Staffordshire Minerals Local Plan

Matters, Issues and Questions

(Invitees to each session are listed. This is a draft list. If other representors who object wish to speak at the hearing session, please contact the Programme Officer. The list will be updated where necessary. Staffordshire CC will be represented at each session.)

Please note that Day 1 of the hearing sessions will take place in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LH. The remainder of the hearing sessions will take place at Staffordshire Place 1, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH unless stated.

Wednesday 30 March: Day 1
10.00am
Opening Remarks by Inspector (See Agenda)

PROCEDURAL AND CONFORMITY MATTERS

Issue: Whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal and procedural requirements

1. Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)?

2. Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and the 2012 Regulations?

3. Has the Plan been prepared in compliance with the approved Local Development Scheme (LDS)?

4. Has the Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement and, if so, explain how consultation has been compliant with the requirements therein?

5. Has the Council carried out an appraisal of the sustainability of the Plan and prepared a report on the findings of the appraisal? Is there clear evidence to indicate why, having considered reasonable alternatives, the strategy in the Plan is the most appropriate response? Is the Council satisfied that the Sustainability Appraisal adequately gives reasons, or summarises or repeats the reasons that were previously given, for rejecting any reasonable alternatives, and that those reasons are still valid?

6. Does the Plan have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)?

7. Does the Plan have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) of the Council and the SCS of any other authority within the county?

8. Explain how the Plan complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).
9. Have Appropriate Assessments been undertaken under the Habitats Directive? If not, has a scoping exercise shown that there is no need for such an assessment?

10. In so far as the Plan contains policies that are intended to supersede other policies, is that fact stated in the Plan and are the superseded policies identified?

11. Has the Plan been positively prepared (NPPF Para 182) and, if so, how has this requirement been met?

12. Has the Council carried out the duty to co-operate in the preparation of the Plan (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), Section 33A)? How has this duty been fulfilled (NPPF Paras 178 – 181)?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Walsall Council
East Staffordshire BC
Mr Ollerenshaw (Uttoxeter Wind Turbine Action Group)
Stuart Threlfall
Paul Bowns
Alrewas Parish Council
Ron Attwood

Day 1: following on morning and afternoon

VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Issue: Whether the Vision or Strategic Objectives reflect the need to maintain a steady supply of minerals

1. Should the Vision or Strategic Objective 1 include the recognition of the need for a steady supply of minerals to be maintained as indicated in NPPF?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
MPA

AGGREGATES

Issue: Whether appropriate provision is made for the steady and adequate supply of minerals of local and national importance

Land-won Sand and Gravel

Policy 1

1. Explain whether or not the provision for sand and gravel should be more reflective of the Sub Regional Apportionment (SRA) compared to the average annual sales for over the preceding 10 years?

2. Comment on the feasibility of estimating the demand for aggregates over the next 10 years. Should more account be taken of the demand for aggregates arising from new housing in the West Midlands conurbation?
3. Explain how maximum account has been taken of the contribution of substitute, secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste to the supply of materials.

4. What has been the demand for secondary and recycled aggregates been over the last 3 years?

5. What is the most recent sales information for sand and gravel in Staffordshire (last three years)?

6. Should there be a separate provision and landbank for building sand?

7. Should the landbanks advised for sand and gravel and crushed rock be identified in the policy?

8. Explain the rationale behind the selection of the sites for extensions to sand and gravel sites and the non-selection of others.

9. Should land in the immediate locality of existing sites be presented as areas of search?

10. What is the aim of Policy 1.3 and will the Policy as written fulfil that aim?

**Invitees:**
- Staffordshire CC
- Walsall Council
- Birmingham CC
- East Staffordshire BC
- MPA
- Cemex
- Lafarge Tarmac
- WYG (Salop Sand and Gravel)
- Greenfield Environmental (Traxx Aggregates)
- Crestwood Environmental (JPE Holdings)
- G White (GW Minerals)
- Jayne Geldard
- Stephen Cox
- Stuart Threlfall
- Ron Attwood
Thursday 31 March: Day 2
10.00 am

Industrial minerals

Issue: Whether adequate provision has been made for industrial minerals in the Plan

Policy 2:

1. Should there be provision within the Plan for supplies of clay and shale to supply the Tunstead cement works in Derbyshire?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
MPA
Lafarge Tarmac
Stephen Cox

Policy omissions

2. Should there be a policy in the Plan aimed at making provision for the extraction of brick clay to serve brickworks outside Staffordshire?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC,
Walsall Council
Fradley & Streethay Parish Council
Stephen Cox

3. Should there be a policy in the Plan aimed at making provision for the extraction of dimension stone?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
MPA
Alrewas Parish Council
Fradley & Streethay Parish Council
Stephen Cox
Ron Attwood

Thursday 31 March: Day 2: following on

Safeguarding Minerals of local and national importance and important infrastructure

Issue: Whether the safeguarding policy is effective

1. Are the objectives of safeguarding sufficiently clear in the Plan so that the policy is effective?
2. Are the respective roles of the planning authorities in Staffordshire sufficiently well understood and accepted so that the policy can be successfully implemented?

3. Is the need for prior extraction of the mineral in appropriate cases recognised with sufficient clarity to enable the policy to be effective and to be consistent with national guidance?

