Staffordshire County Council’s Statement

Day 3

Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan

Issue: Whether the implementation and monitoring arrangements will be effective?

Insets

Issue: Whether the considerations in the Inset Maps are accurately represented
Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan

**Issue: Whether the implementation and monitoring arrangements will be effective?**

1. **Is the Plan's approach to monitoring practicable?**

1.1 Yes. Table 1 of the new Plan sets out the performance indicator data that will be required to monitor the policies, the method of monitoring and targets for the policies.

1.2 Monitoring indicators for Policy 1 are linked with the annual survey undertaken on behalf of the West Midlands Aggregates Working Party (WMAWP) and will be reported annually in the Staffordshire Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA). The LAA highlights the problem with data collection of sales of secondary and recycled aggregates and therefore, an indicator for monitoring recycling capacity is also included. Other data used for monitoring Policy 1 relies on the Council’s own records.

1.3 Policy 2 will use data for clay sales collected as part of the national ‘Annual minerals raised inquiry survey’ and data gathered from planning applications. In relation to brick clay, the Council in co-operation with other West Midlands mineral planning authorities intends to improve monitoring for the purposes of monitoring supply to individual clay product works. Initial correspondence with industry representatives suggest that monitoring of clay supply is feasible but might not be necessary on an annual basis.

1.4 Monitoring of Policies, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be monitored by data gathered from the Council’s planning records on an annual basis. This will involve information from planning applications including data from environmental statements where relevant; consultations from District Planning Authorities relating to development within mineral safeguarding areas or mineral consultation zones for mineral infrastructure sites; the submission of details relating to the approval of restoration and aftercare schemes; and site monitoring records.

2. **Does it provide for co-operation and participation and are appropriate participants involved?**

2.1 Yes. Table 1 refers to monitoring methods and in relation to monitoring policies 1 and 2 relating to the provision of minerals, there is a requirement for co-operation and participation with other mineral planning authorities and the minerals industry. For aggregates, this will also involve continuing participation with the West Midland Aggregates Working Party and the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body.

2.2 Policy 3 will rely on co-operation and consultation with District Councils in order to effectively safeguard minerals and minerals site infrastructure. This will include maintaining mineral safeguard area and minerals infrastructure consultation zone mapping and monitoring lists of minerals infrastructure sites. It will also be necessary to review mapping with the minerals industry to provide
an opportunity for industry information about resources and mineral infrastructure sites to be taken into account.  

3 **Does it provide flexibility and what contingency measures are in place in the event of non-deliverability?**

3.1 Yes, the indicators do provide for flexibility so that if circumstances relating to the provision of minerals or the determination of mineral proposals change, there is opportunity to trigger a review of the Plan.

3.2 Table 1 of the new Plan sets out targets for the monitoring of the Plan as well as trigger points for review of the new Plan and corrective actions which would be contingency measures.

3.3 In relation to Policies 1 and 2, it is proposed that landbanks are monitored as well as levels of provision required for each mineral type. If landbanks are not maintained as stated in the description of each trigger point, there would be justification to commence a partial review of the Plan to establish whether there are options to meet a shortfall in resources.

3.4 With regard to policies 3, 4, 5 and 6, the application of these policies in determining applications will be monitored and if decisions are made that do not accord with the policies (and the objectives of those policies), it will be necessary to review those decisions and to assess whether a review of local policy is required.

4 **Are suitable arrangements in place for reviews at appropriate times?**

4.1 As acknowledged in national guidance, the effectiveness of local policies will depend on local circumstances; although guidance does suggest that most Local Plans are likely to require updating at least every five years.

4.2 The provision of aggregates and in particular, the provision of sand and gravel resources will be monitored annually in conjunction with the monitoring of aggregate provision in other parts of the West Midlands as co-ordinated by the Aggregates Working Party. This will include monitoring of sales and reserves as well as “other relevant information” that could highlight changing circumstances relating to supply and demand. In addition, it will be necessary to review implementation of allocations and in relation to the proposed area of search west of the A38, to review opportunities within the area of search so that preferred areas can be defined.

4.3 Annual Monitoring Reports will identify emerging issues for review and where review of all or part of the Plan is required, a timetable for that review will be confirmed in the Council’s Mineral and Waste Development Scheme.

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1 Refer to Paragraph 163 of the NPPF
2 Refer to paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 12-008-20140306
Insets

Issue: Whether the considerations in the Inset Maps are accurately represented

1. Are the constraints in all the Inset Maps fully reflected in the development considerations

1.1 Yes, constraints in the inset maps are reflected in the development considerations.

1.2 The initial consideration of site options involved preparation of site summaries including environmental constraints and these were subject to public scrutiny when the Council consulted on issues and options for the Plan. The feedback received as a result of this consultation was then used to update the summaries that were then used to carry out assessment of site options.

1.3 Consultation on the first draft of the new Plan including preferred options for sites carried forward site summaries listing environmental constraints (refer to appendix 1 of CD13 The Staffordshire Minerals Local Plan (2015 to 2030) - Appendices to the Draft for Consultation - April 2014). The responses made to this consultation enabled further review of the constraints affecting site options and an opportunity to define development considerations that should be taken into account in preparing planning applications.

1.4 Appendix 1 to the final draft of the new Plan sets out the development considerations for each allocation (refer to SUB3 The new Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015 to 2030) - Appendices to the Final Draft - June 2015) that are intended to mitigate any adverse impacts in developing preferred sites while potential benefits are maximised (refer to SUB6 Sustainability Appraisal: Environmental Report - June 2015). Representations received in respect of the final draft have included comments on the development considerations and in response, changes are proposed to improve the considerations.

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3 Refer to Issues and Options 2 consultation and the accompanying Summaries of Strategic Site Options September 2008