Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	?	Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the historic environment.	Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the historic environment.	There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	?	Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the historic environment <u>landscape</u> .	Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the landscape. The policy states that development in the AONB would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on air quality, with dust and traffic emission associated with the site.	Mitigation, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures. In the longer term there should be a neutral impact as minerals development is only temporary in nature.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	-	The policy is focused on the extraction of primary energy minerals.		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change.		

9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery and recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	There are limited opportunities for rail/water transport.		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term while the sites are operational. In the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should not be an impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Extracted material will require transportation from the sites, which is likely to be by road, therefore, there is potential for a negative impact on the transport network.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures would be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates and the policy does not propose safeguarding of energy mineral deposits.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0 / +	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity, however, restoration of any sites considered under this policy could result in improvements to open space amenity.		Overall there is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability, however there could be a negative impact on social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being provided in the short/medium term. In the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be no impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Mineral extraction can have an impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social

	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there would be unlikely to be an impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Development of sites for energy mineral extraction would have a positive impact on the economy.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Any site coming forward could provide employment opportunities.		

<b>Summary of Effects:</b>				
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium term
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting the need for energy minerals.				
<u>The main modification to this policy has slightly changed the SA/SEA assessment in terms of the impact on water quality, as protection of water quality is now specifically referred to in the policy. However, this has not changed the overall SA/SEA assessment for the policy.</u>				

**Policy 13: Radioactive Waste Treatment and Storage at AWE**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental



soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		sustainability as the policy refers specifically to a brownfield site.
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	+	The policy relates to uses at AWE, which is a Brownfield site.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no negative impacts.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on renewable energy.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery and recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	There are limited opportunities for rail/water transport from AWE.		There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability as there are limited transport options, however, material considered under this
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the transport network as waste		

	(including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?		considered under this policy is likely to have been generated at AWE.		policy is most likely to have been generated at AWE therefore, does not need to travel off site.
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment.		

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The location of the site does not lend itself to use of rail or water transportation, which results in a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability, however, material considered under this policy is likely to have been generated on the site and

therefore, would not need to be transported, resulting in an overall neutral impact. There is a possible positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy refers to development on an existing brownfield site.

**Policy 14 Reworking old Landfill sites**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	+	The policy requires net gains in biodiversity for sites to be considered.		There is potential for a positive impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality.		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Sites would be restored to Greenfield sites following the reworking, so unlikely to be an impact.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There is potential for a positive impact on environment

and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	+	The policy requires net gains in landscape for sites to be considered.		sustainability as the policy requires net gains for landscape.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	+	Reworking of the sites should reduce the amount of material in landfill.		There is a likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as the policy will allow for reuse, recovery and recycling of material.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	Reworking of the sites would mean that reusable, recoverable and recyclable waste could be removed and recovered.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	There are limited opportunities for rail/water transport.		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term while the sites are operational. In the longer term, due to the temporary nature of reworking there should not be an impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Material is likely to require transportation from the sites being considered for processing, this is likely to be by road.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures would be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates		There could be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability if there is recoverable waste within the landfill sites being considered.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	?	The policy would allow for recycling of some waste currently located within landfill. Although the impact would depend on the waste present in the site.		

12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	+	The policy requires net gains for amenity for sites to be considered.		There are likely to be positive and negative impacts as a result of the policy on environmental sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Reworking of a site could have an impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	-	Depending on the material within the landfill site to be reworked there could be an impact on odour.		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term during the reworking of any sites, however, following completion of the works the impact should be neutral in the longer term.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	During the reworking of the site there could be an impact on noise.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Reworking of the site could result in secondary/recycled material that could benefit the economy.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and provision of material for construction from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Reworking of the site could result in employment opportunities.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary / Permanent	Short / Medium / Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term as a result of the policy, however following the reworking and restoration of the site there should be no long term negative impacts. There are also a number of potential positive environmental impacts as reworking of would only be considered where there would be net gains in landscape, biodiversity or amenity. These positive environmental impacts would be long term and permanent.					
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.					

#### Policy 15: Location of Permanent Construction Aggregate Infrastructure

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	+	Sites considered under this policy are focused towards brownfield sites, therefore, the policy will seek to protect agricultural land.		The policy is likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability through the promotion of the use of brownfield sites for permanent construction aggregates infrastructure.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	+	Sites considered under this policy are focused towards brownfield sites, therefore, the policy will seek to protect soil quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	+	Sites considered under this policy are focused towards brownfield sites.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	?	Brownfield sites are often close to urban areas, and therefore, there could be an impact on townscape	Careful consideration of setting and mitigation measures may be required.	There is potential for an impact on environmental sustainability without mitigation measures if there is likely to be a negative impact.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Mineral processing can have an impact on air quality through dust generation and traffic movements	Mitigation measures, including dust suppression and traffic management would be required.	There is potential for a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being put in place.

8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill.		There is a likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as the policy will allow for reuse, recovery and recycling of material.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery or recycling of waste.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	?	The impact would depend on where sites are proposed for consideration, but there are limited opportunities for rail/waterborne transport within the district.		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental sustainability without mitigation.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Material is likely to be imported/exported from sites, therefore, there will be an impact on the transport network.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management would be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates/construction and demolition wastes		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity		There are likely to be negative impacts as a result of the policy on environmental sustainability

public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Processing of materials could have a negative impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	without mitigation measures being implemented.
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on odour		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures being implemented.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	During the processing of material there could be an impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Processing of material provides material for the construction industry and therefore, has a positive economic impact		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and provision of material for construction from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Working on the site could result in employment opportunities.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>		<b>Likelihood:</b>		<b>Duration:</b>	
Predominantly neutral		Medium		Permanent	
		District Wide		Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability without the implementation of adequate mitigation measures. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the production of material for the construction industry and environmental sustainability as the policy seeks for sites to be located on previously developed land, protecting agricultural land and soils.					
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.					

#### Policy 16: Temporary Infrastructure

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.



2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land and the policy is focused on infrastructure associated with landfill sites.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality.		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	<b>0</b>	The infrastructure being considered under this policy would be temporary in nature and on a site already permitted for mineral extraction. Following completion of the works the site would be restored to Greenfield therefore, there would not be an impact.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	+	Temporary infrastructure this policy seeks to manage will allow for waste proposed for landfill to be processed and the recoverable material removed prior to landfilling.		There is a likely to be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as the policy will allow for reuse, recovery and recycling of material.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	+	Temporary infrastructure this policy seeks to manage will allow for waste proposed for landfill to be processed and the recoverable material removed prior to landfilling.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on rail/waterborne transport		There is a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as there should be no traffic movements outside a single site associated with proposals considered under this policy.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	+	Temporary infrastructure being considered under this policy is required to be located on the site to which it relates, which will reduce the impact on the transport network.		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates		There could be a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability as recoverable material could be removed prior to landfilling.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	+	Temporary infrastructure this policy seeks to manage will allow for waste proposed for landfill to be processed and the recoverable material removed prior to landfilling.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	?	Restoration of the site could result in amenity benefits.		There are likely to be negative impacts as a result of the policy on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term, however in the longer term there could be a positive impact as a result of the restoration of the site.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Processing of materials could have a negative impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	

and waste development					
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	-	Depending on the material to be processed and landfilled there could be an impact on odour.	Mitigation measures will be required.	There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term during the processing on any sites, however, following completion of the works the impact should be neutral in the longer term. There is likely to be a positive impact in terms of environmental sustainability associated with traffic movements, and the location of infrastructure considered under this policy must be linked with the site the infrastructure is located on.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	During the processing of material there could be an impact on noise levels.		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Working and processing of material provides material for the construction industry and therefore, has a positive economic impact		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and provision of material for construction from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Working on the site could result in employment opportunities.		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>		<b>Likelihood:</b>		<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral		Medium		Short / Medium term	
<b>Scale:</b>		<b>Duration:</b>		<b>Timing:</b>	
District Wide		Temporary		Short / Medium term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term as a result of the policy, however following the completion of works and restoration of the site there should be no long term negative impacts. There are a number of potential positive environmental and economic impacts as the infrastructure considered under the policy would not result in additional traffic movements, and will result in material for the construction industry, diverting waste away from landfill for recycling or reuse therefore, providing benefits for the local and wider economy.					

#### Policy 17: Restoration and After Use

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	++	The policy seeks restoration that makes a net gains to biodiversity and wildlife conservation.		There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as

diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		the policy seeks to provide benefits for biodiversity.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	<b>+</b>	The policy seeks restoration that makes a positive contribute to water quality.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to provide benefits to water quality.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<b>+</b>	The policy seeks restoration that makes a positive contribution to flood risk.		There is likely to be a positive impact on all elements of sustainability as the policy seeks to provide benefits to flood water management.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<b>+</b>	Where the best and most versatile agricultural land has been used, the policy seeks to ensure this is restored to the same or better quality.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to provide benefits to soil quality.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	<b>+</b>	The policy seeks restoration that makes a positive contribution to soil quality.		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to provide benefits to landscape character.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	<b>+</b>	The policy seeks restoration that makes a positive contribution to landscape character and quality.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<b>+</b>	The policy seeks restoration that makes a positive contribution to air quality.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability as the policy seeks to provide benefits to air quality.

8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		There is the possibility for a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability in relation to adaptability to climate change due to benefits to flood management that restoration can bring.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	? / +	The policy has the potential to allow for adaptability to climate change through improvements to flood management.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	-	Restoration can require landfilling to raise land levels.	Conditions could be used to require the minimum amount of landfill material to be used.	There is a possible negative impact on environmental sustainability as restoration can involve some form of infilling.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on the transport network		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	+	The policy seeks restoration that results in public benefits including the promotion of recreational opportunities/facilities.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability as the policy seeks to provide recreational opportunities/facilities.

Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		There is unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability once the site has been restored.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long Term	
Overall there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy as the policy seeks to deliver net gains for biodiversity. There are likely to be a number of positive impacts on environmental and social sustainability as a result of this policy, as the policy seeks a number of environmental or social benefits to be provided as part of site restoration.					

**Policy 18: Landscape**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	+	The policy seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity of the local area, where this relates to the landscape character of an area.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity where this relates to the landscape character of an area.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	+	The policy seeks to protect and enhance geodiversity of the local area, where this relates to the landscape character of an area.		
	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on best and most versatile agricultural land		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<b>+</b>	The policy seeks to protect and enhance cultural heritage, which could include impacts on the historic environment.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to protect cultural heritage, which can include the historic environment.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>++</b>	The policy seeks to protect and enhance townscape.		There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to protect and enhance landscape and townscape.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	<b>++</b>	The policy seeks to protect and enhance the character of the landscape.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste,	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on the transport network		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	? / +	There is potential for a positive impact if the restoration of a site includes provision for public open space as part of enhancing landscape character.		There is likely to be an positive impact on environmental and social sustainability would depend on the restoration scheme proposed.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	?	There is an unknown impact on tranquillity depending on the restoration proposals for the site which may help to enhance landscape character.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		



	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long Term	
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the focus of the policy on the protection of landscape character and townscape. There is also likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity and heritage assets as a result of the wording of the policy.					

#### Policy 19: Protected Landscapes

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on best and most versatile agricultural land		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		

5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to protect the special landscape character of the AONB.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	++	The policy seeks to protect the special landscape character of the AONB.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on the transport network		

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.	
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on quality and quantity of open space amenity.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	? / +	The policy sets out where exceptional circumstances could mean that sites could be developed in the AONB, which could lead to a positive economic impact	If a site is permitted in exceptional circumstances, there could be a positive impact on economic sustainability.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	?	If a site is permitted in exceptional circumstances there could be an impact on employment.	

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
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Predominantly neutral, with a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of landscape.	Medium	AONB	Permanent	long term
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. However, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the focus of the policy on the protection of landscape character of the AONB. There is potential for a positive impact on economic sustainability should a site be permitted in the exceptional circumstances set out in the policy. No negative impacts on sustainability are predicted as a result of this policy.				
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA, as the policy still seeks to protect the AONB.				

**Policy 20: Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	++	The main aim of the policy is to protect and enhance biodiversity providing net gains for biodiversity.		There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as this policy focuses on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	++	The main aim of the policy is to protect and enhance geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	+	Aquatic habitats contribute to biodiversity and therefore, the policy will have positive impact on water quality.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability through the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soil quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance					
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy which will allow for adaption to climate change for biodiversity.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	+	Protection and enhancement of biodiversity habitat links will help to provide additional capacity for biodiversity to adapt to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on the transport network		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	? / +	There is potential for a positive impact if the restoration of a site includes provision for public open space as well as the biodiversity/geodiversity enhancements.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and potentially social sustainability as a result of the policy's provision for open space and retaining tranquillity.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	+	There is likely to be a positive impact as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity will result in areas of land set aside for nature.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long Term	
There is likely to a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy, with potential positive impacts on social sustainability due to the focus of the policy being on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity.					

**Policy 21: Agricultural Land and Soils**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
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1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity	
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	++	The policy seeks to preserve best and most versatile agricultural land.	There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land and enhance soil quality, only allowing development on the best and most versatile agricultural land in exceptional circumstances.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	++	The policy seeks to preserve and enhance soils.	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.	
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to impact on the transport network		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity		



13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment	
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>				
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long Term
There will be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land and soils. There will be no other sustainability impact as a result of the policy.				

**Policy 22: Transport**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		

best and most versatile agricultural land	Would previously developed land be utilised?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality. The policy requires that applications considered under the policy do not have a determinant effect on the environment or local community.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental sustainability due to the wording of the policy. However, it likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	+	The policy encouraged the use of sustainable modes transport including rail and water transport where this is practical.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to promote the use of sustainable transport.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	+	The policy seeks to minimise the impact on the transport network.		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental sustainability due to the wording of the policy. However, it likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		

waste and minerals related activities					
<b>Summary</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There is a potential positive environmental sustainability impact as a result of the policy's promotion of sustainable modes of transport. Sites considered under the policy could impact on traffic levels unless mitigation measures are implemented as required by the policy. There are no potentially negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.					

**Policy 23: Public Rights of Way**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.	
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.	
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on rail or waterborne transport	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on transport networks.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.	

possible and appropriate					
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	+	The policy ensures that any rights of way to be impacted by a proposal are diverted or an alternative route provided, and encourages the creation of new routes and greater/improved access to the countryside.		There is likely to be a positive impact on social sustainability as rights of way will be retained or diverted where they are likely to be affected by a proposal.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise.		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The only potential positive impact is likely to be in relation to provision of open space amenity, which should be preserved through the policy by the diversion or alteration of public rights of ways affected by proposals and where possible the creation of new routes and improved access to the countryside.					

**Policy 24: Flooding**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire					
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<b>++</b>	The policy requires consideration of flood risk and the provision of appropriate mitigation measures to be provided and for proposals to seek to reduce flood risk.		There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as the policy requires consideration of flooding and mitigation measures to be provided and seeks opportunities to reduce flood risk.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity	There is likely to be a positive impact on all elements of sustainability as the policy requires consideration of flooding as a result of climate change.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	+	The policy requires consideration of the impacts of climate change on flood risk, and the minimisation of these risks where possible.	
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.	
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on rail or waterborne transport	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the transport network.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.	
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.



Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as a result of this policy as it specifically looks to reduce flood risk and take into account the impacts of climate change on flood risk.					

### Policy 25: Climate Change

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	+	The policy requires consideration of flood risk on		There is likely to be a positive impact on all elements of

			site and avoiding areas vulnerable to flooding unless mitigation/adaptation measures are provided		sustainability as the policy requires consideration of reducing flood risks
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		There is likely to be a positive impact on all elements of sustainability as the policy specifically relates to minimising the impacts on climate change.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	++	The policy requires consideration of minimising the impacts of climate change		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		

maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	reused, recovered and/or recycled?				
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	+	The policy requires consideration of transport arrangements to help to minimise the impacts on climate change		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy's requirements to consider sustainable transport.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	+	The policy requires consideration of transport arrangements to help to minimise the impacts on climate change		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		

14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment	
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>				
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as a result of the policy's requirement to consider climate change and the risks associated with it. There are a number of other potential positive environmental impacts as a result of the policy specifically in relation to flood risk and sustainable transport.				
The main modification to this policy has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA.				

**Policy 26: Public Health, Environment and Amenity**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality. The policy requires that applications considered under the policy do not have a detrimental effect water quality	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental sustainability due to the wording of the policy. However, it likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources. The policy requires that applications considered under the policy do not have a detrimental effect on water resources.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	+	The policy requires consideration of the historic environment.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability as a result of this policy requiring consideration of the historic environment,
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	+	The policy requires consideration of impacts on local communities, which could include the impact on townscape.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy requiring consideration of impacts on the natural, build and historic environment.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality. The policy requires that applications considered under the policy do not have a detrimental effect air quality.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental sustainability due to the wording of the policy. However, it likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability..
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		

maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	reused, recovered and/or recycled?				
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on rail or waterborne transport		There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental sustainable due to the wording of the policy. However, it is likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on transport networks. The policy requires that the impacts of traffic movements to/from sites being considered under the policy do not have an unacceptable impact.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.		There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental or social sustainable due to the wording of the policy. However, it is likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity. The policy requires consideration of impacts on amenity and quality of life.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour. The policy requires that application considered under the policy do not have a detrimental effect on odour.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	There is unlikely to be an impact on environmental and social sustainability due to the wording of the policy. However, it likely that mitigation measures will be required to ensure that the policy can be achieved.

	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise. The policy requires that applications considered under the policy do not have a detrimental effect on noise levels.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution. The policy requires that applications considered under the policy do not have a detrimental effect on light.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure no detrimental impacts are associated with any site considered under this policy.	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There is a potential positive environmental and social sustainability impact as a result of the policy's requirement to consider the impacts on the impacts on the local community and the natural, built and historic environment. Many of the predicted impacts on the policy are neutral, as the policy requires consideration of public health and safety, amenity and quality of life are not detrimentally impacted. This does not necessarily mean that there would be a positive impact on sustainability, although mitigation measures could result in a positive impact.					

**Policy 27: Historic Environment**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		

3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.	
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	++	There is likely to be a significantly positive impact as a result of the policy, which focuses on the protection and enhancement of the historic environment.	There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental and social sustainability as a result of this policy's focus on the historic environment.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change	
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use,	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.	



recovery and recycling of waste					
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to impact on use of rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to impact on the transport network		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on noise		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		

14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Significantly positive	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
There is likely to be a potentially significant positive environmental effect as a result of the policy's focus on preserving and enhancing the historic environment. There will be no impact on any other element of sustainability.					

### Policy 28: Design

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	+	The policy requires consideration of restoration design, which should result in net gains for biodiversity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	+	The policy requires consideration, protection and enhancement of the setting of a site considered under the policy,		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability as a result of this policy requiring

features of archaeological importance			which could include heritage setting.		consideration the setting of a site considered under the policy.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	+	The policy requires consideration, protection and enhancement of the setting of a site considered under the policy, which could include townscape.		There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy requiring consideration of impacts on the setting of a site considered under the policy.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	+	The policy requires consideration, protection and enhancement of the setting of a site considered under the policy which could include consideration of the landscape.		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on transport networks.		

11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.	
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	Unlikely to impact on open space amenity.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.	
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy	Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment	
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>				
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy requires consideration of a site's setting, which means that could be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability in relation to the historic environment, townscape and landscape all of which can contribute to the setting of a site. There are no likely negative impacts as a result of this policy.				

**Policy 29: Cumulative Impact**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water quality		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on soils quality		
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the use of previously developed land.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the historic environment		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landscape		
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on air quality.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on renewable energy capacity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on waste going to landfill		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on the quantity of waste being reused, recovered or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on rail or waterborne transport		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on transport networks.		
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on recycling of aggregates or construction waste.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to have an impact on open space amenity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.

Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on tranquillity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on noise.		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on the economy		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on employment		
<b>Summary of Effects:</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Permanent	Long term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. As the policy seeks to ensure no cumulative impacts, the policy itself will not have any impact on sustainability, however, it will prevent potential negative impacts occurring if several sites were to come forward within close proximity to each other.					

## Site Policies

### Policy 30: Tidney Bed

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	+	The policy requires that the site is developed in line with the PEA and deliver net gains for biodiversity.	Details regarding mitigation is set out in the PEA.	The policy is likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the longer term with restoration of the site.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	?	Mineral extraction changes the local geology by extracting the mineral resource, however, extraction can provide opportunities for increased understanding and		

			interpretation of local geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	The policy should ensure a neutral impact on water quality.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure a neutral impact is delivered.	The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	The policy should ensure a neutral impact on water resources.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure a neutral impact is delivered.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	?	The site is at risk from flooding. Extraction of the mineral from the site, as set out in the policy requires the consideration of the impacts of flooding in relation to the restoration of the site.		There is an unknown impact on environmental and social sustainability as the impact on flood risk would depending on the restoration scheme proposed as part of any application being considered under the policy.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	There should be a neutral impact on soil quality through careful soils handling and management.	Soil handling and careful management would be required	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	The site is greenfield and once extraction is complete will be returned to the same, or better, quality.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	The policy requires that the relevant assessments and management of any heritage assets on site are set out to ensure no impact on heritage assets	Mitigation measures may be required, if the relevant assessments determine there are heritage assets on the site.	The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Due to the location of the site referred to in the policy it is unlikely there would be an impact on townscape.		The policy is likely to have an overall neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	The policy seeks that development of the site would not result in an impact on landscape.	Mitigation measures required are set out in the Council's Landscape and Visual Assessment.	



7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	The policy seeks that relevant surveys and management plans are submitted to ensure there is no negative impact on air quality.	Mitigation measures may be required, and would be set out in the relevant management plan.	The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to impact on renewable energy capacity.		The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on all elements of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	-	The restoration of the site is proposed to be at existing levels using infill material.		There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability as infill is proposed for use as part of the site restoration.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to impact on the amount of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled.		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	The location of the site covered by the policy is not close to rail/water transportation		Overall it is likely that the policy would have a neutral impact on sustainability. While there is no potential for alternatives to road transport, the policy seeks to ensure that there will be no negative impacts on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	The policy requires a consideration of traffic movements associated with the site, but it is not considered that the traffic impacts would have an impact	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure a neutral impact on sustainability.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	The policy does not seek to safeguard primary aggregates, but does allow for the extraction of mineral		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental as the site is to provide new material, however, there would be a positive economic impact as a result of the extraction of the mineral.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	-	The site covered by the policy would provide new mineral material and not recycled aggregates.		

12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	The policy requires consideration of the right of way close to the site to ensure no negative impacts.	Mitigation measures may be required to the right of way.	The policy seeks to ensure a neutral impact on environmental and social sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	The policy seeks that relevant surveys and management plans are submitted to ensure there is no negative impact on tranquillity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		The policy seeks to ensure a neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	The policy seeks that relevant surveys and management plans are submitted to ensure there is no negative impact on noise levels.		
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	The site will provide sand and gravel to support the local economy.		The policy will provide mineral resources and therefore, there will be a positive impact on economic and social sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	The site will provide a limited number of local jobs		
<b>Summary of Effects</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Neutral Impact	High	Local	Temporary	Short/Medium Term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability. The policy will have a positive impact on economic and social sustainability by allowing for the extraction of mineral resources to support the local economy, including the local building trade. The impact on environmental sustainability is likely to be natural due to mitigation measures during the extraction phase, and good restoration of the site should return the site to the same, or better quality.					

**Policy 31: Chieveley Services**

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	+	The policy requires that the site is developed in line with the PEA and deliver net gains for biodiversity.	Details regarding mitigation is set out in the PEA.	The policy is likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the longer term with restoration of the site.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	-	Mineral extraction changes the local geology by extracting the mineral resource, however, extraction can provide opportunities for increased understanding and interpretation of local geodiversity		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	0	The policy should ensure a neutral impact on water quality.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure a neutral impact is delivered.	The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	0	The policy should ensure a neutral impact on water resources.	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure a neutral impact is delivered.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	?	The site is at risk from flooding. Extraction of the mineral from the site, as set out in the policy requires the consideration of the impacts of flooding in relation to the restoration of the site.		There is an unknown impact on environmental and social sustainability as the impact on flood risk would depend on the restoration scheme proposed as part of any application being considered under the policy.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on agricultural land.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	0	There should be a neutral impact on soil quality through careful soils handling and management.	Soil handling and careful management would be required	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	The site is greenfield and once extraction is complete will be returned to the same, or better, quality.		

5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	0	The policy requires that the relevant assessments and management of any heritage assets on site are set out to ensure no impact on heritage assets	Mitigation measures may be required, if the relevant assessments determine there are heritage assets on the site.	The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Due to the location of the site referred to in the policy it is unlikely there would be an impact on townscape.		The policy is likely to have an overall neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	0	The policy seeks that development of the site would not result in an impact on landscape.	Mitigation measures required are set out in the Council's Landscape and Visual Assessment.	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	0	The policy seeks that relevant surveys and management plans are submitted to ensure there is no negative impact on air quality.	Mitigation measures may be required, and would be set out in the relevant management plan.	The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to impact on renewable energy capacity.		The policy is likely to have a neutral impact on all elements of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	?	The site to be considered by the policy is to be restored to agriculture, this may include some element of infilling although this will depend on the proposals submitted as part of any application considered under this policy.		There is an unknown impact on sustainability as it is unknown whether infilling will be proposed as part of the restoration of the site considered under the policy.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to impact on the amount of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled.		

10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	The location of the site covered by the policy is not close to rail/water transportation		Overall it is likely that the policy would have a neutral impact on sustainability. While there is no potential for alternatives to road transport, the policy seeks to ensure that there will be no negative impacts on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	0	The policy requires a consideration of traffic movements associated with the site, but it is not considered that the traffic impacts would have an impact	Mitigation measures may be required to ensure a neutral impact on sustainability.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	The policy does not seek to safeguard primary aggregates, but does allow for the extraction of mineral		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental as the site is to provide new material, however, there would be a positive economic impact as a result of the extraction of the mineral.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	-	The site covered by the policy would provide new mineral material and not recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0	The policy requires consideration of the right of way close to the site to ensure no negative impacts.	Mitigation measures may be required to the right of way.	The policy seeks to ensure a neutral impact on environmental and social sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	The policy seeks that relevant surveys and management plans are submitted to ensure there is no negative impact on tranquillity.		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		The policy seeks to ensure a neutral impact on environmental sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	The policy seeks that relevant surveys and management plans are submitted to ensure there is no negative impact on noise levels.		

	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	<b>+</b>	The site will provide sand and gravel to support the local economy.		The policy will provide mineral resources and therefore, there will be a positive impact on economic and social sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	<b>+</b>	The site will provide a limited number of local jobs		
<b>Summary of Effects</b>					
<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>	
Predominantly neutral	High	Local	Temporary	Short/Medium Term	
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability. The policy will have a positive impact on economic and social sustainability by allowing for the extraction of mineral resources to support the local economy, including the local building trade. The impact on environmental sustainability is likely to be natural due to mitigation measures during the extraction phase, and good restoration of the site should return the site to the same, or better quality.					