4. Is Policy 3.3 c) consistent with national guidance?

5. Appendix 6 lists exemption criteria for mineral safeguarding. Is the table sufficiently clear to enable the policy of safeguarding to be effective? This applies especially to criterion 13 “Within urban areas....”

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Walsall Council
East Staffordshire BC
MPA
Coal Authority
Stephen Cox

Day 2:
2.00pm

Minimising the impact of mineral development

Issue: Whether the plan strikes the appropriate balance between the protection of the environment whilst providing for maintaining a steady supply of minerals

1. Considering that minerals can only be worked where they are found and that geological deposits are limited, should the Plan be more explicit in how cumulative impact should be assessed?

2. Should the policy follow the mitigation hierarchy expressed in NPPF Paragraph 118? And how should it be expressed in the Plan? Does the phrase “as a last resort” offer sufficient clarity?

3. Does Policy 4 accurately reflect the importance of AONBs?

4. Does Policy 4 reflect the significance of the impact on transport infrastructure of mineral development, especially for vehicular movements across the boundary of Staffordshire?

5. Are the clauses in Policy 4 dealing with the natural environment, the historic environment and the water environment consistent with the NPPF and the Water Framework Directive Regulations?

6. Is the reference to material benefits in Policy 4.3 consistent with NPPF Paragraph 14?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Walsall Council
MPA
Stuart Threlfall
Kings Bromley Parish Council
Stephen Cox

Day 2: afternoon
Planning for hydrocarbon extraction

Issue: Whether the plan is consistent with NPPF guidance for hydrocarbon development

1. Does Policy 5 provide an effective means of managing hydrocarbon development with reference to the NPPF and PPG?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Coal Authority
Paul Woodhead
Stephen Cox
Friday 1 April: Day 3
10.00am

Restoration of Minerals Sites

Issue: Whether the plan provides for effective restoration of mineral sites in line with national policy and Strategic Objective 4

1. Are all the elements of Policy 6 sufficiently clear and robust to ensure that restoration proposals are implemented effectively and at the earliest opportunity?

2. What would be the implications of not supporting proposals which are insufficiently “... comprehensive, etc...” in Policy 6.2?

3. Does the Plan provide adequate opportunity for protecting and/or enhancing biodiversity, valued landscapes, heritage assets and their settings?

4. How can the Plan secure restoration schemes which are integrated one with another?

5. What is the justification for Policy 6.3 in view of the provisions of the Environment Act? In addition, how would Policy 6.3 be implemented?

6. Are Policies 6.4 and 6.5 consistent with NPPF Paragraph 144?

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Walsall Council
Alrewas PC
MPA
Stephen Cox
Stuart Threlfall
Kings Bromley Parish Council
Heaton Planning on behalf of Tarmac
Stephen Cox
Ron Attwood

Day 3:

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?

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

3. Does it provide flexibility and what contingency measures are in place in the event of non-deliverability?
4. Are suitable arrangements in place for reviews at appropriate times?

*Invitees:*
*Staffordshire CC*

**Day 3**
**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

*Invitees: Staffordshire CC*
Provision for Sand and Gravel

Issue: Whether the provision in the Plan for allocated sites for sand and gravel extraction is justified

Omission sites

Tuesday 5 April: Day 4
10.00am

1. Why have the following sites not been allocated in the Plan?

   (i) Shire Oak quarry extension: sand and gravel:

   Invitees:
   Staffordshire CC
   Crestwood Environmental (JPE Holdings)

   (ii) Inset Map 2: Croxden South: sand and gravel:

   Invitees:
   Staffordshire CC
   Wardell Armstrong (Dinwoodie Charitable Company)

   (iii) Moddershall Grange: sand and gravel:

   Invitees:
   Staffordshire CC
   Cemex

Wednesday 6 April: Day 5
10.00am

   (iv) Weavers Hill: building sand:

   Invitees: Staffordshire CC,
   Traxx Aggregates

   (v) Lodge Farm: building sand:

   Invitees: Staffordshire CC, Bidwells (The Trustees of Lord Bradford’s 2000 Settlement)
Inset Maps

2. Why have the following allocations been made in the Plan?

Thursday 7 April: Day 6
10.00am

(i) Inset Map 3 Uttoxeter

Invitees: Staffordshire CC
East Staffordshire BC
Mr Ollerenshaw (Uttoxeter Wind Turbine Action Group)

Friday 8 April: Day 7
10.00am

(ii) Inset Map 4 Newbold

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
East Staffordshire BC
Aggregate Industries UK Limited

(iii) Inset Map 5 Barton

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Wardell Armstrong (Barratt Developments/Mallaber Partners)
Historic England

(iv) Inset Map 6 Alrewas

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Heaton Planning on behalf of Tarmac

(v) Inset Map 8 Saredon

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC

(vi) Inset Map 11 Weeford Camp

Invitees:
Staffordshire CC

Wednesday 13 April: Day 8
10.00am

(vii) Inset Map 14 Area of Search West of A38
Invitees:
Staffordshire CC
Airewas PC
Wardell Armstrong (Leavesley Group)
Stuart Threlfall
Stephen Cox
Lucy and Ian Hansell
Stephen Cox
Ron Attwood