

Committee: LDF Member Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 8th February 2013

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Title: Replacement Minerals Local Plan – Pre-Submission Consultation

Report Author: Melanie Jones

Key decision: No

Summary

1. Essex County Council has published the pre-submission draft of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for consultation. A summary of the consultation document is attached. This report sets out the key issues in the plan, relevant to Uttlesford and seeks Members views on them.

Recommendations

2. The views of the Group are sought.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The plan is subject to consultation in accordance with Essex County Council's Statement of Community Involvement
Community Safety	No issues
Equalities	The Plan is subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment
Health and Safety	No issues
Human Rights/Legal Implications	No issues
Sustainability	The plan is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal
Ward-specific impacts	Sites are identified in Great/Little Canfield
Workforce/Workplace	No issues

Situation

6. The new Minerals Local Plan will replace the existing Minerals Plan and will set out the policy governing minerals development in Essex until 2029. This consultation on the Pre-Submission draft runs from 17 January 2013 to the 28 February 2013. There is a “drop in” session at the Foakes Hall in Great Dunmow on Friday 8th February from 11am to 7pm.
7. This Council last considered the Minerals Plan at the Preferred Approach Stage in 2011 when the Cabinet agreed the Council’s response to the Consultation. Objections were raised to the weighting which Essex County Council had given to sites in the west of the County when carrying out the site appraisals. This was felt to be inequitable, and as a consequence had resulted in the inclusion of sites A22, A23 (Little Bullocks Farm, Great and Little Canfield) and A24 (Easton Park Great Dunmow) on the list of preferred sites. The Council was also concerned about sites in neighbouring districts A9 (West of Rayne) and A40 (Newland Hall Farm, Roxwell) and the potential impacts of these sites e.g. traffic generated, hydrological effects, residual water bodies after deep excavation, noise and dust.
8. In the plan which is now out for consultation the weighting has been dropped but Little Bullocks Farm (A22 and A23) and the sites at Rayne and Roxwell have been selected for future sand and gravel extraction. The site at Easton Park is now a committed site since it now has planning permission and work has started on the site. For a full list of the sites see Table 1 on Page 10 of the attached summary document. Further information on all the sites is provided in Appendix 5 of the main consultation document available on the Essex County Council consultation portal at <http://consult.essexcc.gov.uk>. The extracts for the sites in Uttlesford are attached for information.
9. The plan introduces a consultation procedure for Mineral Safeguarding Areas. Policy S8 in the plan requires the District Councils to consult the minerals planning authority on planning applications within Minerals Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas to make sure that specific mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised by future development. Not all development will require consultation. It will depend on the site area and the type of development. e.g. land allocated in Local Plans is excluded along with minor householder development. This requirement will need to be reflected in the Development Management Process. There is also an expectation that the Mineral Consultation Areas which apply to the safeguarded site itself and extend for a distance of 250m outwards from the site boundary will be shown in the Local Plan with an appropriate policy.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Councils	1. Comments	2. Making	Ensure comments are

views are not taken into account	are made in relation to material planning issues which can be taken into account.	comments at this stage will allow the Council to be represented at the examination if necessary.	presented in line with requirements set down in consultation material.
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.