### Minerals and Waste Site Assessment form

<b>Site ID:</b>	MW005	<b>Site Name:</b>	Chieveley Services
<b>Site Address:</b>	Land adjacent to the M4/A34 Chieveley Services, Oxford Road, Newbury	<b>Parish:</b>	Chieveley
<b>Mineral/Waste development:</b>	Mineral extraction	<b>Site Area:</b>	22ha

### Recommendation

<b>Recommendation:</b>	The site <b>is</b> recommended for allocation		
<b>Justification:</b>	The LAA shows that there is a need for soft sand within West Berkshire. The majority of soft sand within West Berkshire is located within the AONB, and therefore, exceptional circumstances would need to be demonstrated. There are no suitable sites outside of the AONB, and therefore, it is considered that exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated. This site is considered appropriate for mineral extraction in landscape terms and has better access to the strategic road network that the alternative site being considered and therefore, is consider the most appropriate site for allocation. The final extraction volume for the site would be subject to landscape work to determine the appropriate site area for extraction.		
<b>Proposal for Allocation:</b>	Extraction of soft sand. Restoration to agriculture at existing levels using inert material.		
<b>Approximate Extraction Volume:</b>	400,000 – 670,000 tonnes	<b>Phasing / Timescale:</b>	10 – 12 years
<b>Approximate Infill Volume:</b>	260,000m <sup>3</sup>	<b>Availability:</b>	By 2025

### Key Considerations

<p><b>Landscape:</b> The site is located within the AONB, although the site is considered to be of medium-low landscape sensitivity and is therefore, considered suitable for mineral development subject to the mitigation measures set out in the Council’s Landscape and Visual Assessment. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment would be required and landscape mitigation in accordance with the Council’s landscapes and Visual Assessment. The LVIA would need to demonstrate the area of the site suitable for extraction.</p> <p>However, due to the location of the site within the AONB the principle of development needs to be considered and it would need to be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the site in this location with no suitable sites located elsewhere outside the AONB.</p> <p><b>Rights of Way:</b> The rights of way through and adjacent to the site would need to be retained or diverted. Buffers would need to be provided to the rights of way.</p>
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**Highways:** The proximity of the site to the Strategic Road Networks and the Services means that any development on the site would need to demonstrate there would be no adverse impact on the Strategic Road Network or the operation of the Services.

### **Site Assessment**

*Note: Comments in italics relate to comments made in relation to the previous planning application for the site.*

**Biodiversity:** The site is adjacent to areas of ancient semi natural woodland and local wildlife sites, however it is considered that the impacts on the LWS could be adequately mitigated. Hedgerows and mature trees would need to be protected or compensated for if they are to be removed. Mitigation measures would be required as set out in the Council's Preliminary Ecological Assessment. There is a Local Geological Site to the north east of the site. Habitat/ecology assessments would be required with any planning application submitted. While the site is located within the newly declared Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area for the River Lambourn SAC the nature of mineral extraction and restoration is unlikely to impact on the SAC.

*The Council's Ecologist commented on the previous application and did not have any objections to the development as long as adequate mitigation measures were introduced.*

**Agricultural Land Classification:** The northern part of the site is grade 2 with the southern half grade 3.

**Heritage:** There are a number of listed buildings close to the site, however it is unlikely there would be an impact on these buildings. There has been limited excavation work in the area showing potential for Iron Age material. A Heritage Impact Assessment, desk based archaeological assessment and field evaluation would be required with any planning application submitted. *Archaeological work carried out to support previous planning application indicates limited archaeological interest on the site. Some limited evidence of Iron Age activity towards the centre of the site. The discoveries are of local and regional importance, although not of such importance that they should be preserved in situ. The archaeology will need to be investigated, recorded, analysed and published as appropriate.*

**Landscape/Townscape:** The site is located within the AONB, however it has been assessed as being in an area of medium-low landscape sensitivity due to the proximity of the site to Chieveley Services and the strategic road network. A smaller site area is considered appropriate for development. Mitigation measures would be required as set out in the Council's Landscaped and Visual Assessment. Restoration of the site should be to arable and pasture fields with all buildings removed. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be required with any planning application submitted, setting out the area of the site acceptable for development. *At the time of the previous planning application a site adjacent to this one was still subject to mineral workings and it was considered that development of this site would further extend the quarrying in this part of the AONB by another 10 years. The site was, in principle (subject to suitable mitigation measures and restoration proposals), considered suitable for extraction.*



The site is adjacent to Chieveley Services and the junction of the M4 with the A34. The site is relatively close to the village of Curridge to the east, but the lie of the land means that it is unlikely there would be a significant impact on the village.

**Amenity:** Noise and dust generation from the site is likely, however, mitigation measures would reduce these impacts, including limits on operating hours. The site is located away from residential properties, and therefore, the amenity impact would be limited. *No concerns were raised regarding noise and dust (subject to mitigation) in relation to the previous planning application on the site.*

**Rights of way:** There are a number of rights of way close to the site, with one crossing the site and another running along the eastern boundary of the site. The developable area takes into account the right of way to the east of the site. These rights of way would need to be retained or diverted and buffers provided to separate them from the site to ensure no negative impacts for those using the rights of way. *At the time of the previous planning application concerns were raised regarding Byway 49 and Footpath 37. Byway 49 had previously been diverted, but as the diversion had expired had become obstructed and unusable. Concerns were raised regarding potential conflict between non-motorized users of the rights of way and heavy quarry traffic and the length of time the rights of way in this area have already been disrupted by extraction works with few benefits provided to ameliorate the disruption.*

**Flooding:** The site is not at risk from fluvial flooding. A small area across the centre of the site is at risk from surface water flooding, with the north western part of the site within a groundwater emergence zone.

**Water Environment:** The site is within SPZ3.

**Highways:** The site promoter has proposed that access to the site would be to the south of the service station using a new access crossing land adjacent to the site but within the same landownership. Vehicles would have direct access to the A34/M4 interchange. The A34 and M4 are part of the strategic road network and are considered as a strategic lorry route in the West Berkshire Freight Strategy. Easy access is also available to the A4 which is classed as a 'district access route to key destinations' in the Freight Strategy. A Transport Assessment and Site Management Plan would be required with any planning application submitted, along with consultation with Highways England. Any development of the site would need to ensure that it would not impact on the operation of the services or the safe operation of the Strategic Road Network. *A Transport Statement was submitted with the previous planning application for the site and was considered acceptable. Access to the site via the existing haul route and Chieveley Services was considered acceptable.*

**Employment:** Development of the site would have a positive impact on the local economy and job creation.

**Geology/Mineral Resources:** The site is underlain by soft sand deposits. A Mineral Assessment has been carried out which indicates that the soft sand deposits are of a depth and quality that is suitable for extraction. Borehole data indicates a viable deposit and a *previous planning application on the site would suggest that extraction of the mineral deposit is considered viable.*

**Utilities:** No known issues.

**Restoration/After-care:** It is proposed that the site would be restored to lower level agriculture.

**Cumulative Impact:** While there are no other sites in close proximity to this site, consideration of the cumulative impact on the highway network would be required.

**Sustainability Appraisal:** Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. A number of negative impacts have been identified, mainly in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as a result of the development itself but, there should be no long term negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. The site is located within the AONB, however the site is not considered to be of high landscape sensitivity and mitigation measures, including a reduced site area, would mitigate this impact. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. While the site could result in additional traffic movements, it is adjacent to the strategic road network and therefore, it is unlikely that there would be a significant impact on environmental sustainability. Potential social sustainability is likely to be neutral in the long term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.

**Deliverability:** The site has been submitted on behalf of the land owner, and there is no indication that the site would not be viable. The depth and quality of the mineral resources could impact on the viability of the site, however, there is no indication that this would prevent the site coming forward. The site promoter has indicated that the site would be suitable to come forward in 1 – 5 years, towards the beginning of the plan period, with a lifetime of approx. 10 years.

### Consultation

**Site Consultation 2016:** A number of issues were raised as part of the sites consultation in summer 2016 these included general need for mineral extraction, ecology, amenity, landscape, restoration and highways.

- *Ecology – impact on biodiversity*
- *Amenity – Concerns regarding impact on the local Riding School which uses the ROW network as well as impact on green space, health and noise pollution. Concern also raised regarding the impact of the site on Cold Ash Farm breeding sites for Exmoor ponies.*
- *Landscape – The site is within the AONB, with views from the surrounding area.*
- *Restoration – concerns regarding restoration of the site as another local site has not been fully restored.*
- *Highways – Concern of impact on local rural roads*

All of these issues have been addressed in the Site Consultation Responses Report (December 2016)

**Preferred Options 2017:** Site was not included in the preferred options, so no comments were received directly regarding the site, however, general comments were made as to why the sites in the AONB had been automatically excluded from the site assessment process.

### **Submitted Proposal from Site Promoter**

The site is proposed for extraction of 670,000 tonnes of sand. This was revised down to 400,000 tonnes of sand from approx. 7ha of the site following the preferred options to take into account the required buffers.

Extraction would take place in a series of small extraction, so that at any one time less than 2ha is being extracted and restored. Extraction would be carried out over an 8 - 10 year period. Extracted mineral would be processed on site using a small mobile dry screener.

It is proposed that the site would be restored to agriculture at existing levels using inert materials, with the potential to improve screening of the Services and M4.

Access to the site would be directly onto the M4/A34 junction south of the service station.

### **Planning History**

#### **Planning History:**

Planning permission was refused in 2011 for sand extraction on the site (wider area proposed for development) application number 11/00233/MINMAJ. Appeal subsequently dismissed as unable to demonstrate exceptional circumstances for extraction in the AONB.

## Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) criteria assessment

Site name	Site address
Chieveley Services	Land adjacent to the M4/A34 Chieveley Services, Oxford Road, Newbury
Development Potential / proposal	Soft Sand extraction and processing of approx. 400,000 tonnes.

### Key:

++	+	?	0	-	--
Significantly Positive	Positive	Uncertain	Neutral	Negative	Significantly Negative

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0 / -	Ancient woodland is located to the south and south east of the site, with local wildlife sites to the east and south of the site.  <u>The site is located within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment Area for the River Lambourn SAC.</u>	An ecological assessment would be required and ongoing monitoring would potentially need to be undertaken. Depending on the findings mitigation and/or controls may be required.  Appropriate buffers would be required to the ancient woodland and local wildlife sites.	Due to potential impacts on biodiversity, there may be a negative impact on environmental sustainability in the medium term where no mitigation is proposed.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	?	Extraction of mineral from the site would permanently alter the geological makeup of the site. There is a Local Geological Site to the north east of the site.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	-	The EA indicate that the site is within a 'High Risk Groundwater' area.	A hydrological / hydrogeological assessment, and ongoing water quality monitoring could be undertaken.	Without mitigation there is potential for a negative impact on environmental

				Mitigation measures may be required.	sustainability in the medium term.
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on water resources.		
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk.		
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<b>?</b>	The eastern part of the site is shown as grade 3, with the western part of the site grade 2, therefore, the impact on agricultural land would depend on the areas of the site worked.	Restoration of the site should restore any lost agricultural land to its former quality.	Following mineral extraction there would be no long term impact on sustainability as restoration of the site should be to a similar or better state, however, in the short and medium term there could be an impact on environmental and economic sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	<b>0</b>	It is likely that soils would be removed and stored during the working of the site to be used for restoration purposes so there is unlikely to be an impact on soil quality.	Conditions would be imposed to ensure soil are used on site as part of the restoration scheme.	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	<b>0</b>	It is acknowledged that new mineral sites are generally 'greenfield' however, once the land is restored it would return to 'greenfield'.		
5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<b>0</b>	There are a number of listed buildings 0.5km from the site, however it is unlikely that there would be an impact on these.	Consideration of the potential impact on the local heritage assets would be required and it is likely that any negative impacts could be mitigated to an acceptable level.	
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	<b>0</b>	Unlikely to impact on townscape.		Without mitigation measures there is potential for a

	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	-	The site is located within the AONB. The landscape character of the area is defined as Medium-Low, therefore, there is unlikely to be a significant negative impact on the landscape, despite the location within the AONB.	Mitigation measures would be required, in line with the Landscape and Visual Assessment. A reduced developable area would also reduce the impact on the landscape.	negative impact on environmental sustainability in the medium term and on a permanent basis depending on the restoration of the site.
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Potential negative impact on air quality as a result of dust generation and traffic movements from the site.	As part of a planning application air quality and dust assessments would potentially be required and mitigation measures including dust suppression techniques may be required to ensure negative impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level.	There could be a negative impact on environmental sustainability, however, this would only be for the duration of the extraction/restoration works. Mitigation measures would reduce any short/medium term impacts.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	0	Unlikely to impact on renewable energy capacity.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	The site is proposed for mineral extraction and inert landfilling, but only material that cannot be recycled would be used for infill.	Landfilling is proposed for restoration purposes.	Overall there is likely to be both a positive impact on environmental sustainability as the processing of the material for infilling is likely to recover reusable/recyclable material which will
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being	+	Recoverable material would be extracted from imported waste prior to infilling.		

	reused, recovered and/or recycled?				have a positive impact leaving only non-recyclable waste to be used for infilling.
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used in connection with this site?	-	Limited opportunities for rail or waterborne transport from the site, meaning there would be a reliance to road transport.		The site could potentially have a negative impact on environmental sustainability in respect of sustainable transport in the short/medium term, however, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction in the long term there would be a neutral impact.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	- / ?	Mineral extraction would generate traffic movements, therefore, there could be a negative impact on the transport network in the short/medium term. However, the site is adjacent to the M4/A34 junction and therefore, has good access to the Strategic Road Network, with no impact on the local road network.	A Transport Assessment/Statement would be required as part of the development management process in order to assess whether the impacts on the transport network would be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates although development of the site would provide primary aggregates for construction purposes. The site would provide soft sand to help meet the needs of the district.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on use of recycled aggregates.		
12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and	-	A right of way passes through the site, with others running along the	Mitigation measures would be required to minimise the	There would potentially be a negative impact on

and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	quantity of open space amenity?		eastern boundary of the site.	impact on the Public Right of Way network.	social sustainability in the medium term. Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no long term negative impacts.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	0	The site is adjacent to the junction of the A34/M4 and therefore, it is not considered that development of the site would impact on tranquillity		
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	There is unlikely to be an impact on odour.		There is likely to be a neutral impact on environmental and social sustainability due to the location of the site adjacent to the M4/A34.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	0	The site is adjacent to the junction of the A34/M4 therefore, it is considered that the additional noise generated from the site would not have an impact on overall noise levels.	A noise assessment would be required as part of the development management process.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution.		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Mineral extraction is likely to be beneficial for the local and wider economy providing direct and indirect employment in the medium term as well as mineral resources for the local market.		It is considered that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability in the medium term
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Mineral extraction is likely to be beneficial for the local and wider economy providing direct and indirect employment in the medium term.		

## Summary



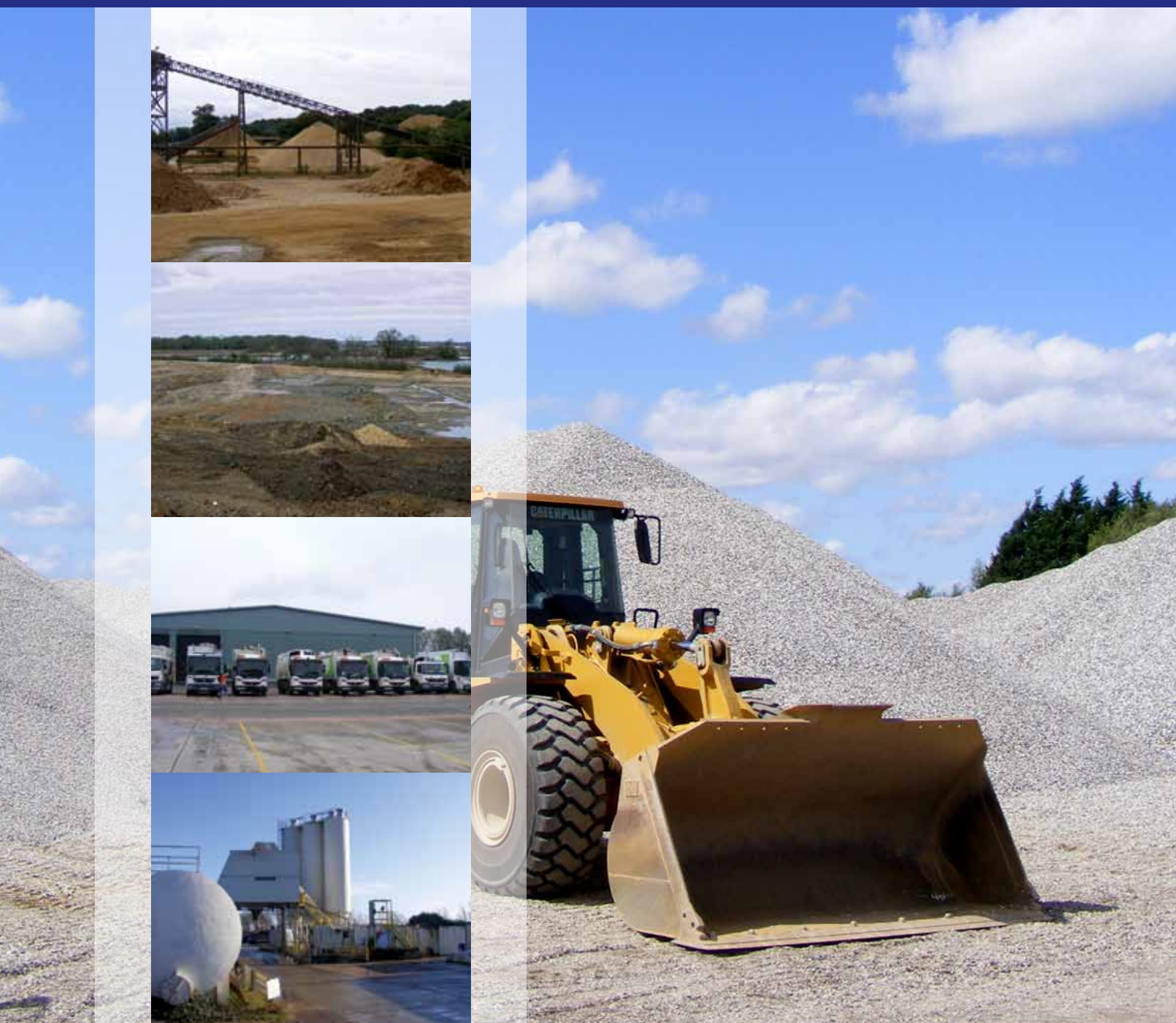
Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. A number of negative impacts have been identified, mainly in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as a result of the development itself but, there should be no long term negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. The site is located within the AONB, however the site is not considered to be of high landscape sensitivity and mitigation measures, including a reduced site area, would mitigate this impact. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. While the site could result in additional traffic movements, it is adjacent to the strategic road network and therefore, it is unlikely that there would be a significant impact on environmental sustainability. Potential social sustainability is likely to be neutral in the long term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	Local	Temporary	Short/Medium Term



# West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Non-Technical Summary March 2022

## West Berkshire Local Plan



## SA/SEA Non-technical summary

### 1. Background

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (“the SA/SEA”) is to ensure that sustainability issues are considered during the preparation and adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP). The SA is an iterative process and it identifies the likely significant effects of the Local Plan and the extent to which implementation of the policies it contains will achieve social, environmental and economic sustainability objectives. This ensures that the SA results and consultation responses can feed into and influence the production of the Local Plan.

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan, when adopted will replace the existing saved minerals and waste planning policies as set out in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (incorporating alterations) (2001) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998). The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will cover the period to 2037, setting out new policies to manage mineral and waste development in West Berkshire.

The SA/SEA has been produced by the Council for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. A version of the SA/SEA was published alongside the Issues and Options Consultation (January 2014), and to accompany the Preferred Option consultation (May 2017) and to support the Proposed Submission consultation in Jan/Feb 2021. Comments received through the consultations have been taken into account, and where appropriate the SA/SEA has been updated to take these changes into account.

This version of the SA/SEA has been produced following the Inspector’s Post Hearings Note outlining the Main Modifications required for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to be found sound. Each Main Modification has been reviewed in light of the SA/SEA objectives, and updates to the SA/SEA have been made where this is necessary.

Updates to the SA/SEA are shown as:

- Additional text (underlined text)
- ~~Deletions~~ (strikethrough text)

The main modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan can be found in the schedule of Main Modifications and are now subject to consultation.

### 2. Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is subject to SA/SEA to ensure the environmental, social and environmental effects of the plan are in line with sustainable development objectives. The SA/SEA provides an integrated, ongoing assessment of the likely significant effects of the Local Plan as it is being prepared. It provides a means of translating sustainability objectives for the area into sustainable planning policies and should reflect global, national, regional and local sustainability problems and issues. The process involves a series of stages by which the content of the emerging plan is appraised against a series of sustainability objectives. The SA/SEA is fully integrated into the preparation of the Local Plan.

The SA/SEA must also incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the 'assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. This is commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive.

### **3. Summary of the SA/SEA Process**

The first stage of the SA/SEA process is the production of the Scoping Report. This is where the scope and overall level of detail of the SA/SEA is set out. The Scoping Report sets out the sustainability objectives which are then used to assess the options of the Local Plan. The sustainability objectives are derived from the review of other plans and programmes, analysis of the baseline data and of the specific environmental issues and opportunities identified in West Berkshire.

The next stage of the SA/SEA process is where the options are developed and refined and the effects of the options are assessed. The options are tested against the SA/SEA objectives to predict and evaluate the effects of the policies/sites set out in the Local Plan. Mitigation measures are identified where necessary and recommendations to changes to the options are made. Any significant changes and revised options are then reassessed, and monitoring processes are set out in the Report.

As part of the process of selecting the proposed submission sites and policies, the likely significant effects of each option are evaluated. The effects of each of the options are then tested against the SA/SEA objectives and the results are set out in the SA/SEA report. The aim of the appraisal is to identify any significant conflicts or combined effects between the options and the SA/SEA objectives.

The SA/SEA report contains the following:

- Outline of contents, the methodology and description of the SA/SEA process and the specific SA/SEA tasks undertaken;
- A review of other plans and programmes and their relationship to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan;
- A description of the environmental and sustainability context (known as the baseline information);
- A summary of the key sustainability issues;
- The SA/SEA framework which sets out the SA/SEA objectives for assessing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan;
- A review of the site and policy options considered;
- A review of the Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan;

The SA/SEA report has been produced in tandem with the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

### **4. Statement dealing with the difference which the SA process has made**

The SA/SEA Report and the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan have been carried out concurrently to ensure that the findings from the SA/SEA process have informed the emerging Local Plan.

In January 2014 the Council published its Issues and Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan for consultation. This set out the key issues the Council considered important for the Local Plan to cover and set out some options for dealing with these issues. The Issues and Options was accompanied by an SA/SEA report which reviewed each of the options considered. The SA/SEA and the comments received as part of the consultation were taken into account in the development of the Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

In May 2017 the Council published its Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan, setting out the policies and sites the council considered to be the most appropriate strategy to take forward. The SA/SEA process was used to help to identify the sites and policy options to be taken forward as preferred options and all proposed policies were also subject to SA/SEA. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the SA/SEA were updated following the Preferred Options consultation taking into account the comments received as part of the consultation. Where changes were made to the Local Plan, the SA/SEA has been updated to reflect these changes. Modifications made to policies or sites since the preferred options have been reassessed.

The SA/SEA is an iterative process and so the comments received from the consultation on the Preferred Options have been taken into account and where changes have been made to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan the SA/SEA has been reviewed in light of these changes.

The SA/SEA was published alongside the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan for consultation in Jan/Feb 2021. Following the consultation the plan was then submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination. The Examination hearings took place in February 2022 and the Inspector's interim report was received in March 2022. The interim report set out the Main Modifications required for the plan to be considered sound. It is these Main Modifications which are now subject to consultation before the Inspector issues his final report.

The SA/SEA has been reviewed in light of the Main Modifications, and no substantial changes to the outcomes of the SA/SEA have been identified. Some minor changes have been made to the assessments, but the overall assessment of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan remains the same.

A summary of the SA/SEA can be found below.

## **5. Summary of likely significant effects of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

The summary of the SA/SEA findings have been divided up into three section

- Strategic Policies
- Development Management Policies
- Site Allocations

Full details can be found in the SA/SEA Report (section 5), with the full site assessments and SA/SEA assessment forms in the appendices (Policies – Appendix 5, Site Assessments - Appendix 6).

## 5.1. Strategic Policies

### Policy 1: Sustainable Development

There will be an overall positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy's aim is to ensure sustainable development is achieved in line with the direction of the NPPF. There is some potential for short/medium term impacts on any element of sustainability as a result of temporary development, such as mineral workings, but in the long term mitigation measures and restoration will result in natural or positive impacts on all elements of sustainability

### Policy 2: Landbank and Need

Overall the policy will be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability, however there are a number of potential positive impacts on economic sustainability as the policy will support the delivery of sites to meet the district's need for construction materials and provide employment as well as encouraging the use of recycled and secondary aggregates before virgin material.

The policy was updated following the Preferred Options to include reference to recycled and secondary aggregates and to update the figures included in the policy with the current LAA (2020). As a result the SA/SEA was updated to take into account these changes.

### Policy 3: Net Self-sufficiency in Waste Management

Overall the inclusion of this policy in the local plan is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are a limited number of potential positive impacts resulting from the policy in relation to environmental and economic sustainability. In terms of environmental sustainability the policy seeks to move waste up the waste hierarchy, which promotes the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste over disposal. In terms of economic sustainability the policy will have a positive impact through the creation of jobs and the benefits to the economy that the waste industry can have, especially in relation to the provision of reuse, recovery and recycling of materials which have an economic value. No potentially negative sustainability impacts have been identified.

Main Modification MM7 is related to the monitoring of waste capacity and therefore, does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA objectives.

### Policy 4: Location of Development – Construction Aggregates

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are some potential negative environmental and social impacts as a result of this policy, especially in relation to the potential for soft Sand sites in the AONB to come forward where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. However, these are only likely to be short/medium term as mineral extraction is only temporary in nature and appropriate mitigation measures would be required. Following restoration of any site considered under the policy the overall impact should be neutral. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability as the policy sets out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for mineral extraction.

Following the Preferred Options this policy was updated to take into account the change in approach to soft sand sites and to include the allocation of specific sites.

As a result the SA/SEA was reassessed. The changes to the policy did not result in any changes to the overall outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

Main Modification MM12 relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.

#### **Policy 5: Location of Development – General Waste Management Facilities**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative sustainability impacts identified, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. However, mitigation measures would be required and should reduce the impact, in many cases resulting in a neutral impact. There are also a number of potential positive impacts as a result of the policy on environmental and economic sustainability, through the use of previously developed land, and the impact on the economy of waste management facilities, especially those processing waste material for recycled/secondary materials.

