

## **SA/SEA Environmental Report for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

### **1 Introduction**

West Berkshire Council has prepared a Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

This report constitutes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Preferred Options 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 and the European Directive on SEA (2001).

#### ***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 2036, setting out new policies to manage mineral and waste development in West Berkshire.

While a non-statutory stage of plan making the Council consider “Preferred Options” to be an important part of the plan making process. This stage allows members of the public to have a say in the policies and sites proposed to be carried forward into the Local Plan.

Two informal consultations have already taken place giving members of the public and stakeholders the opportunity to have a say very early 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.

- 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)

### **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 Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and the extent to which these options and the Local Plan help to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

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’<sup>1</sup>. 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 Regulations). 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 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>2</sup>.

“A sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors”.

Further to the NPPF, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>3</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 Preferred Options 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)

<sup>1</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>2</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)

<sup>3</sup> Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

- 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. 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. A summary 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 Preferred Options 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.

### ***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.

Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Development ) England (Amendment) Regulations 2012 there is no formal requirement for a Preferred Options stage and the SA is now only required under Section 20 to be published for consultation when the proposed submission documents are published for consultation. Therefore, there is no formal requirement for an SA report to be published with a Preferred Options style consultation document. However, the Council see the Preferred Options as an important stage in the decision making process allowing members of the public, and stakeholders, early involvement in the development of the options for development. The SA/SEA forms an important part of the site selection process, and therefore, this report is being published alongside the Preferred Options Local Plan.

#### **Stages of the SA**

The sustainability appraisal is made up of a series of stages (Stages A to E).

Table 2 – Stages of the SA Report		
Local Plan Stage	SA/SEA Stage	
<b>Pre-Production</b>  COMPLETE	<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>  IN PROGRESS	<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>	

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	D1	Public participation on the draft Local Plan and SA Report
	D2 (i)	Appraise significant changes
<b>Submission and Examination</b>	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 any changes made will be reassessed and updated where appropriate.

**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)).

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Table 3 Requirements of the SEA Directive	
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 5
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	4, Appendix 1, Appendix 5
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;	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;	5, Appendix 2, Appendix 5
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>4</sup> ;	5, Appendix 5
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, 3, Appendix 5
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 5
i) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	7, Appendix 5
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Non Technical Summary

#### 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.

<sup>4</sup> These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

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.</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	<p>There is a need to conserve and enhance West Berkshire's rich historic environment and diverse historic landscape character.</p>
Air	<p>There are only two areas acknowledged as having poor air quality (designated as Air Quality Management Areas) in West</p>

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	<p>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	<p>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.</p>
General social considerations – Population, Education, Housing, Deprivation, Crime and Safety	<p>The population of West Berkshire (the plan area) is projected to increase to 170,100 by 2021 and the West Berkshire Core Strategy plans for an additional 10,500 new homes between 2006 and 2026. This is likely to result in greater demands on resources and minerals supply, and waste infrastructure.</p> <p>The number of people aged 85+ is expected to rise by 41%, by 2021, 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> <p>The main deprivation issue facing the area is that of barriers to housing and services. The need for affordable housing is likely</p>



## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	<p>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, air quality; mineral waste; dust; visual intrusion on the local setting and wider landscape; archaeological and heritage features; traffic; groundwater; surface water; landscape character; and internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, protected or sensitive species and plant and wildlife habitats<sup>5</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 WBMWDPD 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>

<sup>5</sup> Planning and Minerals: Practice Guide (2006)

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	<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 WBMWDPD.</p>
Waste	<p>Waste management and associated activities generate greenhouse gases and other air pollutants. Climate change is a major sustainability consideration. The 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 WBMWDPD 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 WBMWDPD.</p>
General economic considerations	<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 WBMWDPD 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.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Table 5 Proposed framework for the SA/SEA of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan			
SA Objective	SA Sub-Objective	Suggested Indicators	SEA Topic
1. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	1.1 Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	<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>	Biodiversity
	1.2 Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?		Flora Fauna Soil
2. To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	2.1 Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	<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>	Water
	2.2 Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?		Biodiversity
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
	4.2 Is there likely to be an impact on soils?		Material Assets
	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</li> </ul>	Cultural heritage

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

		<p>planning process and preserved in situ or by record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Council's conservation or archaeological officer</li> </ul>	
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
	6.2 Is there likely to be an impact on landscape?		Material Assets Cultural Heritage
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
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
	9.2 Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?		Climatic factors
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
	10.2 Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road		Air Climatic factors

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	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>	<p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Material Assets</p>
	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 public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity	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> <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>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Flora</p> <p>Fauna</p>
	12.2 Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?		
13. To minimise public nuisance	13.1 Is it likely that there would be an impact on air quality?	<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>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Fauna</p> <p>Flora</p>
	13.2 Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?		
	13.3 Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?		
	13.4 Is it likely that there would be an impact on soil quality?		

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	13.5 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 SA Objective 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.

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.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

SA Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
2	White	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
3	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
4	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue
5	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
6	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
7	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
8	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green
9	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
10	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Blue
11	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
12	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Green	Blue
13	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Green	Blue
14	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey	Blue
15	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Grey

Compatible    Incompatible    Neutral    Uncertain

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 – minimising public nuisance from waste activities, and 14 - minimising public nuisance from minerals activities are compatible with objective 15 – 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.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

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.

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.

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 and seek to improve the quality of life of residents, the quality of diversity of areas of nature



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	conservation interest, historic and heritage assets, water environment and landscape character
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 from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments, Special Areas of Conservation, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Battlefields and Conservation Areas.
E (M5)	To identify Preferred Areas 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 to a high standard, beneficial and viable after-use.
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	To ensure appropriate protection of the natural and cultural heritage in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

(W8)	related development in accordance with the NPPF.
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 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																
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
1		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
2		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
3		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
4		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
5		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
6		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
7		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
8		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Uncertain	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
9		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Uncertain	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
10		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
11		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
12		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
13		Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Neutral	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
14		Compatible	Uncertain	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Uncertain	Compatible	Compatible	Uncertain	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 15 – 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 renewable and low carbon energy sources, and 9 - managing waste in line with the 'waste hierarchy' principle. 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.

## **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 safeguarding 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

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

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?

### ***Approach to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan***

No alternatives were considered as reasonable, other than to develop a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Currently the Council are relying on the saved policies of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire and Waste Local Plan for Berkshire, which date back to 1997 (Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire) and 1998 (Waste Local Plan for Berkshire). The new Minerals and Waste Local Plan will cover the period to 2036 and will cover the area of West Berkshire only.

#### **5.1.1 Policy Options**

In 2014 the Council carried out an Issues and Options consultation to determine the issues that the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan may need to cover. The topics covered in the Issues and Options consultation have been used as the basis for the policy headings to be included in the plan. Various potential policy options have been considered for each of the topics to be taken forward into the Plan. The SA/SEA provides an indicating of which policy option may be the best in terms of sustainability, however, this does not always mean that the most sustainable policy option is considered the most appropriate to be taken forward into the plan.

#### **5.1.2 Site Selection**

All sites have been subject to site assessment and SA/SEA where they are considered to be a reasonable alternative for allocation.

As there is a national policy presumption against provision of mineral landbanks in the AONB (NPPF paragraphs 116 and 144) all minerals sites located within the AONB have been automatically excluded from consideration as a site for allocation and not subject to further assessment.

All other sites have been subject to assessment as reasonable alternatives for allocation.

## **5.2 Assessment of Options and Appraisal**

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

More realistic alternatives have been identified than are required to meet the Council's minerals landbank requirement, these make up the options tested through the SA/SEA. It is from these options, through the SA/SEA and Site Assessment process that the preferred options sites have been selected.

Potential mitigation has been identified, where necessary, where the adverse effects could be avoided through introducing conditions or changes in the way which policies are implemented.

The assessment of the options and policies has been based on the information available at the time of the assessment and on professional judgement.

### 5.2.1 Policy options

A number of topic areas were subject to an Issues and Options Consultation in early 2014. The considerations of options for policies to be included in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan have been based on these topic areas. The detailed SA/SEA sheets are set out in Appendix 4.

#### 5.2.1.1 Minerals Policies

##### ***Future-mix of supply of aggregates in West Berkshire***

The issues and options consultation concluded that there is a need for the Local Plan to consider all sources of aggregates, imported, recycled and secondary aggregates as well as primary aggregates.

The policy will also need to set out the aggregate need for West Berkshire.

##### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy <i>Rely on NPPF</i>	The NPPF requires local mineral authorities to have a landbank of mineral resources. Therefore, this is not considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will not be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>No, option not to be tested</b>
Option 2 - Use Withdrawn Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy <i>M2 Apportionment Rate and Landbank</i>	While the withdrawn Core Strategy has a policy on apportionment rate and landbank this is for the whole of Berkshire and not specific to West Berkshire. This apportionment rate is also based on the, now revoked, Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) therefore, it is not considered this would be a reasonable alternative and so this option will not be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>No, option not to be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy	A new policy would be able to set out the current need for West Berkshire, taking into account the figures in the latest Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) and minerals evidence base. This	<b>Yes, option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Need and Landbank</i>	is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA. However, as this is the only reasonable alternative, there are no other policy options to consider.	
--------------------------	--	--

*SA/SEA Outcome and recommendation*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Need and Landbank</i>	Overall the preferred policy approach is likely to have an uncertain impact on sustainability. This is due to the nature of minerals development, which is temporary in nature, but could have short term impacts that, without mitigation, could negatively impact on environmental and social sustainability. Mitigation and good quality, timely restoration to Greenfield will ensure there are no long term sustainability impacts. Overall mineral extraction will have a positive impact on economic sustainability as it provides mineral resources to the local (and wider) market, as well as providing local employment opportunities.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Uncertain <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>Policy option is taken forward</b>  This option was considered to be the only reasonable alternative as the Council is required by the NPPF to set out its need and land bank requirements.

*Choosing a Policy Option*

Option 3 was considered the only reasonable alternative policy option that was identified to be tested and it is therefore recommended that this is taken forward.

***Extraction of sharp sand and gravel from within AONB***

The NPPF states that development of mineral sites in the AONB should only take place in exceptional circumstances, and that, as far as practical, construction aggregate landbanks should be provided for by locations outside the AONB. Therefore, nationally there is presumption against mineral development within the AONB. The Issues and Options consultation generally supported an approach which ensured minerals sites are not located within or in a location which could adversely affect the AONB.

It may be more appropriate to consider extraction of any material from the AONB, not just sharp sand and gravel. A more general AONB policy could also cover waste development proposed in the AONB.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
---------------	-------------------------	--

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p>Option 1 – No Policy</p> <p><i>Rely on NPPF</i></p>	<p>This would mean relying solely on the NPPF policy although it would not provide the opportunities to set out what exceptional circumstances would be considered. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and will be tested through the SA/SEA</p>	<p><b>Yes, this option will be tested</b></p>
<p>Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire policy</p> <p><i>P6 General considerations for sand and gravel extraction</i></p> <p><i>P7 Material considerations for sand and gravel extraction</i></p> <p><i>P15 Building Sand</i></p>	<p>There is a policy in the Berkshire Minerals Local Plan relating to mineral extraction in the AONB, although it is specific to building sand. However, it is not compliant with the NPPF approach of a presumption against development in the AONB.</p>	<p><b>No, this option will not be tested</b></p>
<p>Option 3 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Sharp sand and gravel in the AONB</i></p>	<p>Policy only considering sharp sand and gravel in the AONB. This option would mean that additional AONB policies may be required for other minerals and/or waste development proposals. This could lead to repetition of policy wording and a single policy for all AONB development could be more appropriate and easier for developers, Council officers and members of the public to use and understand.</p>	<p><b>No, this option will not be tested</b></p>
<p>Option 4 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Minerals development in the AONB</i></p>	<p>This policy option would consider all types of minerals development in the AONB, not just sharp sand and gravel. It would be an exceptions policy as nationally there is a presumption against mineral extraction in the AONB.</p>	<p><b>Yes, this option will be tested</b></p>
<p>Option 5 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Minerals and Waste development in the AONB</i></p>	<p>Policy considering all mineral and waste development within the AONB. This option would provide a single policy covering all development proposals in the AONB. However, the NPPF requires slightly different approaches to minerals and waste development in the AONB, therefore, it is not considered appropriate for a single policy to cover both types of development. For example, it may be that small scale waste development, particularly related to the rural economy, may be acceptable. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to have a single policy for minerals and waste development in the AONB and so this option will not be tested through the SA/SEA</p>	<p><b>No, this option will not be tested.</b></p>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Option 6 - New Policy <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for minerals development across the whole district. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 7 - New Policy <i>Landscape</i>	This policy option would set out protections for the landscape character of an area, including the AONB. The policy would include when exceptional circumstances would be considered for development in protected landscapes. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the Options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy <i>Rely on NPPF</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The NPPF promotes a presumption against major development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances, which aims to protect the landscape of the AONB, with a positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Low <b>Scale:</b> AONB <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b>  The NPPF states that development should only take place in the AONB in exceptional circumstances, but does not go on to say what those exceptional circumstances may be. Therefore a local policy which considers local circumstances is considered to be more appropriate for inclusion in the Local Plan.
Option 4 - New Policy <i>Minerals development in the AONB</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. For the policy to be in accordance with the NPPF there would be a presumption against major development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances, which would protect the landscape of the AONB, resulting in a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Low <b>Scale:</b> AONB <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This policy option is based on the NPPF principle of no development in the AONB except in exceptional circumstances, but allows for local circumstances to be taken into consideration. This option considers both minerals and waste development in the AONB, as the issues facing both types of development would be similar.  Following the drafting of possible policy wording for this option, it is considered that a more general location of development



