Summary of Representations to the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update: Proposed Modifications

The period to make representations on the Proposed Modification to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update ran from Wednesday 11 Jan to Wednesday 22 February (a six week period).

All those who were notified at Proposed Submission stage were notified about the Proposed Modifications. In addition the Proposed Modifications were placed for inspection at the same places as the Proposed Submission documents (all NCC libraries, main district council receptions and two NCC office locations).

As a consequence of this period for representations:

- 30 organisations made a specific response (either made comments, made a “no comment” or supported the modifications).


- Friends of St. Guthlac’s Church, the South Northamptonshire Ward Councillor, Stony Stratford Town Council, Old Stratford Parish Council, South Northamptonshire Council and nine residents supported the removal of a site from the plan. (Site M6: Passenham Extension East)

- Anglian Water supports the amendments to the wording of paragraph 5.69 to make it explicit that Policy 12 does not apply to sewage and waste treatment proposals as Policy 12 is more appropriate to other types of waste management proposals as opposed to sewage and waste water treatment.

- Northampton Borough Council supports modification MM31 in relation to Harlestone Quarry and that the additional wording proposed addresses the Council’s objection to Site M10.

- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority are pleased the Council has taken on board the NDAs comments and that proposed modifications have been made in line with these comments. NDA would like to confirm support for MM1, MM9, MM10, MM11, MM12, MM13, MM14, MM17, MM23, MM24, MM25, MM32, MM33 and MM34.

- Nuleaf welcomed the updating of information on radioactive waste and in general supported the modifications but suggested minor changes to MM1, MM12 and MM13 to enhance accuracy.
  - MM1 Paragraph 2.4 and elsewhere:

    We would suggest that it is better to refer simply to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Strategy (Strategy III) rather than the NDA Strategy for Radioactive Waste Management. The official title is simply NDA Strategy or Strategy III. The term proposed in the modifications paper could lead to confusion, as NDA is in the process of preparing a Radioactive Waste Strategy which will be a separate document intended to integrate
Higher Activity and Low Level Radioactive Waste Management. This is due for publication later in 2017.

- MM12 Paragraph 5.18:
  Around 90% of the UK’s Low Level Waste (LLW) arisings are now diverted from the LLWR to other treatment routes including incineration, recycling and alternative disposal. It is therefore not accurate to say that ‘the majority of the UK’s solid LLW is disposed of at the LLWR.’ It might be better to note that the UK’s LLW is managed by LLWR Ltd. and either disposed of at their Cumbrian site or diverted along alternative disposal routes.

- MM13 Paragraph 5.19:
  There is the potential for the arising of significant amounts of NORM waste in the future. It may therefore be better to amend the last sentence to read ‘NORM waste arising from the oil and gas industries (e.g. from the decommissioning of oil and gas rigs) is currently not quantified but significant quantities could arise for disposal in the future.

Cumbria County Council suggested a modification to MM12:

- Paragraph 5.18 currently states that “The majority of the UK’s solid LLW is disposed of at the LLWR. This site does not have the capacity to meet future needs”. In my opinion, this paragraph requires a further change, to reflect the fact that the Low Level Waste Repository received planning permission in July 2016. This permission granted the phased construction of additional vaults 10 and 11 and an extension to Vault 9 (9a); the disposal (N.B. previously it was storage) of low level radioactive wastes in the new vaults and in the existing Vault 9, including the higher stacking of waste containers in Vault 9; the permanent retention (disposal) of waste containers by means of higher stacking in the existing Vault 8; and the phased construction of a permanent capping layer over trenches 1-7 and Vaults 8-11. This permission has granted an additional disposal capacity of 263,000 cubic metres, until 31 December 2045. I would suggest an amendment to your text, along the lines of: “This site gained planning permission in 2016 for an additional disposal capacity of 263,000 cubic metres of LLW, until 31 December 2045.” In tandem with the methods that you set out in the modification, to divert suitable LLW from disposal at the LLWR, this new permission should provide the capacity to meet future needs.

Northamptonshire County Council
23 February 2017