Main Modification MM21 relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.

#### **Policy 6: Location of Development – Specialist Waste Management Facilities**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are some potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts as a result of this policy; however, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce this impact. There are potential positive economic and environmental sustainability impacts, economically in terms of employment and supporting the local economy.

Following the Preferred Options the policy wording was updated to provide clarification in relation to the types of specialist waste and facilities that would be considered under this policy. As a result the SA/SEA was reviewed, but no changes were considered necessary to the SA/SEA.

Main Modification MM24 provides further clarity to the policy, is does not change the substance of the policy and therefore does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.

#### **Policy 7: Location of Development – Permanent Deposit of Waste to Land**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are a number of potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts associated with this policy, they are likely to be short/medium term impacts associated with the infilling process itself, but following completion of the works, there could be a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the restoration of the site.

Main Modification MM25 relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.



**Policy 8: Borrow Pits**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are a number of potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts associated with this policy, they are likely to be short/medium term impacts associated with the working of the site itself, following restoration of the site the overall impact should be neutral. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the supply of raw materials for construction projects.

**Policy 9: Minerals Safeguarding**

There is likely to be a significantly positive environmental and economic impact as a result of safeguarding primary aggregates. There is also a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to safeguard rail head sites, which will allow for material to be transported by rail, reducing reliance on road transport. There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of extraction on the local geology of an area. There is a possible positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of the policy as should sites within safeguarded areas come forward for mineral extraction this would provide primary aggregates for the construction industry.

Main Modification MM26 provides additional context, it does not change the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.

**Policy 10: Waste Safeguarding**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites, and therefore, there are likely to be positive environmental sustainability impacts in relation to waste management and reuse and recycling of waste materials and on the use of previously developed land. The policy is not predicted to have any negative impacts on sustainability.

**Policy 11: Chalk and Clay**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of improved flood mitigation possibilities and economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting local needs to material.

**Policy 12: Energy Minerals**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting the need for energy minerals.

MM28 adds reference to water quality in the policy and as a result has improved the SA/SEA assessment in relation to the impact on water quality however, this has not impacted on the overall SA/SEA assessment of the policy.

### **Policy 13: Radioactive Waste Treatment and Storage at AWE**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The location of the site does not lend itself to use of rail or water transportation, which results in a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability, however, material considered under this policy is likely to have been generated on the site and therefore, would not need to be transported, resulting in an overall neutral impact. There is a possible positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy refers to development on an existing brownfield site.

### **Policy 14: Reworking Old Inert Landfill Sites**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term as a result of the policy, however following the reworking and restoration of the site there should be no long term negative impacts. There are also a number of potential positive environmental impacts as reworking would only be considered where there would be net gains in landscape, biodiversity or amenity. These positive environmental impacts would be long term and permanent.

Main Modification MM29 provides further clarity to the policy, it does not change the substance of the policy and therefore does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.

### **Policy 15: Location of Permanent Construction Aggregates Infrastructure**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability without the implementation of adequate mitigation measures. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the production of material for the construction industry and environmental sustainability as the policy seeks for sites to be located on previously developed land, protecting agricultural land and soils.

Main Modification MM30 relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA/SEA objectives.

### **Policy 16: Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term as a result of the policy, however following the completion of works and restoration of the site there should be no long term negative impacts. There are a number of potential positive environmental and economic impacts as the infrastructure considered under the policy would not result in additional traffic movements, and will result in material for the construction industry, diverting waste away from landfill for recycling or reuse therefore, providing benefits for the local and wider economy.

## 5.2. Development Management Policies

### **Policy 17: Restoration and After-use of Sites**

Overall there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy as the policy seeks to deliver net gains for biodiversity. There are likely to be a number of positive impacts on environmental and social sustainability as a result of this policy, as the policy seeks a number of environmental or social benefits to be provided as part of site restoration.

The wording of the policy was significantly changed following the preferred options and as a result the SA/SEA was reviewed and updated.

### **Policy 18: Landscape**

There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the focus of the policy on the protection of landscape character and townscape. There is also likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity and heritage assets as a result of the wording of the policy.

### **Policy 19: Protected Landscapes**

There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the focus of the policy on the protection of landscape character of the AONB. There is potential for a positive impact on economic sustainability should a site be permitted in the exceptional circumstances set out in the policy.

Main Modification MM31 removes reference to the 'Setting of the AONB' however, this change has not changed the outcome of the policy against the SA/SEA objectives as the policy still seeks to protect and enhance the AONB.

### **Policy 20: Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

There is likely to a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy, with potential positive impacts on social sustainability due to the focus of the policy being on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity.

The wording of the policy was significantly changed following the preferred options and as a result the SA/SEA was reviewed and updated.

### **Policy 21: Agricultural Land and Soils**

There will be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land and soils.

### **Policy 22: Transport**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There is a potential positive environmental sustainability impact as a result of the policy's promotion of sustainable modes of transport. Sites considered under the policy could impact on traffic levels unless mitigation measures are implemented as required by the policy. There are no potentially negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.

### **Policy 23: Public Rights of Way**

There will be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land and soils.

**Policy 24: Flooding**

There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as a result of this policy as it specifically looks to reduce flood risk and take into account the impacts of climate change on flood risk.

**Policy 25: Climate Change**

There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as a result of the policy's requirement to consider climate change and the risks associated with it. There are a number of other potential positive environmental impacts as a result of the policy specifically in relation to flood risk and sustainable transport.

**Policy 26: Public Health, Environment and Amenity**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There is a potential positive environmental and social sustainability impact as a result of the policy's requirement to consider the impacts on the impacts on the local community and the natural, built and historic environment. Many of the predicted impacts on the policy are neutral, as the policy requires consideration of public health and safety, amenity and quality of life are not detrimentally impacted. This does not necessarily mean that there would be a positive impact on sustainability, although mitigation measures could result in a positive impact.

**Policy 27: Historic Environment**

Overall there is likely to be a potentially significant positive environmental effect as a result of the policy's focus on preserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Following the Preferred Options minor changes were made to the policy wording. The SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes were considered necessary.

**Policy 28: Design**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy requires consideration of a site's setting, which means that could be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability in relation to the historic environment, townscape and landscape all of which can contribute to the setting of a site. There are no likely negative impacts as a result of this policy.

**Policy 29: Cumulative Impacts**

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. As the policy seeks to ensure no cumulative impacts, the policy itself will not have any impact on sustainability, however, it will prevent potential negative impacts occurring if several sites were to come forward within close proximity to each other.

**5.3. Site Allocations**

All sites considered to be realistic alternatives for development have been considered through the Site Assessment and SA/SEA process. All sites except those with permanent planning permission (which do not need to be allocated) were

considered to be reasonable alternates for consideration for allocation. The site assessment process has been undertaken to inform the site selection work, and this has been used to identify the sites taken forward for consultation as preferred options and then proposed for allocation in the Proposed Submission plan. In some cases the SA/SEA outcomes are similar for a number of sites, where this is the case other factors in the site assessment are taken into account to help the decision making process.

The outcomes of the Preferred Options consultation, along with further technical work have been used to refine the site assessments and inform the recommendation of sites for allocation within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Many of the sustainability impacts are likely to be short/medium term given the temporary nature of mineral workings, and therefore, in the long term the allocation of sites for mineral extraction should have a neutral, or even positive (especially in environmental terms), impact on sustainability through the restoration of the sites. There are positive economic impacts as a result of mineral extraction as mineral helps to support the local economy and provide material into local businesses, including housing building.

### **Sharp Sand and Gravel**

12 sites for sharp sand and gravel extraction were proposed to the Council for consideration in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Where a significantly negative impact on sustainability was predicted these sites have automatically be considered as unsuitable for allocation (MW001 Frouds Lane, MW009 Gravel Pit Farm, MW014 Padworth Park Farm). This is often in relation to environmental sustainability as a result of the impact on the landscape character of the area. A number of other sites have been reduced in site area, to take into account the landscape advice received, which in most cases means that the site would not be viable for extraction (MW003 Aldermaston Bridge, MW010 Spring Lane).

Seven sites were proposed as preferred options, from which choices would need to be made as to which sites to take forward for allocation in the final version of the plan. While all the sites were considered to be potentially suitable for allocation various factors, mainly affecting the deliverability of the sites within the plan period, have ruled a number of sites out for allocation in the plan (~~MW004 Boot Farm~~, MW008 Firlands, MW012 Wasing Lower Farm, ~~MW013 Manor Farm~~, MW016 Waterside Farm). Of the remaining sites, MW007 Cowpond Piece is considered to have a potentially significant impact on ecology and therefore, as there are other sites considered suitable for development this site is not proposed to be taken forward. One site is considered suitable for development and has been proposed for allocation in the plan (MW015 Tidney Bed).

A Site policy ~~ies~~ has ~~ve~~ been developed for these sites, setting out what would be required on the sites and what documents/information would be required to support any planning applications coming forward on these sites.

### **Soft Sand**

Three soft sand sites were proposed to the Council for consideration in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The Preferred Options did not propose to allocate sites for soft sand, but following changes in circumstances and further information becoming available the LAA demonstrates that West Berkshire has a need for soft sand and therefore, the approach to soft sand has been reconsidered, with the proposal to allocate a site or sites to meet the need of West Berkshire.

Of the sites proposed to the Council, two (MW002 60 Acre Field, MW005 Chieveley Services) are located within the AONB, and therefore, exceptional circumstances would need to be demonstrated for these sites to be considered for allocation.

The third site (MW011 Long Lane) is located outside of the AONB (although in the setting of the AONB), but there are considerable access constraints and therefore, the site is not considered to be deliverable. Therefore, the exceptional circumstances argument for the allocation of sites within the AONB need to be taken into account. This is not directly picked up by the SA/SEA.

Of the two sites in the AONB, MW005 Chieveley Services is considered to be acceptable in landscape terms, subject to mitigation measures, whereas MW002 60 Acre Field is not, and therefore the SA/SEA predicts a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability should the site be taken forward for allocation. As a result the Minerals and Waste Local Plan proposes to allocate MW005 Chieveley Services.

A Site policy has been developed for the site, setting out what would be required on the site and what documents/information would be required to support any planning application coming forward on the site.

### **Waste Sites**

No waste sites have been proposed for allocation. Of the five sites submitted for consideration, four already benefit from permanent planning permission and therefore, do not need to be allocated. The fifth site was promoted for inert infill of a former mineral site, now a lake which is of ecological and recreational value. It is considered that inert waste from which no further value can be obtained should be used primarily in the restoration of permitted minerals sites to ensure that such sites can be restored to an acceptable landuse in a timely manner. In addition, the Local Waste Assessment (LWA) shows that there is no need for additional waste management capacity within the district, and the allocation of mineral sites would create void space for inert landfill material, therefore is not considered to be a reasonable alternative to consider this site further for allocation. As a result no waste sites are proposed for allocation.

### **The Sequential Test**

Although sand and gravel extraction is a water compatible activity the flood risk on each site has been taken into account through the site selection process through the Sequential Test.

While the proposed allocated sites at Tidney Bed and Chieveley Services are at risk from flooding (fluvial flooding at Tidney Bed and surface and ground water flooding

at Chieveley Services) they are considered to be the most appropriate sites for allocation when considering all site selection factors.

## **6. Conclusion**

As a result of the SA/SEA work undertaken during the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan ~~the~~ the most appropriate strategy has been taken forward ~~into the Proposed Submission version of the Plan.~~

The ~~Proposed Submission~~ Minerals and Waste Local Plan, subject to the Main Modifications, is considered to represent the most suitable approach, from the options assessed, in order to achieve the sustainability objectives of the plan. Successful implementation of the Local Plan, and adequate mitigation of the potential negative effects identified will result in neutral, or in many cases positive sustainability impacts and sustainable development.

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 519111 and ask for the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team.

**West Berkshire Council  
Development and Regulation**

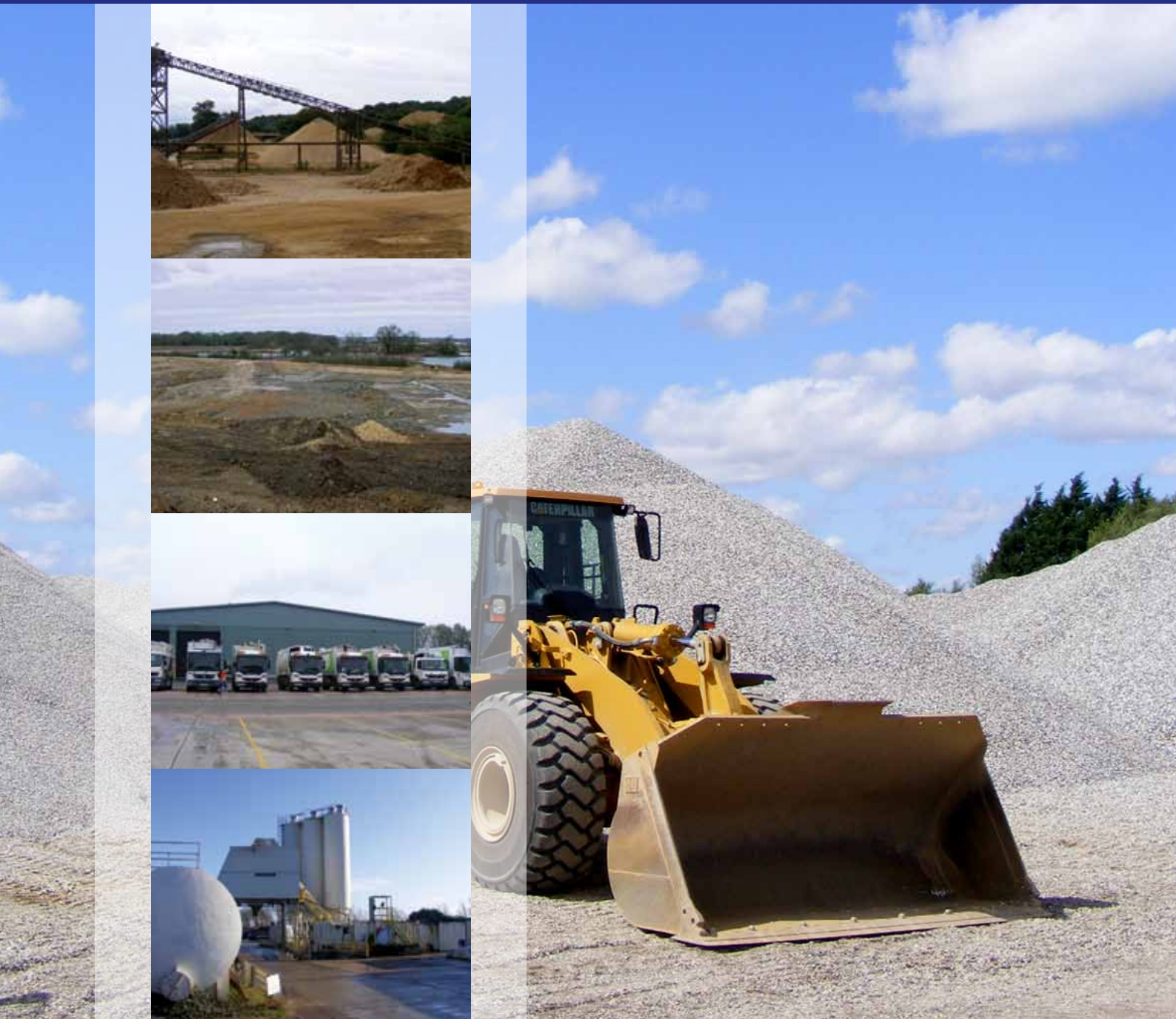
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WBC/P&C/CP/1213



# West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) March 2022

## West Berkshire Local Plan



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## 1 Introduction

West Berkshire Council has prepared a Minerals and Waste Local Plan that ~~it intends to~~ has been submitted for independent examination (~~proposed submission version~~).

This report constitutes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The main aim of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of a new Local Plan. This document incorporates the requirements of a SEA for the Local Plan as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>1</sup> and the European Directive on SEA (2001)<sup>2</sup>.

In light of the Main Modifications proposed as part of the Examination process the SA/SEA has been reviewed and updated where required. Updates to the SA/SEA report and supporting appendices are show as follows:

- Additional text (Underlined text)
- ~~Deleted text~~ (Strikethrough text)

### ***The Development Plan for West Berkshire***

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan, when adopted will replace the existing saved minerals and waste planning policies as set out in the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (incorporating alterations, 2001) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998).

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will cover the period to 2037, setting out new policies to manage mineral and waste development in West Berkshire.

Several stages of consultations have already taken place giving members of the public and stakeholders the opportunity to have a say in the plan making process and guide the direction of the Local Plan to ensure it covers minerals and waste issues specifically relevant in West Berkshire.

- Regulation 18<sup>3</sup> and Issues and Options, including a “Call for Sites” (early 2014)
- Sites consultation on all sites submitted as part of the “call for sites” (Summer 2016)
- Preferred Options consultation (Spring 2017)

## 2 The Appraisal Methodology

### ***What is the SA/SEA? Why does it need to be done?***

The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to ensure that sustainability issues are considered during the preparation of plans. The SA is an iterative process which identifies the likely effects of options and subsequently the effect of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and the extent to which these options and the Local Plan help to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives.

The SA must also incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the ‘assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.’ This is commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or ‘SEA’ Directive. This was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA

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<sup>1</sup> Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 19 (5)(a) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament. (2001) “The Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment”, Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament, Luxembourg, 2001  
[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/environment/general\\_provisions/l28036\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/general_provisions/l28036_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> DCLG (2012) The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/regulation/18/made>

Regulations)<sup>4</sup>. Under these requirements, plans that set out the framework for future development consent of projects must be subject to an environmental assessment to determine if the plan, in this case the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, will have any significant effects on the environment. This context is reiterated in paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>5</sup>.

Further to the NPPF, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>6</sup> requires an SA and SEA to be carried out for Local Plans. Both of these requirements can be carried out in one appraisal process. In order to avoid any confusion, the reference to SA throughout this document will refer to both the SA and the SEA.

### **Stages to the SA/SEA**

The SA is made up of a series of stages (A to E) which are detailed in the table below.

Table 1 SA/SEA Stages	
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope
Stage B	Developing and refining the options
Stage C	Appraising the effects of the plan
Stage D	Consultation
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan

This report accompanies the proposed submission version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and contains the following:

- An outline of the contents, the methodology and description of the SA/SEA process and the specific SA/SEA tasks undertaken
- A review of other plans and programmes and their relationship to West Berkshire (Appendix 1)
- A description of the environmental and sustainability context (known as the baseline information) (Appendix 2)
- A summary of key sustainability issues
- The SA/SEA Framework which sets out the SA/SEA objectives for assessing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- A review of the options considered and the preferred options selected

### **Consultation**

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA. During the development of the SA there are several stages of consultation, both formal and informal.

Consultation on the SA Scoping Report took place in September 2013 for five weeks with the Consultation bodies<sup>7</sup>. The Council's response to the comments made on the scoping report are included in appendix 3.

The Issues and Options consultation in January/February 2014 set out the issues the Council believed were the key issues facing minerals and waste development in West Berkshire and invited comments and further issues to be raised. This consultation also formed the Regulation 18 consultation on the scope of the plan, and included an Interim Environmental Report which reviewed the sustainability impact (where possible) on the options being consulted on. A summary

<sup>4</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

<sup>5</sup> National Planning Policy Framework 2019:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

<sup>7</sup> Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, as set out in Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

report following the consultation takes into account all the comments made and sets out a council response. Comments have formed the basis of the topics and issues considered in the Local Plan.

In July/August 2016 a further period of consultation was carried out on all the sites submitted to the Council as part of the “Call for Sites” in early 2014. This allowed members of the public and stakeholders to comment on the potential sites at a very early stage. Comments made during this consultation have been summarised and a council response written and all comments made will be taken into account through the site selection process. As the main aim of this consultation was to gain views on all the sites promoted to the council for consideration in the plan to aid the decision making process it was not accompanied by a SA/SEA report. The comments made during this consultation have been taking into account as part of the site assessment process.

Consultation on the Preferred Options version on the plan took place in May/June 2017. This allowed members of the public and stakeholders to comment on the Council’s Preferred Options plan, including the policies and sites proposed to be included within the plan. This version of the plan was accompanied by an Environmental Report, which was also available for comment as part of the consultation. All comments have been taken into account in the drafting of the submission version of the plan. All comments made have been summarised and the council response to the comments was published in September 2018.

Consultation on the Proposed Submission MWLP took place in January/February 2021. This allowed members of the public and stakeholders to comment on the Council’s Proposed Submission Plan. The consultation was accompanied by an Environmental Report. The plan was then submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in July 2021. Hearing sessions took place in February 2022, and following the publication of the inspector’s Post Hearings Note and associated Main Modifications the Main Modifications to the plan are now subject to a further period of consultation before the Inspector makes his final recommendations on whether the Minerals and Waste Local Plan can be adopted. The SA/SEA Environmental Report has been reviewed and updated where required to take into account the Main Modifications.

#### ***Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment***

The collection of baseline information identified issues relating to accuracy of data, format of data and whether the research was up to date. This can cause limitations with the identification of issues (in the scoping stage) and monitoring of the SA objectives. Where there are gaps in the baseline data this has been identified and therefore, pose a degree of difficulty in forecasting effects.

The appraisal of policies is not always a straightforward process, particularly with it being an iterative process, and therefore there will be some degree of uncertainty in the predicted outcomes. Uncertainties can arise from scientific uncertainties, natural variability and lack of precision. A number of policy options were difficult to assess against the SA objectives and sub-objectives. This is particularly the case with topic specific policy options which may only have a significant impact on a small number of sub-objectives.

Where there is uncertainty this can be reduced through research and professional judgement, although there will still remain an element of uncertainty. Where necessary a precautionary approach has been taken in the SA. This is to make sure that where there are threats to the environment and a lack of scientific knowledge, action is taken.

### **3 Background to the SA Report**

#### ***Requirement for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA)***

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be carried out for all strategic planning documents. The SA and the SEA requirements can be carried out in one appraisal process. Throughout this document, reference to the SA refers to both the SA and the SEA process.

### Stages of the SA

The sustainability appraisal is made up of a series of stages (Stages A to E).

Local Plan Stage	SA/SEA Stage	
<b>Pre-Production</b>	<b>A (Scoping)</b>	<b>Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.</b>
	A1	Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
	A2	Collect baseline information
	A3	Identify sustainability issues and problems
	A4	Develop the SA framework
	A5	Consult on the scope of the SA
<b>Production and Publication</b>  <b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Developing and refining options and assessing effects</b>
	B1	Test the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework
	B2	Develop the Local Plan options
	B3	Predict the effects of the Local Plan
	B4	Evaluate the effects of the Local Plan
	B5	Consider mitigation measures and ways to maximise beneficial effects
	B6	Propose measures to monitor the significant effects or implementing the Local Plan
	<b>C</b>	<b>Preparing the SA Report</b>
	<b>D</b>	<b>Consulting on the draft Local Plan and SA Report</b>
	D1	Public participation on the draft Local Plan and SA Report
<b>Submission and Examination</b>  <b>IN PROGRESS</b>	D2 (i)	Appraise significant changes
	D2 (ii)	Appraise significant changes resulting from representations
<b>Adoption and Monitoring</b>	D3	Make decisions and provide information
	<b>E</b>	<b>Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan</b>
	E1	Finalise aims and methods for monitoring
	E2	Respond to adverse effects

The first stage (**Stage A**) is the production of the Scoping Report This is where the scope and overall level of detail of the SA is set out. The Scoping Report was published in September 2013 and went out to consultation with the statutory environmental bodies for 5 weeks. Consultation responses received as part of the Scoping Report consultation have been taken into account in the production of the Environmental Report.

The Scoping Report sets out the sustainability objectives and the proposed Local Plan objectives and these will then be used to assess the preferred options for the Local plan.

The next stage (**Stage B**) is the stage where the options are developed and refined and the effects of the options are assessed. This stage is an iterative process where the options are tested against the SA objectives to predict and evaluate the effects of options in the Local Plan. Mitigation measures are identified where necessary and recommendations to changes of the options are made and the revised options reassessed where necessary.

The findings of Stage B are pulled together to produce the SA report (**Stage C**).

Following the preferred options consultation changes have been made to the plan. These changes have been reassessed and the SA/SEA updated where appropriate. The Proposed Main Modifications have also been reviewed in light of the SA/SEA and the assessments and Environmental Report updated where required as part of **Stage D**.

### **Compliance with the SEA Directive / Regulations**

The requirement to carry out a SA also incorporates the provision of the European Directive 2001/42/EC to include a SEA. The distinction between the two is that the SEA primarily focuses on environmental effects, whereas the SA expands this remit to incorporate economic and social sustainability. In line with the requirements of the European Directive, the SA report seeks to identify only **likely significant effects** of the Local Plan.

The table below shows the locations in this report which meet the Directive (referred in particular to Annex I which specifies the information required by Article 5(1)).

Directive Requirement	Section of the report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	1, 4, Appendix 2
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	4, Appendix 1, Appendix 6
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	4, Appendix 1, Appendix 6
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	4, 5, Appendix 1
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	4, 5, Appendix 2, Appendix 6
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationships between the above factors <sup>8</sup> ;	5, Appendix 4, Appendix 5, Appendix 6
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	5, Appendix 4, Appendix 5, Appendix 6
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	5, Appendix 4, Appendix 5, Appendix 6
i) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	7, Appendix 6
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Non-Technical Summary

<sup>8</sup> These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

#### 4 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

##### ***Link to other policies, plans and programmes***

The Council must take account of relationships between the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. This is in addition to the need to take into account environmental protection objectives established at international, European and national levels. All of these may influence the options to be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan. By reviewing these, relationship inconsistencies and constraints can be addressed and potential synergies can be exploited.

This list of relevant policy guidance, plans and strategies has been compiled. The key emerging objectives, targets and issues which have been considered for the SA objectives are summarised in appendix 1.

Screening exercise has been undertaken as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora require an Appropriate Assessment of Development Plans and relates to European sites of nature conservation interest, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

##### ***Key environmental, social and economic issues and opportunities***

The key environmental, social and economic issues for West Berkshire have been identified through a review of the baseline data collected (Appendix 2).