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

			policy (option 6) would be more appropriate. This would allow for a positively worded policy, stating where development would be acceptable, rather than a policy effectively saying that development would not be acceptable unless exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated.
Option 6 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The policy will set out where development will be acceptable, and therefore, any proposals outside these areas will require exceptional circumstances, given the national policy position against major development in the AONB, the policy would seek to protect the landscape of the AONB, resulting in a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Low <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option would set out a general policy as to where there would be a presumption in favour of development. It would cover a wide range of potential sites for minerals development.  Following the drafting of possible policy wording it was considered that this policy option would provide a more usable policy than a specific AONB policy that relates solely to sharp sand and gravel (Option 4).
Option 7 - New Policy  <i>Landscape</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability, however, there is predicted to be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy focusing on the protection of the landscape. The policy does predict a number of potential positive impacts as a result of the policy approach to protecting the character of the landscape, in particular in protected landscape. There is likely to be an unknown impact on economic sustainability, as under this policy exceptional circumstances would need to be demonstrated to permit development in protected landscapes, therefore, the impact would depend	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral, with a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary(Minerals) / Permanent (Waste) <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium/Long Term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This option will set out the general principles in relation to protection of landscape character, particularly in the AONB. It would cover all sites, both minerals and waste, put forward for consideration and is therefore, considered complementary to the Location of Development (Minerals) policy (option 6).

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	on whether exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated.		
--	---	--	--

*Choosing a Policy Option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process. Policy option 6 was considered to be the most appropriate to take forward into the Local Plan as it would set out the locations where there would be a presumption in favour of development. This policy would not just refer to development in the AONB, but across the whole district. To compliment this, it is considered that a specific landscape policy (Option 7), setting out requirements for protection of landscape character, specifically in the AONB, should be included in the plan. This will help to identify when there are exceptional circumstances when development within protected landscapes may be considered acceptable.

**Soft Sand (Building Sand)**

In West Berkshire the deposits of soft sand that have historically been worked have largely been located in the AONB. Historically the level of sales of soft sand has been low, suggesting a limited level of demand for soft sand, except to support the Marley tile factory in Beenham.

The NPPF states that there is a presumption against major development in AONBs, except in exceptional circumstances and that, as far as is practical, construction aggregate landbanks should be provided for by locations outside AONBs.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy  <i>Rely on NPPF</i>	This would mean relying solely on the NPPF policy, where there is a presumption against development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances. It would not provide the opportunities to set out what exceptions circumstances would be considered. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and will be tested through the SA/SEA	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire policy  <i>P 15 Building Sand</i>	This policy approach is not compliant with the NPPF and therefore, it would not be appropriate to retain this policy approach and therefore this is not considered a reasonable alternative and will not be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Soft sand in the AONB</i>	Policy option only considering soft sand in the AONB. This option would mean that additional AONB policies may be required for other minerals and/or waste development proposals. This could lead to repetition of policy wording and a single policy for all AONB development could be more appropriate and easier for developers, Council officers and members of the public to	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	use and understand. Therefore, this option is not considered a reasonable alternative and will not be tested through the SA/SEA.	
Option 4 - New Policy <i>Mineral development in the AONB</i>	This policy option would consider all types of minerals development in the AONB. It would be an exceptions policy as nationally there is a presumption against mineral extraction in the AONB. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 5 - New Policy <i>Minerals and waste development in the AONB</i>	Policy considering all mineral/waste development within the AONB. This option would provide a single policy covering all development proposals in the AONB. However, the NPPF requires slightly different approaches to minerals and waste development in the AONB, therefore, it is not considered appropriate for a single policy to cover both types of development. For example, it may be that small scale waste development, particularly related to the rural economy, may be acceptable. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to have a single policy for minerals and waste development in the AONB.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 6 - New Policy <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for minerals development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 7 - New Policy <i>Landscape</i>	This policy option would set out protections for the landscape character of an area, including the AONB. The policy would include when exceptional circumstances would be considered for development in protected landscapes. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the Options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This policy option is likely to have a predominantly neutral effect on sustainability. There is likely to be a positive impact in terms of protection of the AONB, as the NPPF has a presumption against major development in the AONB, therefore, the policy would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. There is potential for a positive impact on economic sustainability, as the economic benefits of a site could be considered as an exceptional circumstance, where a site could be considered	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Low <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b>  The NPPF states that major development should only take place in the AONB in exception circumstances. However, it does not go on to say what those exceptional circumstances may be. Therefore, a local policy which considers local circumstances is considered to be more appropriate for inclusion in the Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	acceptable under this policy option. There is also a potential impact positive on the promotion or reuse and recycling of waste, as this could reduce the need for primary soft sand deposits to be worked, resulting in a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability.		
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Minerals development in AONB</i>	This policy option is likely to have a predominantly neutral effect on sustainability. There is likely to be a positive impact in terms of protection of the AONB, as to be in line with national policy this policy option would have a presumption against major development in the AONB, therefore, the policy would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. There is potential for a positive impact on economic sustainability, as the economic benefits of a site could be considered as an exceptional circumstance, where a site could be considered acceptable under this policy option. There is also a potential positive impact on the promotion or reuse and recycling of waste, as this would reduce the need for primary soft sand deposits to be worked, resulting in a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> low <b>Scale:</b> AONB <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> short/medium term	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This policy option is based on the NPPF principle of no development in the AONB except in exceptional circumstances, but allows for local circumstances to be taken into consideration. This option considers both minerals and waste development in the AONB, as the issues facing both types of development would be similar.  Following the drafting of possible policy wording, it is considered that a more general Location of Development (minerals) policy (option 6) would be more appropriate. This would allow for a positively worded policy, stating where development would be acceptable, rather than a policy effectively saying that development would not be acceptable unless exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated.
Option 6 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The policy will set out where development will be acceptable, and therefore, any proposals outside these areas will require exceptional circumstances, given the national policy position against major development in the AONB, the policy would seek	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> low <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option would set out a general policy as to where there would be a presumption in favour of development. It would cover a wide range of potential sites, both for minerals and waste development.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	to protect the landscape of the AONB, resulting in a positive impact on environmental sustainability.		Following the drafting of possible policy wording it was considered that this policy option would provide a more usable policy than a specific soft sand in the AONB policy (Option 4).
Option 7 - New Policy  <i>Landscape</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability, however, there is predicted to be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy focusing on the protection of the landscape. The policy does predict a number of potential positive impacts as a result of the policy approach to protecting the character of the landscape, in particular in protected landscape. There is likely to be an unknown impact on economic sustainability, as under this policy exceptional circumstances would need to be demonstrated to permit development in protected landscapes, therefore, the impact would depend on whether exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral, with a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary(Minerals) / Permanent (Waste) <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium/Long Term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This option will set out the general principles in relation to protection of landscape character, particularly in the AONB. It would cover all sites, both minerals and waste, put forward for consideration and is therefore, considered complementary to the location of development (Minerals) policy (option 6).

*Choosing a Policy Option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process. Policy option 6 was considered to be the most appropriate to take forward into the Local Plan as it would set out the locations where there would be a presumption in favour of development. This policy would not just refer to development in the AONB, but across the whole district. To compliment this, it is considered that a specific landscape policy, setting out requirements for protection of landscape character, specifically in the AONB, should be included in the plan (option 7). This will help to identify when there are exceptional circumstances when development within protected landscape may be considered acceptable.

***Safeguarding of Minerals***

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Minerals can only be extracted where they naturally occur. The safeguarding of mineral deposits from sterilisation by surface non-minerals development which would prevent their extraction in the future was a clear preference following the issues and options consultation and is an approach supported by the NPPF. Therefore, it is considered appropriate for the new Local Plan to include a safeguarding policy.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	There is a clear steer from members of the public and the industry that they would favour a safeguarding policy as well as direction from the NPPF that minerals and key sites should be safeguarded. Therefore, no policy is not considered to be a reasonable alternative and will not be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire policies  <i>P1 Husbanding Resources, P2 Prevention of Sterilisation, P2A Extraction to prevent sterilisation</i>	These policies are considered to be broadly in line with the NPPF, although 'husbanding' is an outdated term, replaced by the term 'safeguarding'. These policies could be retained, subject to updated terminology, in the new Local Plan. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy  <i>M1 Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Deposits</i>	Policy M1 of the withdrawn Core Strategy discusses sterilisation of sand and gravel deposits. It does not consider other mineral safeguarding specifically. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding minerals from non mineral development</i>	A single safeguarding policy to be developed covering all eventualities for non mineral development which could impact on the potential to extract mineral deposits. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p>Option 5 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Safeguarding minerals and waste</i></p>	<p>A single safeguarding policy to safeguard all eventualities for non minerals or waste development. This is similar to option 4, but would safeguard waste sites in addition to the minerals sites and deposits. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.</p>	<p><b>Yes, this option will be tested</b></p>
--	--	---

*Assessing the Options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
<p>Option 2 – Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire</p> <p><i>Policies P1, P2, P2A</i></p>	<p>This policy option is predicted to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates, which will have a significantly positive impact on economic sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Summary of effects:</b>  <b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral with a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The principles of this policy option are still relevant, however, they make reference to old terminology. Therefore, it is considered that a new updated policy would be more appropriate for inclusion within the new Local Plan. This does not mean that themes and ideas from these original policies will not be used within any new policy / policies.</p>
<p>Option 3 - Berkshire Core Strategy</p> <p><i>Policy M1</i></p>	<p>This policy option is predicted to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates, which will have a significantly positive impact on economic sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral with a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>The principles of this policy option are still relevant, and the option has an overall neutral impact on sustainability, with a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates. The policy only refers to the safeguarding of sand and gravel deposits, not other minerals or waste sites. The options for a new policy approach would allow for all sites, minerals and waste, to be safeguarded in addition to raw materials as yet un-dug.</p>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p>Option 4 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Safeguarding minerals from non mineral development</i></p>	<p>This policy option is predicted to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates, which will have a significantly positive impact on economic sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Summary of effects:</b>  <b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral with a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium</p>	<p><b>This option will be taken forward</b></p> <p>This policy allows for a single policy that covers any development that could impact on mineral development, both impact on future extraction and sites themselves. The SA/SEA gives an overall neutral impact on sustainability with a significantly positive impact on the safeguarding of primary aggregates.</p>
<p>Option 5 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Safeguarding minerals and waste</i></p>	<p>This policy option is predicted to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates, which will have a significantly positive impact on economic sustainability. This policy option would allow for a wider range of sites to be safeguarded, including waste sites, therefore, there is a potential sustainability effect in relation to reuse and recycling of waste.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral with a significantly positive impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium</p>	<p><b>This option will not be taken forward</b></p> <p>This policy allows for a single policy covering any development that could impact on minerals or waste development, not just minerals development. This option has an overall natural impact on sustainability, with a number of positive sustainability impacts including on safeguarding of primary aggregates (significantly positive) and in relation to reuse and recycling of waste.</p> <p>Following the drafting of possible policy wording it is considered that the usability of this policy covering minerals and waste sites as well as waste resources could be difficult in terms of usability and it is considered that keeping separate safeguarding policies for minerals and waste would be more appropriate (Option 4).</p>



*Choosing a Policy Option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process, however, it is considered most appropriate to take forward separate minerals and waste safeguarding policies, in terms of usability of the policies themselves (option 4). Keeping the two safeguarding policies separate will allow for details specific to each type of development to be set out in the policy wording.

**Existing industrial uses of minerals**

There are a number of industrial operators that utilise significant volumes of primary aggregates in West Berkshire. These include:

- Beenham tile factory – use of sharp sand and gravel to create concrete tiles for the UK market
- The coated road stone plant in Theale – use of hard rock imported by rail for use in the manufacture of asphalt products.
- A number of concrete batching plants to meet local and wider than local area demands.
- Other construction material manufacturing facilities in West Berkshire.

The Issues and Options consultation supported the idea that existing industrial users of construction aggregates should be taken into account, with some general support for an appropriate safeguarding approach. It is not considered that there are users of locally won construction aggregates that would warrant the establishment of a bespoke landbank.

*Policy Options*

It is considered that this topic area could be satisfactorily covered under a general safeguarding policy and so a specific policy option will not be assessed for this topic area. It is not considered appropriate to determine a specific landbank for a single industry.

