Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update
Equality Impact Assessment

Context

Northamptonshire County Council is undertaking an Update of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) relatively recently adopted on 1 October 2014. Government guidance says that planning authorities should have and maintain an up-to-date plan. Although the MWLP is currently up-to-date and fully compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), it needs to remain so.

The update concentrates on: the minerals and waste allocations and designations and the approach taken to these, particularly regarding waste sites; and the plans coverage of fire safety for waste development. It is not proposed to review any other components of the adopted MWLP.

The Northamptonshire MWLP is the land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development in the county. It provides the basis of investment in new minerals and waste development, and where in the county it should go. The Local Plan identifies what minerals and waste related development should go where, why it should go there, and how by doing so, it can make other land use and infrastructure systems function better. It considers the impact and design of new minerals and waste development and focuses on how this development can best relate to the surrounding land use and link with the wider community.

Engagement and Consultation

National policy requires that all local planning authorities have to ensure that local communities, stakeholders and interest groups are effectively engaged in consultation. The Council, to guide this consultation and engagement, has adopted a Statement of Community Involvement. As well as consulting groups and organisations that are set out in the Government guidance the Council keeps a consultation database. Those that have expressed an interest in minerals and waste planning in the County are added to this database and contacted at the next consultation stage.

Local Plan Policy Analysis

The waste strategy in the Local Plan aims to drive waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option. The policies in the strategy also aim to manage waste locally and sustainably.

Policy 12 of the Local Plan aims to integrate facilities into other forms of development (residential, commercial or industrial) where appropriate. Policy 27 looks to incorporate neighbourhood scale waste management facilities for separation, storage and collection of waste into new development. This allows those without access to civic amenity sites or other waste sites, the opportunity to participate in kerbside recycling schemes.

The spatial strategy for waste development will locate waste management facilities in the areas of growth within the county; this will help reduce the distance that the waste is transported; reducing CO2 emissions.
The Local Plan sets out the (primary) aggregate apportionment to support growth through the plan period, however the strategy for minerals also aims to reduce reliance on primary materials. Policy 26 stipulates that new built development should seek to utilise the efficient use of resources through design principles and construction methods that minimise the use of primary aggregates. This policy also encourages the use of building materials made from secondary recycled sources, construction and demolition methods that waste production and reuse and recycling materials as far as practicable on site.

The spatial strategy sets out the potential locations for minerals and waste development. Policies in the plan require a justification of the need for the site to be developed. This ensures that development occurs in appropriate locations in order to reduce potentially adverse effects and maximise the contribution towards creating sustainable communities. Policy 3 also promotes the most appropriate end use of materials to reduce the potential impact from development.

Policies 20 and 21 seek to achieve a net gain in natural assets and resources and enhance the local landscape character to reduce the potential impact to local residents as a result of minerals and waste development. In relation to restoration of sites of Policy 24 also aims to maximise the benefits to local residents who may be affected by the minerals or waste development, for example by promoting after-use of sites that support recreational or economic opportunities.

Policy 28 seeks to prevent sterilisation of economically important mineral resources and ensure the prudent use of natural resources through the application of Minerals Safeguarding Areas which seek to protect resources both during and beyond the plan period for current and future generations.

Policy 30 aims to prevent land use conflict occurring as a result from the interface of incompatible development. This in turn will act to reduce environmental nuisance for any potential neighbours of minerals and waste sites.

Policy 25 promotes the formation of Local Liaison Groups for new mineral and waste developments. This allows local communities to build up positive working relationships with developers so that any issues relating to the site can be quickly managed.

The policies in the Local Plan identify sites and locations in line with the spatial strategy that will deliver the required minerals and waste capacity to support growth in Northamptonshire throughout the plan period. The identification of specific sites within the policies does not equate to the grant of planning permission, all sites brought forward by the industry will be subject to assessment through the planning application process and must satisfy the requirements set out in the Local Plan.

**EqIA Assessment Groups**

- **Age** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation material has been deposited at accessible locations.
- **Disability** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation material has been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Gender reassignment** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Ethnicity and Race** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Religion or Belief** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Sexual Orientation** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Sex** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Pregnancy and Maternity** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Marriage and Civil Partnerships** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole county and hence does not discriminate against sections of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

From previous consultation, it has been noted that generally none of the equalities groups have responded. This suggests that minerals and waste planning is relatively secular and therefore consultation activity for the Local Plan has tended to be with mainstream consultation bodies.

The Council is required to comply with the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to promote race equality and also the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which places a duty on
the service providers not to discriminate against disabled people by providing a lower standard of service. To meet this requirement of the Acts the Council has ensured that all consultation and engagement has included a wide range of groups and bodies that represent the interests of disabled and ethnic groups.

**Conclusions**

The Local Plan has regard to the Northamptonshire Community Strategy (2008), there is a link between the Local Plan and the Community Strategy through the first ambition “to be successful through sustainable growth and regeneration”.

The Council, in developing the Local Plan, has consulted a wide range of consultees including groups and bodies that represent the interest of disabled and ethnic groups. Therefore the Council believes that the consultations have been inclusive and have provided an opportunity for all sections of the community to become involved in the Local Plan.

It is considered that the policies outlined in the Local Plan will not lead to adverse impacts on particular groups within Northamptonshire. The policies are overarching and cover the whole of the County. Therefore the Local Plan does not give preference to, or neglect, such groups within Northamptonshire.