Table 4 Key Sustainability Issues	
Environmental	
Climatic factors	<p>The UK is likely to see more extreme weather events, including hotter and drier summers, flooding and rising sea-levels. One of the main challenges is to mitigate for the impacts of climate change for example through flood water storage or the provision of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Waste management and mineral extraction/processing generate greenhouse gases and other air pollutants contributing to climate change.</p>
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>There is a need to protect and enhance biodiversity, ensuring the connectivity of species populations and habitats across West Berkshire, and maximising opportunities for creating and improving habitats. West Berkshire's geodiversity also should be conserved and enhanced where possible. Minerals development has the opportunity to provide net gains for biodiversity through the restoration of former mineral sites.</p>
Landscape and Townscape	<p>Nearly three quarters of West Berkshire is designated as the North Wessex Downs AONB. High priority needs to be given to conserving and enhancing this area, specific character and setting.</p> <p>There is a need to prevent urban sprawl and settlement coalescence to protect West Berkshire's rural character.</p>
Soils	<p>There is a need to protect West Berkshire's 'Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land'. Many existing and potential mineral sites are located on high quality agricultural land, defined as grade 1, 2 and 3a. There can be issues in identifying areas within grade 3a/b as the data available to the Council only shows grade 3 as a whole.</p> <p>Due to the hydrogeological conditions along the Kennet Valley it may be necessary to import inert material for restoration in order that land can be restored back to agriculture where appropriate, and soils can be conserved.</p>



Cultural Heritage	There is a need to conserve and enhance West Berkshire's rich historic environment and diverse historic landscape character.
Air	<p>There are only two areas acknowledged as having poor air quality (designated as Air Quality Management Areas) in West Berkshire. These are at one section of the A339 in central Newbury and a section of the A4 in Thatcham. Traffic movements and processing associated with minerals and waste facilities can impact air quality in some instances.</p> <p>Being situated in close proximity to a strategic road network is ideal for business and other services to locate, presenting a challenge for locating minerals and waste facilities.</p> <p>Sites that offer sustainable transport opportunities such as rail, river or canal should be preferable to help reduce air quality impacts caused by road congestion.</p>
Water	<p>There is a need to avoid and reduce the impacts of river and groundwater flooding in parts of West Berkshire as well as all sources of flooding. With climate change, the frequency, patterns and severity of flooding are forecast to change and become more damaging.</p> <p>There is also a need to protect and enhance water quality and conserve water supplies, including influencing minimising per capita water consumption in West Berkshire, where possible.</p> <p>There is a need to reduce the amount of major and significant pollution incidents which have affected the quality of West Berkshire's water resources.</p>
Noise, Light Pollution	<p>Noise pollution may be an issue for people who live in close proximity to the M4 or the A34.</p> <p>Light pollution may be an issue for residents living in the more rural parts of West Berkshire (e.g. farms, hamlets and small villages in the AONB).</p>
<b>Social</b>	
Human Health	There are negative perceptions about noise and air pollution and the potential health impacts associated with certain types of minerals and waste development. Negative impacts for minerals and waste development can however be controlled through the planning system and the environmental permitting regime.
General social considerations – Population, Education, Housing, Deprivation, Crime and Safety	<p>The population of West Berkshire is projected to increase to 168,396 by 2036<sup>9</sup>. The West Berkshire Core Strategy plans for an additional 10,500 new homes between 2006 and 2026. The Council's Local Housing Need assessment, calculated using the government's standard methodology, is calculated at 551 dwellings per year. The Local Plan Review to 2036 is reconsidering the level of new housing required within the district. This is likely to result in greater demands on resources and minerals supply, and waste infrastructure.</p> <p>The number of people aged 65+ is expected to rise by 47%, between 2016 and 2036, which will have implications on adult social care provision within the district and on the amount of one-bedroom properties that will be required. This high requirement is for one bedroom accommodation, which reflects the increasing numbers of single person households trying to get on the property ladder, which places a greater demand on the need for minerals for the construction industry.</p>

<sup>9</sup> Population Projections (2016 based)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinengland/z1>

	<p>The main deprivation issue facing the area is that of barriers to housing and services. The need for affordable housing is likely to increase over the coming years.</p> <p>Although the level of crime is of importance to the residents of the area, it is antisocial behaviour that is of more concern as this has a direct effect on the quality of life and general appearance of the area.</p>
<b>Economic / Material Assets</b>	
Transport	<p>West Berkshire experiences traffic congestion on the strategic road network (M4 and trunk roads) as well as congestion associated with access to the strategic road network during peak periods.</p> <p>A key challenge is to encourage the use of sustainable transport modes throughout West Berkshire for minerals and waste.</p> <p>The likely route of vehicles accessing sites should be carefully considered to avoid problems of congestion, severance, increased costs of maintaining rural roads and safety issues. Opportunities to utilise West Berkshire's rail depots should also be encouraged, where appropriate and sustainable.</p>
Renewable and Low-carbon Energy	<p>The majority of energy used in West Berkshire is understood to be generated by fossil fuels which emit greenhouse gases, contributing to the greenhouse effect. Renewable and low-carbon energy development will be positive in terms of sustainability.</p>
Minerals	<p>Mineral working has a number of key environmental effects which must be considered by the Plan. These include; noise, dust, air quality, lighting, visual impact, landscape character, archaeology and heritage, traffic, contamination, soil, geology, best and most versatile agricultural land, blast vibration, flood risk, land stability, designated/protected wildlife sites, habitats, landscapes, geological features, restoration and aftercare, groundwater, water abstraction.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>Diminishing land won mineral supplies coupled with the general extent of environmental constraints is likely to cause difficulties in maintaining some mineral reserves in West Berkshire.</p> <p>The reserves of primary aggregates in West Berkshire are declining and it is possible that the MWLP may need to consider a shift in strategy to meet the need for aggregates over the plan period away from the reliance on land won sources.</p> <p>Safeguarding of viable or potentially viable mineral deposits from sterilisation by surface development, which would preclude their possible extraction at some future date, is an important component of sustainable development.</p> <p>The acceptability of mineral extraction in the AONB needs to be given consideration due to the sensitive nature of the designation.</p> <p>The issue of whether West Berkshire should pursue a strategy aiming for the provision of minerals to construction and manufacturing businesses solely within West Berkshire, or whether the wider role that West Berkshire has in supplying minerals to other areas that have fewer resources should be acknowledged and accounted for in the MWLP.</p>
Waste	<p>Waste management and associated activities generate greenhouse gases and other air pollutants. Climate change is a major sustainability consideration. The</p>

<sup>10</sup> Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph 013 Reference ID: 27-013-20140306 Revision date 06 03 2014  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals>

	<p>Plan should seek to reduce the impacts on climate change through the promotion of more sustainable methods of waste management.</p> <p>Population growth in West Berkshire will increase pressures on the current waste management facilities and may mean new facilities need to be provided. This will also result in an increase in competition for land for waste management facilities.</p> <p>In the preparation of the MWLP consideration will have to be given to whether existing permitted permanent sites, proposed preferred areas for waste development, and existing industrial areas should be safeguarded from alternative uses.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be given to whether small-scale and strategic waste facilities will be encouraged or discouraged from locating in the AONB in terms of policy in the MWLP.</p>
<p>General economic considerations</p>	<p>There is a need to ensure the infrastructure is in place in West Berkshire to continue to attract and retain investment and business.</p> <p>The MWLP should seek to identify facilities that generate employment in areas of relative high unemployment, however this is a challenge in itself, as areas that are densely populated, may also create the largest opposition to minerals and waste sites being located nearby.</p> <p>Areas of high population density in West Berkshire also create the issue of greater competition for other land uses for suitable sites.</p> <p>Waste facilities should be located to meet the demands of a growing population and these facilities should be located in accessible areas, particularly for those typically less mobile, such as the elderly.</p>

**Developing the SA Framework**

Developing a SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared and forms a central part of the SA process.

A set of sustainability objectives and their indicators, which may be in the form of targets and are a way in which the achievement of the objectives can be measured, make up the SA framework. These objectives and indicators can also be used to monitor the implementation of the Local Plan.

Table 5 Proposed framework for the SA/SEA of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan			
SA Objective	SA Sub-Objective	Suggested Indicators	SEA Topic
<p>1. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire</p>	<p>1.1 Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % SSSI land in favourable condition;</li> <li>• Loss in ha of SSSIs, LWS and ancient woodland;</li> <li>• Extent of BAP priority habitats;</li> <li>• Loss of Geologically/geomorphologically important sites;</li> <li>• Changes in areas and population of biodiversity importance.</li> </ul>	<p>Biodiversity</p>
	<p>1.2 Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?</p>		<p>Flora</p> <p>Fauna</p> <p>Soil</p>
<p>2. To maintain and enhance water</p>	<p>2.1 Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?</p>		<p>Water</p> <p>Biodiversity</p>

quality and resources	2.2 Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures of chemical and biological water quality of inland watercourses “good” or “fair”; (EA)</li> <li>Incidents of major and significant water pollution; (EA)</li> <li>No. Permissions granted contrary to the advice of EA on water quality grounds;</li> <li>No. permissions granted contrary to the statutory waste/sewerage undertakes advice. (Thames Water)</li> </ul>	
3. To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	3.1 Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. permissions granted contrary to the advice of EA, Lead Local Flood Authority or other relevant bodies on flood risk grounds.</li> </ul>	Water Climate Factors
4. To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	4.1 Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. permissions granted on best and most versatile agricultural land;</li> <li>No. permissions granted on contaminated land;</li> <li>No. permissions granted on previously developed land.</li> </ul>	Soils Material Assets
	4.2 Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?		
	4.3 Would previously developed land be utilised?		
5. To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	5.1 Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. and % of all designated heritage assets at risk;</li> <li>Areas of highly sensitive Historic Landscape Characterisation types which have been altered and their character types which have been altered and their character eroded;</li> <li>No. nationally important archaeological sites identified in the planning process and preserved in situ or by record;</li> <li>No. permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Council’s conservation or archaeological officer.</li> </ul>	Cultural heritage
6. To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	6.1 Is there likely to be an impact on townscape?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments permitted contrary to the Council’s landscape advice;</li> <li>No. permissions granted within the AONB;</li> <li>Extent of Landscape Character Areas affected.</li> </ul>	Landscape Material Assets Cultural Heritage
	6.2 Is there likely to be an impact on landscape?		
7. To protect air quality in West Berkshire	7.1 Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of air pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub>);</li> <li>Proximity to source of poor air quality;</li> <li>Level of traffic flows.</li> </ul>	Air Human health

8. To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and adaptability to climate change	8.1 Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of typical energy production (GwH) from various waste facilities allocated or permitted;</li> <li>• Amount of new renewable energy capacity being provided each year (TV Energy Installations database).</li> </ul>	Air Climatic factors
	8.2 Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?		
9. To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	9.1 Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tonnage of waste recycled;</li> <li>• Tonnage of waste composted;</li> <li>• Tonnage of waste recovered;</li> <li>• Tonnage of waste to be landfilled;</li> <li>• Allocations or permissions granted for various types of waste development.</li> </ul>	Landscape Climatic factors
	9.2 Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?		
10. To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	10.1 Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation could be used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developments where a green travel plan is submitted as a condition of development;</li> <li>• Method of transportation;</li> <li>• Proximity to waste arisings / market for mineral;</li> <li>• Proximity to strategic transport network.</li> </ul>	Human Health Air Climatic factors
	10.2 Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?		
11. To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	11.1 Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site waste management plans submitted as part of development proposals;</li> <li>• No. permissions granted within identified safeguarding areas;</li> <li>• No. permissions granted contrary to Mineral Planning Authority advice.</li> </ul>	Climatic Factors Material Assets
	11.2 Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?		
12. To protect human health and well-being and maintain the quality and quantity of	12.1 Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. permissions granted contrary to Environmental Health advice;</li> <li>• No. permissions granted contrary to Countryside (Rights of Way) advice;</li> </ul>	Population Human Health

public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity	12.2 Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with dust control conditions;</li> <li>• Compliance with noise control conditions;</li> <li>• Enhancement of public access to nature (either as linear routes or open space) as part of minerals/waste site working and restoration schemes.</li> </ul>	Landscape Biodiversity Flora Fauna
13. To minimise public nuisance	13.1 Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. permissions granted contrary to Environmental Health advice;</li> <li>• Monitoring complaints regarding odour, dust, noise, light pollution;</li> <li>• Monitor complaints regarding traffic issues;</li> <li>• Define/monitor location of Strategic Lorry Routes.</li> </ul>	Population Human Health Biodiversity Air Fauna Flora
	13.2 Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?		
	13.3 Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?		
14. To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs.	14.1 Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No people of working age in employment;</li> <li>• No. non-residential completions;</li> <li>• Vacancy rates within existing centres and employment areas.</li> </ul>	Population
	14.2 Is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?		

### ***Changes to the SA Objectives since the Scoping Report***

The SA/SEA Scoping report for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan split the SA Objectives into two, one covering waste development and the other covering minerals development. However, it has been decided that these could be combined into a single objective covering all types of development.

The wording has also been amended since the scoping report as some of the objectives referred to “minerals and waste development” however, given that the whole plan is in relation to minerals and waste development this is not required.

In addition, following the Regulation 18/Issues and Options consultation, sub-objectives have been developed for each of the main objectives to help with the assessment of the potential impacts on the objectives.

Following the preferred options consultation two of the sub-objectives under objective 13 have been deleted, the sub-objectives relating to the impact on air quality and impact on traffic have been deleted as they are direct repeats of objectives 7.1 (air quality) and 10.2 (highway impact).

The suggested indicators have also been updated to ensure that those proposed can be monitored and measured.

The SA Objectives have been tested against each other to ensure compatibility and highlight any areas where potential conflict or tensions may arise.

SA Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
2	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
3	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
4	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
5	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Uncertain	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
6	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Uncertain	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
7	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
8	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Neutral	Neutral
9	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
10	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
11	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
12	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible	Compatible
13	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible	Compatible
14	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Incompatible



In general terms the SA objectives are very compatible with each other with none of them being classed as ‘incompatible’. The majority of interactions between objectives are classed as ‘compatible’ and ‘neutral’. As can be seen from the chart, it is ‘uncertain’ whether objectives 1 – biodiversity / geodiversity, 2 - water quality, 3 – flooding, 4 – protection of land / soils, 5 - cultural heritage, 6 – landscape / townscape, 7 - air quality, 10 – sustainable transport, 13 – to minimise public nuisance are compatible with objective 14 – supporting economic development. The reason for this is that development, which is positive in economic terms, will not always be positive in terms of environmental impacts. This is something which needs to be judged on a case by case basis, balancing economic, environmental and social factors. In many cases, particularly in relation to minerals and waste development, potential harmful impacts can be picked up at the pre-application stage, and during determination. These harmful effects can then be mitigated so that the economic benefits can be taken full advantage of, while protecting the environment.

It is also ‘uncertain’ whether objectives 5 – cultural heritage, and 6 – landscape/townscape are compatible with objective 8 – maximising renewable and low carbon energy sources. The reason for this is that despite these sources of energy being greener and cleaner their fossil fuel counterparts, some types of renewable and low-carbon energy technology can have harmful effects, particularly in terms of landscape and visual impacts. Sites, monuments and buildings (and their settings) which are designated for their cultural heritage value can also be negatively impacted on by renewable energy installations. Examples of such technologies are wind turbines, and large solar farms. Again, where applications are submitted for such development, they need to be judged on a case by case basis balancing economic, environmental and social factors. Potential harmful impacts can be picked up at the pre-application stage, and during determination, and can then be mitigated.

The table below confirms all of the SEA objectives have been considered in the SA/SEA framework.

Table 7 Integrating the SEA objectives	
SEA Directive Issue	SA Objective
Biodiversity	1, 2, 12, 13
Population	12, 13, 14
Human Health	7, 10, 12, 13
Fauna	1, 12, 13
Flora	1, 12, 13
Soil	1, 4
Water	2, 3
Air	7, 8, 10, 13
Climatic Factors	3, 8, 9, 10, 11
Materials Assets	4, 6, 11
Cultural Heritage (inc. architectural and archaeological)	5, 6
Landscape	6, 9, 12

### **Minerals and Waste Local Plan Objectives**

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan objectives were set out in the Issues and Options Consultation. Main Modifications are now proposed to the Vision and to Objectives M2, M4 and W8.

Table 8 Minerals and Waste Local Plan Vision and Objectives	
<u>Vision: To facilitate the planned delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity which meet the requirements for West Berkshire in accordance with national planning policy. In particular to the plan for delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity in locations which meet the needs of West Berkshire in the most sustainable way, and taking into account climate change.</u>	
Minerals	
A (M1)	To encourage the most appropriate use of all mineral resources and the re-use of recycled minerals and secondary aggregates, having regard to the need to ensure that there is a sufficient supply, whilst maintaining the long term conservation of primary aggregates.
B (M2)	To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents and protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment <u>taking into account climate change.</u>
C (M3)	Where practicable to locate minerals development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised.
D (M4)	To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals, as far as is practical, from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, scheduled monuments and conservation areas. <u>Whilst also taking into account the potential for future contribution that should be made from mineral working in West Berkshire towards the aggregate supply needs of other areas.</u>
E (M5)	To identify sites for future mineral extraction which will provide for the continued extraction of minerals, having regard to the need to avoid demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.
F (M6)	To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of proven mineral resources by other forms of development and to safeguard existing and planned rail head sites together with existing and planned concrete batching facilities, coated road stone manufacturing facilities and sites that handle, process and distribute recycled and secondary aggregates.
G (M7)	To provide for the recovery and reuse of aggregate from construction and demolition waste in order to reduce the requirement for new primary resources to a minimum.
H (M8)	To ensure that mineral sites are progressively restored at the earliest opportunity to a high standard, beneficial and viable after-use that delivers meaningful measurable net gains for biodiversity, including the establishment of coherent ecological networks.
Waste	



I (W1)	To seek to prevent the generation of waste arisings at source, and to support and encourage initiatives designed to achieve this.
J (W2)	To enhance waste management in West Berkshire in line with the Waste Hierarchy through the provision of capacity for the re-use of waste materials, the preparation for the reuse of materials, the recycling of waste and the recovery of materials that cannot be recycled and to minimise the quantities of residual waste needing final disposal while recognising that this will continue to be required.
K (W3)	To provide a flexible approach to the delivery of waste management facilities of appropriate capacity and type to achieve net self-sufficiency within West Berkshire area.
L (W4)	To enable the delivery of the West Berkshire Waste Management strategy and increase the proportion of waste managed further up the waste hierarchy.
M (W5)	To locate waste management facilities so that wherever possible they minimise the distances that waste is transported for management and disposal, and to minimise adverse traffic effects of waste management development.
N (W6)	To safeguard existing waste management facilities, which are appropriately located, from competing forms of development that might otherwise constrain their continued operation or lead to their loss.
O (W7)	To ensure appropriate protection of the quality of life of those who live and work in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development.
P (W8)	To ensure appropriate protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development in accordance with the NPPF <u>and taking into account climate change.</u>
Q (W9)	Where practicable to locate waste development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised.

The compatibility between the SA objectives and the proposed Minerals and Waste Local Plan Vision and objectives has been tested to highlight any areas where potential conflict or tension may arise.

Table 9 SA and Local Plan Objective compatibility																			
SA Objective		MWLP objective																	
		V	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
2		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
3		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
4		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
5		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
6		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
7		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
8		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
9		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
10		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
11		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
12		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
13		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
14		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible

Compatible    Incompatible    Neutral    Uncertain

The SA objectives are shown to be generally very compatible with the MWLP objectives (see table 9) with none of them being classed as ‘incompatible’. The majority of interactions between objectives are classed as ‘compatible’ and ‘neutral’.

Objective B relates to the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF, and striking a balance between the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents, the quality and diversity of areas of nature conservation interest, historic and heritage assets, water environment and landscape character. Objective M is concerned with minimising adverse traffic effects of waste management development. The crux of Objective O is ensuring appropriate protection of residents' quality of life from the adverse effects of waste management development. Objective P is about ensuring the protection of natural and cultural heritage from the adverse effects of waste related development.

As can be seen from the chart it is 'uncertain' whether Objective B, M, O and P are compatible with SA objective 14 – supporting economic development. The reason for this is that even though minerals and waste development may be positive in terms of the economy there can be resulting harmful environmental effects. Often in individual planning applications these harmful impacts can be addressed and controlled through mitigation. In this way economic benefit can be achieved without compromising environmental or social issues.

Objective F is concerned with preventing the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral by other forms of development and safeguarding rail head sites, concrete batching facilities, coated road stone manufacturing facilities and sites that handle, process and distribute recycled and secondary aggregates.

It is 'uncertain' whether Objective B is compatible with SA objectives 8 - maximising energy efficiency, and 9 – sustainable management of waste. The reason for this is that where proposals for renewable/low carbon energy facilities come forward in certain locations, they could potentially be refused on the grounds of 'unnecessary sterilisation of mineral' or because a rail head or minerals associated facility may cease to exist as a result. It is possible that these locations would, apart from the conflict with Objective B, be suitable locations for renewable/low carbon facilities. This is something that would need to be judged as applications come in.

There are no changes in compatibility of the SA Objectives with the plan objectives as a result of the Proposed Main Modifications.

## **5 Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects**

Stage B of the sustainability Appraisal is the development and refinement of options and policies and an assessment of the effects. This stage incorporates the development of the options and policies, the prediction and evaluation of the effects of the options and subsequent policies that make up the Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan, along with the consideration of any mitigation measures and ways to maximise beneficial effects along the way.

### ***Developing the Options***

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will set out the framework for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire. This will set out policies to manage development as well as looking to allocate sites, and safeguard existing sites and mineral deposits.

### ***Method of Approach***

The effects of each option have been tested against the SA objectives that were set out in the Scoping Report. The aim of the appraisal is to identify any significant conflicts or combined effects between the options and the SA objectives.

#### **5.1 Reasonable Alternatives and Assessment of Options**

Reasonable alternatives have been identified for the potential policies to be included within the Local Plan and the possible sites to be allocated. Only those options which are considered to be reasonable have been subject to the SA/SEA process. The assessment of the reasonable

alternatives identifies the likely significant effects of the available options, helping to develop and refine the proposals within the Local Plan.

The options, preferred policy approaches and policies have been assessed in terms of probability, duration, frequency and reversibility. The following issues have been considered:

- Effect – What is the overall sustainability impact on the SA objectives?
- Likelihood – How likely is it that the effect will actually occur?
- Scale – what is the potential scale of the effect, considering the geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected?
- Duration – Are the potential effects likely to be permanent or temporary?
- Timing – Are the potential effects short, medium or long term?

### 5.1.1 Policy Approach and Policy Development

The Council have an existing plan, which is now considered to be dated and out of date, therefore, continued reliance on the policies of this plan is not considered to be a reasonable alternative. In addition, reliance on the NPPF (in effect having no plan), is also not considered to be a reasonable alternative, as the NPPF requires Local Planning Authorities to have up to date plans. Therefore, a new plan with new policies is considered to be the only reasonable alternative.

For the topics the plan needs to cover there are a number of potential strategies or approaches to deliver the topic, these are discussed below and the reasonable alternatives for delivering each section of the plan set out. The Issues and Options/Reg 18 consultation set out the topics the plan should cover. The detailed assessments for each option considered are set out in appendix 4. The detailed assessments for each of the policy option taken forward are set out in appendix 5.

The SA/SEA has been reviewed in light of the Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Appendix 8 sets out a summary of all the Main Modifications and how the SA/SEA has been reviewed in the light of these. Where an update to the SA/SEA has been made because of a Proposed Main Modification, this is noted. Where necessary, the text in the following sections has been updated as have the relevant appendices.

#### Issue 1 – Timing of the plan

The Issues and Options consultation considered a number of options relating to the end date for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan which are no longer considered to be reasonable alternatives:

- End date of 2031 (NPPF 2012 guidance)
- End date of 2026 (PPS10 guidance)
- End date 2026 (in line with West Berkshire Core Strategy)
- Other time period

However, since the Issues and Options consultation, the revised NPPF (2019) states that strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption (para 22), therefore, the end date for the plan has been chosen to be 2037 as the only reasonable alternative. The plan will be reviewed every five years to ensure that the policies included within it are up to date in line with the NPG<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> National Planning guidance Paragraph 042 Reference ID:61-042-20180913 (revision date 13 09 2018)  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

**Issue 2 – Future-mix of supply of aggregates in West Berkshire**

Options Considered		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
2.1	Reliance on extraction of primary minerals, recognising the wider role West Berkshire has in supplying minerals to other areas with fewer resources.	Overall there is a high degree of uncertainty as to the sustainability impact on this option. While this option would likely bring economic benefits this option is considered to be the least sustainable of the options considered, primarily due to the resultant nuisance and carbon emissions from the extraction and transportation of primary material.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option would not readily align with the NPPF as consideration needs to be given to other sources of construction aggregates in the development of the plan.</p> <p>A recognition of the district’s role in supporting the wider regional need for minerals is in line with the NPPF. While sharp sand and gravel is widely available in the south east, soft sand reserves are more limited and therefore, there are some benefits to considering the role that West Berkshire could play in meeting the regional need.</p>
2.2	Reliance on extraction of primary mineral, seeking to maintain the remaining reserves for construction and manufacturing within West Berkshire.	Option 2.2 focuses on the provision of aggregate primarily for use within West Berkshire and was considered likely to impact positively on 9 sustainability objectives, including in regards to biodiversity and geodiversity, water quality and resources, protection of quality agricultural land, amenity impacts and sustainable transport issues. In relation to economic development, this option is likely to have negative impact.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option was generally seen as an unrealistic and inappropriate option which may not comply with the NPPF or be supported through the DtC.</p>
2.3	Maximising recycled aggregates to reduce reliance on land won sources.	Option 2.3 relies on encouraging the production of recycled aggregate, thereby reducing the reliance on land-won sources and was considered likely to impact very positively on 2 sustainability objectives regarding 'sustainable waste management', and the 'conservation of mineral resources'. Under this option, less extraction would be taking place so less land would be disturbed, therefore, impacting positively on 4 objectives including those related to biodiversity and geodiversity, water quality	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>It is recognised that recycled aggregates do play an important part in meeting overall demand for construction aggregates</p>

		and resources, the protection of quality agricultural land, and public open space amenity. Although, this would reduce the impact of quarry traffic, there may be increased negative impact from transportation of processed and unprocessed construction, demolition and excavation waste. It was unclear what impacts this option would have in economic terms, as jobs may be lost in the primary extraction industry but may be created in the recycled aggregate industry.	
2.4	Mix of primary land-won aggregates, imported aggregates and recycled aggregates.	Option 2.4 is a combination of different types of aggregate provision and was considered likely to impact positively on 7 sustainability objectives and negatively on none of the objectives. It appears that in sustainability terms this option may be less beneficial than options 2.2 or 2.3. However, for practical reasons including suitability of recycled aggregate for certain purposes, and market demands, it may be that option 2.4 is preferable.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option was seen as the most appropriate option when considering the requirements of the NPPF. While this option is not necessarily the most sustainable option, it is considered to be the most appropriate overall strategy for the plan, with a reliance on a range of mineral sources.</p>

An additional ‘catch all’ option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own and so no sustainability assessment has been made.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Landbank / Need Policy has been developed (policy 2). This sets out the Council’s landbank and need requirements (taken from the LAA) for mineral extraction, promotes the use of recycled and secondary aggregates, as well as allocating sites to meet this need. Since the preferred options the policy has been updated and as a result the SA/SEA for the policy has been reviewed and updated. The table below sets out the summary of the SA/SEA:

Policy 2: Landbank/Need SA/SEA Summary	Summary of effects
Overall the inclusion of this policy in the local plan is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive impacts on economic sustainability as the policy will support the delivery of sites to meet the district’s need for construction materials and provide employment as well as encouraging the use of recycled and secondary aggregates before virgin material.	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> District Wide</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Temporary</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> short/medium term</p>

The safeguarding policy proposed for inclusion within the plan (Policy 9), also helps to deliver the chosen alternative by safeguarding rail capacity for imported aggregates and existing or permitted mineral infrastructure facilities. The safeguarding policy has been subject to SA/SEA, and the summary is set out under Issue 5.