**Recycled and Secondary aggregates**

Recycled and Secondary aggregates reduce reliance on primary aggregates by providing a substitute material. The NPPF seeks to increase the use of recycled and secondary aggregates, although it is recognised that there will always be a demand for primary aggregates. To maximise the use of recycled aggregates, adequate recycling facilities and transportation infrastructure need to be available to enable aggregates to be recovered. West Berkshire is a significant producer of recycled aggregates, although there are no known sources of secondary aggregates in the district.

The response to the issues and options consultation was supportive of a policy approach which would maximise the use of recycled and secondary aggregates.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy	This option would rely solely on national policy. It would not allow for any local circumstances to be taken into account. However, it is considered to be a reasonable	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Rely on NPPF and NPPW</i>	alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	
Option 2 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy  <i>M6 Supply of Recycled or Secondary Aggregates</i>	Policy M6 of the withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy discusses recycling and secondary aggregates. The policy refers to areas of search, and requires consideration of the distance required for transportation. It is considered that this could be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Recycling and secondary aggregates</i>	This option would allow a locally specific policy to be developed for recycled and secondary aggregates. It would also allow a policy specifically to promote recycling and use of secondary aggregates to reduce reliance on primary aggregates. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for minerals development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1  No Policy – rely on NPPF	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. There are a number of areas where there is potential for the policy option to have a positive impact on sustainability. The policy option promotes recycling of aggregates and the use of secondary aggregates, which reduces the need for primary aggregates, with a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  While there is an overall neutral effect on sustainability, with some positive impacts if this policy option was to be taken forward, this option does not take into account local circumstances, it is considered that local circumstances could be important, and therefore, a specific West Berkshire policy would be more appropriate.
Option 2	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral	<b>Summary of</b>	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p><i>Berkshire Core Strategy Policy M6</i></p>	<p>effect on sustainability, however, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy option on the promotion of recycling and use of secondary aggregates. This will have a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability. There are a number of other potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy option.</p>	<p><b>effects:</b>  <b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> Permanent</p>	<p>While there is an overall neutral effect on sustainability, with some positive impacts if this policy option was to be taken forward, this option does not take into account the specific local circumstances in West Berkshire as the policy approach was devised for a wide spatial area, it is considered that local circumstances could be important, and therefore, a specific West Berkshire policy would be more appropriate.</p>
<p>Option 3 New Policy</p> <p><i>Recycling and Secondary aggregates</i></p>	<p>Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability, however, there is likely to be a significantly positive impact on sustainability as a result of this policy option on the promotion of recycling and use of secondary aggregates. This will have a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability. There are a number of other potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability as a result of this policy option.</p>	<p><b>Summary of effects:</b>  <b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> Permanent</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b></p> <p>While there are predicted to be some positive impacts on sustainability as a result of a specific policy relating to recycling and secondary aggregates, it is considered that sites for recycling and secondary aggregates could adequately be considered under a location of development policy.</p>
<p>Option 4 New Policy</p> <p><i>Location of development (Minerals)</i></p>	<p>Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The policy will set out where development will be acceptable, and therefore, any proposals outside these areas will require exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated. Therefore, the policy is likely to result in a positive environmental impact as well as supporting the reuse and recycling of material to reduce the need for primary aggregates to be worked in areas outside the preferred areas set out in the policy.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> low  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term</p>	<p><b>This option will be taken forward.</b></p> <p>It is considered that sites for recycling and secondary aggregates could adequately be considered under a general location of development policy. National policy seeks to promote the recycling and reuse of materials and therefore, it is not considered that a separate policy is required.</p>

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

### *Choosing a policy option*

All four policy options considered are likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. Option 4 is considered the most appropriate option to take forward. It covers a wider range of potential sites, setting out where there will be a presumption in favour of development. It is considered that proposals for recycling and secondary aggregates could be adequately considered under this policy. Although taking forward this option would mean that there would not be a specific policy in the Local Plan to promote recycling and use of secondary aggregates, the new policy relating to Landbank/Need will make reference to meeting the need for aggregate material primarily from recycled or secondary aggregates, in addition to the national policy seeking to promote reuse and recycling of materials and therefore, it is not considered that a specific recycling and secondary aggregates policy is required.

### ***Movement of construction aggregates***

The main mineral deposits worked in West Berkshire are concentrated in the Kennet Valley between Newbury and Reading. This area is also a key transport corridor served by the primary route network (A4), the London to south west railway line and the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Significant volumes of aggregates are moved around within the district as well as being exported to support development in the surrounding areas. A significant volume of hard rock is also imported to West Berkshire by rail.

The issues and options consultation favoured an approach where a mix of transportation methods are used.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This would rely on policies within the NPPF regarding sustainable transport. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy <i>M7 Transportation of Minerals</i>	Policy M7 of the withdrawn Berkshire core strategy talks about the transportation of minerals. It encourages the use of sustainable transport and encourages the consideration of alternatives to road transport. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy <i>Transport Policy</i>	This option would allow for a general transport policy to be developed, covering all elements of transport associated with minerals and waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. Due to the support in the NPPF for sustainable transport, this option could have a positive impact on the promotion of rail/water transport and on reducing the impact on the transport network, which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. There is also a potential unknown impact in terms of impacts on air quality. The transport of minerals by any means would have the potential to impact on air quality, which could have a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability unless mitigation measures were introduced.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This policy option does not allow for local circumstances to be considered as part of the policy option, and therefore, this option is not considered the most appropriate to take forward.
Option 2 - Berkshire Core Strategy  <i>Policy M7</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The policy option promotes the use of sustainable transport, and in particular supports proposals that would improve facilities for rail and water transport, therefore, this option is likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. There is a potential negative impact identified in terms of air quality as a result of the transportation of material, by any source and mitigation measures would be required otherwise there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  While this policy option does specifically support the use of sustainable transport, the policy only refers to the transportation of minerals, it does not cover other aspects of transport associated with minerals and waste development, therefore, this option is not considered the most appropriate to take forward.
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Transport</i>	Overall this policy option is considered to have a neutral effect on sustainability. This policy option would be likely to promote and encourage the use of sustainable transport, in particular reducing the impact that any site being considered could have on transport networks, and therefore, would be likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. There is a potential negative impact	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This option would set out the Council's approach to the promotion of sustainable transport for all minerals and waste development. Therefore, this option is considered to be the most appropriate and will allow the Council to set out specific

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	identified in terms of air quality as a result of the transportation of material, by any source and mitigation measures would be required otherwise there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability.	(minerals) / Permanent (waste) <b>Timing:</b> Medium /Long Term	requirements for consideration in relation to transport to and from minerals and waste sites. This policy could potentially include details of the Council's freight route network, and set this out in the policy.
--	--	--	---

### *Choosing a policy option*

All three options considered are predicted to have a predominantly neutral effect on sustainability. Options 2 and 3 may have a slightly more positive impact on sustainability, by being more specific in nature, than pure reliance on national policy. All options would look to promote sustainable transport options and to reduce the impact of the need to move aggregates following their extraction. Option 3, is considered to be the most flexible, and allow the Council to develop an up to date transport policy for minerals and waste that takes into account specific local issues.

### ***Importation of Primary aggregates and other materials by rail***

West Berkshire has no deposits of hard rock, therefore, there is a reliance on imported supplies to meet local demand. These imports constitute a significant proportion of aggregates sold in the district and are therefore, a vital component of the aggregate mix used in local projects. The district has good rail connections and it is understood that this material is primarily imported using rail. The rail sidings at Wigmore Lane, Theale are the main location for aggregate imports into West Berkshire.

Responses to the Issues and Options consultation recognised the important role that the present rail head sites have and supported the safeguarding of these depots from non rail uses.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This would rely on policies within the NPPF regarding safeguarding of rail heads. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>P26 Safeguarding rail depots</i>	Policy 26 of the Berkshire Minerals Local Plan sets out the approach for safeguarding rail depots. It refers to sites outside West Berkshire, which would not be appropriate to include, however, the principle of the policy is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use	Policy M8 of the withdrawn Berkshire core strategy refers to safeguarding rail sites. The	<b>Yes, this option will be</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy <i>M8 Safeguarding rail depot sites</i>	policy refers to sites outside West Berkshire, which would not be appropriate to include, however, the principle of the policy is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	tested
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding of rail head sites</i>	A new policy could be developed in relation to the importation of aggregates and the safeguarding of rail head facilities. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding minerals</i>	A single safeguarding policy to be developed covering all eventualities for non mineral development which could impact on the potential to maintain the existing rail to road mineral depots, amongst other minerals and waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. However, as the policy relates solely to the use of rail to import material there is potential for a significantly positive impact on the use of sustainable transport and therefore, on economic sustainability. There are also potential positive sustainability impacts in terms of recycling and reuse of waste and utilisation of previously developed land, both of which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral with a significantly positive impact on rail transportation <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This option is shown to have a positive impact on the use of rail to import materials. The use of national policy does not allow for specific local circumstances/sites to be referred to within a policy and therefore, this option is not considered to be the most appropriate to take forward.
Option 2 – Use Minerals Local Plan  <i>Policy P26</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. However, as the policy relates solely to the use of rail to import material there is potential for a significantly positive impact on the use of sustainable transport and therefore, on economic sustainability. There are also potential positive sustainability impacts in terms of	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral with a significantly positive impact on rail transportation   <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This policy option also shows a positive impact on the use of rail to import materials. The policy is dated, and relates to a number of sites that are not within West Berkshire or are no longer available, and therefore, this

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	recycling and reuse of waste and utilisation of previously developed land, both of which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	is not considered to be the most appropriate policy option to take forward, although some of the wording could be used as the basis for a new policy.
Option 3 - <i>Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy policy M8</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. However, as the policy relates solely to the use of rail to import material there is potential for a significantly positive impact on the use of sustainable transport and therefore, on economic sustainability. There are also potential positive sustainability impacts in terms of recycling and reuse of waste and utilisation of previously developed land, both of which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral with a significantly positive impact on rail transportation <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This option relates to sites across Berkshire, not just those in West Berkshire. While this is not necessarily an issue, the policy wording would need to be changed, to make it West Berkshire specific if this option was to be taken forward. As a result it is considered more appropriate to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan.
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding of rail heads</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. However, as the policy relates solely to the use of rail to import material there is potential for a significantly positive impact on the use of sustainable transport and therefore, on economic sustainability. There are also potential positive sustainability impacts in terms of recycling and reuse of waste and utilisation of previously developed land, both of which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral with a significantly positive impact on rail transportation <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This policy option would allow the Council to set out a new policy specifically safeguarding rail head sites within the district. The SA/SEA indicates that this would have a positive impact in relation to the promotion of rail for the movement of materials.  Following drafting of possible policy wording it is considered that rail head sites could adequately be safeguarded under a more general minerals safeguarding policy, rather than requiring a specific safeguarding policy. This would ensure a simple and concise safeguarding infrastructure policy is included within the Local Plan.
Option 5 - New Policy	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are also potential	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p><i>Safeguarding minerals</i></p>	<p>positive sustainability impacts in terms of promotion of sustainable transport, recycling and reuse of waste and utilisation of previously developed land, both of which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. Due to the wider remit of the policy option there are also potential positive impacts in relation to renewable energy and safeguarding of primary aggregates, which would have a positive sustainability impact on environmental and economic sustainability.</p>	<p>neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> Permanent</p>	<p>This option would safeguard a range of sites, including rail head sites. This policy option would have a number of positive sustainability impacts due to the wider range of the policy.</p> <p>Following the drafting of possible policy wording, it is considered that this option would provide the simplest and most concise way to safeguard infrastructure, by providing a single minerals safeguarding policy.</p>
-------------------------------------	---	--	--

*Choosing a policy option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process with all policy options all having a predominantly neutral impact with significant positive impacts on rail transportation. Option 5 is considered to be the most appropriate and concise way to safeguard mineral infrastructure, as this single policy will cover all elements of safeguarding for minerals development, including rail head sites.

**Windfall Sites**

Windfall sites, by definition are sites that have not been identified for mineral extraction as part of the strategic development plan, but come forward for development anyway. By their very nature it is not possible to anticipate the likely volumes or types of mineral that may be supplied from windfall sites. Sources of windfall aggregates are:

- sites which require extraction of considerable volumes of material as part of the site preparation, such as the construction of a reservoir or flood relief scheme; or
- borrow pits which are temporary workings opened locally to supply material for a specific construction project;
- Sites that are not identified in a development plan coming forward.

