Dear Sir/Madam

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan:
Request for Minerals Sites for consideration in an updated Local Plan (Call for Sites)

The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted on 1 October 2014 and has a plan period to 2031. The Plan brings together in one adopted plan the four former separate elements of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (Core Strategy, Locations for Minerals and Waste Development and the Control and Management of Development), updated as appropriate.

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan did not seek to update matters in respect of allocations and therefore the allocations for minerals in the plan are unchanged from the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

The allocations for minerals in the Local Plan can be viewed at (document pages 91 to 104):

The County Council is now proposing to update its Local Plan allocations. The intention is to undertake a thorough review of sites. As part of this we are now asking for sites to be put forward for consideration for inclusion in the Local Plan but on the basis of below:

**Sand and Gravel Sites**
There are seven allocated sand and gravel sites in the Local Plan. A number of these allocations were not only in the MWDF and the 2006 Minerals Local Plan but also the 1997 Minerals Local Plan.
The provision for which sites have to be allocated has reduced from 0.97 mtpa to 0.5 mtpa. However the 0.5 mtpa is regarded as a minimum provision and we will also need to meet landbanks post the end of the plan period at 2031. We can therefore delete sand and gravel sites from the Local Plan but still have the necessary allocations to more than meet provision.

However we want to take the opportunity that the Local Plan Update provides to robustly reassess all the allocations and, if appropriate, to replace them with more deliverable sites if these come forward. We would therefore particularly welcome potential new sand and gravel sites coming forward. These sites can be located in any part of the county.

**Crushed Rock Sites**
There are two allocations for crushed rock in the Local Plan. One is now being implemented and the other has planning permission (subject to completion of a s106 agreement). There is not therefore a need for any new allocations for crushed rock.

However, we are considering whether there would be merit in identifying a possible reserve site for crushed rock extraction in the plan and therefore if you consider you have an appropriate site that could be delivered if necessary during the plan period then you may wish to put it forward for consideration.

**Building and Roofing Stone Sites**
There are two allocations, one for building stone and one for roofing stone, in the Local Plan. The Local Plan does not have to identify sites to meet provision for building and roofing stone as no specific provision for production is identified in the plan (this is in line with national guidance).

The Local Plan could therefore de-allocate these sites and allow any proposals to come forward instead solely through the planning application process. Alternatively, it may be that there are benefits in giving sites an ‘acceptability in principle’ by having allocations in the plan- however these do not have to be the sites currently allocated. If you have a site for building and roofing stone that you consider has the resources and the deliverability for inclusion as an allocation in the plan then you may wish to put it forward for consideration.

**Other Minerals Development (Facilities for Secondary and Recycled Aggregates)**
The Earls Barton Quarry Plant site is identified in the Local Plan. This is an operational site and so there is no need to identify this as an allocation in the Local Plan Update. Similarly to building and roofing stone sites, the Local Plan does not have to identify sites for secondary and recycled aggregates as no specific provision is identified in the plan (this is in line with national guidance).

As for building and roofing stone it may be that there are benefits in giving sites for secondary and recycled aggregates an ‘acceptability in principle’ by having allocations in
the plan. If you have a site that you consider has the deliverability for inclusion as an allocation in the plan then you may wish to put it forward for consideration.

**If you wish to put forward a site**

If you wish to put a site forward for possible inclusion then please fill in the enclosed pro-forma and attach to it an ordnance survey plan showing the site boundary for each location you wish to put forward. The more information you can provide at this time for each site that is not currently an adopted allocation the better. If you have an interest in an adopted allocation then please can you provide any updated information on why your adopted allocation should remain in the plan.

We would like to emphasise that putting forward a site at this stage does not imply it will receive favourable treatment nor that it will lead to its ultimate inclusion in the updated Local Plan. What it does do is help us by giving us an indication of what sites could be out there. It also gives us evidence in respect of whether wider policy stances in the Local Plan should be amended as part of the Local Plan Update.

If you wish to discuss whether to put forward a site please call 01604 236014 and ask to speak to someone about sites in the Local Plan or email: planning@northamptonshire.gov.uk

In relation to this particular exercise please can you submit any possible sites to us by no later than Monday 1 December 2014.

We will acknowledge all sites put forward, keep you informed of how we are using the information provided and also may come back to you requesting additional information. As this exercise forms part of the process that will lead to the adoption of a statutory plan, any information provided cannot be treated as confidential.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Head of Planning Services