### Issue 3 – Extraction of sharp sand and gravel from within the AONB

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
3.1	Meet needs from outside the AONB, which could limit the level of aggregates that could be produced.	Option 3.1 would discourage extraction of sharp sand and gravel in the AONB and it was considered likely that it could impact positively on 3 sustainability objectives concerned with protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open amenity space. It may however, limit employment opportunities as there is, potentially, a limited amount of reserves outside the AONB, and it would limit employment potential in the AONB, so it may therefore be negative in economic terms.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option gained support through the consultation recognising that sites should be located outside the AONB, but that in some cases, where ‘exceptional circumstances’ can be demonstrated sensitive sites may need to be considered. The SA/SEA shows that options that seek to avoid extraction in the AONB would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Adequate suitable sites for sharp sand and gravel have been submitted outside the AONB, therefore, it is not considered appropriate to consider allocating sites for sharp sand and gravel within the AONB.</p>
3.2	Meet needs from outside and inside the AONB. Inc. identification of strategic area/areas or sites within the AONB.	Option 3.2 would allow the extraction of sharp sand and gravel in the AONB and was considered likely to impact positively in economic terms, as it could potentially maximise employment as there are understood to be reserves in the AONB. It would likely be negative for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open amenity space.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option would result in a negative impact on environmental sustainability and as the BGS data shows that there are large sharp sand and gravel deposits outside of the AONB, it would not be appropriate to consider the allocation of sites within the AONB if suitable sites are available outside the protected area.</p>

An additional ‘catch all’ option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Location of Development – Construction Aggregates policy (Policy 4) has been developed. This sets out the locations where there will be a presumption in favour of mineral extraction. The policy has been subject to SA/SEA, which has been updated since the Preferred Options to take into account the change in approach to soft sand and including the allocation of specific sites. The reassessment of the policy has not resulted in any changes to the overall outcome of the SA/SEA assessment. A summary of the SA/SEA outcome is set out below:

Policy 4: Location of Development – Construction Aggregates policy SA/SEA Summary	Summary of effects
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are some potential negative environmental and social impacts as a result of this policy, especially in relation to the potential for soft Sand sites in the AONB to come forward where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. However, these are only likely to be short/medium term as mineral extraction is only temporary in nature and appropriate mitigation measures would be required. Following restoration of any site considered under the policy the overall impact should be neutral. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability as the policy sets out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for mineral extraction.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term

The sites prosed for allocation have been subject to SA/SEA as part of the site selection process, and the details can be found in section 5.1.2 of this report.

The Main Modifications (MM12) proposed for this policy have not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

**Issue 4 – Soft Sand**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
4.1	Meet needs from outside the AONB, which could limit the level of aggregates that could be produced.	Option 4.1 would not allow extraction of soft sand from within the AONB, and was therefore considered likely to be very positive for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open space amenity. However, it may limit job creation potential so it is likely to be very negative in economic terms.
		<p><b>This is the option that was taken forward in the Preferred Options, however it is no longer the option being taken forward.</b></p> <p>Given the protected nature of the AONB and the lack of a separate land bank figure for soft sand in the previous LAAs the Preferred Options did not propose the allocation of any soft sand sites. Following the publication of separate landbank figures in the 2017 and 2018 LAAs this approach is no longer considered appropriate. It is noted that this option, along with option 4.3 would be the most beneficial in sustainability terms.</p>

4.2	Meet need from within the AONB. Inc. identification of strategic area/areas or sites within the AONB.	Option 4.2 on the other hand would allow extraction of soft sand from within the AONB, and it was therefore considered likely to be very negative for protecting the historic environment, the landscape, and open space amenity. It was considered likely to create jobs so it could be very positive in economic terms.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option does not give the required weight of the NPPF to the protected landscape of the AONB and therefore, as a blanket policy approach it is not considered appropriate.</p>
4.3	Meet need from outside the AONB, recognising exceptional circumstances where extraction may be acceptable from within the AONB.	Option 4.3 would seek to have the extraction of soft sand from outside the AONB, however, if there were exceptional local circumstances, the soft sand could be extracted on a small scale. This was considered likely to be positive for the historic environment, the landscape, open space amenity, and in economic terms.	<p><b>This option has been taken forward following the preferred options and the publication of separate landbank figures for soft sand.</b></p> <p>This approach is considered to be the most in line with the requirements of the NPPF, and is considered to have a positive sustainability impact.</p> <p>Following the publication of the 2017/18 LAAs, which included separate landbank figures for soft sand, there is a need for soft sand within West Berkshire.</p> <p>No suitable sites were submitted outside the AONB, therefore, it is considered that there may be exceptional circumstances which allow for allocations in the AONB to be considered.</p>

**Discussion of options and change of approach:** Option 4.1 was initially taken forward into the Preferred Options version of the plan, and no soft sand sites were considered for allocation. However, since the publication of the Preferred Options additional information has come to light which suggests that this is no longer a reasonable option to take forward and further consideration of the approach to soft sand is required. As a result option 4.3 has been taken forward into the MWLP. As part of the further work into how best to deal with the issue of soft sand, option 4.3 was further refined, and split into five alternatives for consideration in the Soft Sand Study<sup>12</sup> commissioned by the Council.

These new options are outlined below.

<sup>12</sup> West Berkshire Soft Sand Study [www.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/mwevidencebase)



Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
4.3.1 Allocate specific sites for soft sand, including from within the AONB. Future planning applications would have to pass the exceptional circumstances test in para 116 of the NPPF.	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability, but it would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of development in the AONB. There would be a positive impact in relation to economic sustainability as development of sites for soft sand would supply material to local and regional markets.	<b>This option has been taken forward in part</b>  See comments in table below relating to option Db.
4.3.2 Do not allocate specific sites within the AONB – work with surrounding authorities and/or rely on alternative sources (eg. marine sand) to secure supply.	This option is likely to have a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the protection of the landscape of the AONB, but also a potentially significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability due to the need for material to be imported into the district. The importation of material could also have a negative impact on air quality and climate change through greater transport emissions as a result of bringing the material into the district.	<b>This option has been taken forward in part</b>  See comments in table below.
4.3.3 Do not allocate specific sites within the AONB – identify preferred areas, or areas of search outside of the AONB.	This option would be likely to have a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the protection of the landscape of the AONB. There would be a number of unknown impacts, in particular air quality and transport impacts, as it is unknown where the alternative sources of soft sand would be found.	<b>This option has not been taken forward.</b>  The NPPF states that in exceptional circumstances consideration of mineral extraction in the AONB can be considered. Exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and therefore, it is appropriate to consider allocations in the AONB.  Areas of search outside the AONB will be considered.
4.3.4 Combination of options 1 and 3. Seek to allocate the most appropriate sites (whether in AONB or not) and where this is not sufficient to deliver the requirement	This option would be likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability, but would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the potential for development in the AONB. There would be a	<b>This option has been taken forward in part</b>  See comments in table below relating to option Db.

	over the plan period, identify preferred areas or areas of search outside of the AONB.	positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of the policy providing soft sand to local markets and resulting in job creation within the district.	
4.3.5	Do not allocate specific sites in the AONB – identify preferred areas, or areas of search both within and outside of the AONB.	This option would be likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability, but there are a number of unknown impacts, as the areas of search mean the location of the sites is unknown	<p><b>This option has not been taken forward.</b></p> <p>The NPPF states that in exceptional circumstances consideration of mineral extraction in the AONB can be considered. Exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and therefore, it is appropriate to consider allocations in the AONB.</p>

The Soft Sand Study concludes that the only realistic alternative to providing for extraction within the AONB in West Berkshire would be to supply soft sand from elsewhere, specifically from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire. On the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the study therefore, a new set of options have been considered, including the allocation of sites within the AONB. The study takes into account the potential soft sand sites within West Berkshire. Three soft sand sites were proposed through the Call for Sites for consideration for allocation. One site, while located outside of the AONB, has significant access and road safety constraints leaving the other two sites (within the AONB) to be considered further for allocation. Specific details of the site assessments can be found in section 5.1.2 and appendix 6 of this report.

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
A	Do not allocate sites within the AONB – work with Oxfordshire to enable supply to West Berkshire.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>Oxfordshire is unlikely to be able to supply West Berkshire’s full need and therefore, this option is not realistic to take forward.</p> <p>There may be scope for some material to be provided to West Berkshire from Oxfordshire, Further work on the likelihood of this is being a realistic option is being undertaken through the Duty to Cooperate. Option D below considers this further.</p>

		material from neighbouring authorities would be likely to require additional sites to be allocated and greater transportation of material through neighbouring authorities, and therefore, it is likely that this option would also have a negative sustainability impact on the neighbouring authorities.	
B	Allocate both sites for soft sand within the AONB (Chieveley Services and 60 Acre Field).	There would be a potentially significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of development of sites in the AONB, as development of one of the two sites under consideration is considered to result in significant harm to the AONB. There would be a positive impact in relation to economic sustainability as soft sand resources for the local market would be provided from within the district, and development would result in job creation in the local area.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b>  The allocation of both sites would provide over and above the amount of soft sand required in West Berkshire, which is not considered appropriate within the AONB, especially as there is scope for some of West Berkshire soft sand need to come from Oxfordshire (see option D below).
C	Include areas of search and a criteria based policy to enable future applications to be considered.	While overall this option would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability, there are a number of uncertain impacts as the impacts on sustainability would depend on the location of the sites coming forward for consideration under this policy. The policy could require consideration of a number of factors that would then result in a longer term positive impact through the restoration of the site.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b>  On their own, criteria based policies will not provide certainty regarding supply of soft sand within West Berkshire and therefore, it is not considered reasonable to rely on this option.
D	Allocate one site in the AONB, include a criteria based policy and areas of search outside the AONB to enable future applications to be considered and work to secure some supply from Oxfordshire.	Da) 60 Acre Field  This option would result in a negative impact on environmental sustainability related to the allocation of a site which would result in harm to the AONB. The use of a criteria based policy would result in a number of unknown impacts as the impact would depend on the sites coming forward. However, it could require mitigation	<b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b>  Exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and therefore, the allocation of a site in the AONB is considered to be reasonable, however, this site is considered to have a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact and as a result when considering this site against the

	(Combination and variation of Options A, B and C) Option Da) Allocation 60 Acre Field	measures/design practices that would in the longer term result in a positive impact. The importation of material from Oxfordshire would reduce the number of sites required to be considered by the criteria based policy, but would also result in additional transport related impacts, therefore, the positive / negative impacts of each of these would be likely to balance each other out.	Chieveley Services site (option Db below), the site at Chieveley Services is considered to be more appropriate.
	Option Db) Allocation Chieveley Services	Db) Chieveley Services  This option would result in an overall neutral impact on sustainability. The site to be allocated is considered acceptable in landscape terms, and the use of a criteria based policy would result in a number of unknown impacts as the impact would depend on the sites coming forward. However, it could require mitigation measures/design practices that would in the longer term result in a positive impact. The importation of material from Oxfordshire would reduce the number of sites required to be considered by the criteria based policy, but would also result in additional transport related impacts, therefore, the positive / negative impacts of each of these would be likely to balance each other out.	<b>This option is to be taken forward.</b>  Exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and therefore, the allocation of a site in the AONB is considered to be reasonable. The site is considered acceptable in landscape terms and therefore, it is considered more appropriate to allocate the site at Chieveley Services than the site at 60 Acre field (option Da), which is not considered acceptable in landscape terms. There is potentially some scope for material to be supplied to West Berkshire from Oxfordshire and this is being pursued through the Duty to Cooperate.  As a result this option is considered to be the most appropriate option to take forward.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** Option Db is to be taken forward and the details are set out in the Location of Development – Construction Aggregates Policy (Policy 4). Exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and therefore, is it considered appropriate to allocate a site in the AONB to help to meet the Council’s soft sand need. It is recognised that the allocation of a single site will not fully meet the Council’s need, however, there is potentially scope for some soft sand to come from Oxfordshire and further work is taking place through the Duty to Cooperate to identify whether this is an option (as set out in the Statement of Common Ground<sup>13</sup>) to help to meet the remaining requirement. Areas of search will be set out and a criteria based policy (included in policy 4) has been developed, should any other sites come forward for consideration over the plan period. Policy 4 has been subject to SA/SEA and a summary can be found under Issue 3 above.

<sup>13</sup> Duty to Cooperate Statement Appendix 3 available at: [www.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpps](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/mwlpps)

**Issue 5 – Safeguarding of minerals**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
5.1	Safeguarding areas around potentially viable deposits, including a buffer	This option is considered to have a positive impact on conserving mineral resources, biodiversity and geodiversity, water quality and resources, soils, the historic environment and landscape due to less land being disturbed by other forms of development as a result of the safeguarding.	<b>This option is to be taken forward alongside option 5.5</b>  This option was considered to be the most appropriate option, taking into account all potential resources in the district not just sharp sand and gravel. The safeguarding of mineral resources is considered to be likely to have a positive sustainability impact.
5.2	Safeguard active mineral workings and sites identified for allocation	This option is considered to have a positive impact on conserving mineral resources, biodiversity and geodiversity, water quality and resources, soils, the historic environment and landscape due to less land being disturbed by other forms of development as a result of the safeguarding.	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  As well as safeguarding mineral resources, it is considered important that mineral related infrastructure is safeguarded for the duration of its permission.

The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional options, which are not considered to be reasonable alternatives as they asked consultees for their opinions on specific areas, rather than asking about a policy approach. Therefore, they have not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 5.3 – asking whether consultees agree that there are circumstances when surface development might be allowed over in-situ mineral deposits
- Option 5.4 – Asking whether any other considerations that should be taken into account
- Option 5.5 – Asking whether any other mineral deposits to be safeguarded (Soft Sand, Chalk, Coal, shale gas). It is considered that option 5.1 would cover all potentially viable deposits, which would include soft sand. There is no identified need (and no history of extraction) for Chalk, Coal or shale gas, and therefore, these resources do not need to be safeguarded.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** Safeguarding policies have been developed. The Minerals safeguarding policy (Policy 9) sets out the Mineral Safeguarding Area which will safeguard mineral resources and infrastructure from non-mineral development. Since the preferred options slight changes have been made to the policy, however, this has not changed the outcome of the SA/SEA. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out in the table below:

Policy 9: Mineral Safeguarding policy SA/SEA Summary	Summary of effects
<p>There is likely to be a significantly positive environmental and economic impact as a result of safeguarding primary aggregates. There is also a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to safeguard rail head sites, which will allow for material to be transported by rail, reducing reliance on road transport. There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of extraction on the local geology of an area. There is a possible positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of the policy as should sites within safeguarded areas come forward for mineral extraction this would provide primary aggregates for the construction industry.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>

The Main Modifications (MM26) proposed for this policy have not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

**Issue 6 – Existing industrial users of minerals**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
6.1	<p>Identification of a personal landbank for the Beenham Tile Factory.</p> <p>Option 6.1, which relates to identifying a landbank for the Beenham tile factory, was considered to positively impact on economic development, as it would provide certainty and potential employment, and have a negative impact on maintaining the quality and quantity of open space, as it would potentially encourage extraction.</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>It is unlikely that national policy would support the allocation of a bespoke landbank for the tile factory. The Tile Factory has very specific quality requirements for the material used on the site, and it is not guaranteed that the mineral resources within West Berkshire could meet the required specification. Therefore, any resources identified specifically for the Beenham Tile Factory could end up in the general market.</p>
6.2	<p>Acknowledge existing industrial users (tile factory, asphalt plant, concrete batching) in the overall demand for aggregate.</p> <p>Option 6.2 would acknowledge the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory in the consideration of the demand for aggregates in West Berkshire. It was also considered likely that it would positively impact on economic development, as it would provide certainty and potential employment, and have a negative impact on maintaining the quality and quantity of open space as it would potentially encourage extraction.</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The approach used to calculate aggregate need using historic sales data as an indicator for future demand is considered to adequately capture the existing demand for aggregates for existing users of construction aggregates.</p>

6.3	Acknowledge existing industrial users through policy approach that supports use of indigenous primary aggregates within West Berkshire.	Option 6.3 would recognise the existence of the Beenham Tile Factory through a policy approach supporting indigenous primary aggregate use within West Berkshire. It was also considered likely that it would positively impact on economic development as it would provide certainty and potential employment, and have a negative impact on maintaining the quality and quantity of open space as it would potentially encourage extraction.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The plan should acknowledge the presence of existing manufacturing facilities within the district however, it is considered that a policy approach that seeks to husband the authority's mineral resources solely for use by users within the authority could be both impractical and restrict competition, which would not be an appropriate approach for the plan.</p>
6.4	Treat tile factory as any other end user of aggregates.	Option 6.4 would mean that the tile factory would be treated the same as any other end user of aggregates in West Berkshire. This is likely to impact positively on maintaining the quality and quantity of public open space amenity, but negatively on economic development, as it would not involve the provision of a landbank for such potential primary mineral need so this could discourage extraction within West Berkshire, potentially minimising employment potential.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This tile factory is just one of many local end users for products, therefore, its need it taken into account through the general landbank figures calculated in the LAA, meaning that it does not need a specific landbank and can be considered as one of many other end users.</p>
6.5	safeguarding of existing industrial users.	Option 6.5 would see the safeguarding of existing and any subsequently approved concrete batching facilities. Safeguarding of sites could restrict the harmful impacts to the surrounding areas, meaning that other areas of the authority are protected. It is considered likely that this option could impact positively on 8 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option is supported by national policy and the plan will seek to safeguard existing and new facilities.</p>

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** The landbank and need policy has been developed and considers the overall need for minerals in the district. In addition the safeguarding policy seeks to safeguard minerals infrastructure. These policies have been subject to separate SA/SEA, see issue 2 above for landbank and need and issue 5 for safeguarding policies.

**Issue 7 – Recycled and Secondary Aggregates**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
7.2	Maximise production of recycled aggregates.	Option 7.2 would seek to maximise the production of recycled aggregates production. This was considered likely to impact positively on 4 objectives and very positively on 2 objectives, these being the 'sustainable management of waste', and 'conserving mineral resources / encouraging use of recycled aggregate'.	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  It is acknowledged that there will always be a demand for primary aggregates and the availability of recycled aggregates are finite (as are primary aggregates), but it is considered that the plan should seek to maximise the production of recycled aggregates where appropriate.
7.3	Suitability of AONB for recycled aggregate plant.	Option 7.3 poses the question of whether the AONB is a suitable place for sites for processing recycled and secondary aggregates. This was considered likely to impact very positively on 1 objective (the sustainable management of waste), positively on 1 objective (conserving mineral resources) and negatively on 3 objectives (historical environment, landscape, open space amenity).  This option appears to make the least positive contribution to the sustainability objectives.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  A policy approach that seeks to prevent recycled aggregate production in the AONB would be contrary to the NPPF, therefore, the use of criteria based policies for any development in the AONB would be more appropriate.
7.4	Identification of preferred areas for processing capacity.	Option 7.4 proposes identifying preferred areas for recycled and secondary aggregates sites to provide any additional processing capacity. As development would be largely confined to these preferred areas. It is likely that this would isolate and mitigate harmful impacts across a wider area, and therefore protect other areas. It was considered likely that this would impact positively on 9 objectives and very positively on 2 objectives, these being the 'sustainable management of waste' and 'conserving mineral resources / encouraging use of recycled aggregate'.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  Processing usually takes place within a mineral site, and there is no identified need for additional processing capacity to be provided through the plan. Therefore, it is considered more appropriate to consider applications for processing on a case by case basis.



		Along with option 7.5 this option appears to make the most positive contribution to the sustainability objectives.	
7.5	Safeguarding of existing/planned facilities.	<p>Option 7.5 proposes to safeguard existing and planned facilities that handle, process and distribute secondary and recycled aggregates. It was considered likely that this would impact positively on 9 objectives and very positively on 2 objectives, These are the 'sustainable management of waste' and 'conserving mineral resources / encouraging use of recycled aggregate'.</p> <p>Along with option 7.4 this option appears to make the most positive contribution to the sustainability objectives.</p>	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>This option is supported by national policy and the plan will seek to safeguard existing and new facilities.</p>

The Issues and Options Consultation also included the following additional option, which is not considered to be reasonable alternatives as it asked consultees to agree to a specific statement. Therefore, it has not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 7.1 – Asking for agreement that recycled aggregates can replace primary aggregates, but only for crushed hard rock.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** The Landbank / Need Policy (Policy 2) has been developed, this states that where possible aggregate needs should be met in preference from recycled and secondary aggregates and specifies a minimum requirement for recycled and secondary aggregate processing capacity. As set out above (Issue 2) this policy has been subject to SA/SEA. A safeguarding policy (Policy 9) has also been developed to safeguard mineral resources and infrastructure, including those for recycled and secondary aggregates. As set out above (Issue 5) this policy has been subject to SA/SEA.

#### Issue 8 – Movement of aggregates within West Berkshire

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
8.1	Reliance on rail based transport for movement of aggregates.	<p>Option 8.1 seeks to rely primarily upon rail based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates. It was considered likely that this option would impact positively on 8 of the sustainability objectives and</p> <p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option is not considered to be a realistic alternative due to the location of the sites promoted</p>

		would likely be more sustainable than road, but not as sustainable as by waterway.	for aggregate extraction in the district and the capacity of the railway.
8.2	Reliance on road based transport for movement of aggregates.	Option 8.2 seeks to rely primarily upon road based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates. It was considered that this option could impact very positively on economic opportunities/job creation, and negatively on 7 of the other sustainability objectives. Generally speaking, it was considered to be the least sustainable option.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This option does not fully consider more sustainable transport methods, and therefore, is not considered an approached strategy to take forward.
8.3	Reliance on water based transport for movement of aggregates.	Option 8.3 seeks to rely primarily upon water based transport for the importation, exportation and within District movement of aggregates. Water based transport appears to be the most sustainable option making very positive contributions to 5 objectives, positive contributions to 2 objectives, and a negative contribution to 1 objective. The negative contribution was to economic opportunities/job creation, as it is considered that transport by waterway is likely to provide the least jobs.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This option is not considered to be a realistic alternative due to the location of the sites promoted for aggregate extraction in the district many of which are away from waterways and therefore, material would require transportation by another method to reach the waterways.
8.4	Reliance on mix of road, rail and water based transport for movement of aggregates.	Option 8.4 seeks to rely on a mixture of the rail, road and water based transport methods and it was likely to make a positive contribution to 8 objectives. It may be that, practically speaking, this is the option that will be implemented because of site locations, relevant transport links, the size of site necessary, and the expense/resources required to make options such as rail and waterway more viable.	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option is the most practical option due to the locations of the promoted sites and the available transport links. This option would allow for the most sustainable transport options to be considered for each site.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A transport policy (Policy 22) has been developed for the plan, which sets out that sustainable transport will be encouraged where this is practicable. The policy has been updated since the preferred options and the SA/SEA reviewed, the updated wording has not resulted in any changes to the SA/SEA outcome. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

Policy 22: Transport policy SA/SEA Summary	Summary of effects
<p>Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There is a potential positive environmental sustainability impact as a result of the policy’s promotion of sustainable modes of transport. Sites considered under the policy could impact on traffic levels unless mitigation measures are implemented as required by the policy. There are no potentially negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>

**Issue 9 – Importation of Primary aggregates and other materials by Rail**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
<p>9.1</p>	<p>Provision of more capacity for importing material.</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>It is understood that the capacity at the rail depots is limited by the capacity on the rail lines themselves and therefore, the plan cannot considered adding more capacity to the rail depots.</p>
<p>9.2</p>	<p>Presumption in favour of planning permission at safeguarding of rail depot sites.</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>By definition sites that are safeguarded for a specific purpose would result in a presumption in favour of that type of development at those sites.</p>

9.3	Safeguarding of rail depot sites.	Option 9.3 is concerned with safeguarding the existing rail depots. Safeguarding of sites restricts the harmful impacts to areas located around new mineral sites, meaning the other areas are protected. It was considered that this option could make positive contributions to 8 sustainability objectives and a very positive contribution to 1 sustainability objective (sustainable transport of minerals).	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The rail depot sites will be safeguarded and therefore, there would be a presumption in favour of development for mineral uses, subject to the other policies in the plan.</p> <p><i>Safeguarding Policy</i></p>
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**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A mineral safeguarding policy (Policy 9) has been developed, which includes the safeguarding of railhead sites. This policy has been subject to SA/SEA as set out above (Issue 5).

**Issue 10 – Windfall Sites**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
10.3	Inclusion of a windfall allowance within need for the supply of aggregates.	Option 10.3 would mean that the WBM/DPD would make an allowance for windfall sites when calculating the need and resulting supply of aggregates within West Berkshire. Where sites are going to be excavated for development proposals (other than for mineral extraction) and mineral can be extracted as part of this, this will potentially supply demand meaning that other areas may not need to be disturbed by mineral extraction and the associated impacts. It was considered likely that this option would contribute positively to 10 objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option could be difficult to implement in practical terms as it is difficult to estimate that amount of aggregate that would be generated. In reality, the need figure for the district is calculated based on the last 10 years sales figures, which would include any sales from windfall sites coming forward and therefore, windfall sites are already taken into account.</p>
10.4	Include a policy approach that allows for windfall sites to be considered where necessary to maintain the landbank.	Option 2 would allow for sites to come forward outside of allocations where a need for that mineral was demonstrated. The option would allow for criteria to be set for when these sites would be considered acceptable. The policy has a number of unknown sustainability impacts as the impact would depend on the location of the sites coming forward.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>Windfall sites are by definition sites coming forward that are not allocated in a plan or known about in advance. Where there is an identified need for a mineral, which is not being met, this approach would allow sites to come forward</p>

			outside of the plan making process to meet this need.
10.5	Borrow Pits.	Option 3 would allow for sites to come forward outside of allocations, where they were linked to and geographically close to a, specific infrastructure project. This option would have a positive sustainability impact in terms of reducing the need material required for infrastructure projects needs to travel. Many of the other impacts are unknown as it would depend on the location of the sites coming forward for consideration.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>Borrow pits can help to deliver large scale infrastructure projects where otherwise mineral would have to be imported over much larger distances. It is therefore, preferable to include a policy in the plan setting out when such proposals would be considered acceptable.</p>

The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional options, which are not considered to be reasonable alternatives as they. Therefore, they have not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 10.1 – review of existing policies to allow more scope for windfalls. It has already been decided that reliance on the existing policies is not a reasonable alternative.
- Option 10.2 – Asking whether further safeguards in place to minimise the impacts of large construction projects.