The responses to the issues and option consultation generally supported a policy that would enable the consideration of proposals for all three types of windfall. The different types of windfall sites may need to be considered separately, and different approaches to each type may be appropriate.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy	This would rely on policies within the NPPF regarding mineral development, or on other	Yes, this option will be

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Rely on NPPF	policies that could be included within the Local Plan This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	tested
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>P14 Borrow Pits</i>	Policy 14 of the Berkshire Local Plan sets out how borrow pits, outside preferred areas, will be considered. This approach does not consider other types of windfall sites. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA	Yes, this option will be tested
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy  <i>M9 Borrow Pits</i>	Policy M9 of the withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy considers Borrow Pits and sets out the criteria under which these will be considered. It does not consider other types of windfall sites. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Windfall site policy</i>	A new policy could be developed to cover the potential development of all types of windfall sites from all sources, types and development types (minerals and waste). This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development, both for minerals and waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested

*Assessing the options*

Policy Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Summary of effects	Recommendation & Justification
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF	<b>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability.</b> Due to the prominence of sustainability in the NPPF there are a number of potential positive impacts on all elements of sustainability, in particular economic sustainability, the NPPF supports sustainable development that supports the economy. There are a number of unknown 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	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  The NPPF supports sustainable development, and therefore, there are a number of potential positive impacts on sustainability from a policy option that relies solely on the NPPF. However, this does not allow for local circumstances to be taken

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	sustainability, as the impact would depend on how a perspective scheme was implemented.		into account and therefore, this is not considered the most appropriate option to take forward.
Option 2 - Minerals Local Plan  <i>Policy P14</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability, including biodiversity and landscape. There is also a potential positive economic sustainability impact as any development considered acceptable is likely to support the local 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	<b>A version of this option will be taken forward relating specifically to Borrow Pits</b>  Borrow pits are considered to be a special case for potential sites coming forward, and as such it is considered that a specific policy should be included within the plan. However, it is considered that the wording of the policy would benefit from being reviewed in the new local plan, so the final wording may not completely replicate the wording of the saved policy.
Option 3 - Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy  <i>Policy M9</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability, including biodiversity and landscape. There is also a potential positive economic sustainability impact as any development considered acceptable is likely to support the local 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	<b>A version of this option will be taken forward relating specifically to Borrow Pits</b>  Borrow pits are considered to be a special case for potential sites coming forward, and as such it is considered that a specific policy should be included within the plan. However, it is considered that the wording of the policy would benefit from being reviewed in the new local plan, so the final wording may not completely replicate the wording of the withdrawn policy.
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Windfall Sites</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall unknown impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability including biodiversity and landscape. There are potential positive economic sustainability impacts as	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Unknown <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This option would set out a policy that any windfall site coming forward would be considered under. There are a number of positive sustainability impacts, specifically

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	development could impact positively on the local economy.	/ Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium/Long Term	in relation to the environment as the policy would be able to set out local environmental considerations.  Following the drafting of possible policy wording it is considered that a more general location of development policy (option 5) would cover all potential sites coming forward. A specific windfall policy would be likely to include repetition of policy wording in several places in the Local Plan.
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability including biodiversity and landscape. There are potential positive economic sustainability impacts as development could impact positively on the local economy.	<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	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option would provide a single policy directing the location of mineral development, including windfall sites, setting out where there would be a presumption in favour of development.  Following the drafting of possible policy wording it is considered that this is the most appropriate policy option to take forward into the Local Plan.

*Choosing a policy option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process. Generally it is considered that a general location of development policy (option 5) would be the most appropriate option to take forward. This would set out the framework for considering all sites that may come forward for development. In addition it is considered that a specific borrow pits policy (options 2/3) would be beneficial for inclusion in the plan as this relates to a specific type of development for a temporary basis. Options 2/3 look specifically at the wording included within the existing Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire and the Withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy, it is considered that in principle there is nothing wrong with these policies, however, the policy wording would benefit from a review and refresh in the new local plan.

**Restoration strategy for West Berkshire**

The main minerals extracted in West Berkshire are sand and gravel deposits for the construction industry. These deposits are typically shallow, meaning that they are worked over a much shorter time spans than hard rock deposits, and can be less intrusive than other forms of quarrying. As a result there is an increased emphasis on restoration, such as the phasing of restoration activities and the nature of the after-use. The majority of mineral extraction sites in West Berkshire have been restored to agriculture or amenity, although there are also a small number of sites that have been restored to a forestry after-use.

The Issues and Options consultation highlighted the importance of high quality and timely restoration of mineral extraction sites.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This would rely on the policies in the NPPF. However, the NPPF states that local planning authorities should have policies in place to ensure worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, therefore, this is not considered to be a reasonable alternative.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>P18 Appropriate and timely restoration</i>	Policy 18 of the Berkshire Local Plan sets out a policy for appropriate and timely restoration. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy  <i>M12 Restoration and after-use of mineral sites</i>	Policy M12 of the withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy considers the restoration and after-use of mineral sites. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Restoration and after-use</i>	A new policy could be developed to ensure that the importance of restoration and after-use of mineral sites is considered as part of the planning process. A new policy could also consider options for securing restoration bonds, as well as setting out parameters for the use of infill in restoration schemes. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
<p>Option 2 - Minerals Local Plan</p> <p><i>Policy P18</i></p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral effect on sustainability. However, there are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts as a result of the policy option. Restoration of sites has the potential to improve certain environmental factors, and therefore, there is the potential for a positive impact on environmental sustainability, in particular opportunities for improved quality and quantity of open space, and landscaping.</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>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>While this policy option has a number of potential positive sustainability impacts, there are local concerns regarding the restoration and after-use of sites, and therefore, a more detailed restoration policy (option 4) is considered to be more appropriate than using the existing policy.</p>
<p>Option 3 - Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy</p> <p><i>Policy M12</i></p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral effect on sustainability. However, there are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts as a result of the policy option. Restoration of sites has the potential to improve certain environmental factors, and therefore, there is the potential for a positive impact on environmental sustainability, in particular opportunities for improved quality and quantity of open space, landscaping and water quality.</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>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>While this policy option has a number of potential positive sustainability impacts, there are local concerns regarding the restoration and after-use of sites, and therefore, a more detailed restoration policy (option 4) is considered to be more appropriate than using the existing policy.</p>
<p>Option 4 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Restoration and after-use</i></p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral effect on sustainability. However, there are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts as a result of the policy option. Restoration of sites has the potential to improve certain environmental factors, and therefore, there is the potential for a positive impact on environmental sustainability, in particular opportunities for improved quality and quantity of open space, biodiversity, landscaping and water quality.</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>	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>While all three options tested score similarly in terms of sustainability, this option allows for detailed wording in relation to restoration and after-use taking into account local circumstances and issues.</p>

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

### *Choosing a policy option*

Option 4 is considered to be the most appropriate option to take forward. This option provides a new policy setting out how the Council expect restoration, after-care and after-use to take place in the district. This would allow for local factors to be taken into account, rather than reliance on older Berkshire wide policies.

### **Chalk and Clay**

Chalk and Clay have historically been worked in West Berkshire, clay for use in brick and tile making and more latterly in the lining of landfill sites, with chalk being used for agricultural purposes. However, there are currently no active sites in West Berkshire, no planning applications have been received and there has been minimal interest in the exploitation of such minerals. There is no requirement for a landbank for chalk and clay.

The lack of historic interest is not considered to preclude such sites form coming forward in the future. The Issues and Options consultation suggested that the inclusion of a criteria based policy would be appropriate to ensure that any applications coming forward would be considered against an appropriate planning framework.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This would rely solely on policies within the NPPF, or other policies within the local plan in relation to the location of sites/exceptions policy. Therefore, this is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>P16 Chalk, clay and other minerals</i>	Policy 16 of the Minerals Local Plan sets out a criteria based policy for considering the development of sites for chalk, clay and other minerals. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy  <i>M10 Chalk, Clay and other Non-Energy Minerals</i>	Policy M10 of the withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy sets out the policy for chalk, clay and other non-energy minerals. The policy sets out the criteria under which applications would be considered for these minerals. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Option 4 - New Policy <i>Chalk and Clay</i>	A new policy would set out criteria against which applications for chalk, clay and potentially other minerals would be considered. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested
Option 5 - New Policy <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development, for minerals development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	Yes, this option will be tested

*Assessing the options*

Policy Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Summary of effects	Recommendation & Justification
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positives in terms of protecting good quality agricultural land and protected landscapes as these are specific requirements of the NPPF, and therefore, there could be a positive impact on environmental sustainability. There is also a potential positive impact on economic sustainable as sites considered under this policy option would have potential to impact positively on the 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	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  While this option has a number of potential positive sustainability impacts, it does not allow for local circumstances to be set out in relation to chalk and clay sites, therefore, it is not considered to be the most appropriate option to take forward into the Local Plan.
Option 2 - Minerals Local Plan  <i>Policy P16</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there are a number of potential positive impacts in relation to environmental sustainability, including on biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape. The policy option also promotes reuse and recycling of aggregates, which could have a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability as sites considered under this policy would need to demonstrate a	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  While this option has a number of potential positive sustainability impacts, there has been little demand for chalk or clay extraction in West Berkshire since the development of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan, and therefore, it is not considered that a specific policy relating to this topic area is required. It is considered that a more general site location policy



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	local need, which could include a local economic need.		would cover any applications for these minerals coming forward.
Option 3 - Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy  <i>Policy M10</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability, however there are a number of potential positive impacts in relation to economic sustainability, including. The policy promotes the reuse and recycling of waste materials as well as requiring a local need to be demonstrated, which could impact a local economic need. There are a number of unknown environmental sustainability impacts, due to the specific wording of the policy option being considered.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option has a number of potential positive sustainability impacts. It is considered that the policy included within the Withdrawn Core Strategy is still relevant and appropriate to take forward into the new Local Plan. The wording will be revisited, and so there may be a slight change in the wording from the original Core Strategy policy.
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Chalk and Clay</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However there are a number of positive impacts in relation to environmental sustainability, including biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape. There are potential positive economic impacts in relation to the promotion of reuse and recycling of waste materials as well as the need for local need to be demonstrated, which could include a local economic need.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  The wording of the Core Strategy policy (M10) is considered to be appropriate for inclusion in the new Local Plan, and therefore, a new Policy is not required.
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (minerals)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall unknown impact on sustainability, due to the wide ranging nature of the policy option. The policy wording is currently unknown, but would cover any potential site coming forward, not just those for chalk and clay development. The policy would be likely to have a positive effect on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape, as well as potential positive economic sustainability impacts due to the need to demonstrate local need, which could include local economic need.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Unknown <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option will be taken forward into the new Local Plan in any case, relating to a number of other topic areas (as discussed above), however, the policy remains relevant for all mineral development and therefore, is relevant to this topic area.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

### *Choosing a policy option*

Four of the options tested are likely to have a predominantly neutral impact on sustainability, with option 5 having a predicted unknown impact. Option 1, to rely on the NPPF means that local circumstance cannot be taken into account and therefore, this is not considered to be an appropriate policy option to take forward into the local plan. While there has been a limited demand for chalk and clay in recent years, it is still considered that a specific policy included within the Local Plan would be the most appropriate strategy. The wording of the policy in the withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy (Option 3) is still considered appropriate, and therefore this option will be taken forward. Option 5 will also be taken forward as it is relevant to a number of other topic areas in addition to chalk and clay.

### **Energy minerals – Coal, gas and shale gas**

There are no known resources of commercially viable energy minerals in West Berkshire, however, given the uncertainty over the demand for energy in the UK in the coming years, there is potential that previously non viable energy minerals to become viable. Therefore, it is considered that a policy on energy minerals in the Local Plan would be required. The Issues and Options consultation supported the inclusion of criteria based policies to ensure that applications coming forward can be considered against an appropriate planning framework.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This would rely solely on the policies within the NPPF, or on other policies within the local plan relating to the location of sites/exceptions policies. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire Policy <i>P17 Oil and Gas</i>	Retain policy from Berkshire Minerals Local Plan – Policy 17 of the Minerals Local Plan sets out the criteria by which applications for oil and gas will be considered. This policy does not include consideration of other energy minerals that maybe, or become available in the district. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA. However, is this policy option was to be taken forward, there may need to be consideration of whether other energy minerals could be adequately considered by this policy	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy <i>M11 Oil and Gas</i>	Policy M11 sets out the approach for oil and Gas. The policy is separated into three sections, exploration, appraisal and commercial production, setting out the approach for considering each type of application. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy	A new policy would allow a detailed, locally specific policy to be developed for all potential energy minerals. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Energy Minerals</i>		
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for minerals development. The policy would also include when exceptional circumstances could be considered for development proposals outside preferred areas. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  <i>Rely on NPPF</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of protection of agricultural land and landscape, due to the specific requirements of the NPPF. There is a potential negative impact in relation to the use of renewable energy sources, as sites being considered under this policy option would be for energy minerals and therefore, would not be promoting renewable energy. This has the potential to impact negatively on environmental sustainability. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability, due to the creation of energy from any minerals extracted as a result of this policy option.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  While this option has a number of potential positive sustainability impacts, it does not allow for local circumstances to be set out in relation to energy minerals, therefore, it is not considered to be the most appropriate option to take forward into the Local Plan.
Option 2 - Minerals Local Plan  <i>Policy P17</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape. There is a potential negative impact in relation to the use of renewable energy sources, as sites being considered under this policy option would be for energy minerals and therefore, would not be promoting renewable	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This policy relates specifically to oil and gas development, it does not consider other new energy sources or new technologies that have been developed since the policy was developed. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to take this policy option forward.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	energy. This has the potential to impact negatively on environmental sustainability. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability, due to the creation of energy from any minerals extracted as a result of this policy option.		
Option 3 - Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy  <i>Policy M11</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape. There is a potential negative impact in relation to the use of renewable energy sources, as sites being considered under this policy option would be for energy minerals and therefore, would not be promoting renewable energy. This has the potential to impact negatively on environmental sustainability. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability, due to the creation of energy from any minerals extracted as a result of this policy option.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This policy relates specifically to oil and gas development, it does not consider other new energy sources or new technologies that have been developed since the policy was developed. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to take this policy option forward.
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Energy Minerals</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape as well as potentially on water quality and the transport network, depending on the final wording of the policy. There is a potential negative impact in relation to the use of renewable energy sources, as sites being considered under this policy option would be for energy minerals and therefore, would not be promoting renewable energy. This has the potential to impact negatively on environmental sustainability. There is a potential positive impact	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option would allow for a specific policy option to be developed in relation to energy minerals, including oil and gas, but also any new technologies that have been developed, or may be developed in the future. It would also allow for detailed consideration of the different phases on energy mineral development (exploration and appraisal and commercial production).

	on economic sustainability, due to the creation of energy from any minerals extracted as a result of this policy option.		
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Minerals)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall unknown impact on sustainability, due to the wide ranging nature of the policy option. There are potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity, agricultural land and landscape. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability, due to the creation of energy from any minerals extracted as a result of this policy option.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly unknown <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option will be taken forward into the new Local Plan in any case, relating to a number of other topic areas (as discussed above), however, the policy remains relevant for all mineral development and therefore, is relevant to this topic area.

