Maintaining an up to date Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Northamptonshire:
- Adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- Approval of a new Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

Appendix 3: Minerals and Waste Development Scheme for approval

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme 2014-2017

Northamptonshire County Council
October 2014
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Northamptonshire County Council is the minerals and waste planning authority for the whole of Northamptonshire. This means that it is responsible for all matters associated with minerals and waste development, including setting the land use policies and determining planning applications for such development.

1.2. Decisions on planning applications should be made on the basis of having an up-to-date statutory development plan. This is a plan that sets out strategy, provision, policies and sites for minerals and waste development. Northamptonshire has such a plan; the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP).

1.3. The MWLP was adopted on 1 October 2014. The MWLP brought together and updated the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) which was portfolio of individual documents known as Local Development Documents (LDDs) adopted in 2010 and 2011. These comprised a Core Strategy, site-specific documents for minerals and waste and a document comprising policies on which to determine planning applications.

1.4. The MWLP rolled the statutory components of the MWDF into one combined document and extended the plan period from 2026 to 2031.

1.5. The MWDF also comprised a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), called Development and Implementation Principles, which provides practical guidance on implementing development. This document is being updated to reflect the adoption of the MWLP.

1.6. There are additional documents that are produced to support the Local Plan, including the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), the Minerals and Waste Monitoring Report (MWMR) and, this document, the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS). The production of all of these documents is a statutory requirement.

1.7. 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. Bearing in mind revisions normally take around two to three years depending on complexity, the gap between revisions should be relatively short.

1.8. This fully revised MWDS, as the programming document for the Local Plan, sets out the context for keeping it up to date and timescales for doing so.

1.9. The MWLP (and therefore this MWDS) only covers mineral and waste planning matters. All other development plan matters in Northamptonshire are dealt with by the district/borough councils who have their own local plans and development schemes; these can be found on their websites.
2. **CONTEXT**

2.1. Although the MWLP is recently adopted, time does not stand still and although most of the plan is up-to-date and will remain so for a while yet, other elements are starting to lose their immediacy.

2.2. The elements of the MWLP that set out the spatial strategy and other key development considerations are considered to be up-to-date and likely to remain so over the next few years. Those elements concerned with provision are now updated and in line with national guidance as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). Policies also reflect revised national guidance contained in the NPPF. It is the site-specific elements of the MWLP, and which were not reviewed through the partial review process that are considered to be those elements of the MWLP in need of a review.

2.3. The allocations have now been adopted for over three years but the process of identifying these allocations began earlier than that and so it is now an opportune time to revisit them.

2.4. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out the planning authority’s policy for involving the local community in the preparation of development plans it is responsible for, as well as on significant planning applications that are submitted to it, is to remain unchanged.

2.5. The SPD on Development and Implementation Principles will be further updated once the MWLP Update is adopted.

**Evidence Base**

The MWLP Update will need to have an up-to-date, but proportionate, evidence base. A comprehensive evidence base was compiled for the MWDF and for the partial review, including Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and the detailed site assessments relating to allocations. Much of this will not require updating, although a new set of site assessments will be required.

The MWLP Update will be subject to SA to ensure that the plan reflects the sustainability objectives; this forms part of the process for testing the plans soundness. Depending on the location of new sites put forward a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) may be required.

**Managing Risk**

As this is an update of an adopted plan, the risks associated with its production are correspondingly reduced. The MWLP Team has seen through the adoption of a full suite of MWDF documents and its partial review and with very robust examinations. This means that there is a clear understanding of what is required to deliver a successful outcome. However, there remains a risk that the MWLP Update is not found sound through the examination into it or there is a successful legal challenge after adoption. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring (a) that consultation and engagement has been thorough; (b) that the document has been fully appraised and that the decision making process is supported by the evidence base; and (c) that experienced minerals and waste planners are available to progress the Update.
3. TIMETABLE

3.1. The MWLP Update is to concentrate on reviewing the site specific allocations and designations within it. It will also update other elements as appropriate.