**Policy Approach taken forward:** A location of development – construction aggregates policy (Policy 4) has been developed setting out where across the district. This policy has been subject to SA/SEA (see issue 3). In addition a borrow pits policy (Policy 8) has also been developed setting out the criteria which would need to be met for a borrow pit to be permitted. While the policy has been tweaked since the preferred options the outcome of the SA/SEA has not changed. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 8: Borrow Pits policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are a number of potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts associated with this policy, they are likely to be short/medium term impacts associated with the working of the site itself, following restoration of the site the overall impact should be neutral. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the supply of raw materials for construction projects.	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> District Wide</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Temporary</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Short / medium term</p>

**Issue 11 – Restoration Strategy**

None of the options included in the Issues and Options consultation are now considered to be reasonable alternatives for this issue. They asked more general questions regarding what consultees would like to see in terms of restoration. The following questions were asked:

- Option 11.1 – Scope for more lake following mineral extraction, or are there already enough lakes as a result of mineral extraction?
- Option 11.2 – What other forms of restoration would you like to see?
- Option 11.3 – Sufficient infill for new sites to be restored to existing levels?
- Option 11.4 – Scope to infill some existing lakes

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** National Policy requires consideration of restoration and therefore the only reasonable alternative is to include a restoration policy. The restoration policy (Policy 17) has been developed that seeks to promote the prompt restoration of mineral sites following extraction using progressive restoration, to ensure that the restored landscape is compatible with its context and intended after-use and delivers net gains for biodiversity. The wording of the policy has been updated since the preferred options to take into account the comments made as part of the consultation. The SA/SEA has been updated to take into account this new wording. The Restoration policy has been subject to SA/SEA and a summary is set out below:

Policy 17: Restoration and After-Use policy SA/SEA Summary	Summary of effects
Overall there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy as the policy seeks to deliver net gains for biodiversity. There are likely to be a number of positive impacts on environmental and social sustainability as a result of this policy, as the policy seeks a number of environmental or social benefits to be provided as part of site restoration.	<b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Issue 12 – Chalk and Clay**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
12.1 Provision of adequate safeguards to minimise effects of chalk and clay extraction.	Option 12.1 would put forward a policy approach to ensure that there are adequate safeguards to minimise the possible effects of potential future extraction of chalk and clay. The potential effects of the extraction would directly relate too many of the issues raised by the sustainability objectives. It was therefore considered that this option could have a positive impact on 9 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>There have been no active sites in West Berkshire since 1995 and no planning applications have been received.</p> <p>Therefore, there is not considered to be a need for chalk and clay to be safeguarded.</p>
12.2 Need for certainty regarding location of future chalk and clay (Allocation of sites).	Option 12.2 questions whether there is a need for more certainty about where chalk and clay might be worked in the future. It was considered likely to have a positive impact on	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>There have been no active sites in West Berkshire since 1995 and no planning applications have been received.</p>

		the sustainability objective relating to 'economic considerations', while for the rest of the sustainability objectives there was considered to be 'no clear link' to the option.	No sites for chalk or clay were submitted as part of the call for sites, therefore, no sites could be considered for allocation.
12.3	Identification of strategic areas for chalk and clay extraction.	Option 12.3 questions whether the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay. Identifying strategic areas for the working of chalk and clay could limit the detrimental effects of mineral working to any allocated sites, and limited surrounding areas. It was considered likely that it would impact positively on 12 sustainability objectives.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  There have been no active sites in West Berkshire since 1995 and no planning applications have been received. It is considered that criteria based polices should be included in the plan rather than identifying preferred areas.
12.4	Inclusion of DM policies to consider chalk and clay.	Option 12.4 questions whether the WBMWDPD should include development management policies that could be used when considering proposals for the working of chalk and clay. Development management policies relating to the working of chalk and clay deposits are likely to consider many of the issues addressed by the sustainability objectives and it was therefore considered that this option would have a positive impact on 13 of the sustainability objectives.	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  There have been no active sites in West Berkshire since 1995 and no planning applications have been received. It is considered that criteria based polices would be the most appropriate approach.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Chalk and Clay policy (Policy 11) has been developed that seeks to set out the criteria by which any proposals coming forward for chalk or clay extraction would be judged. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 11: Chalk and Clay policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term

environmental sustainability in terms of improved flood mitigation possibilities and economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting local needs to material.

### Issue 13 – Energy Minerals – Coal, Gas and Shale Gas

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
13.1	Policy to ensure adequate safeguards to minimise the effects of possible extraction.	Option 13.1 would put forward a policy approach to ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to minimise the effects of future extraction of energy minerals. It is anticipated that the effects of the extraction would relate too many of the issues raised by the objectives. This option is likely to have a positive impact on 9 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>Given the lack of clarity around the location of unconventional hydrocarbon deposits it is considered inappropriate for the MWLP to include a safeguarding policy for energy minerals.</p>
13.2	Greater certainty regarding where energy minerals may be worked (allocation of sites).	Option 13.2 questions whether there is a need for more certainty about where energy minerals might be worked in the future, and it was considered likely to have a positive impact on the sustainability objective relating to economic considerations. Unfortunately due to the extent of the assumptions and 'unknowns' there was considered to be 'no clear link' with the option and the rest of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>There has not been any applications for exploration of energy minerals received for the district.</p> <p>There is a lot uncertainty regarding the location of energy minerals and therefore, the council would not be able to provide any certainty regarding where these minerals could be worked in the future.</p>
13.3	Identification of strategic areas for working of energy minerals.	Option 13.3 questions whether the WBMWDPD should identify strategic areas for the working of energy minerals. Identifying strategic areas for the working of energy minerals could limit the potential detrimental effects to the allocated areas / sites and surrounding areas. It was considered likely that it would impact positively on 12 sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>There has not been any applications for exploration of energy minerals received for the district.</p> <p>There is a lot uncertainty regarding the location of energy minerals and therefore, the council would not be able to provide any certainty regarding where these minerals could be worked in the future.</p>
13.4	Inclusion of DM policies to consider energy minerals.	Option 13.4 questions whether the WBMWDPD should include development	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p>



		<p>management policies that could be used to consider any potential proposals for the working of energy minerals. Development management policies relating to the working of energy minerals are likely to relate to many of the issues addressed by the sustainability objectives and it was therefore considered that this option would have a positive impact on 13 of the sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>Given the lack of clarity around the location of unconventional hydrocarbon deposits it is considered appropriate for the MWLP to include a policy to enable both conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon extraction to ensure planning considerations are fully considered. In addition the NPPF requires that Minerals Planning authorities consider energy minerals within their plans and put in place policies to facilitate their exploration and extraction (para 209).</p>
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**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Energy Minerals policy (Policy 12) has been developed that seeks to set out the criteria by which any proposals coming forward for energy mineral extraction would be judged. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 12: Energy Minerals policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
<p>Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting the need for energy minerals.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term</p>

The Main Modification (MM28) to this policy has slightly changed the SA/SEA assessment in terms of the impact on water quality, as protection of water quality is now specifically referred to in the policy. However, this has not changed the overall SA/SEA assessment for the policy.

**Issue 14 – Pattern of waste management**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p>14.1</p>	<p>Concentrate waste management in the upper parts of the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>Option 14.1 would concentrate on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy such as recycling facilities. It was considered that this is likely to have a very positive impact on the sustainability objectives relating to 'sustainable waste management' and 'encouraging the use of recycled aggregate' (through encouraging construction demolition and excavation waste reprocessing facilities). It was also considered</p>	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This approach is considered to be the most appropriate strategy and is considered to be the most positive in terms of the SA/SEA. However, it is acknowledged that there will always be some waste that cannot be managed in the upper part pf the waste hierarchy.</p>

		likely that this option would have a positive impact in terms of 'economic development', as waste facilities could provide employment.	
14.2	Covering all aspects of the waste hierarchy (excluding landfill).	Option 14.2 would see the implementation of a pattern of waste management facility types to cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, excluding landfill. It was considered that this could be likely to have a very positive impact on the sustainability objectives relating to 'sustainable waste management' and 'encouraging the use of recycled aggregate' (through encouraging additional construction demolition and excavation waste processing facilities). It was also considered likely that this option would have a positive impact in terms of economic development, as waste facilities could provide employment.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  National policy requires that waste is dealt with at the highest possible point of the waste hierarchy, although there is an acknowledgement that will always be some residual waste that needs to be dealt with through landfilling.
14.3	Cover all aspects of waste hierarchy (inc. landfill).	Option 14.3 would see the implementation of a pattern of waste management facilities to cover all aspects of the waste hierarchy, including landfill. This option was considered likely to have a positive impact on the 3 sustainability objectives relating to 'sustainable waste management', 'conserving mineral resources / encouragement of use of recycled aggregate', and 'economic development' as waste facilities would provide employment.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  National policy requires that waste is dealt with at the highest possible point of the waste hierarchy, with an acknowledgement that will always be some residual waste that needs to be dealt with through landfilling.

An additional 'catch all' option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A net self-sufficiently in waste management policy (Policy 3) has been developed which seeks to drive waste up the waste hierarchy. The policy has been subject to a separate SA/SEA and a summary of the outcome is shown under issue 15.

**Issue 15 –Self-sufficiency in waste management**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
15.1	Net-self-sufficiency.	Option 15.1 proposes to plan for net self-sufficiency, providing sufficient waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) equal to the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire. This option was considered likely to impact positively on sustainability objectives related to 'air quality', and 'maximising energy efficiency' due to waste being transported shorter, localised distances, potentially leading to reduced carbon emissions. It was also considered likely that there would be a positive impact on the 'sustainable waste management' sustainability objective, due to the potential for moving waste up the waste hierarchy, increasing the opportunities for waste to be recycled, treated and recovered.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option is well aligned to national policy and is considered the most appropriate option for the plan.</p>
15.2	Over capacity.	Option 15.2 proposes to plan for a level of waste management capacity (recycling, treatment and recovery facilities) greater than the volume of waste arising in West Berkshire. This option was considered likely to have a positive impact on the 'sustainable waste management' sustainability objective, due to the potential to move even more waste up the waste hierarchy. It is considered likely to impact negatively on sustainability objectives related to 'air quality' and 'maximising energy efficiency', due to the potential for such an approach to result in waste being transported longer distances, from outside the authority area, potentially leading to increased carbon emissions.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>While this option is aligned to national policy, and there is a recognition that the district does over-provide waste capacity for some waste streams, this cannot be provided for all waste streams and so this option may not be deliverable.</p>

An additional 'catch all' option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made.

The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional option, which is not considered to be a reasonable alternatives as is does not comply with the requirement of the NPPW. Therefore, they have not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 15.3 – Under capacity

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Net Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management policy (Policy 3) has been developed that sets out the Council's aim to deliver net self-sufficiency in waste management. No changes have been made to the policy since the preferred options. The policy has been subject to SA/SEA and a summary is set out below:

Policy 3: Net Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management policy SA/SEA Summary	Summary of effects
Overall the inclusion of this policy in the local plan is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are a limited number of potential positive impacts resulting from the policy in relation to environmental and economic sustainability. In terms of environmental sustainability the policy seeks to move waste up the waste hierarchy, which promotes the reuse, recovery and recycling of waste over disposal. In terms of economic sustainability the policy will have a positive impact through the creation of jobs and the benefits to the economy that the waste industry can have, especially in relation to the provision of reuse, recovery and recycling of materials which have an economic value. No potentially negative sustainability impacts have been identified.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

The Main Modifications (MM17) proposed for this policy have not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

#### Issue 16 – Landfill / Land raising of non-inert wastes

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
16.1	Meet demand for waste disposal to land where generated locally.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>There are no active non-inert landfill sites in West Berkshire and no sites have been promoted through the call for sites, therefore, no need has been identified. However, it is recognised that there may be proposals for landfilling in the future which would need to be considered.</p>

		be used in the landfilling or land raising operations rather than recycled. In addition until a landfill site is fully restored, the disposal of waste to land may have a negative impact on quantity/quality of open space.	
16.2	Provision of greater recycling capacity (if not planning for disposal of waste to land).	Option 16.2 relates to whether greater provision should be made for the recycling of waste if the disposal of waste to land is not being planned for, and to progress with a strategy that aims to maximise recycling rates and maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials. It is considered likely that this option would impact very positively on the sustainability objectives related to 'energy efficiency' and 'sustainable waste management', as recycling is 'higher up' the waste hierarchy than 'disposal' and 'recovery'. It was also considered likely to impact on the sustainability objectives related to 'safeguarding of primary aggregates/recycled aggregate'. This is because construction demolition and excavation waste may be landfilled/raised rather than recycled.	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  It is recognised that policies should seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy, and therefore policies will be developed in to plan to do this.
16.3	Provision of greater recovery and /or treatment capacity (if not planning for disposal of waste to land).	Option 16.3 relates to whether greater provision should be made for the treatment and recovery of waste if the disposal of waste to land is not being planned for, and to progress with a strategy that aims to maximise the value that can be derived from waste materials and minimise the volumes of waste originating in West Berkshire that is disposed of to land. Due to 'recovery' being 'higher up' the waste hierarchy than 'disposal', this was considered likely to impact positively on the two sustainability objectives related to 'maximising energy efficiency' and 'sustainable waste management'.	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  It is recognised that policies should seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy, and therefore policies will be developed in to plan to do this.

An additional 'catch all' option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A landfilling of waste policy (Policy 7) has been developed that sets out when landfilling may be considered acceptable. The policy has been subject to SA/SEA, which has been updated to take into account changes to the policy wording since the preferred options, however, the changes have not changed the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below.

<b>Policy 7: Location of Development – Permanent Deposit of Waste to Land policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. While there are a number of potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts associated with this policy, they are likely to be short/medium term impacts associated with the infilling process itself, but following completion of the works, there could be a potential positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the restoration of the site.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary / Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Short / medium / Long term

The Main Modifications (MM25) proposed for this policy have not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

The net-self-sufficiency in waste management policy (Policy 3) encouraging the recycling of waste this policy has been subject to SA/SEA above (Issue 15).

**Issue 17 – Location and distribution of waste sites**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
17.1 Expand existing permanent facilities/co-location of facilities with exiting permanent facilities.	This option relates to the expansion of existing waste facilities and co-location of facilities. It was considered likely to impact positively on the sustainability objective relating to the 'encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate'. It was unclear what impact this option would have on the rest of the sustainability objectives due to the existing facilities not being identified at this stage. The impacts would therefore be dependent on site specifics in terms of the surrounding landscape characteristics, method of operation, transport links and conditional requirements. With regard to the impact on sustainability objectives related to 'energy efficiency', 'minimising public nuisance' and 'air	<p><b>A Hybrid option covering all of the assessed options is to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>Overall it is considered that there is no one strategy that the MWLP should develop in respect of the location and distribution of waste sites, but that a criteria based policy setting out a range of factors would be most appropriate.</p>

		quality', this would be partly dependant on whether or not transport movements could be shared between facilities/operators which would depend on facility/waste type, location and the operators involved.	
17.2	Concentration of new facilities in key urban areas and population centres/growth areas.	This option would concentrate new facilities in key urban areas and centres of population and growth, and was considered likely to impact positively on the objectives related to 'air quality', 'maximising energy efficiency', 'sustainable transport of waste', and 'encouraging the use of recycled aggregate'. This is due to the likelihood that sites in key urban areas and centres of population and growth are likely to be more efficient in terms of transport movements which may reduce carbon emissions.	<p><b>A Hybrid option covering all of the assessed options is to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>Overall it is considered that there is no one strategy that the MWLP should develop in respect of the location and distribution of waste sites, but that a criteria based policy setting out a range of factors would be most appropriate.</p>
17.3	Decentralisation with facilities distributed across the urban and rural centres.	This option would adopt a decentralised approach with facilities distributed across all the urban areas and rural centres. A decentralised approach is likely to result in waste development that would generate a lot of transport movements which may not be energy efficient and may generate more carbon emissions. This was therefore considered likely to impact negatively on the sustainability objectives related to 'air quality', 'maximising energy efficiency', and the 'sustainable transport of waste'. It would however, potentially positively impact on the sustainability objective related to the 'encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate'.	<p><b>A Hybrid option covering all of the assessed options is to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>Overall it is considered that there is no one strategy that the MWLP should develop in respect of the location and distribution of waste sites, but that a criteria based policy setting out a range of factors would be most appropriate.</p>
17.4	Concentration of new facilities in areas of waste arisings with limited existing capacity.	This option questioned of whether an approach that combines options 1, 2 and 3 would be suitable. As the approach is unknown it is 'unclear' what the impacts on the objectives would be.	<p><b>A Hybrid option covering all of the assessed options is to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>Overall it is considered that there is no one strategy that the MWLP should develop in respect of the location and distribution of waste</p>

			sites, but that a criteria based policy setting out a range of factors would be most appropriate.
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An additional ‘catch all’ option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Location of Development policy has been developed for General Waste Management Facilities (Policy 5), setting out locations where there will be a presumption in favour of waste management facilities. The policy has been subject to SA/SEA which has been updated since the preferred options to take into account changes in the policy wording, however, this has not changed the overall SA/SEA assessment. A summary of the SA/SEA assessment is set out below:

<b>Policy 5: Location of Development – General Waste Management Facilities policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative sustainability impacts identified, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. However, mitigation measures would be required and should reduce the impact, in many cases resulting in a neutral impact. There are also a number of potential positive impacts as a result of the policy on environmental and economic sustainability, through the use of previously developed land, and the impact on the economy of waste management facilities, especially those processing waste material for recycled/secondary materials.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term

The Main Modifications (MM21) proposed for this policy have not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

**Issue 18 – Safeguarding of existing waste sites**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
18.1 Safeguarding of existing permitted permanent waste sites.	Option 18.1 seeks to safeguard existing permitted permanent waste sites from alternative uses. Safeguarding of sites could restrict the resulting harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected, and therefore in the wider context this was considered likely to impact positively on 8 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option is seen to be the most appropriate option as it seeks to ensure existing waste management provision is protected and retained. It is also important that temporary sites granted permission are safeguarded for the duration of their permission.</p> <p>The safeguarding of existing sites reduces the need for new facilities to be provided.</p>



18.2	Safeguard proposed preferred areas identified in the plan.	Option 18.2 seeks to safeguard any proposed preferred areas for waste identified in the plan from alternative uses. Safeguarding of sites could restrict the resulting harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected. Therefore in the wider context, this was considered likely to impact positively on 8 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The LWA has not identified a need for additional areas to be identified in the plan and therefore, preferred areas are not going to be provided.</p>
18.3	Identify and safeguarding existing industrial areas that could provide additional capacity.	Option 18.3 seeks to identify and safeguard existing industrial areas that could provide additional waste management capacity within the existing permitted industrial areas. Safeguarding of sites could restrict the resulting harmful impacts to these specific areas, meaning that other areas are protected. Therefore in the wider context this was considered likely to impact positively on 8 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>Industrial areas are already safeguarded through policies in the Core Strategy and the West Berkshire Local Plan saved polices, such policies do not need to be repeated.</p>

The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional option, which is not considered to be a reasonable alternative as it asked consultees for their opinion on a specific area, rather than a policy approach. Therefore, it has not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 18.4 – Any particular types of waste facility that should have greater protection than others?

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Safeguarding waste facilities policy (Policy 10) has been development, setting the sites/facilities that will be safeguarded for waste uses. The policy also safeguards temporary sites for the duration of their planning permission. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 10: Waste Safeguarding policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy seeks to safeguard existing waste sites, and therefore, there are likely to be positive environmental sustainability impacts in relation to waste management and reuse and recycling of waste materials and on the use of previously developed land. The policy is not predicted to have any negative impacts on sustainability.	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>

**Issue 19 – New Technologies**

Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
<p>19.1</p> <p>Inclusion of policies that allow a range of technologies to come forward in a given location.</p>	<p>Option 19.1 would involve adopting general policies for site allocations and the control of development that allow a range of technologies to come forward in a given location. As the new technologies are likely to be types of recycling, recovery or other operations 'higher up' the waste hierarchy than disposal, it was considered likely that this option would be positive for the sustainability objective related to 'sustainable waste management'. The issue of sustainable transport of waste would be a consideration in the policies and site allocations, and this sustainability objective is considered likely to be positively impacted upon. Allocating sites should provide certainty and jobs, if development comes forward so this was considered likely to benefit the 'economic development' sustainability objective.</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The LWA indicates that there is adequate waste facilities within the district and therefore, the plan does not propose to allocate additional waste sites. However, it is considered appropriate to include criteria based policies for waste sites, should any applications be received, which would be considered against the criteria, and would take into account any new technologies being proposed.</p>
<p>19.2</p> <p>Inclusion of policies that specify where particular technologies/facilities would be acceptable.</p>	<p>Option 19.2 would involve adopting policies for site allocations and the control of development that specify where particular technologies or types of facility would be acceptable. As the new technologies are likely to be types of recycling, recovery or other operations 'higher up' the waste hierarchy than disposal, it was considered likely that this option would be positive for the sustainability objective related to 'sustainable waste management'. The issue of sustainable transport of waste would be a consideration in the policies and site allocations and this sustainability objective was therefore considered likely to be positively impacted upon. Allocating sites should provide certainty and jobs if development comes forward so this was considered likely to benefit the 'economic development' sustainability objective.</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The LWA indicates that there is adequate waste facilities within the district and therefore, the plan does not propose to allocate additional waste sites. However, it is considered appropriate to include criteria based policies for waste sites, should any applications be received, which would be considered against the criteria, and would take into account any new technologies being proposed.</p>

19.3	Inclusion of policies to support waste re/processing or recycle industry.	Option 19.3 would involve adopting policies to support the development of the waste re / processing or recycle industries (i.e. industries that use processed waste materials for specific manufacturing / industrial purposes). This was considered likely to be very positive for the 'sustainable waste management' objective as it encourages re/processing and recycle facilities which are 'higher up' the waste hierarchy than disposal. Supporting these types of waste industry should provide jobs in that industry so this would potentially benefit the 'economic development' sustainability objective.	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The LWA indicates that there is adequate waste facilities within the district and therefore, the plan does not propose to allocate additional waste sites. However, it is considered appropriate to include criteria based policies for waste sites, should any applications be received, which would be considered against the criteria, and would take into account any new technologies, including development of re-processing/recyclate facilities being proposed.</p>
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An additional 'catch all' option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own so no sustainability assessment has been made

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** It is not considered that a separate new technology policy would be required, applications for new technologies could be considered using the policies of the plan as a whole and the plan does not restrict the use of new technologies.

**Issue 20 – Facilities in the AONB**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
20.1	Small scale facilities to meet local identified need in AONB.	Option 20.1 proposes small scale waste management facilities that meet an identified local need being allowed in the AONB. This was considered likely to be positive in terms of creating employment potential while how the rest of the sustainability objectives would be affected would be dependent on implementation.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward in part</b></p> <p>It is recognised that some waste generating activities, such as equine and green waste, are best dealt with within the rural areas, which would include the AONB. In addition the management of waste close to its origin is likely to be more sustainable than transporting waste material large distances for management. Development within the AONB would need to demonstrate exceptional circumstances as set out by the NPPF.</p>

20.2	Large scale facilities in AONB.	Option 20.2 proposes large scale strategic waste management facilities being allowed in the AONB. This was considered likely to be very positive in terms of job creation, and very negative for the sustainability objectives relating to the 'historic environment' and 'the landscape' due to large scale waste facilities being potentially intrusive in the AONB, in terms of landscape and landscape character impact.	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward in part</b></p> <p>While no large scale waste facilities are proposed within the AONB, it is recognised that some waste generating activities, such as equine and green waste are best dealt with in rural areas, which could include the AONB. In addition, the management of waste close to its origin is likely to be more sustainable than transporting waste large distances for management. Any large scale waste proposals put forward within the AONB would need to demonstrate exceptional circumstances as set out by the NPPF.</p>
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An additional ‘catch all’ option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made.

The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional option, which is not considered to be a reasonable alternatives as is does not comply with the requirement of the NPPF which recognises that some development may be necessary in the AONB. Therefore, they have not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 19.3 – Exclude all waste management operations from AONB

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Protected Landscapes policy (Policy 19) has been developed setting out when, in exceptional circumstances, major minerals and waste proposals within the AONB (or in its setting) would be considered acceptable. It was considered appropriate to include mineral proposals within this policy as they also have the potential to cause harm to the AONB. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 19: Protected Landscape policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the focus of the policy on the protection of landscape character of the AONB. There is potential for a positive impact on economic sustainability should a site be permitted in the exceptional circumstances set out in the policy.	<p><b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> AONB</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Permanent</p>

	<b>Timing:</b> long term
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The Main Modifications to this policy (MM31 & MM32) have not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA, as the policy still seeks to protect the AONB.

**Issue 21 – Equine Waste**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
21.1	Additional capacity.	Option 21.1 proposes to provide more waste management capacity to deal with equine waste. It is likely that equine waste management facilities would generate a small number of jobs, so this was considered likely to be positive for the 'economic development' sustainability objective. It was considered 'uncertain' how the rest of the sustainability objectives would be impacted upon, as it would come down to site-specifics, or there was 'no clear link'.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  No sites have been put forward for equine waste management facilities and the LWA has not identified a need for such facilities.
21.2	Provision of facilities within the AONB.	Option 21.2 proposes to provide equine waste facilities near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean in the AONB. Equine waste is likely to be either applied directly to the land for agricultural purposes, or managed through a recovery process and locating facilities close to the arisings would be positive in terms of energy efficiency. The facilities would also generate some employment. Therefore, it was considered likely to have a positive impact on the 3 sustainability objectives relating to 'energy efficiency', 'sustainable waste management' and 'economic development'. It was considered that there would likely be a negative impact on the sustainability objectives relating to the 'historic environment', 'the landscape', and 'maintaining open space amenity'. This is due to potential negative impacts of facilities in the AONB.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  The majority of equine waste in the district is produced from within the AONB. However, it is not usually considered to be a 'waste' activity as it is reused for a useful purpose before it reaches the waste stream. No sites have been put forward and there is no identified need for such facilities in the LWA. If there was a specific policy for the AONB, there would also be a need for a policy for facilities outside the AONB. As a result it is not considered necessary to have a specific AONB policy, a criteria based policy is considered to be more appropriate.