*Choosing a policy option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process. Due to the specific nature of energy mineral production it is considered that it would be most appropriate to include a specific energy mineral policy in the local plan. This would allow for consideration of the different phases of energy mineral development (stage 1 - exploration and appraisal and stage 2 - commercial production). Option 5 will also be taken forward as it is relevant to a number of other topic areas, although not specifically relevant to this topic area.

**5.2.1.2 Waste Policies**

***Pattern of Waste Management Facilities***

West Berkshire is both an importer and exporter of waste. It is estimated that the total volume of waste managed in the district exceeds the total amount of waste arising within the district.

There is no non-inert landfill capacity within West Berkshire and limited recovery capacity (eg. Anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis). Any waste generated within West Berkshire that is not suitable for reuse or recycling is generally exported for processing outside the district (with the exception of inert waste destined for landfill, some of which is deposited within the authority). However, it should be noted that these two waste management methods are at the bottom of the waste hierarchy.

The Issues and Options consultation response supported the general approach to favour waste management functions that sit in the upper tranches of the waste hierarchy. It is not considered that a policy is required in relation to this issue.

**Self-sufficiency in Waste Management**

The total volume of waste managed in West Berkshire exceeds the total amount of waste that arises within the authority. It is acknowledged that there will always be a degree of cross-boundary movement of waste. National policy supports the principle of self-sufficiency, where each waste planning authority plans for the management of an amount of waste which is equivalent to the amount arising in the plan area.

It is recognised that it may not be possible to meet this requirement in full for each waste stream, particularly for hazardous and other specialist waste streams.

Although West Berkshire is currently a net importer of waste, the Local Waste Assessment (LWA) identifies that without additional waste management infrastructure this pattern may not be maintained over the plan period.

The Issues and Options consultation supported the approach to plan for a level of waste management capacity greater than the volume of waste arising in the district, however this is not a requirement of national policy and so the Council consider meeting net self-sufficiency is appropriate.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This option would rely solely on the NPPF and NPPW. National policy requires local planning authorities to identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for management of waste streams, therefore, supporting self-sufficiency. Therefore, this is not considered to be a reasonable alternative and a policy approach is required	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 2 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy Policy  <i>W1 Waste Self-Sufficiency</i>	Policy W1 of the withdrawn Core Strategy includes a policy on self-sufficiency, however, it makes reference to the withdrawn RSS. While the policy approach may be considered appropriate, the inclusion of withdrawn regional planning documents is not, therefore, this option would require the policy to be updated to take into account current planning guidance. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Self-sufficiency of waste</i>	This option would allow a new policy to be developed for management in West Berkshire, focusing solely on self-sufficiency. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy	This option would set out the locations where there would be a presumption in favour of waste development. Sites being considered under this policy would be helping to achieve self-sufficiency of waste management in West Berkshire. Therefore, this option is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Location of development (waste)</i>		
--	--	--

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 2 - Berkshire Core Strategy  <i>Policy W1</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There is a potential positive impact in terms of the use of renewable energy, which could have a positive impact on environmental sustainability. However, there is also a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability in terms of the use of landfill for waste management.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  While there is an overall neutral impact on sustainability, this option does not take into account the specific local circumstances of West Berkshire as the policy approach was devised for a wider spatial area. Local circumstances could be important, and therefore, a specific West Berkshire policy is considered more appropriate.
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Self-sufficiency of waste</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There is potential for a positive impact in terms of renewable energy, reuse and recycling of waste depending on the policy wording used.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option would provide a general policy setting out the Council's approach to achieving self sufficiency of waste. This is considered to be the most appropriate option as it makes it clear the Council's approach to waste management. The policy does not however, make specific reference to sites or locations for waste sites.
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Location of Development (Waste)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive environmental sustainability impacts in terms of renewable energy, reuse and recycling of waste.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option will set out where there will be a presumption in favour of waste development and will support the delivery of option 3, therefore, it is considered appropriate to include both policy options.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

### *Choosing a policy option*

While the SA/SEA indicates a similar sustainability outcome for all options tested, it is considered that a specific self-sufficiency of waste policy (Option 3) will be the most appropriate option to be included within the plan. This will set out the approach the Council are taking to waste management. Option 4 will also be taken forward to support the delivery of option 3.

### **Landfill/Land raising of non inert works**

There are no active landfill sites in West Berkshire, except for inert wastes, therefore all non inert waste requiring disposal to landfill is exported out of the district. The geological make up of West Berkshire is one of the main factors limiting the scope for landfill in the district. The majority of landfill sites are former mineral extraction sites, and within West Berkshire the majority of landfill sites are within areas at risk of flooding and therefore, not suitable for landfill. In addition the depths of the void spaces in West Berkshire are not normally economically viable to develop into an engineered landfill site, due to the costs involved.

The disposal of waste is located at the bottom of the waste hierarchy and therefore, the necessary environmental permits and planning consents are harder to obtain.

If landfill capacity was to be developed in West Berkshire it is likely that this would include an element of land rising.

There is a general understanding that there is no significant demand for new non inert landfill capacity in the UK, with some local operators working outside West Berkshire seeking permission to close existing operational facilities due to insufficient waste materials being disposed of.

Following the Issues and Options consultation, respondents were generally opposed to the potential for the disposal of residual waste generated in the authority to be landfilled within West Berkshire. Development of such an approach relies on other authorities providing non-inert landfill capacity, however, there would be opportunities to offset or balance the lack of non-inert landfill capacity with additional waste management capacity higher up the waste hierarchy.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF	This would mean solely relying on the NPPF and NPPW. The NPPW requires that waste is driven up the waste management hierarchy, and therefore, would not necessarily support the use of landfill in many cases. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Waste Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>WLP14 Sites for</i>	National policy has moved away from the provision of landfill sites to promote reuse and recycling of waste, therefore, the retention of these policies is not considered to be a reasonable alternative.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p><i>engineered landfill</i>  WLP15 Temporary sites for engineered landfill  WLP20 Other landfill sites for putrescible/polluting waste</p>		
<p>Option 3 - New Policy   <i>Location of development (Landfilling)</i></p>	<p>This option would set out the locations where there would be a presumption in favour of development, while allowing for exceptional circumstances to be considered. Therefore, this option is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.</p>	<p><b>Yes, this option will be tested</b></p>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
<p>Option 1 - No Policy   Rely on NPPF and NPPW</p>	<p>This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts in terms of driving waste up the waste hierarchy away from landfill towards reuse and recycling of waste. This will have a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b>  Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b>  Permanent  <b>Timing:</b>  Medium/Long term</p>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>   The NPPW supports the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy away from landfilling. However, the use of national policy does not allow for local circumstances to be taken into account and therefore, this policy is not considered to be the most appropriate to take forward.</p>
<p>Option 3 – New Policy   <i>Location of development (landfill)</i></p>	<p>This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts in terms of environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity as a result of any final restoration scheme proposed for sites considered under the policy. There are potential unknown impacts in terms of environmental and economic sustainability in terms of the impact of reuse/recycling of material and this would depend on whether imported material would be sorted prior to infilling. It is likely that any site considered under this policy would have a positive impact on economic sustainability in terms of impact on the</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b>  Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b>  Permanent  <b>Timing:</b>  Medium/Long term</p>	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b>   This option will provide a general policy setting out where there will be a presumption in favour of development. Landfill sites have a specific set of requirements and so the policy would need to include some specific criteria for this type of development.</p>

economy and job creation.		
---------------------------	--	--

*Choosing a policy option*

Landfilling will only be acceptable in specific circumstances; therefore, it is considered that a specific policy focusing on the location of landfill sites would be the most appropriate option for the Local Plan (Option 3). The plan recognises the need to move waste up the waste hierarchy and there the wording of this policy will be very specific as to the situations where landfilling will be considered acceptable.

**Location and distribution of waste sites**

The majority of existing waste sites in West Berkshire are concentrated in the south eastern area of the authority, principally around Newbury, along the A4 to Theale and on the A340 linking the A4 to Tadley and Basingstoke. These locations are broadly speaking associated with historical mineral workings, however, there are no longer such strong links between extraction sites and waste management due to the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy away from landfilling.

The existing waste management infrastructure has good access to the locations of waste arising.

The Issues and Options consultation responses generally agreed that there was no one strategy that should be developed. No new waste sites have come forward through the various Calls for Sites, therefore, the Council will not be looking to allocate sites for waste development. Instead the focus will be on safeguarding existing sites and setting out the locations where waste development may be considered acceptable.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This would mean reliance on the NPPF and NPPW. The NPPW requires local planning authorities to ensure enough sites to meet the arising from within the district, therefore, this is not considered to be a reasonable alternative as sites need to be identified or safeguarded through the plan.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 2 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy policy  <i>W3 The Spatial Distribution of Waste Facilities</i>	Policy W3 of the withdrawn Core Berkshire Strategy sets out the policy for the spatial distribution of waste facilities across Berkshire as a whole. It sets out primary areas of search and waste preferred areas for sites. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy	A new policy would mean the development of a specific policy in relation to where waste sites will be considered acceptable, including consideration of business/industrial estates as	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Location of development (waste)</i>	well as more traditional waste safeguarded areas. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	
Option 4 - New Policy <i>Safeguarding Waste</i>	This policy option would set out the Council's approach to safeguarding waste sites. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 2 - Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy  <i>Policy W3</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There is potentially a positive impact on environmental sustainability in relation to the promotion of rail and water transport for small scale sites.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This option has a number of positive sustainability impacts, however, it relates to a Key Diagram which will cover the whole of Berkshire, and therefore, it is not considered to be the most appropriate option to take forward.
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>Location of waste sites</i>	This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive impacts in terms of environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity and landscape. A new policy would seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy away from landfill towards reuse and recycling of waste, which would have a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option is considered to be the most appropriate to take forward into the plan. A specific waste sites location policy would mean that criteria specifically related to waste sites would be able to be included within the policy rather than a more general policy relating to the location of all sites, both minerals and waste.
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding Waste</i>	This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there are also a number of positive impacts as the policy covers the safeguarding of a number of different types of sites. It is likely that there would be a positive impact on economic and environmental sustainability as the policy looks to safeguard sites for waste	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  Where there are already existing waste sites, this policy would seek to safeguard these facilities, therefore, this option is also considered appropriate to take forward into the plan as it will help to define the sites and

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	management, including energy from waste and reuse and recycling streams.	<b>Timing:</b> Long Term	locations where waste development is considered acceptable.
--	--	--------------------------	---

*Choosing a policy option*

All policy options tested are predicted to have a predominantly neutral sustainability impact. Options 3 and 4 together are considered to be the most appropriate options to take forward. Option 4 focuses on safeguarding existing sites, setting out the spatial distribution of existing sites, where as option 3 sets out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for waste facilities. Option 2 is considered too broad a policy as it relates to a much wider spatial area (the whole of Berkshire) to be taken forward.

***Safeguarding of existing and proposed waste sites***

Waste management facilities provide a vital service that is utilised by all residents and businesses in West Berkshire. While there will always be cross boundary movement of waste, it is important that West Berkshire seeks to continue to maintain the existing level of waste facilities in the district. Otherwise these facilities could be replaced by other types of development, which could hinder the ability of West Berkshire to achieve a position of net self sufficiency in Waste Management capacity.

