

Briefing Note: Calne Area Board Meeting

Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD – Outcomes from the appraisal of draft site options

Context

1. 62 site options for sand and gravel quarries were originally consulted upon. As a result of the consultation exercise, a number of these were withdrawn by landowners. The consultation exercise generated in the order of 4000 comments from about 1300 respondents. The individual comments received were acknowledged and the points made were considered in detail as part of the process of determining which of the site options should be taken forward for further investigation. In total, 22 draft site options were identified as warranting further detailed investigation to help inform the process of plan making.
2. At the Cabinet meeting in March 2011, Councillors were presented with a paper outlining the results of the consultation undertaken during the period between August 5 to 31 October 2010; and the next steps in terms of appraising site options.

Outcomes from the appraisal process

3. Cabinet considered the outcome of the appraisal process on 14 June 2011. The papers presented set out a series of recommendations for Councillors to consider. These recommendations related to:
 - The outcomes of the detailed appraisals undertaken on the 22 remaining potential site options;
 - In light of the appraisal results, which site options officers believe should be removed or carried forward into the draft plan; and
 - That the central government based forecast need for sand and gravel from within Wiltshire and Swindon be reduced from 1.85 million tonnes per annum to a locally derived forecast of 1.2 million tonnes per annum.
4. Of the various site options originally promoted in the Calne area, only site option - C3 (land to north of the Sands Farm quarry at Calne) has been recommended for inclusion in the draft plan. This site in effect represents an extension to the existing mineral operations in the area.
5. Copies of the Cabinet paper, along with details of all the site options proposed for inclusion within the draft plan can be viewed at:

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=5648&Ver=4>

Next steps

6. Following the resolution of Cabinet, work will now be progressed to prepare the Proposed Submission Draft Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). This document will incorporate the list of options that Cabinet have approved for inclusion and be supported by the appraisals undertaken to date. As the

draft DPD is prepared it will continue to be fully appraised¹ to ensure that the evidence used to support the proposals is robust, sound and legally compliant.

7. In addition, the evidence used to justify the development of the locally derived forecast for aggregate provision will be presented to central government² in accordance with the provisions of national policy³.

8. The key milestones in the preparation of the DPD are as follows:

| Stage | Date |
|---|------------------------------|
| Prepare the proposed submission draft DPD and finalise evidence | June - August 2011 |
| Present the draft DPD and all supporting evidence to Cabinet for approval | September 2011 |
| Finalise consultation materials and publish draft DPD (plus evidence) for formal consultation | October 2011 |
| Collate consultation responses, prepare a report on consultation feedback, prepare submission draft DPD and all submission materials | December 2011 - January 2012 |
| Present the submission draft DPD and all supporting evidence to Cabinet and Council | February 2012 |
| Submit DPD and evidence to the Secretary of State / commencement of the examination process by Inspector | February 2012 |
| The remaining elements of the work programme - hearing sessions, receipt of Inspector's Report will be determined by the Secretary of State. The plan can only be adopted once the Council has considered the findings of the Inspector's report. | |

¹ The techniques used will include the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive); and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

² Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

³ Minerals Policy Statement 1.