Waste Core Strategy Adoption

As you will probably be aware, over the last few years we have been producing the Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (WCS) which provides a planning framework for waste management across the county of Gloucestershire in the period 2012 – 2027. It identifies a number of key issues relevant to planning for waste in Gloucestershire and translates these into a vision, objectives and strategy.

Following a series of consultations and an examination undertaken by an independent planning inspector, the WCS was adopted on 21st November 2012. The adopted version includes the Inspector's recommended main modifications and a number of additional modifications and now forms part of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. There are additional documents available to download from the same webpage which form the adoption package. These are:

- Adopted Waste Core Strategy
- SA statement
- Adoption Statement
- Inspector's Report & Main Modifications
- Additional Modifications
- Proposals Map update

The Waste Core Strategy will be the principal planning document by which any planning application for waste will be judged against!

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Recap on earlier work

We last consulted on the Minerals Core Strategy (MCS) in 2008 – This was the “Preferred Options Stage”.

In our M&W Newsletter 11 (Winter 2010) we then published a “Minerals Call for Sites”. This was principally for strategically sized sites producing either crushed rock or sand & gravel.

The work on the MCS was then halted whilst we concentrated on producing the Waste Core Strategy (WCS).

Incorporating recent changes to the planning system

Following the adoption of the WCS (as outlined earlier in this newsletter) we are now in a position to progress the MCS. However, during the last couple of years there have been a significant number of changes to legislation and government policy which affect the planning system and how we address minerals policy. The principal changes include the enactment of the Localism Act and the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The new introductions tend to refer to “Local Plans” rather than “Local Development Frameworks” or “Core Strategies”. To ensure that our future minerals development planning documents for Gloucestershire is in-keeping with the new changes we are proposing now to refer to it as the Minerals Local Plan.

Whilst retaining requirements from the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, such as the Vision and Strategic Objectives, we are intending to make the new Minerals Local Plan a more composite document, which will incorporate elements that may have originally been intended to be covered under subsequent development plan documents (such as site allocations and development control policies). Therefore this will in effect be a review of the original Minerals Local Plan adopted in 2003. This should alleviate the need for further mineral development plan documents as all policies will be contained in one document.
Get Involved

We will be formally consulting on a document in early 2014 which will contain proposed options for site allocations and draft policies. However, in the meantime you are invited to help make some suggestions that can be incorporated into the production of the next consultation document. There are a few questions below which cover some of the issues which we think may be useful for you to comment on.

In order for us to be able to use your comments, please submit them by 5pm on Thursday 28th February 2013. You can email your responses to: m-wplans@gloucestershire.gov.uk or post to Minerals & Waste Policy, Strategic Planning, 1st Floor East, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TH.

Questions:

Question One: Do you agree with the approach we are taking to produce a more composite Minerals Local Plan rather than the Minerals Core Strategy? If you have answered no, please can you explain your reasons.

Question Two: We are proposing to include the key elements listed below into the Minerals Local Plan, do you agree with the content? If you have answered no, please can you explain your reasons. If you think we have missed something please can you provide the details.

- The Vision
- Strategic Objectives
- Local Aggregates Assessment (The process whereby we calculate the amount of aggregates we need to plan for – please also see Question 4)
- Minerals Safeguarding (This is where we can safeguard areas of mineral resource from being needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development – please also see Question 5)
- Minerals Site Allocations (such as Preferred Areas)
Core Minerals policies for assessing planning applications. These will ensure that all policies within the previous Minerals Local Plan are adequately replaced. For example Mineral Related (e.g. crushed rock, clay, sand & gravel, minerals safeguarding, minerals restoration); Environmental Protection (e.g. AONB, Green Belt, Historic Environment, Biodiversity & Geodiversity); Development Control policies (e.g. amenity protection, highways, public rights of way).

Question Three: Are you a landowner or mineral operator who wish to submit a site to us for consideration? If so, please provide the following information:

Site plan, Site area in hectares, Mineral type and intended use, potential yield from site in tonnes and other relevant issues such as known depth or deposit, whether borehole testing or other minerals assessment has been carried out on the site, whether there are any potential constraints to the site. If you are not the landowner please also provide details of the landowner and confirmation that they wish the site to be considered as part of this process.

If you have previously responded to an earlier “Call for Sites” please can you confirm that you are still interested in your site being taken forward in the process.

Question Four: We are currently undertaking a Local Aggregates Assessment as outlined in the NPPF. Do you agree with this approach? If not, please provide details of any alternative assessment you think we should undertake.

Question Five: We will be considering areas of mineral resource to identify as Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in advance of the next consultation stage. This may include targeted consultation with specific consultees. Have you got any views as to which mineral resources should be safeguarded or how the process should be carried out?

Question Six: Do you have any other comments to make related to the Minerals Local Plan which you think will be useful in helping us?

Finally, if you receive updates from us via the post and have an email address which you regularly check, please consider helping us to reduce our carbon footprint and also to keep down costs to the taxpayer by having future correspondence emailed to you. You can update us by sending a message to m-wplans@gloucestershire.gov.uk stating your name and current address or ID number and your new alternate email address.
Next Annual Monitoring Report

The Localism Act 2011 removed the need for Local Authorities to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit it to the Secretary of State. However the requirement to produce a report on the progress of the implementation of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and associated policies has not be removed. Instead Local Authorities must prepare ‘Authorities Monitoring Reports’ which focus on what is most appropriate to their communities in the interests of transparency.

Gloucestershire County Council is currently reviewing the processes for future Authorities Monitoring Reports and it is anticipated that the next Monitoring Report will be available to view early in 2013 from http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/amr

WEBSITE

You may have noticed that Gloucestershire County Council’s website was redesigned earlier this year. This may have resulted in some of the links contained within earlier documents or newsletters no longer working.

If you wanted to review some of the earlier stages of our work it can be found from http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/planningpolicy which also contains links to the previous newsletters along with other planning policy documents such as the Structure Plan and the Local Transport Plan.
NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

The Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 which replaces most previous Planning Policy Statements and Minerals Policy Statements (as detailed in Annex 3 of the NPPF). This can be downloaded from http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf

To accompany the NPPF, a technical guide was also produced which can be downloaded from http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppftechnicalguidance. This document will be of particular importance when we are producing the Minerals Core Strategy because a lot of the technical guidance within it relates to minerals.

However, not all policy guidance was replaced by the NPPF and a few minerals and waste policies were retained. A list of which policies are currently retained can be found at http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/policieswasteminerals/

DATABASE

We maintain an ever-expanding database of parties who have expressed an interest in minerals and waste issues within Gloucestershire.

If you are on our database and have moved recently, or are about to move, please keep us up-to-date so that you do not miss out on anything important. Although we want to consult as many people as possible, we do not wish to cause annoyance or waste taxpayers’ money, by writing to people who no longer wish to be contacted. If you would like to be removed from our database, then please let us know. Finally if you receive updates from us via the post and have an email address which you regularly check, please send us your email to help reduce our carbon footprint and keep costs to the taxpayer down.

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