Safeguarding of waste sites is considered to be an important planning policy tool to assist in delivering net self sufficiency in waste management capacity.

The responses to the Issues and Options consultation generally support the inclusion of a policy approach that ensures the appropriate safeguarding of waste management sites.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This option would not provide opportunity to safeguard specific sites, any application coming forward would have to be considered on its own merits. There may be little scope to preserve the waste use of the site if an alternative use was proposed. This option is not considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will not be tested through the SA/SEA	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Waste Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>WLP21 Safeguarding sites for waste management</i>	Policy WLP21 considers safeguarding of sites. Many of the sites listed in the policy are either no longer retained as waste sites, or are outside West Berkshire. While the principle of the policy could be retained, the detail of the sites are no longer relevant, therefore, it is not considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will not be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy policy  <i>W8 Safeguarding of waste Management Facilities</i>	Policy W8 of the withdrawn core strategy deals with the safeguarding of waste management facilities. The policy does not specifically list sites, but does ensure that existing sites, sites with planning permission and waste preferred areas will be safeguarded from other development. The policy also sets out the conditions under which a safeguarded waste site may be considered appropriate for another use. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding of Waste Sites</i>	A new policy would allow the Council to specify the sites and areas which should be safeguarded, as well as set out the criteria for which a proposal for a non-waste use on a waste site may be considered appropriate. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding minerals and waste</i>	Alternative policy option would be to have a combined safeguarding policy for waste sites. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 3 - Berkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy  <i>Policy W8</i>	This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through the safeguarding of existing sites, including in terms of employment opportunities.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  This option relates to sites across Berkshire, not just those in West Berkshire. While this is not necessarily an issue, the policy wording would need to be changed, to make it West Berkshire specific if this option was to be taken forward. As a result it is considered more appropriate to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan.
Option 4 - New Policy	This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There is likely to be a positive impact on economic sustainability through	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option would allow the Council to

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Safeguarding of waste sites</i>	the safeguarding of existing sites, including in terms of employment opportunities.	<b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	set out a new policy specifically safeguarding waste sites within the district. There are different factors to be considered when safeguarding waste, and therefore, it is considered more appropriate for specific safeguarding policies for each type of development.
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Safeguarding Minerals and Waste policy</i>	This policy option will have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. However, there are also a number of positive impacts as the policy covers the safeguarding of a number of different types of sites. It is likely that there would be a positive impact on economic and environmental sustainability as the policy looks to safeguard sites for waste management, including energy from waste and reuse and recycling streams.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Permanent	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  While this option would provide a single policy to safeguard all types of development it is considered that it may not provide adequate details to allow detailed consideration of the type of site as there are different factors that need to be considered for minerals and waste developments. Therefore, it is considered more appropriate to have separate safeguarding policies for minerals and waste development.

*Choosing a policy option*

All three of the options tested are predicted to have a predominantly neutral impact on sustainability. All three are likely to have a positive impact on economic sustainability by safeguarding existing sites and therefore, safeguarding jobs. Option 4 is considered to be the most appropriate option to take forward into the plan. There are differences between the safeguarding requirements for minerals and waste sites, and therefore, in terms of usability of the policy separate safeguarding policies are considered more appropriate.

***New waste management technologies***

There have been significant advances in waste management, meaning that new management technologies and techniques have emerged. There is a clear national intention to move towards a zero waste economy or circular economy, where no waste is generated. To achieve this goal this trend of greater advancement in new waste technologies is likely to continue into the future. In addition to new technologies, there has been an increase in recycling and re-use of waste materials.

The Issues and Options consultation supported the option to include policies in the Local Plan which facilitate the delivery of a range of waste management technologies, without being specific as to which technologies/facilities.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

### *Policy Options*

It is considered that a specific new technology policy would not be appropriate, but a more general policy considering the acceptability of the development of all waste sites would be more appropriate. This is because the planning process is concerned with the specific impacts of a proposal on the specific receiving environment within which it is proposed.

### **Facilities in AONB**

74% of West Berkshire is located within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This landscape is identified in the NPPF as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Great weight should be given to the conservation of such landscapes and the NPPF sets out a presumption against major developments in such designated areas.

Given the proportion of West Berkshire that is within the AONB, a proportion of the population live and work in this sensitive area, there is clearly a volume of waste that arises within the AONB that needs to be appropriately managed.

In addition to general waste streams there are specific waste streams relating to the equine and agricultural industries located within the AONB, such as equine and agricultural wastes.

The Issues and Options consultation responses supported the approach that great weight should be applied to the policy framework for waste sites in the AONB. It was not considered appropriate for the Local Plan to outright preclude waste management facilities within the AONB, and therefore, an exceptional circumstances policy may be considered more appropriate. It is recognised that any development would need to be located such that it does not have an adverse impact on the AONB. The development of local, small scale development to meet a local need may be considered acceptable.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	National policy states that major development should only take place in the AONB in exceptional circumstances. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - New Policy  <i>Waste development in the AONB</i>	Policy relating just too waste development proposals in the AONB. This would mean a specific policy relating to the development of waste management facilities in the AONB,	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy	Policy considering all mineral/waste development within the AONB. This option would provide a single policy covering all development proposals in the AONB. However, the	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Minerals and Waste development in the AONB</i>	NPPF requires slightly different approaches to minerals and waste development in the AONB, therefore, it is not considered appropriate for a single policy to cover both types of development. It may be that small scale waste development, in particular related to the rural economy, may be acceptable. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to have a single policy for minerals and waste development in the AONB.	
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Landscape</i>	This policy option would set out protections for the landscape character of an area, including the AONB. The policy would include when exceptional circumstances would be considered for development in protected landscapes. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The NPPF promotes a presumption against development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances, which aims to protect the landscape of the AONB, with a positive impact on landscape and environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> AONB <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward.</b>  The NPPF states that development should only take place in the AONB in exceptional circumstances, but does not go on to say what those exceptional circumstances may be. Therefore a local policy which considers local circumstances is considered to be more appropriate for inclusion in the Local Plan.
Option 2 - New Policy  <i>Waste development in the AONB</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. The NPPF promotes a presumption against development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances, which aims to protect the landscape of the AONB, with a positive impact on landscape and environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> AONB <b>Duration:</b> Permanent	<b>This option will not be taken forward</b>  Under national policy there is a presumption against major development in the AONB, therefore, this policy would be an exceptions policy setting out when waste



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

		<b>Timing:</b> Long Term	development in the AONB may be acceptable. It is considered that this could be adequately covered by a more general policy on the location of development (option 4).
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability. For the policy to be in accordance with the NPPF there would be a presumption against development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances, which would protect the landscape of the AONB, resulting in a positive impact on landscape and environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This policy option would set out a general policy as to where there would be a presumption in favour of development.  Following the drafting of possible policy wording it was considered that this policy option would provide a more usable policy than a specific AONB policy that relates solely to waste development in the AONB.
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Landscape</i>	Overall this policy option is likely to have a neutral effect on sustainability, however, there is predicted to be a significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the policy focusing on the protection of the landscape. The policy does predict a number of potential positive impacts as a result of the policy approach to protecting the character of the landscape, in particular in protected landscape. There is likely to be an unknown impact on economic sustainability, as under this policy, exceptional circumstances would need to be demonstrated to permit development in protected landscapes, therefore, the impact would depend on whether exceptional circumstances could be demonstrated.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral, with a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability <b>Likelihood:</b> medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent (Waste) <b>Timing:</b> Long term	<b>This option will be taken forward</b>  This option will set out the general principles in relation to protection of landscape character, particularly in the AONB. It would cover all sites, both minerals and waste, put forward for consideration and is therefore, considered complementary to the location of development policy (option 4).

*Choosing a policy option*

All options were identified as having similar potential impacts through the SA/SEA process. Policy option 4 was considered to be the most appropriate to take forward into the Local Plan as it would set out the locations where there would be a presumption in favour of development.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

This policy would not just refer to development in the AONB, but across the whole district. To compliment this, it is considered that a specific landscape policy, setting out requirements for protection of landscape character, specifically in the AONB, should be included in the plan (option 5). This will help to identify when there are exceptional circumstances when development within protected landscape may be considered acceptable.

### ***Equine Waste***

Equestrian activities and related development, together with the racehorse breeding and training industry are characteristic of West Berkshire. Such sites are usually found within the AONB, and Lambourn is a particularly important location for the racehorse industry.

In the UK horse manure, subject to certain controls, is not always considered waste, therefore, it is likely that only a limited proportion of the equine waste arising in the district may actually be considered as “waste”.

The Issues and Options consultation responses suggest that it is unlikely that additional capacity will be required through the plan period for the management of equine waste, and therefore, criteria based policies may be more appropriate to manage any applications for this waste stream.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This would mean a reliance on the NPPF and NPPW. There are not specific policies included in these national documents, and so this waste stream would just be treated as a general waste application. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Waste Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>WLP19 Farm and Stable Waste</i>	Policy WLP19 of the existing local plan refers to farm and stable waste outside preferred areas. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy policy  <i>W7 Specialist Waste Management</i>	Equine Waste would come under W7 (Specialist Waste Management Facilities) of the withdrawn Core Strategy. This is a more general policy covering a number of potential waste management facilities and is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Facilities</i>		
Option 4 - New Policy <i>Specific equine waste policy</i>	A new policy specific to equine waste – this would mean a specialist policy would be developed for this waste stream. However, there is a very limited amount of equine waste arising in West Berkshire, therefore, it is not considered appropriate or necessary to include a specific equine waste policy within the Local Plan.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 5 - New Policy <i>Specialist waste management policy</i>	This would provide a more general policy covering different kinds of waste management facilities that may be suitable. This is considered to be more appropriate than option 4.1, as only very small amounts of equine waste are produced in West Berkshire, and a more general policy would reduce repetition of policies and the criteria for equine waste facilities would be similar to a whole range of other specialist facilities. This option is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 6 - New Policy <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. Due to the aims of the NPPF to promote sustainable development, there are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts that could result from this option including, the promotion of reuse and recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to land fill. The NPPF also supports sustainable transport, therefore there are potential positive impacts in relation to transport and traffic.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  Whilst this policy option could result in positive sustainability impacts, the reliance on the NPPF and NPPW does not allow for local circumstances to be taken into account and therefore, this is not considered the most appropriate option to take forward.
Option 2 - Waste Local Plan  <i>Policy W19</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potentially positive impacts in terms of utilising previously developed land as well as considerations of townscape and landscape all of which are likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This policy cross refers to a number of other policies that existed in the WLPB, which related to a number of factors, some of which are not relevant to West Berkshire. As a result it is considered more appropriate

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

		<b>Timing:</b> Long Term	to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan.
Option 3 - Berkshire Core Strategy  <i>Policy W7</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. The only positive impact resulting from this policy option is likely to be in relation to the promotion of reuse and recycling, which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This option relates to utilising a policy approach developed for the whole of Berkshire, not just West Berkshire. While this is not necessarily an issue, the policy wording would need to be changed, to make it West Berkshire specific if this option was to be taken forward. As a result it is considered more appropriate to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan.
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Specialist waste management policy</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potentially positive impacts in terms of utilising previously developed land as well as considerations of townscape and landscape all of which are likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This policy option would allow the Council to set out a new policy specifically relating to all types of specialist waste management, including equine waste. This option would recognise that there are local sources of specialist waste that may need to be considered.
Option 6 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive environmental sustainability impacts in terms of renewable energy, reuse and recycling of waste.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option will be taken forward in relation to a number of topic areas (as discussed above). It is likely to be a consideration of the location of waste water facilities and therefore, is also relevant to this topic.

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

### *Choosing a policy option*

All policy options tested predict a predominantly neutral impact on sustainability. All the options have some predicted positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of the promotion of reuse and recycling of waste. Options 2, 5 and 6 are also predicted to have a positive environmental sustainability in relation to landscape and/or townscape. Option 1, which would rely solely on the NPPF is predicted to have a number of positive impacts in terms of the promotion of sustainable transport, as this is one of the key elements of the NPPF. Option 5 is considered to be the most appropriate to be taken forward. This option recognises that there may be a number of specialist waste requirements in West Berkshire, not just for equine waste. A single specialist waste policy means that there is no need for individual specialist waste policies with very similar wording to be included within the plan. Option 6 will also be taken forward in the plan in relation to a number of topic areas, but is also relevant to this topic.

### **Waste Water treatment/Management of sewage sludge**

Sewage sludge is a natural by-product of the wastewater treatment process. Thames Water, a private utilities company, is responsible for wastewater treatment in West Berkshire. Due to improved wastewater treatment standards and an increasing population more sewage sludge is now produced than in the past. Thames Water has confirmed that typically 100% of the dry solids produced from the wastewater treatment process can be put to beneficial use, with none disposed of to landfill.

Through the Issues and Options consultation there is some support for a policy approach that facilitates the provision of facilities for managing this waste stream. Thames Water has said that, based on current projections, it is unlikely that new sewage treatment facilities will be required within the district over the plan period, and that existing sites would be able to accommodate projected levels of growth, and as such there is a preference for a criteria based policy approach in relation to this waste stream.