21.3	Criteria based policies.	Option 21.3(ii) proposes that criteria based policies be used to consider any forthcoming applications that are submitted for equine waste management facilities. As the majority of the issues covered by the sustainability objectives would be considered through a criteria based policy approach to equine waste management, it was considered likely that this option could also impact positively on 11 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option will be taken forward</b></p> <p>Given the existing uses of equine waste, which are not considered to be ‘waste’ activities, and therefore, this is not considered to be a strategic issue. However, as equine waste is generated in West Berkshire and therefore could be applications for management facilities it is considered appropriate to include criteria based policies against which applications could be considered.</p>
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The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional option, which is not considered to be a reasonable alternative as the quantity of equine waste produced in the district is not considered to be of a strategy nature. Therefore, it has not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 21.3a – equine waste is a strategic matter

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Specialist Waste Management Facilities policy (Policy 6) has been developed which considers the criteria by which all specialist waste (including equine waste) would be judged. It was considered that there are a number of specialist waste streams (eg. equine and sewage sludge) which would be subject to the same sort of policy requirements and therefore, separate policies for each one would not be necessary to avoid repetition of policy wording within the plan. The policy has been subject to SA/SEA, which has been reviewed following changes to the policy wording, however no changes are considered necessary to the SA/SEA as a result of the updated policy. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 6: Specialist Waste Management policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are some potential negative environmental and social sustainability impacts as a result of this policy; however, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce this impact. There are potential positive economic and environmental sustainability impacts, economically in terms of employment and supporting the local economy.	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> District Wide</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Long term</p>

The Main Modification (MM24) proposed for this policy has not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

**Issue 22 – Sewage Waste**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
22.1	Additional capacity.	Option 22.1 questions whether West Berkshire needs more waste management capacity to deal with sewage. It was considered likely that this would impact positively on economic development as more sewage waste management capacity could potentially generate more employment. However it was considered likely to impact negatively on the objective relating to 'open space and amenity' as this development could potentially take place on land which is currently open space.	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  Thames Water, the statutory sewerage undertaker for West Berkshire have confirmed that they do not require additional sewage facilities over the life of the plan.
22.2	Provision of facilities within the AONB.	Option 22.2 proposes locating sewage facilities near to the waste arisings, accepting that this may mean developing new waste facilities, expanding existing facilities, or locating facilities in sensitive areas, such as the AONB. It was considered likely that this option would impact positively on the sustainability objective related to 'energy efficiency', as the distance that the waste could be travelling would be minimised. It was also considered likely that the facilities would generate a small amount of employment so this could potentially be positive in economic terms. Due to the likelihood that development would be required to take place in the AONB, it was considered that there would potentially be a negative impact in regard to the 'historical environment', 'landscape' and 'open space amenity' sustainability objectives.	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  If there was a specific policy for the AONB, there would also be a need for a policy for facilities outside the AONB. As a result it is not considered necessary to have a specific AONB policy, a criteria based policy is considered to be more appropriate.

22.3b	Criteria based policies.	Option 22.3(ii) proposes that criteria based policies be used to consider any forthcoming applications that are submitted for sewage waste management facilities. As the majority of the issues identified through the sustainability objectives would be considered through a criteria based policy approach to sewage waste management, it was considered likely that this option would impact positively on 11 sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option will be taken forward</b></p> <p>While there is unlikely to be a need for additional sewage treatment facilities over the life of the plan the inclusion of a criteria based policy would allow any applications to be considered against the relevant criteria</p>
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The Issues and Options Consultation included the following additional option, which is not considered to be a reasonable alternative as dealing with sewage sludge is a requirement of the Waste Water board, in this case Thames Water, not an issue for the Council to deal with at a strategic level. Therefore, it has not been assessed through the SA/SEA process.

- Option 22.3a – Sewage Sludge is a strategic matter

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Specialist Waste Management Facilities policy (Policy 6) has been developed which considers the criteria by which all specialist waste (including Sewage Sludge) would be judged. It was considered that there are a number of specialist waste streams (eg. equine and sewage sludge) which would be subject to the same sort of policy requirements and therefore, separate policies for each one would not be necessary to avoid repetition of policy wording within the plan. The policy has been subject to SA/SEA and a summary is given under issue 21 above.

### Issue 23 – Radioactive Waste arisings

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
23.1	VLLW arisings to be managed within the district.	Option 23.1 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for the management / storage / packaging of VLLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire.	<p><b>This option will be taken forward in part</b></p> <p>It is clear that radioactive waste is and will continue to be produced by facilities in West Berkshire, predominantly at the AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield Nuclear Licensed Area. A specific policy has been developed for Nuclear Waste to be managed at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield, and a criteria based</p>



			'specialist waste' policy will cover proposals for radioactive waste from other sources.
23.2	LLW arisings to be managed within the district.	Option 23.2 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for the management / storage / packaging of LLW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire.	<p><b>This option will be taken forward in part</b></p> <p>It is clear that radioactive waste is and will continue to be produced by facilities in West Berkshire, predominantly at the AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield Nuclear Licensed Area. A specific policy has been developed for Nuclear Waste to be managed at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield, and a criteria based 'specialist waste' policy will cover proposals for radioactive waste from other sources.</p>
23.3	ILW arisings to be managed within the district.	Option 23.3 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for the management / storage / packaging of ILW arising within West Berkshire to be managed in West Berkshire. In respect of all of these options it was considered likely that the options could impact positively on the sustainability objective related to 'economic development', as these options could potentially provide some employment. It was considered 'uncertain' as to how this option would impact on 12 of the sustainability objectives, as this would be dependent on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions.	<p><b>This option will be taken forward in part</b></p> <p>It is clear that radioactive waste is and will continue to be produced by facilities in West Berkshire, predominantly at the AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield Nuclear Licensed Area. A specific policy has been developed for Nuclear Waste to be managed at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield, and a criteria based 'specialist waste' policy will cover proposals for radioactive waste from other sources</p>
23.4	Plan for strategic facility to accept VLLW (allowing importation).	Option 23.4 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for a strategic management / storage / packaging facility for VLLW accepting that this would mean that VLLW could be imported into West Berkshire for management.	<p><b>This option will not be taken forward</b></p> <p>The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority report published in 2010 concluded that there was sufficient capability in the nuclear estate for the provision of waste management, treatment and disposal services. Therefore, there would not be the necessary demand to make the development of new facilities feasible at this time.</p>

23.5	Plan for strategic facility to accept LLW (allowing importation).	Option 23.5 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for a strategic management / storage / packaging facility for LLW accepting that this would mean that LLW could be imported into West Berkshire for management.	<p><b>This option will not be taken forward</b></p> <p>The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority report published in 2010 concluded that there was sufficient capability in the nuclear estate for the provision of waste management, treatment and disposal services. Therefore, there would not be the necessary demand to make the development of new facilities feasible at this time.</p>
23.6	Plan for strategic facility to accept ILW (allowing importation).	Option 23.6 proposes for the WBMWDPD to plan for a strategic management / storage / packaging facility for ILW accepting that this would mean that ILW could be imported into West Berkshire for management. In respect of all of these options it was considered likely that they could impact positively on the sustainability objective related to 'economic development' as these options could potentially provide some employment. Importing waste to the unitary area may not be seen as 'energy efficient' so this was considered likely to have a negative impact on this sustainability objective. It is uncertain how this option would impact on 11 of the sustainability objectives, as this would be dependent on implementation in terms of site specifics, transport links, and planning conditions.	<p><b>This option will not be taken forward</b></p> <p>While it is recognised that there are not currently any disposal methods for intermediate and high level radioactive wastes within the UK, only small amounts of this higher level radioactive waste is produce, meaning that such waste facilities need to be considered on a wider than local level. The Government are looking for a location for a national Geological Disposal Facility. Such facilities are likely to have very specific geological and environmental requirements, which West Berkshire does not have.</p>
23.7	Inclusion of criteria based policies.	Option 23.7 proposes an approach whereby criteria based policies be included to allow the consideration of any future applications to manage radioactive waste. The majority of the issues covered by the objectives would be considerations in the development management process, therefore criteria based policies were considered likely to impact positively on 11 of the sustainability objectives.	<p><b>This option will be taken forward</b></p> <p>Radioactive waste is and will continue to be produced by facilities in West Berkshire, the waste is managed through existing contracts and at present there appears to be adequate management capacity at a national level to manage this waste stream, however, it is considered appropriate to have a criteria based policy in case any applications for waste</p>

			management do come forward during the lifetime of the plan.
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An additional ‘catch all’ option was presented in the Issues and Options consultation asking whether there are any other strategies that could be considered. However, this is not a reasonable alternative on its own, so no sustainability assessment has been made.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Waste Treatment and Storage at AWE policy (Policy 13) has been developed, setting out how proposals for waste treatment and storage at AWE (the district’s main generator of radioactive waste) would be judged. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 13:Radioactive Waste Treatment and Storage at AWE policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The location of the site does not lend itself to use of rail or water transportation, which results in a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability, however, material considered under this policy is likely to have been generated on the site and therefore, would not need to be transported, resulting in an overall neutral impact. There is a possible positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy refers to development on an existing brownfield site.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term

A specialist waste management policy (policy 6) has also been developed, which would be used to determine applications for radioactive waste management facilities outside of AWE. This has been subject to SA/SEA, see Issue 21 above.

**Issue 24 – Management of London’s Waste**

This issue is no longer considered to be necessary as the new London Plan seeks to deliver net self-sufficiency in waste management, meaning that specific consideration of the management of London’s waste is not required.

Waste is already imported to West Berkshire from London in small quantities, and there is no indication that the quantity of waste imported from London will increase and therefore, this waste is already taken into account when considering the amount of waste capacity within West Berkshire.

As a result this options considered in the Issues and Options consultation are no longer considered to be reasonable alternatives.

- Option 24.1 – plan for London waste to be managed in district
- Option 24.2 – plan for London waste to be disposed of to land in district

**Issue 25 – Re-working old landfill sites**

Option		Summary of SA/SEA	Recommendation
25.1	Strategic policy on reworking former landfill sites.	Option 25.1 questions whether the WBMWDPD should provide a strategic policy position on the re-working of former landfill sites. Many of the issues addressed by the sustainability objectives would be considered in allocating strategic sites for the re-working of former landfill sites, and therefore it was considered likely to have a very positive impact on the 'sustainable waste management sustainability objective', with a positive impact on 12 of the other sustainability objectives.	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  There has been no interest in the re-working of former landfill sites to date, and therefore, it is not considered to be a strategic issue.
25.2	DM policies relating to reworking former landfill sites.	Option 25.2 questions whether the WBMWDPD should provide development management policies that relate to the potential for applications to come forward for the re-working of former landfill sites. Many of the issues addressed by the sustainability objectives would be considered in the development management process for the re-working of former landfill sites, and therefore it was considered likely to have a very positive impact on the 'sustainable waste management' sustainability objective, with a positive impact on 12 of the other sustainability objectives.	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  While there has been no interest in the re-working of former landfill sites to date, there could be a greater interest over the course of the plan and so the inclusion of a policy within the plan is considered to be appropriate.

**Policy Approach to be taken forward:** A Reworking old landfill sites policy (Policy 14) has been developed, setting out how proposals for the reworking of landfill sites would be judged. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 14: Reworking old landfill sites policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term as a result of the policy, however following the reworking and restoration of the site there should be no long term negative impacts. There are also a number of potential positive environmental impacts as reworking would only be considered where there would be net gains in landscape, biodiversity or amenity. These positive environmental impacts would be long term and permanent.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary / Permanent

	<b>Timing:</b> Short / Medium / Long term
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The Main Modification (MM29) proposed for this policy has not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

**Other policies to be included within the Local Plan not included above:**

**Policy 1: Sustainable Development**

Achieving sustainable development is the main aim of the NPPF (section 2), however, it is considered to be worthwhile to include a local sustainable development policy within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. No changes have been made to the policy since the preferred options.

The proposed policy has been subject to SA/SEA and a summary is set out below:

<b>Policy 1: Sustainable Development policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
There will be an overall positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy’s aim is to ensure sustainable development is achieved in line with the direction of the NPPF. There is some potential for short/medium term impacts on any element of sustainability as a result of temporary development, such as mineral workings, but in the long term mitigation measures and restoration will result in natural or positive impacts on all elements of sustainability	<b>Effect:</b> Positive <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term

**Policy 15: Location of Permanent Construction Aggregate Infrastructure**

There are a number of permanent infrastructure facilities in the district, many which are strategic in nature serving both local and wider markets. The policy sets out the criteria under which new facilities would be considered to continue to serve the local and wider aggregate industry. No changes have been made to the policy since the preferred options.

The proposed policy has been subject to SA/SEA and a summary is set out below:

<b>Policy 15: Location of Permanent Construction Aggregate Infrastructure SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability without the implementation of adequate mitigation measures. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the production of material for the construction industry and environmental sustainability as the policy seeks for sites to be located on previously developed land, protecting agricultural land and soils.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term

The Main Modification (MM30) proposed for this policy has not resulted in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.

**Policy 16: Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure**

Temporary mineral and waste processing infrastructure is often required at sites to enable minerals to be processed in order to be sold and to facilitate the recycling of waste with residues to be used in the restoration of a site. The policy sets out the criteria against which proposals for temporary infrastructure will be assessed. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 16: Temporary Infrastructure policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term as a result of the policy, however following the completion of works and restoration of the site there should be no long term negative impacts. There are a number of potential positive environmental and economic impacts as the infrastructure considered under the policy would not result in additional traffic movements, and will result in material for the construction industry, diverting waste away from landfill for recycling or reuse therefore, providing benefits for the local and wider economy.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short / Medium term

**Policy 18: Landscape**

The NPPF requires that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, including the recognition of intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (para 170), therefore, it is considered appropriate that the new Local Plan includes a policy setting out the landscape considerations required for any minerals or waste proposals coming forward. The plan proposes to include a specific policy relating to the protected landscape of the AONB (see Issue 20 above). Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 18: Landscape policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability due to the focus of the policy on the protection of landscape character and townscape. There is also likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity and heritage assets as a result of the wording of the policy.	<b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Policy 20: Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

The NPPF requires that impacts on biodiversity are minimised and sets out requirements for planning policies (para 174 - 177). While the West Berkshire Core Strategy includes a biodiversity policy (CS17), the Core Strategy is current under review, and therefore, it is not considered appropriate to rely on this policy and so a new policy within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is proposed. Following the Preferred Options consultation the wording of the policy has been reviewed and changes made to make the policy stronger and to include provision for net gains for biodiversity through the restoration of sites. The SA/SEA has been updated to reflect the new policy wording. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 20: Biodiversity and Geodiversity policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
<p>There is likely to a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy, with potential positive impacts on social sustainability due to the focus of the policy being on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>

**Policy 21: Agricultural Land and Soils**

The NPPF states that development should, where possible safeguard best and most versatile agricultural land (Para 170). As this is a specific issue relating to minerals development there are no alternative policies available, and solely relying on the NPPF is not considered appropriate, therefore, a new policy is proposed for inclusions within the Minerals and Waste Local plan. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 21: Agricultural Land policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
<p>There will be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land and soils.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>

**Policy 23: Public Rights of Way**

Minerals and Waste Development can have specific impacts on the rights of way network resulting in the need for rights of way to be diverted or replaced. As a result it is considered necessary that a specific policy approach is included within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to set out the considerations regarding the rights of way network when considering applications. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 23: Public Rights of Way policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
<p>There will be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land and soils.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>

**Policy 24: Flooding**

The NPPF requires Local planning authorities to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations (para 149). Coastal change is not relevant in West Berkshire and water supply and demand are not specific issues for minerals and waste planning. Flood risk is a particular issue in parts of West Berkshire, as demonstrated by the SFRA and therefore, it is considered important to include a policy in relation to flooding and water management within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The West Berkshire Core Strategy includes a policy on flooding (CS16), however, as the Core Strategy is currently under review, and therefore, it is not considered appropriate to rely on this policy and therefore, a new policy within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is proposed. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 24: Flooding policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as a result of this policy as it specifically looks to reduce flood risk and take into account the impacts of climate change on flood risk.	<b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Policy 25: Climate Change**

Climate Change is a global issue, and in a small way the Minerals and waste Local Plan has the opportunity to require consideration of the impacts such development would have on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. As a result it is considered appropriate to include a climate change policy within the Local Plan. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 25: Climate Change policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
There is likely to be a significantly positive impact on all elements of sustainability as a result of the policy's requirement to consider climate change and the risks associated with it. There are a number of other potential positive environmental impacts as a result of the policy specifically in relation to flood risk and sustainable transport.	<b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

The Main Modification (MM42) proposed for this policy have not result in any changes to the outcome of the SA/SEA assessment.



**Policy 26: Public Health, Environment and Amenity**

Minerals and waste development have the potential to negatively impact on public health amenity, therefore, these are specific areas that it is considered should be included within the Local Plan. There are no other local policies related to these topic areas, and solely relying on the NPPF is not considered appropriate. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to include a policy within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 26: Public Health, Environment and Amenity policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There is a potential positive environmental and social sustainability impact as a result of the policy’s requirement to consider the impacts on the impacts on the local community and the natural, built and historic environment. Many of the predicted impacts on the policy are neutral, as the policy requires consideration of public health and safety, amenity and quality of life are not detrimentally impacted. This does not necessarily mean that there would be a positive impact on sustainability, although mitigation measures could result in a positive impact.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Policy 27: Historic Environment**

The NPPF requires Local Plans to have a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment (para 186). While the West Berkshire Core Strategy includes a policy on the Historic Environment and Landscape Character (CS19), the Core Strategy is currently under review, and therefore, it is not considered appropriate to rely on this policy. As a result a new policy is proposed to be included within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 27: Historic Environment policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a potentially significant positive environmental effect as a result of the policy’s focus on preserving and enhancing the historic environment.	<b>Effect:</b> Significantly positive <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Policy 28: Design**

The NPPF requires good design as a key aspect of sustainable development (para 124). While the core Strategy includes a policy on Design Principles (CS14), the Core Strategy is currently under review, and therefore, it is not considered appropriate to rely on this policy. As a result a new policy is proposed to be included within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed but there is no change to the overall outcome. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 28: Design policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. The policy requires consideration of a site’s setting, which means that could be a positive impact on environmental and social sustainability in relation to the historic environment, townscape and landscape all of which can contribute to the setting of a site. There are no likely negative impacts as a result of this policy.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Policy 29: Cumulative Impact**

There are specific issues, such as transport and impact on amenity that can result from minerals and waste development occurring in close proximity to each other or over the same timescale. As a result it is considered that the Local Plan should include a specific policy requiring consideration of cumulative impacts. Minor changes have been made to the policy following the preferred options, the SA/SEA has been reviewed as a result but no changes are considered necessary. A summary of the SA/SEA is set out below:

<b>Policy 29: Cumulative Impact policy SA/SEA Summary</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. As the policy seeks to ensure no cumulative impacts, the policy itself will not have any impact on sustainability, however, it will prevent potential negative impacts occurring if several sites were to come forward within close proximity to each other.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term

**Site Policies**

The plan seeks to allocate sites for mineral extraction. The site allocations are accompanied by site policies setting out what would be required on the site and for consideration at the planning application stage. The site policies have been subject to SA/SEA and a summary of the outcome of the assessment is set out below. No site policies were provided at preferred options, so these assessments have been done to support the proposed submission version of the plan. Details of the site assessments resulting in the allocation of these sites is set out in section 5.1.2 below.

<b>Policy 30: Tidney Bed</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability. The policy will have a positive impact on economic and social sustainability by allowing for the extraction of mineral resources to support the local economy, including the local building trade. The impact on environmental sustainability is likely to be natural due to mitigation measures during the extraction phase, and good restoration of the site should return the site to the same, or better quality.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term

Policy 31: Chieveley Services	Summary of effects
Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability. The policy will have a positive impact on economic and social sustainability by allowing for the extraction of mineral resources to support the local economy, including the local building trade. The impact on environmental sustainability is likely to be natural due to mitigation measures during the extraction phase, and good restoration of the site should return the site to the same, or better quality.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term

## 5.1.2 Site Selection / Site Assessments

### 5.1.2.1 Mineral Sites

Minerals can only be worked where they lie, which means that there are a limited number of sites suitable for mineral extraction. Sharp Sand and Gravel deposits are largely focused along the Kennet Valley in the south west of West Berkshire, while Soft Sand deposits are located to the north of the district within the North Wessex Downs AONB. Minerals working is a temporary land use, and following completion of the extraction phase restoration should return the site to its original land use, or an alternative land use with additional benefits, such as biodiversity enhancements, flood mitigation measures or amenity benefits. Therefore, many of the impacts highlighted in the SA/SEA process are only temporary for the lifetime of the works, with a longer term neutral impact following completion of the works on site.

A total of 16 possible minerals sites were submitted to the Council for consideration for allocation in the Local Plan, 12 for sharp sand and gravel, three for soft sand and one as a processing plant (MW006 - Colthrop Processing Plant). MW006 was not considered to be a realistic alternative for allocation as it already benefits from permanent planning permission and therefore, does not need to be allocated.

The remaining 15 sites are considered to be realistic alternatives for development for their respective mineral resource and therefore, have been subject to site assessment and SA/SEA. The comments made during the 'Sites Consultation' in summer 2016 have also been taken into account as part of the site assessment process. The detailed Site Assessments and SA/SEA are included in appendix 6.

It should be noted that two sites were withdrawn by the landowner in December 2019. Despite being included in the Proposed Submission and Submission versions of the SA/SEA these sites have subsequently been deleted as they are no longer reasonable alternatives for allocation.

### Sharp Sand and Gravel Sites

Sharp Sand and Gravel Site Assessments			
Site Details	Summary of SA/SEA of Site	Summary of Effects	Recommendation and Justification
Founds Lane, Aldermaston (MW001)	Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability, with a potential significantly negative impact as a result of the landscape	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral impact, with a possible significant negative impact on	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  The site is not considered suitable for development in landscape terms, which results

	<p>impact. Despite the temporary nature of this development, it is considered that the landscape impact could not be mitigated to prevent harm to the landscape. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy.</p>	<p>environmental sustainability in terms of landscape.  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p>in a potential significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability.                   No additional evidence received following the preferred options to change the recommendation.</p>
<p>Aldermaston Bridge, Aldermaston (MW003)</p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability. However, development of this nature is temporary and good restoration would return the site to a similar, or better, state than its current state. Mitigation measures would be required for the duration of the development to ensure no long term negative impacts result from the development. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>This site is not recommended for allocation.</b>                   Only a small portion of the site is considered suitable for development, which makes the site unviable and therefore undeliverable and it will not be taken forward into the plan.                   No additional evidence received following the preferred options to change the recommendation.</p>
<p>Boot Farm, Brimpton Common (MW004)</p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. A number of negative impacts have been identified, mainly in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as a result of the development itself but there should be no long term negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. Potential impacts on social sustainability are</p>	<p><del><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</del></p>	<p><del><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>                   The site is considered suitable for development in landscape terms, with limited long term impacts on sustainability that can be mitigated. In the long term restoration of the site will result in net gains for biodiversity.                   However, the site has been withdrawn from consideration for allocation and so is no longer available.</del></p>

	<del>likely to be neutral in the long term, but there could be some short/medium term negative impacts unless adequate mitigation measures are introduced.</del>		
Cowpond Piece, Ufton Nervet (MW007)	Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. A number of negative impacts have been identified, mainly in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as a result of the development itself but there should be no long term negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. Potential social sustainability is likely to be neutral in the longer term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  The site is located within a local wildlife site, and it is considered that there would be a likely significant negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the ecological impact of development on the site. There may also be a negative impact on the landscape as a result of the development of the whole site.  The site was included as a preferred option, however, more sites were included as preferred options than are needed for allocation and therefore, choices had to be made. As a result of the additional information gathered since the preferred options, other sites are considered more suitable for allocation to meet the Council's identified need.
Firlands, Burghfield Common (MW008)	Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are some potential negative impacts in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as the result of the development itself but there should be no long term negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. It is predicted that	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  While the site is considered suitable for development, there are significant concerns over the provision of adequate access to the site, which at the current time means that there site may not be deliverable within the plan period.  The site was included as a preferred option. However, more sites were included as preferred options than are needed for allocation

	there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. Potential social sustainability is likely to be neutral in the longer term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.		and therefore, choices had to be made. As a result of the additional information gathered since the preferred options, other sites are considered more suitable for allocation to meet the Council's identified need.
Gravel Pit Farm, Beenham (MW009)	Development of the site would be likely to have a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact. A number of other negative impacts are also identified in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term as good restoration of the site would restore the site to a similar, or better state. Mitigation measures could be introduced to ensure there are no longer term impacts. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation/retention and support of the local economy. There are also potential positive impacts as a result of processing the infill material for any recyclable/reusable material prior to infilling of the site.	<b>Effect:</b> Potentially significant negative impact on environmental sustainability in relation to landscape <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/medium Term	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  The Site is located within the AONB. No exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated as there are other suitable sites available for sand and gravel. There are significant highway concerns regarding safe and adequate access to the site.
Land off Spring Lane, Aldermaston (MW010)	Overall the site is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. A number of negative impacts have been identified, mainly in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as a result of the development itself but there should be no long term, negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  Only a small part of the site is considered suitable for development in landscape terms, which could impact on viability and delivery of the site.  In addition there is significant concern regarding access and the suitability of the local highway network for HGV traffic.