Process and Timetable

3.2. The process for the MWLP Update is set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November-December 2014</td>
<td>Call for Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During this time we will ask for landowners, agents and the minerals industry if they have any sites they would wish to be considered as potential sites for minerals or waste use.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those with an interest in existing allocations would also be asked about their intentions for these sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June 2015</td>
<td>Consultation on Issues and Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This will contain our proposals on what we intend to review and ask for views on whether this is the correct approach. For those areas we suggest should be reviewed we will explore the options open to us and what we consider would be the most appropriate and ask for comments on this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sites put forward for consideration as a consequence of the call for sites would be included in this consultation to ascertain views on their suitability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October-December 2015</td>
<td>Consultation on a Draft Plan. This will set out the proposals, including site specific allocations, to be taken forward and ask for comments on this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only the changes to the adopted plan arising from the MWLP Update would be specifically consulted on. The consultation documentation would make clear what are the changes and those elements that are not being changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June 2016</td>
<td>Representations will be sought on the final plan that we intend to submit for its examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As at the draft plan stage, the documentation would make clear what are the MWLP Update changes and those elements that are not being changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Submission of the Plan for its independent examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2016</td>
<td>Public hearing sessions relating to the independent examination are held (this is expected to be for a week).</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>The Inspector’s Report will be published and the MWLP Update can then progress to adoption.</td>
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4. REVIEW OF THE MWDS

4.1. It is the intention that the key dates set out in this Development Scheme will be strictly adhered to. However they will not be blindly followed if circumstances and the need for good planning dictate otherwise.

4.2. If however there are amendments to the programme these will be publicised on the NCC website and the MWDS will be formally amended at the earliest opportune moment.

4.3. It is the expectation that the MWLP Update will be adopted in early 2017. Following this a further update, if appropriate, of the MWLP will then commence. At this time a new MWDS would then be produced.
### APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY SCHEDULE/TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Development Plan Document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical coverage:</td>
<td>The County of Northamptonshire (Districts of Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role:</td>
<td>Sets out the strategy for minerals and waste development, the policies on which individual proposals for minerals and waste development will be determined and then implemented and identifies sites for minerals and waste development. This is an update of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan adopted on 1 October 2014 with a particular concentration on reviewing allocations and designations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conformity:</td>
<td>In general conformity with national guidance, including the NPPF, and the National Waste Management Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangements for Production:</td>
<td>Production undertaken and project managed by the section dealing with development planning work at Northamptonshire County Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Involvement:</td>
<td>As set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Timetable: | Pre-production and Issues and Alternative Options Phase: November 2014-September 2015  
Consultation on Draft Plan: Oct-Dec 2015  
Public consultation on Pre-Submission Document: Apr-June 2016  
Submission to Secretary of State: June 2016  
Pre-Hearing Meeting (if required): August 2016  
Examination Public Hearings: October 2016  
Receipt of Inspectors Report: January 2017  
Adoption and Publication: March 2017 |
| Resources: | Financial Resources: From within the budget for development planning work. Staff Resources: From within the section dealing with development planning work. |
APPENDIX 2: GLOSSARY

Minerals and Waste Monitoring Report (MWMR) – This annual document monitors the development plans adopted by the planning authority and how they are being implemented, along with the progress of any plan reviews.

Development Plan Document (DPD) – This is a plan that has been subject to statutory processes including an independent examination and is therefore a statutory planning document. One or occasionally more Development Plan Documents will make up the Local Plan.

Local Plan – The plan for the future development of an area (and previously known as a Local Development Framework). This can comprise a series of development plan documents but is now generally expected to be a combined document unless specific circumstances dictate otherwise.

Minerals Development – The winning or working of minerals (including aggregates) or use of land for minerals deposits.

Policies Map – Illustrates on an ordnance survey base map the policies and proposals of adopted development plans (where such policies and proposals can be shown on a map base).

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - This document sets out the planning authority’s policy for involving the local community in the preparation of development plans it is responsible for, as well as on significant planning applications that are submitted to it.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - These are documents that give policy guidance to supplement policies and proposals in development plan documents. They are not subject to an independent public examination and as non-statutory planning documents they have less weight in guiding decisions on planning applications than policies in development plans.

Waste Development – Any operational development designed to be used wholly or mainly for the purpose of, or a material change of use to, treating, storing, processing or disposing of refuse or waste materials.

APPENDIX 3: ACRONYMS

AMR – Annual Monitoring Report
DPD – Development Plan Document
MWDF – Minerals and Waste Development Framework
MWDS – Minerals and Waste Development Scheme
MWLP – Minerals and Waste Local Plan
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework
SCI – Statement of Community Involvement
SPD – Supplementary Planning Document