### *Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This would mean a reliance on the NPPF and NPPW. There are not specific policies included in these national documents, and so this waste stream would just be treated as a general waste application. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 2 - Retain Waste Local Plan for Berkshire Policy  <i>WLP18 Sewage Works</i>	Policy WLP18 of the existing local plan refers to Sewage Works outside preferred areas. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - Use withdrawn Berkshire	Waste water/sewage treatment would come under W7 (Specialist Waste Management Facilities) of the withdrawn Core Strategy. This is a more general policy covering a number	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Core Strategy policy <i>W7 Specialist Waste Management Facilities</i>	of potential waste management facilities and is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	
Option 4 - New Policy <i>Waste Water policy</i>	A new policy specific to waste water/sewage treatment waste – this would mean a specialist policy would be developed for this waste stream. However, there is limited demand for new waste water/sewage treatment works and therefore, it is not considered appropriate or necessary to include a specific policy within the Local Plan.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 5 - New Policy  Specialist Waste management policy	This would provide a more general policy covering different kinds of waste management facilities that may be considered. This is considered to be more appropriate than option 4.1, as only very small amounts of equine waste are produced in West Berkshire, and a more general policy would reduce repetition of policies and the criteria for waste water/sewage treatment facilities would be similar to a whole range of other specialist facilities. This is option is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 6 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  Rely on NPPF & NPPW	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. Due to the aims of the NPPF to promote sustainable development, there are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts that could result from this option including, the promotion of reuse and recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to land fill. The NPPF also supports sustainable transport, therefore there are potential positive impacts in relation to transport and traffic.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  Whilst this policy option could result in positive sustainability impacts the reliance on the NPPF and NPPW it does not allow for local circumstances to be taken into account and therefore, this is not considered the most appropriate option to take forward.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p>Option 2 - Waste Local Plan</p> <p><i>Policy W18</i></p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potentially positive impacts in terms of utilising previously developed land as well as considerations of townscape and landscape all of which are likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.</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>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This policy cross refers to a number of other policies that existed in the WLPB, which related to a number of factors, some of which are not relevant to West Berkshire. As a result it is considered more appropriate to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Option 3 - Berkshire Core Strategy</p> <p><i>Policy W7</i></p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. The only positive impact resulting from this policy option is likely to be in relation to the promotion of reuse and recycling, which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.</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>	<p><b>This option is not to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option relates to utilising a policy approach developed for the whole of Berkshire, not just West Berkshire. While this is not necessarily an issue, the policy wording would need to be changed, to make it West Berkshire specific if this option was to be taken forward. As a result it is considered more appropriate to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Option 5 - New Policy</p> <p>Specialist waste management policy</p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potentially positive impacts in terms of utilising previously developed land as well as considerations of townscape and landscape all of which are likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.</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>	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This policy option would allow the Council to set out a new policy specifically relating to all types of specialist waste management, including equine waste. This option would recognise that there are local sources of specialist waste that may need to be considered.</p>
<p>Option 6 - New Policy</p> <p><i>Location of development</i></p>	<p>This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive environmental sustainability impacts in terms of renewable energy, reuse and recycling of waste.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide</p>	<p><b>This option is to be taken forward</b></p> <p>This option will be taken forward in relation to a number of topic areas (as discussed above). It is likely to be a consideration of</p>

(Waste)		<b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Medium/Long term	the location of waste water facilities and therefore, is also relevant to this topic.
---------	--	---	---

*Choosing a policy option*

All policy options tested predict a predominantly neutral impact on sustainability. All the options have some predicted positive impacts on environmental sustainability in terms of the promotion of reuse and recycling of waste. Option 5 is considered to be the most appropriate to be taken forward. This option recognises that there may be a number of specialist waste requirements in West Berkshire, not just for waste water/sewage sludge. A single specialist waste policy means that there is no need for individual specialist waste policies with very similar wording to be included within the plan. Option 6 will also be taken forward in the plan in relation to a number of topic areas, but is also relevant to this topic.

**Radioactive Waste Arising**

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites of Aldermaston and Burghfield are located within West Berkshire. These sites undertake research and development, design, manufacturing, servicing and decommissioning of the country’s nuclear deterrent. While these are the only sites that generate significant volumes of radioactive waste, radioactive material will originate from other sources (eg. Commercial and industrial operations, medical, veterinary and research establishments).

In essence there are two levels of radioactive waste arising that normally need to be considered – low level radioactive waste (LLW) and very local level radioactive waste (VLLW). There are currently no facilities in the UK where higher level wastes can be disposed of, however, this is being considered at a national level and therefore, does not need to be considered as part of the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Due to the limited volumes of material produced, and the specialist nature of radioactive waste, it is recognised that it is unlikely to be economically viable for the Council to seek to pursue a strategy whereby any radioactive waste management facilities in West Berkshire would only manage radioactive waste solely arising from within the district.

Currently radioactive waste arising in West Berkshire is dealt with through existing contracts, and therefore, it is considered that there is adequate treatment/process and storage capacity to manage this waste stream. However, this does not prevent new proposals coming forward, therefore, a criteria based policy approach is considered to be appropriate to ensure such proposals can be considered.

*Policy Options*

Policy Option	Reasonable Alternative?	
Option 1 - No Policy	This would mean a reliance on the NPPF and NPPW. There are not specific policies included in these national documents, and so this waste stream would	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Rely on NPPF & NPPW	just be treated as a general waste application. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	
Option 2 - Use withdrawn Berkshire Core Strategy policy  <i>W7 Specialist Waste Management Facilities</i>	Radioactive waste would come under W7 (Specialist Waste Management Facilities) of the withdrawn Core Strategy. This is a more general policy covering a number of potential waste management facilities and is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 3 - New Policy  <i>General Specialist Waste management policy</i>	This would provide a more general policy covering different kinds of waste management facilities that may be considered. This is considered to be more appropriate than option 4.1, as only very small amounts of equine waste are produced in West Berkshire, and a more general policy would reduce repetition of policies and the criteria for radioactive waste facilities would be similar to a whole range of other specialist facilities. This option would provide a similar SA/SEA outcome to option 2 and therefore, it has not been retested.	<b>No, this option will not be tested</b>
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Radioactive Waste policy(AWE)</i>	A new policy specific to radioactive waste – this would mean a specialist policy would be developed for this waste stream. There is limited demand for new radioactive waste disposal in West Berkshire, however, the presence of AWE means that the possibility for radioactive waste needs to be considered.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	This policy option would set out where there would be a presumption in favour of development for waste development. This is considered to be a reasonable alternative and so will be tested through the SA/SEA.	<b>Yes, this option will be tested</b>

*Assessing the options*

<b>Policy Option</b>	<b>Summary of SA/SEA</b>	<b>Summary of effects</b>	<b>Recommendation &amp; Justification</b>
Option 1 - No Policy  <i>Rely on NPPF &amp; NPPW</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. Due to the aims of the NPPF to promote sustainable development, there are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts that could result from this option including, the promotion of reuse and recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to land fill. The NPPF also supports sustainable transport, therefore there are potential positive	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  Whilst this policy option could result in positive sustainability impacts the reliance on the NPPF and NPPW does not allow for local circumstances to be taken into account and therefore, this is not considered the most appropriate option to take forward.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	impacts in relation to transport and traffic.		
Option 2 - Berkshire Core Strategy  <i>Policy W7</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. The only positive impact resulting from this policy option is likely to be in relation to the promotion of reuse and recycling, which would have a positive impact on environmental sustainability.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term	<b>This option is not to be taken forward</b>  This option relates to utilising a policy approach developed for the whole of Berkshire, not just West Berkshire. While this is not necessarily an issue, the policy wording would need to be changed, to make it West Berkshire specific if this option was to be taken forward. As a result it is considered more appropriate to include a new West Berkshire specific policy within the Local Plan
Option 4 - New Policy  <i>Radioactive Waste (AWE)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There is likely to be a positive environmental impact in terms of use of previously developed land.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  Given the presence of AWE within West Berkshire, it is considered that a specific policy relating to radioactive waste produced from the site would be beneficial in the plan.
Option 5 - New Policy  <i>Location of development (Waste)</i>	This policy option is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability. There are potential positive environmental sustainability impacts in terms of renewable energy, reuse and recycling of waste.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term	<b>This option is to be taken forward</b>  This option will be taken forward in relation to a number of topic areas (as discussed above). It is likely to be a consideration of the location of radioactive facilities and therefore, is also relevant to this topic.

*Choosing a policy option*

All policy options tested predict a predominantly neutral impact on sustainability. Given that AWE is a local business dealing specifically with radioactive material, it is considered important to have a policy that recognises this as a local waste stream. Therefore, option 4 will be taken forward. Option 5 will also be taken forward in the plan in relation to a number of topic areas, but is also relevant to this topic.

**Management of London’s Waste**

There is no national policy requiring local authorities to have a specific policy in relation to managing London’s Waste. Therefore, it is not intended to include a policy within the local plan specifically relating to the management of London’s Waste.

**Re-working old landfill sites**

This issue was raised as part of the Issues and Options consultation. Re-working of old landfill sites means that any reusable, recoverable or recyclable material that has historically been deposited in landfill can be removed. There are opportunities to provide environmental benefits as a result of the reworking of these sites. However, there has been limited interest in West Berkshire for this type of work. As a result of the issues and options consultation, it was considered appropriate to include an approach to this topic within the Local Plan, so that should any sites come forward for re-working there is a policy approach set out in the plan.

*Policy Options*

There are no existing options for this topic area, and therefore, the only reasonable alternative will be to include a new policy within the Local Plan.

*Assessing the Option*

Policy Option	Summary of SA/SEA	Summary of SA/SEA effects	Recommendation & Justification
Option 1 - New Policy  Re-working old landfill sites	<p><b>The policy is likely to have an overall neutral impact on sustainability.</b> There are a number of potential positive environmental and economic impacts as reworking of old landfill sites would remove the recoverable material making best use of material that could be reused or recycled. There are also some potential negative impacts predominantly on social and economic sustainability associated with the reworking operations, however, these are likely to be short/medium term associated with the works themselves, but following restoration the impacts should be neutral.</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>	<p><b>Policy option is taken forward</b></p> <p>This option was considered to be the only reasonable alternative.</p>

*Choosing a Policy Option*

Option 1 was considered the only reasonable alternative policy option that was identified to be tested and it is therefore recommended that this is taken forward.

***Other policies that will be required***

Some general policies covering issues that were raised during the Sites Consultation, and meet the requirements of the NPPF for certain elements to be considered within a Local Plan.

***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 94). 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 due to be replaced by a new Local Plan in the near future, it is not considered appropriate to rely on this policy and therefore, a new policy within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is proposed.

***Biodiversity and Geodiversity***

The NPPF requires that impacts on biodiversity are minimised and sets out requirements for planning policies (para 117). While the West Berkshire Core Strategy includes a biodiversity policy (CS17), the Core Strategy is due to be replaced by a new Local Plan in the near future, 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.

***Best and most versatile agricultural land***

The NPPF states that development should, where possible avoid the best and most versatile agricultural land (Para 143). As this is a specific issues 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.

***Historic Environment***

The NPPF requires Local Plans to have a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment (para 126). While the West Berkshire Core Strategy includes a policy on the Historic Environment and Landscape Character (CS19), the Core Strategy is to be replaced by a new Local Plan in the near future, so 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.

***Public health, safety and amenity***

Minerals and waste development have the potential to negatively impact on public health, safety and 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.

***Design***

The NPPF requires good design as a key aspect of sustainable development (para 56). While the core Strategy includes a policy on Design Principles (CS14), the Core Strategy is to be replaced by a new Local Plan in the near future, and so 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.

***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.

***Sustainable development***

Achieving sustainable development is the main aim of the NPPF, however, it is considered to be worthwhile including a local sustainable development policy within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

***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.

***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.

**5.2.2 Site Selection**

All sites submitted through the Call for Sites in 2014 have been considered as part of the site selection process. The site selection process has identified realistic alternatives for sites, meaning that only sites with a realistic chance of being deliverable have been considered and taken through the SA and site selection processes, as set out above.

The SA/SEA process has been used to identify where sites may have an impact on sustainability.

All of the site assessment forms, including the SA/SEA, are set out in appendix 5. The tables below outline the findings of the site specific SA/SEA and site selection information to detail whether or not the sites are recommended as Preferred Options for Allocation.

### 5.2.2.1 Minerals Sites

Minerals can only be worked where they lie, which means that there are a limited number of sites suitable for mineral extraction. These are largely focused along the Kennet Valley in the south west of West Berkshire. 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. Of these three were automatically excluded, due to their location in the AONB and the national policy regarding minerals development in the AONB. The other 12 sites were subject to site assessment and SA/SEA as realistic alternatives for development. The comments made during the 'Sites Consultation' in summer 2016 were also taken into account as part of the site assessment process.