	<p>environmental sustainability. There are concerns regarding landscape, although a reduced site area would help to mitigate this impact. There are also concerns regarding the impact of HGVs on the local highway network. It is considered that this could have longer term negative sustainability impacts without mitigation measures, both during and after works on the site. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. Potential social sustainability is likely to be neutral in the longer term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.</p>		<p>No additional evidence received following the preferred options to change the recommendation.</p>
<p>Wasing Lower Farm, Aldermaston (MW012)</p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability. Development of this nature is temporary and good restoration would return the site to a similar or better state than its current state. Mitigation measures would be required for the duration of the development to ensure no long term negative impacts result from the development. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of supporting the local economy. It is also predicted that there would be a positive impact in relation to flooding as extraction of the site could result in improved flood water storage.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>While the site is considered suitable for development, there is concern regarding deliverability of the site within the plan period as it is proposed as an extension to an existing quarry which has permission (granted in 2013) but has not started working.</p> <p>The site was included as a preferred option, however, more sites were included as preferred options there are needed for allocation and therefore, choices had to be made. As a result of the uncertainty regarding deliverability of the site, other sites are considered more suitable for allocation to meet the Council's identified need.</p>
<p>Manor Farm, Brimpton (MW013)</p>	<p>Overall the site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability, with the exception of the environmental benefits</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p>

	<p>of the production of recycled aggregate and the associated recycling rates. However, development of this nature is temporary and good restoration would return the site to a similar, or better, state than its current state. Mitigation measures would be required for the duration of the development to ensure no long term negative impacts result from the development. It is predicted that there would be an unknown impact on economic sustainability, as while mineral extraction creates jobs, there could be a loss of farming related employment as a result of the loss of agricultural land. There is also a potentially positive impact in relation to managing and reducing flood risk.</p>	<p><b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p>While the site is considered suitable for development in principle there are third party shooting rights on the land which means that the site is not currently deliverable.</p> <p>The site was included as a preferred option, however, more sites were included as preferred options there are needed for allocation and therefore, choices had to be made. As a result of the uncertainty regarding deliverability of the site, other sites are considered more suitable for allocation to meet the Council's identified need.</p>
<p>Padworth Park Farm, Lower Padworth (MW014)</p>	<p>Overall development of the site would be likely to have a negative impact on sustainability, with a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact from developing the site. It is not considered that this negative impact could be mitigated, where as many of the other negative sustainability impacts could be mitigated reducing the impact of the development in the short/medium term. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy and also in terms of flood risk as restoration of the site could provide improved flood risk management.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Negative, with a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact.  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>The site is not considered suitable for development in landscape terms, which results in a potential significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability.</p> <p>No additional evidence received following the preferred options to change the recommendation.</p>
<p>Tidney Bed, Ufton Nervet (MW015)</p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. However, development of this nature is temporary and good restoration would return the site to a similar or better state than its current</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>The site is recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>The site is considered suitable for development in landscape terms, with limited long term impacts on sustainability that can be mitigated.</p>



	<p>state, resulting in a neutral impact. Mitigation measures would be required for the duration of the development to ensure no long term impacts result from the development. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. It is also predicted that there would be a positive impact in relation to flooding as extraction of the site could result in improved flood water storage.</p>		<p>In the long term restoration of the site will result in net gains for biodiversity.</p> <p>The site was included as a preferred option and is still considered suitable for allocation to meet the Council’s identified need.</p> <p><i>The southern part of the site was withdrawn following the preferred options consultation and as a result the SA/SEA has been updated to reflect this change in site area.</i></p>
<p>Waterside Farm, Thatcham (MW016)</p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability. However, development of this nature is temporary and good restoration would return the site to a similar, or better, state than its current state. Mitigation measures and monitoring of effects would be required for the duration of the development to ensure no long term negative impacts result from the development. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation</b></p> <p>While part of the site is considered acceptable for development in landscape terms, this reduced site area is not considered viable for mineral extraction and would result in a negative impact on the highway network.</p> <p>The site was included as a preferred option, however, more sites were included as preferred options there are needed for allocation and therefore, choices had to be made. As a result of the question over the viability and therefore, deliverability of the site, and the additional highway impact of the smaller site, other sites are considered more suitable for allocation to meet the Council’s identified need.</p>

**Site selection summary**

The SA/SEA of the specific sites shows that for all potential minerals sites the impacts are largely neutral or negative, but that due to the nature of mineral workings the impacts are only likely to be temporary for the short/medium term throughout the duration of the works on site. Following completion of the works and restoration of the sites, the impacts are likely to be neutral, or with some environmental or social benefits in the long term.

Sites where there is likely to be a significant impact on sustainability, in most cases environmental sustainability as a result of the potential impact on the landscape, have been excluded and are not proposed to be taken forward as preferred options (**MW001 Frouds Lane, MW009 Gravel Pit Farm, MW014 Padworth Park Farm**).

Only a small part of **MW003** (Aldermaston Bridge) was considered suitable for development in landscape terms, and therefore, the SA/SEA assessment is overall neutral with no significant impacts predicted. However given the reduced developable area of the site to ensure there is no significant negative impact on environmental sustainability the site is not considered viable and therefore would not be deliverable. As a result the site is not proposed for allocation.

Only a small part **MW010** (Spring Lane) was considered suitable for development in landscape terms and while no significant impacts are predicted there are also concerns regarding highways access to the site and the potential impact this could have on local amenity. This, in addition to the small area of the site suitable for development could impact on viability and delivery of the site, and therefore the site is not proposed for allocation.

Seven sites were proposed as preferred options for allocation (**MW004 Boot Farm, MW007 Cowpond Piece, MW008 Firlands, MW012 Wasing Lower Farm, MW013 Manor Farm, MW015 Tidney Bed, and MW016 Waterside Farm**). Development of these sites is considered acceptable in landscape terms, with appropriate mitigation measures, which in some cases include a reduced site area. The other potential negative impacts can be mitigated in the short/medium term, and in the longer term, following restoration will be neutral.

Following the preferred options further technical work and additional information provided through the consultation have been taken into account. More sites were included in the preferred options than are required to meet the Council's need (as set out in the LAA 2018) and as a result choices need to be made as to which sites to take forward into the proposed submission plan.

The site area at **Waterside Farm (MW016)** has been significantly reduced to ensure no significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of impact on the landscape that the site is not considered viable and therefore, is no longer proposed for allocation. Further ecological work carried out has indicated that development of **Cowpond Piece (MW007)** would result in a significant negative impact on environmental sustainability in terms of ecological impact and therefore, the site is no longer proposed for allocation.

**Boot Farm and Manor Farm** were withdrawn from consideration for allocation by the landowner in December 2019, and so are no longer available.

Concerns have been raised regarding the deliverability of ~~**Boot Farm (MW004), Manor Farm (MW013), Wasing Lower Farm (MW012) and Firlands (MW008)**~~. ~~**Boot Farm** has been withdrawn from consideration for allocation by the landowner, and so is no longer available. There are shooting rights on the **Manor Farm** site, which mean that at the current time the site is not considered deliverable.~~ The site at **Wasing Lower Farm** was proposed to be an extension to an existing quarry granted permission in 2013. No work has started on the site, and therefore, there is uncertainty over the deliverability of the site within the plan period. As a result neither of these sites are now proposed for allocation. There are concerns over the access arrangements regarding the site at **Firlands** which mean that the site is not currently considered to be deliverable.

The remaining site, **Tidney Bed (MW015)** is proposed for allocation. There are no significant constraints to the development of these sites that cannot be mitigated, and in the longer term there should be net gains following the restoration of the sites.

**Soft Sand Sites**

<b>Soft Sand Site Assessments</b>			
<b>Site Details</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA of Site</b>	<b>Summary of Effects</b>	<b>Recommendation and Justification</b>
60 Acre Field, Hermitage (MW002)	It is predicted that there would be a potentially significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact from developing the site. A number of other negative impacts are predicted in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term as good restoration of the site would restore the site to a similar, or better state. Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no long term negative impacts on these elements. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy.	<b>Effect:</b> Significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability in relation to landscape. <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  The site is not considered acceptable for development in landscape terms and while there is a need for soft sand within the district there is another soft sand site which is considered suitable for development in landscape terms.  No soft sand sites were included in the preferred options
Chieveley Services, Cheiveley (MW005)	Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. A number of negative impacts have been identified, mainly in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term impacts as a result of the development itself but, there should be no long term negative impacts as mineral development is temporary in nature. Good restoration should mean that there is no long term negative impact, and could result in improvements, especially in relation to environmental sustainability. The site is located within the AONB, however the site is not considered to be of high landscape	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>The site is recommended for allocation.</b>  While the site is located in the AONB the site is considered acceptable for development in landscape terms with mitigation measures.  There is an overriding need for soft sand within the district, and therefore, exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated regarding the allocation of the site within the AONB.  No soft sand sites were included in the preferred options

	<p>sensitivity and mitigation measures, including a reduced site area, would mitigate this impact. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. While the site could result in additional traffic movements, it is adjacent to the strategic road network and therefore, it is unlikely that there would be a significant impact on environmental sustainability. Potential social sustainability is likely to be neutral in the long term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.</p>		
<p>Long Lane, Cold Ash (MW011)</p>	<p>Overall development of the site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability, however it is predicted that there would be a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact from developing this site. A number of other negative impacts are predicted in relation to environmental sustainability, however, these are likely to be short/medium term as good restoration of the site should restore the site to a similar state to its current state. Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no long term negative impacts on these elements. It is predicted that there would be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Potentially significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability in relation to landscape and highway impact  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>There is significant concern regarding the deliverability of safe and adequate access to the site.</p> <p>In addition the site is not considered suitable for development in landscape terms, which results in a potential significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability</p> <p>No additional evidence received following the preferred options to change the recommendation.</p>

**Site selection summary**

No soft sand sites were proposed for allocation in the Preferred Options as the Council was unable to calculate a soft sand landbank figure. However, following the operators forgoing confidentiality the 2017 and 2018 LAAs have been able to publish separate landbank figures for sharp sand and gravel

and soft sand. As a result the 2018 LAA shows that there is a need for soft sand within the district which has resulted in the change of approach and the consideration of allocating site/s for soft sand in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Three soft sand sites were promoted for allocation **60 Acre Field (MW002)**, **Chieveley Services (MW005)** and **Long Lane (MW011)**. MW011 **Long Lane** is not considered suitable for development in relation to highways as a safe and adequate access to the site cannot be achieved, as well as not being considered suitable for development in landscape terms. Both **60 Acre Field** and **Chieveley Services** are located within the AONB. Given the need for soft sand in the district as set out in the LAA there is a need to allocate a site (or sites) for soft sand, the need figure providing evidence of exceptional circumstance. Given the location in the AONB, landscape is a critical consideration. The Council's landscape assessment indicates that subject to mitigation measures the site at **Chieveley Services** would be suitable for development, while **60 Acre Field** is not considered acceptable in landscape terms.

While on its own the site at **Chieveley Services** does not quite meet the annual requirement for soft sand, it is not considered appropriate to allocate another site which would result in significant harm to environmental sustainability in terms of the landscape impact. Therefore, the Council will continue to rely on imported material to meet its overall need as set out under Issue 4 above.

#### 5.1.2.2 Waste Sites

Five possible waste sites were submitted to the Council for consideration for allocation in the MWLP, of these sites four already benefit from planning permission and therefore, do not need to be allocated and are therefore, not considered to be reasonable alternatives for allocation. The remaining site was promoted for inert infill of a former mineral site, now a lake which is of ecological and recreational value. It is considered that inert waste from which no further value can be obtained should be used primarily in the restoration of permitted minerals sites to ensure that such sites can be restored to an acceptable landuse in a timely manner. In addition, the Local Waste Assessment (LWA) 2019 shows that there is no need for additional waste management capacity within the district, and the allocation of mineral sites would create void space for inert landfill material, therefore it is not considered to be a reasonable alternative to consider this site further for allocation. As a result no waste sites are proposed for allocation and so no site assessment has taken place.

#### 5.1.3 The Sequential Test

The sequential test has been carried out for the sites recommended for allocation.

##### ***Sharp Sand and Gravel***

**Tidney Bed (MW015)** is located partly within flood zone 3 (44%), with the majority of the site at risk from groundwater flooding. However, the only other sites considered as a preferred option with a lower flood risk than **Tidney Bed (MW015)** are **Boot Farm (MW004)**, **Cowpond Piece (MW007)** and **Firlands (MW008)**. ~~**Boot Farm (MW004)** has been withdrawn from consideration for allocation by the landowner and so is no longer available.~~ **Cowpond Piece (MW007)** is not considered acceptable for development in ecological terms, and there are questions over the deliverability of the site at **Firlands (MW008)** due to access constraints. The layout and design of the site will need to take into account the flood risk, directing buildings and plant equipment (if required) to the areas of the site at least risk of flooding.

**Soft Sand**

**Chieveley Services (MW005)** is within flood zone 1, but is shown to have approximately a quarter of the site at risk from surface water or groundwater flooding. These areas at risk from flooding are largely located to the south of the site, within the area proposed as part of the landscape buffer, therefore, the risk of flooding on the active part of the site is reduced.

While the other soft sand site considered **60 Acre Field (MW002)** is identified in the SFRA as being at lowest risk from flooding, the site is not considered suitable for development in landscape terms, and therefore, as the extraction of sand and gravel is considered to be a water-compatible activity it is considered appropriate to allocate **Chieveley Services (MW005)** despite the flood risk on the site. The layout and design of the site will need to take into account the flood risk, directing buildings and plant equipment (if required) to the areas of the site at least risk of flooding.

A table summarising the flood risk on each of the sites considered to be reasonable alternatives at preferred options is included in appendix 7.

**5.2 Overall assessment of the plan**

The overall assessment of the plan takes into account all the changes made to the plan since the preferred options.

Summary	Overall	Minerals	Waste
<b>Effect</b> <i>What is the overall sustainability impact on the SA Objectives?</i>	Overall the Minerals and Waste Plan should have a <b>positive impact</b> on all strands of sustainability, economic, environmental and social.	The development of mineral sites should have an overall <b>positive impact</b> in the short/medium/long term. Extraction of the mineral has a positive impact on economic sustainability, helping to meet local and regional needs. The restoration of the site should deliver net gains environmentally and socially.	The development of waste sites should have an overall <b>positive impact</b> in the short, medium and long term. Waste generated needs to be dealt with and the plan seeks to ensure adequate suitable provision for waste, pushing it up the waste hierarchy.
<b>Likelihood</b> <i>How likely is it that the effect will actually occur?</i>	There is a <b>high</b> likelihood that there will be a positive impact on sustainability as a result of the plan if the policies of the plan are adhered to as expected.	As sites are required to be restored and this should be to the same or better quality, it is <b>highly likely</b> that there will be a positive impact in the medium/long term as a result of the extraction of mineral from the site.	It is <b>highly likely</b> that the development of waste sites will have an overall positive impact.
<b>Scale</b> <i>What is the potential scale of the effect, considering the geographical area</i>	Overall the plan should have a positive impact on sustainability at the <b>local</b> level in terms of the overall policy, but will also support the wider <b>regional</b> need for minerals.	Overall the development of mineral sites will be likely to have an impact at both the <b>local scale</b> and the <b>regional scale</b> . The provision of mineral into the local and regional markets ensures a positive sustainability impact. It is recognised	Waste sites meet a <b>local</b> need for waste management facility, but also support wider waste management needs at the <b>regional</b> scale. It is recognised that without adequate mitigation measures

<i>and size of the population likely to be affected?</i>		that without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact at the very local level surrounding a site.	there could be a negative impact at the very local level surrounding a site.
<b>Duration</b> <i>Are the potential effects likely to be permanent or temporary?</i>	The impact the plan has will depend on the nature of the development being considered.	Overall the development of mineral sites is <b>temporary</b> in nature. In the long term the benefits provided following the extraction of the mineral should provide a permanent benefit.	The majority of waste development will be <b>permanent</b> in nature and therefore, any impacts would be permanent.
<b>Timing</b> <i>Are the potential effects short, medium or long term?</i>	The plan will have an impact over the <b>long term</b> as it is due to be in place until 2037.	It is recognised that in the <b>short</b> term, without mitigation measures, there could be a negative impact. However, in the <b>medium/long</b> term when mitigation measures are in place and the site has been restored there should be an overall positive impact on sustainability.	It is recognised that in the short term, during the construction phase of development there could be some negative impacts if adequate mitigation is not provided, however, in the medium/long term, there should be neutral, or potentially positive impacts on sustainability as a result of the development.

The Proposed Main Modifications to the plan have not resulted in any changes to the outcomes of the SA/SEA. Each modification has been reviewed in terms of the SA/SEA objectives and a summary can be found in Appendix 8.

## 6 Next Stages

The SA/SEA Report is being published alongside the Proposed Submission Minerals and Waste Local Plan as part of the Regulation 19<sup>14</sup> consultation. Comments on the SA/SEA are invited at this stage. The consultation will last 6 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 until 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Following the consultation the proposed plan and all supporting documents, including the SA/SEA Environmental Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination<sup>15</sup>.

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in July 2021. The hearing sessions took place in February 2022, and the Inspector's Post Hearings Note recommends a number of modifications to the plan ("Main Modifications") suggested by the Council

<sup>14</sup>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 19 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/regulation/19/made>

<sup>15</sup>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 22 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/regulation/22/made>

which the Inspector believes are necessary for the plan to be found sound. These modifications are now subject to consultation. The consultation will last just over 6 weeks from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Following the consultation all representations made will be submitted to the Inspector who will make his final decision on whether to recommend adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

## 7 Implementation

The SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC “The assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment”) requires that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan of programme should be monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. SA monitoring will cover significant sustainability effects as well as the environmental effects.

The suggested monitoring regime includes (sourced from the European Commission, 2003):

- Determination of the scope of monitoring
- Identification of the necessary information
- Identification of existing sources of information
  - Data at project level
  - General environmental monitoring and
  - Other data
- Filling the gaps
- Procedural integration of monitoring into the planning system
- Taking remedial action

In particular and in line with the guidance, monitoring will be focused on significant environmental effects, such as those;

- Which indicate a likely breach of international, national or local legislation, recognised guidelines or standards
- That may give rise to irreversible damage with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused
- Where there was uncertainty over possible adverse effects, and where monitoring would enable mitigation measures to be taken.

The monitoring framework has been set out, and the key indicators to be monitored and relevant conclusions will be included in the Annual Monitoring Reports. The monitoring framework is set out in section 5 of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and contains more detail on the monitoring indicators and how they will be measured.

Potential indicators have been proposed in the Scoping Report context and baseline (see table 5) for each of the SA sub-objectives, drawing from existing sources to ensure the recording of data for the indicator is already established. The effectiveness of policies should be assessed against



measurable targets. Some policies aim to deliver a qualitative rather than quantitative outcome and in such instances it is appropriate to monitor whether the policy is delivering the intended trend or direction of travel.

In some cases information used in monitoring will be provided by outside bodies.

## **8 Conclusions on the Overall Sustainability of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

The SA/SEA shows that the impact of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan on sustainability has been taken into account, and the most appropriate options for the plan have been taken forward. The plan seeks to direct development to the most appropriate locations for that type of development, setting out policies and allocating sites, to deliver sustainable development for minerals and waste in West Berkshire. The Proposed Main Modifications to the MWLP have been reviewed in light of the SA/SEA and they do not impact on the SA/SEA objectives, or result in a change in the outcome of the SA/SEA.

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 519111 and ask for the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team.

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Development and Regulation**

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WBC/P&C/CP/1213

# Member Development Programme 2022/2023

<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	10 May 2022
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Howard Woollaston
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	21 April 2022
<b>Report Author:</b>	Vicki Yull
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4212

## 1 Purpose of the Report

To give consideration to, and agree the proposed Member Development Programme for 2022/23 (attached at Appendix A). The programme was considered and endorsed by the Member Development Group on 7 April 2022.

## 2 Recommendation

Council to consider the proposed draft Member Development Programme and ensuing resource implications and to approve the Programme for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>It is proposed that the majority of the programme will be delivered by employees and any ensuing costs would be met from within existing budgets.</p> <p>£5k will be set aside from the Corporate Training budget to fund any external training agreed by Members.</p>
<b>Human Resource:</b>	<p>The Member Development Programme is established, managed and monitored by officers within Strategy and Governance and the delivery of sessions is cross-service, usually at Service Manager level or above.</p>

<b>Legal:</b>	None.			
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None. It is anticipated that improving the knowledge of Members will assist with reducing risks to the Council.			
<b>Property:</b>	None.			
<b>Policy:</b>	The Member Development Programme will be delivered as part of the Member Development Strategy.			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		✓		Wherever possible these sessions will be offered on Zoom to reduce the Environmental Impact.
<b>Health Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		✓		

<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>		✓		Business as Usual
<b>Core Business:</b>		✓		Business as Usual
<b>Data Impact:</b>		✓		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	The proposed programme has been considered by the Member Development Group, Corporate Board and Operations Board prior to approval at full Council.			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Each year, Council is asked to agree the Member Development Programme for the following Municipal Year. The Member Development Programme is developed by Officers in conjunction with the Member Development Group which is attended by representatives from all three political groups. The programme is made up of mandatory sessions that must be attended by specific groups of Members for example those who sit on Planning and Licensing Committees and more generic, often service based sessions that are open to all Members. It was also agreed in March 2020 that mandatory equalities training would be delivered on an annual basis. Corporate Board recommended that the Annual Safeguarding session is also made mandatory for all Members, given their role as Corporate Parents. This view was endorsed by the Member Development Group.
- 4.2 The majority of the sessions are delivered by Council Officers, although where appropriate, external providers are also used where this is seen to be of benefit to Members. It has also been agreed that up to £5k of the corporate training budget would be set aside to fund any external training for Members.
- 4.3 Whilst the main programme is agreed at Council, additional sessions may be added during the course of the year if required. For example, it may be necessary to add ad hoc sessions on a particular topic to bring Members up to speed quickly.
- 4.4 The proposed Member Development Programme for 2022/23 builds on the sessions delivered over previous years and Council is asked to agree the draft.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 The Member Development Programme for 2021/22 has, on the whole, received very positive feedback so far from those Members attending the sessions. The Council

returned to physical meetings in a hybrid format but training sessions continued to be delivered via the online platform.

- 5.2 While these types of sessions are not everyone's preferred method of learning there have been a number of benefits to delivering training in this form. These included the ability to record sessions which Members could then revisit or watch if they were unable to attend the session when it was being delivered. This in turn meant that the number of repeat sessions could be reduced thereby reducing demand on Officers time. In addition it has reduced travel costs and reduced the number of car journeys made by Members.
- 5.3 At its meeting on 7 April 2022, the Member Development Group discussed the future format for sessions, particularly noting that group sessions where the trainers required a lot of input from members did not work very well via zoom. The Group felt that all Member sessions should be offered in a hybrid format, with each session offering Members the opportunity to join in person or via zoom depending on their preference and availability.
- 5.4 Following debate at Corporate Board, the Member Development Group and Operations Board, it has been proposed that the following be added into the Programme for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year:
- 'Fraud, Corruption, Bribery and Whistleblowing' for Members appointed to the Governance and Ethics Committee in particular but open to all other Members.
  - 'Code of Conduct / Standards Issues' open to all Members to help raise awareness of the standards expected of Councillors.
  - 'GDPR / Data Protection / Information Security' tailored specifically for Members which could be made mandatory for newly elected Councillors. The online session for Information Security, GDPR, FOI and Complaints would be strongly recommended to all Members for completion as a refresher each year.
  - 'The role and functions of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission' for Members appointed to that Committee in particular but open to all other Members.
  - The regulatory framework where the Council has direct provision (e.g. Ofsted and CQC) in the form of briefing notes.
  - The risk management sessions (required as a result of the recommendations from an internal audit review) which would be targeted at those Members on the Operations Board and the Governance & Ethics Committee.
- 5.5 The draft Programme has also been reorganised with sessions categorised as either mandatory to attend, essential to attend or desirable (non-mandatory) to attend for Members.
- 5.6 Given the ability to record sessions in hybrid format, it is also intended that those sessions not requiring a large amount of audience participation will be delivered once with the recording made available to Members to view at their leisure. This will reduce the impact and demand upon time for both officers and Members.

- 5.7 It is also intended that Member attendance at training sessions will be logged and made available for public inspection, in line with the attendance records already available for Committee meetings.
- 5.8 South East Employers has been approached to provide a Charing Skills training session and this will take place remotely via zoom on 23 May 2022. As above, a recording of the session will be made available to those unable to attend in person.

## Proposals

- 5.9 That Council agrees the proposed Member Development Programme for 2022/23 (attached at Appendix A).
- 5.10 That £5k is made available to fund external training for Members.

## 6 Other options considered

Not to run a Member Development Programme.

## 7 Conclusion

The proposed Member Development Programme 2022/23 will be considered by Council on 10 May 2022 and, if agreed, will be in place immediately.

## 8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Member Development Programme 2022/23

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### Background Papers:

None.

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**Wards affected:** All

**Officer details:**

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Job Title: Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Tel No: 07824 824867  
E-mail: Vicki.Yull1@westberks.gov.uk

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## Member Development Programme 2022/23

Session and content	Date and time	Delivered by
<b>Mandatory session for all Members appointed to a Planning Committee (All Members welcome)</b>		
<b>The Planning Process – annual update</b>	11 May 2022, 3.30pm 16 May 2022, 6.00pm	Planning and Legal Officers
<b>Mandatory session for all Members appointed to the Licensing Committee (All Members welcome)</b>		
<b>The Licensing Process – annual update</b>	12 May 2022, 6.30pm	Licensing and Legal Officers
<b>Mandatory session for all Members appointed to the Appeals Panel (All Members welcome)</b>		
<b>Appeals – annual update</b>		School Transport Team HR Appeals Officer Legal Services Revenues and Benefits
<b>Essential sessions for all Members</b>		
<b>Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion – annual update</b>		Leigh Hogan / Pamela Voss
<b>Code of Conduct and Standards Issues</b>		Sarah Clarke, Monitoring Officer
<b>Information Security, GDPR, FOI and Complaints</b>	Access to 'Data Protection & Security Essentials' module via Learning Time	Session for newly elected Councillors by Information Security Officer in May 2023 Annual refresher for all Members via online training module

Session and content	Date and time	Delivered by
<b>Safeguarding – annual update</b>		Adult Services Children’s Services Building Communities Together Team
<b>Essential session for all Members appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (All Members welcome)</b>		
<b>The Role and Functions of the OSMC</b>		Monitoring Officer
<b>Essential sessions for all Members appointed to the Governance and Ethics Committee (All Members welcome)</b>		
<b>Governance and Ethics – annual update</b>		Monitoring Officer / Section 151 Officer
<b>Fraud, Corruption, Bribery and Whistleblowing</b>		Julie Gillhespey
<b>Non-mandatory sessions (desirable for all Members to attend)</b>		
<b>Case work</b>		To be considered
<b>The ‘People’ Directorate and what they do</b>		Andy Sharp and Relevant Service Directors / Heads of Service
<b>The ‘Place’ Directorate and what they do</b>		Susan Halliwell and Relevant Service Directors / Heads of Service
<b>The ‘Resources’ Directorate and what they do</b>		Joseph Holmes and Relevant Service Directors / Heads of Service
<b>Communications, engagement and Customer First</b>		The Communications Team

Session and content	Date and time	Delivered by
<b>Climate Change/ Zero Carbon Member and Senior Officer session</b>		Jon Winstanley / Jenny Graham
<b>The remit of the Public Protection Partnership</b>		Sean Murphy
<b>Effective Scrutiny and Challenge</b>		External provider (possibly Centre for Governance and Scrutiny)
<b>Health Scrutiny training (NHS structures, an introduction to Health Scrutiny legislation and practice)</b>		Internal or external provider
<b>Digital training (how to make the best use of ICT and accessing information)</b>		Phil Rumens and Andy Best
<b>CIL</b>		Bryan Lyttle
<b>Highways and Transport – fault reporting system</b>		Jon Winstanley
<b>Policy &amp; Finance Updates</b>	Ad hoc (when required)	Nigel Lynn / Joseph Holmes and Relevant Senior Managers
<b>The regulatory framework where the Council has direct provision (e.g. Ofsted or CQC inspections)</b>		Andy Sharp
<b>Risk Management Sessions (targeted to those Members on Operations Board and Governance and Ethics Committee)</b>		Catalin Bogos
<b>Chairing Skills</b>	23 May 2022, 5.00pm	Mark Palmer, South East Employers
<b>LGA Training</b>		
<b>Members to visit <a href="http://www.local.gov.uk/events">www.local.gov.uk/events</a> to access upcoming events</b>		

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Council – 10 May 2022

**Item 15 – Licensing Committee**

**Item 16 – Personnel Committee**

**Item 17 – Governance and Ethics Committee**

**Item 18 – District Planning Committee**

**Item 19 – Overview and Scrutiny**

**Management Commission**

**Item 20 – Health Scrutiny Committee**

**Item 21 – Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Item 22 – Joint Public Protection Committee**

Verbal Items

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