Table 10 Minerals Site Assessment			
Site details	Summary of SA/SEA of site	Summary of effects	Recommendation and justification as a preferred option
Frouds Lane, Aldermaston (MW001)  <i>Mineral                      extraction and                      processing plan</i>	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 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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral impact, with a possible significant negative impact on environmental sustainability in terms of landscape. <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b>	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  The site is not considered suitable for development in landscape terms, which results in a potential significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

		Short/Medium Term	
<p>Aldermaston Bridge, Aldermaston (MW003)</p> <p><i>Mineral extraction</i></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></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Boot Farm, Brimpton Common (MW004)</p> <p><i>Mineral extraction</i></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 likely to be neutral in the long term, but there could be some short/medium term negative impacts unless adequate mitigation measures are introduced.</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. In the long term restoration of the site will result in the site being returned to its existing condition.</p>
<p>Colthrop Aggregate Processing Plant, Thatcham (MW006)</p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability as the site is already operational and the proposal is for a slight increase in the amount of mineral processed on the site. There is likely to be a positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of the use of previously developed land. There are also a number of</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>The site has permanent permission for a mineral processing plant and therefore, does not need to be</p>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p><i>Mineral Processing Plant (existing)</i></p>	<p>positive impacts in relation to environmental and economic sustainability as the site processes secondary and recycled aggregates and impact on the local economy. There is a potential negative impact on environmental sustainability in terms of air quality and public nuisance as the extension of the site could result in additional traffic movements, however, mitigation measures already in place should help to reduce this impact.</p>	<p><b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term</p>	<p>allocated through the plan.</p>
<p>Cowpond Piece, Ufton Nervet (MW007)  <i>Mineral extraction</i></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 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><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. In the long term restoration of the site will result in the site being returned to its existing condition</p>
<p>Firlands, Burghfield Common (MW008)  <i>Mineral extraction</i></p>	<p>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 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</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. In the long term restoration of the site will result in the site being returned to its existing condition</p>



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	neutral in the longer term, but in the short term, without adequate mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on amenity.		
Land off Spring Lane, Aldermaston (MW010)  <i>Mineral extraction</i>	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 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.	<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.
Long Lane, Cold Ash (MW011)  <i>Mineral extraction</i>	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	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral, with a significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability in relation to landscape. <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>  The site is not considered suitable for development in landscape terms, which results in a potential significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	supporting the local economy.	<b>Scale:</b> local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	
Wasing Lower Farm, Aldermaston (MW012)  <i>Mineral extraction</i>	Overall development of this site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability, with the exception of the environmental benefits through boosting recycling and the production of recycled aggregate. 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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative <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>  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 the site being returned to its existing condition
Manor Farm, Brimpton (MW013)  <i>Mineral extraction</i>	Overall the site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability, with the exception of the environmental benefits 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 a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation and supporting the local economy. There is also a potentially positive impact in relation to managing and reducing flood risk.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative <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>  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 the site being returned to its existing condition
Padworth Park Farm, Lower Padworth	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	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly Negative, with a	<b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p>(MW014)</p> <p><i>Mineral extraction</i></p>	<p>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>significantly negative impact on environmental sustainability as a result of the landscape impact.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Duration:</b> Temporary  <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</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>Tidney Bed, Ufton Nervet (MW015)</p> <p><i>Mineral extraction</i></p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a negative impact on environmental sustainability, with the exception of the environmental benefits 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, 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><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 northern parcel of land is recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>Part of 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 the site being returned to its existing condition</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</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative  <b>Likelihood:</b></p>	<p><b>Part of the site is recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>Part of the site is considered suitable</p>

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<i>Mineral extraction</i>	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.	Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term	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 the site being returned to its existing condition
---------------------------	--	---	---

### **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, MW011, MW014**).

Of the sites assessed, seven sites are proposed as preferred options for allocation (**MW004, MW007, MW008, MW012, MW013, MW015, MW016**). 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 terms, and in the longer term, following restoration will be neutral.

A small part of **MW003** 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** 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.

### **5.2.2.2 Waste Sites**

A total of seven possible waste sites were submitted to the Council for consideration for allocation in the Local Plan. Of these two were withdrawn, leaving five sites as realistic alternatives for allocation which were then subject to site assessment and SA/SEA.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Table 11 Waste Site Assessment			
Site details	Summary of SA/SEA of site	Summary of effects	Recommendation and justification as a preferred option
<p>Moores Farm, Pingewood (MW017)</p> <p><i>Waste Management (existing)</i></p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on environmental sustainability as the site is already in use for recycled aggregate production and inert infilling with restoration to agriculture. There are a number of potentially positive impacts on economic and environmental sustainability through the recycling of aggregates and the benefits this has for the local and wider economy and employment. There are a number of unknown or uncertain impacts as the site is already in use as a mineral recycling facility and therefore, while there could be impacts as a result of the development, they are already being managed and dealt with as part of the existing consent. The proposal seeks to extend the life of the plant. The site is proposed to be restored to agriculture following completion of the works, which would have the potential to improve environmental sustainability in terms of biodiversity and agricultural land.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Temporary</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>Site already has planning permission as a temporary waste site, does not need to be allocated.</p>
<p>Beenham Industrial Estate, Beenham (MW018)</p> <p><i>Waste Management (existing)</i></p>	<p>Overall further development of this site for waste management would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. There are a number of potential positive sustainability impacts, particularly on environmental sustainability as a result of potential reuse and recycling of waste material and use of previously developed land as well as positive impact on economic sustainability due to impacts on the economy. There are also a number of potential negative, or unknown, sustainability impacts should the amount of waste processed on the site increase, in particular in relation to air quality and traffic, however, mitigation measures should be able to minimise this impact.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> local</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Long Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>The site has permanent permission for waste management, does not need to be allocated.</p> <p>Will be safeguarded by policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Policies in the Local Plan will also set out where waste management facilities should be located, which will include existing waste management sites.</p>
<p>Hyde Crete Pit, Burghfield</p>	<p>Overall, development of this site would be likely to have a negative impact on sustainability, with a possible potentially significant negative impact on environmental sustainability in relation to</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly negative</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

<p>Bridge (MW020)</p> <p><i>Landfill site</i></p>	<p>landfilling, which is the primary purpose of the proposal. There are likely to be negative impacts on a number of factors impacting on environmental sustainability including biodiversity, flood risk and the impacts associated with traffic movements to and from the site. There are not likely to be any positive impacts on sustainability resulting from development of this site.</p>	<p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium Term</p>	<p>Site is not considered suitable for development due to proposal for infilling of existing lakes which are of ecological and recreational value. Infilling is considered to be at the bottom of the Waste Hierarchy, and the NPPF requires local authorities to move waste up the waste hierarchy away from landfill.</p>
<p>Reading Quarry, Pingewood (MW022)</p> <p><i>Waste Management (existing)</i></p>	<p>Overall development of this site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability as the site is already operational, despite uncertainty as to what would be developed on the site. Where potential negative impacts are identified, this is associated with increases in traffic to/from the site. Should the waste throughput of the site increase, additional mitigation measures may be required to ensure no longer term sustainability impacts. The site is likely to have a positive impact on environmental and economic sustainability due to the use of reuse and recycling as the site looks to manage waste in this way.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> local <b>Duration:</b> permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>The site has permanent permission for waste management, does not need to be allocated.</p> <p>Will be safeguarded by policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Policies in the Local Plan will also set out where waste management facilities should be located, which will include existing waste management sites.</p>
<p>Theale Waste Recycling and Transfer Station (MW023)</p> <p><i>Waste Management (existing)</i></p>	<p>Overall development of the site would be likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. Where potential negative sustainability impacts are identified, this is largely associated with increases in traffic to/from the site. There is also a potential negative environmental sustainability impact as a result of the development of the Thermal treatment facility and monitoring and mitigation measure will be required to reduce this impact. There are likely to be positive environmental and economic sustainability impacts as a result of the development due to the movement of waste material up the waste hierarchy, and the creation of jobs and impact on the local and wider economy respectively.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> Local <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term</p>	<p><b>The site is not recommended for allocation.</b></p> <p>The site has permanent permission for waste management, does not need to be allocated.</p> <p>Will be safeguarded by policies in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Policies in the Local Plan will also set out where waste management facilities should be located, which will</p>

			include existing waste management sites.
--	--	--	--

**Site selection summary**

The SA/SEA of the specific sites shows that for all potential waste sites the impacts are largely neutral or negative. However, all but one of the sites assessed are existing permitted sites (**MW017, MW018, MW022, MW023**) and therefore, there is no need to allocate these sites. The remaining site (**MW020**) is not considered suitable for development due to the potential negative impacts on environmental sustainability. The existing permitted sites will be safeguarded through policies in the plan to ensure that the Council can continue to provide adequate waste management facilities.

**5.2.3 Assessment of Proposed Policies**

Following the review of the policy options (see section 5.2.1 above) the proposed policies for inclusion in the Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan have been drafted and subject to individual SA/SEA assessment to determine the potential impact on sustainability and highlight the potential positive and negative sustainability impacts of each policy. The table below sets out the summary of the SA/SEA. The detailed SA/SEA sheets are set out in appendix 6.

Policy Details	Summary of SA/SEA of site	Summary of effects
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	<b>Effect:</b> Positive <b>Likelihood:</b> High <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long Term
Landbank / Need	Overall the inclusion of this policy in the local plan is likely to have a neutral impact on sustainability. While there are some potential negative environmental and social impacts as a result of this policy and the sites proposed for allocation, these will only be short/medium term as mineral extraction is only a temporary activity and following restoration of the site the overall impact should be neutral. There is a potential positive impact on economic sustainability as the policy will support the delivery of sites to meet the district's need for construction materials and provide employment.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> short/medium term
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	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	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>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
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, there are only likely to be short/medium term as mineral extraction is only temporary in nature. 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
Location of Development – 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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term
Location of Development – Landfilling of Waste	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
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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short / medium term



Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

Mineral Safeguarding	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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term
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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short/Medium term
Specialist Waste Management	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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term
Reworking Old 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.	<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
Temporary 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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Temporary <b>Timing:</b> Short / Medium term
Location of Permanent Construction Aggregate 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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> Long term
Restoration and After-use	Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. 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. There is potential negative environmental sustainability in terms of landfilling as restoration schemes can involve a degree of landfilling.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
Landscape	Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	<p>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. 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. There are no predicted negative impacts as a result of this policy.</p>	<p>neutral, with a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of landscape.  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>
Protected Landscapes	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral, with a significantly positive impact on environmental sustainability in terms of landscape.  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> AONB  <b>Duration:</b> Permanent  <b>Timing:</b> long term</p>
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy, with a potentially significant positive environmental effect as a result of the policy's focus on preserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity. No potential negative sustainability impacts are identified for 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>
Agricultural Land	<p>Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy, with a potentially significant positive impact on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land. The policy is also likely to have a positive impact on environmental sustainability as it would seek to enhance 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>
Transport	<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</p>	<p><b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral  <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium  <b>Scale:</b> District Wide</p>

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	potentially negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.	<b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
Public Rights of Way	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. There are no predicted negative impacts as a result of the policy.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
Flooding	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 in relation to flood risk and climate change. There are no potentially negative impacts identified 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
Climate Change	Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential positive impacts on environmental sustainability as the policy seeks to reduce the impacts on climate change making specific reference to flood risk and sustainable transport.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
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.	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral <b>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
Historic Environment	Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy, with a potentially significant positive environmental effect as a result of the policy's focus on preserving and enhancing the historic environment. No potential negative sustainability impacts are identified for 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
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	<b>Effect:</b> Predominantly neutral

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

	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>Likelihood:</b> Medium <b>Scale:</b> District Wide <b>Duration:</b> Permanent <b>Timing:</b> long term
Cumulative Impact	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

### **Summary of assessment**

All policies proposed to be included within the preferred options Minerals and Waste Local Plan have been assessed as having a predominantly positive impact on sustainability, with the exception of the sustainable development policy, which is likely to have a positive impact on sustainability due to the focus on the policy. It is recognised that some policies could result in short term impacts on sustainability, in particular environmental and social, where proposals are for temporary facilities. However, mitigation measures would reduce this impact and in the longer term, following restoration there would be no impact, or an overall positive impact.

### **6 Next Stages**

Regulation 30 requires submission of the SA/SEA Report, and any revision or supplements to it, to the Secretary of State alongside the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The SA/SEA Report is being published alongside the Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan and comments on the SA/SEA report are invited at this stage. The consultation will last 6 weeks from 19<sup>th</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Following the consultation the SA/SEA report will be updated to reflect any changes made as a result of the consultation. A final SA/SEA Report, to meet the SA and SEA requirements will be publicised alongside the submission version 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):

## Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preferred Options (March 2017)

- 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 Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

As a result of the SA work undertaken during the development of the Preferred Options Minerals and Waste Local Plan and following the initial sites consultation in summer 2016, the most sustainable options were proposed for taking forward into the Preferred Options version of the Plan.