

Thursday, 18 July 2019, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

- 5 a) Reports of Cabinet – Matters which require a decision –
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MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

**Worcestershire County Council
July 2018**

This scheme has been prepared in compliance with the Planning & Compulsory Act 2004 as amended and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

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1. Purpose of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme

- 1.1. The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Worcestershire and is responsible for all minerals and waste planning matters in the county.
- 1.2. The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS or LDS) sets out the Council's priorities for producing planning policy documents over the coming three year period. It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) that each Local Planning Authority should produce an LDS, which must include any Development Plan Documents it intends to publish, their area of coverage, subject matter and a timetable indicating the main milestones of production and revision.
- 1.3. The LDS is updated periodically to reflect changes to timetables to ensure it provides a useful source of information for interested parties and meets the requirements of the aforementioned Act. There are four main intentions of this revised LDS:
 - to report the progress made since the publication of the previous LDS;
 - to inform interested parties of the changed timetable for the consultation, examination process and adoption of the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan;
 - to provide a schedule and reasons for producing a separate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document; and
 - to provide a schedule for the early stages of the anticipated need for review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire.
- 1.4. The revised schedule presented in this Local Development Scheme came into effect in July 2018, in line with the resolution of the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet on 12th July 2018. It covers the period July 2018 – June 2021 and replaces the previous LDS dated July 2017.
- 1.5. The Local Development Scheme is available on the Worcestershire County Council website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lds . A printed copy is also available on request or to view at County Hall Reception, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP.
- 1.6. If you have any questions about the LDS or how to access it, please contact us by e-mail: minerals@worcestershire.gov.uk or wcs@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 766374.

2. The Development Plan in Worcestershire

- 2.1. The Development Plan for Worcestershire currently consists of the documents set out in Table 1:

Table 1. The Development Plan for Worcestershire

Development Plan Document	Detail
"Saved" policies in the County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan .	Five policies in the adopted County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan were "saved" by The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in exercise of the power conferred by paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in a direction later dated 7 September 2007. The "saved" policies will remain part of the Development Plan until superseded but the weight given to them in decision making will depend upon their conformity with national planning policy.
Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire: Adopted Waste Local Plan 2012 – 2027 , adopted November 2012	The Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Local Plan sets out how the County plans for waste management facilities in Worcestershire.
<p>The Local Plans and Development Plan Documents produced by the six City, Borough and District Planning Authorities in Worcestershire.</p> <p>At 12th July 2018, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030 adopted January 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longbridge Area Action Plan adopted April 2009 • The Borough of Redditch Local Plan No 4 (2011 – 2030) adopted January 2017 • Wyre Forest Core Strategy adopted December 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wyre Forest Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan adopted July 2013 ○ Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan adopted July 2013 • The South Worcestershire Development Plan adopted February 2016. 	<p>Emerging DPDs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Showpeople - Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Regulation 19 consultation due to take place during 2018) • Wyre Forest Local Plan Review (2016-2034) - The new Local Plan will replace the current Adopted Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan. (Regulation 19 consultation due to take place during 2018)

3. Progress made since the previous LDS and reasons for review

- 3.1. Progress has been made since the publication of the LDS in July 2017, as outlined below. However, issues have arisen since the adoption of the July 2017 LDS which warrant an early update to the LDS and adjustments to the milestones for the development of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents.

Progress since adoption of the July 2017 LDS

- 3.2. In the previous LDS, consideration of responses on the Third Stage Consultation was scheduled for the 2nd quarter of 2017. This was undertaken and the Third Stage Consultation Response Document was published in September 2017.
- 3.3. In considering the responses to the Third Stage Consultation, the Council identified two substantive matters that need to be addressed and consulted on prior to the publication of the Plan under regulation 19 and 20.

- a) Despite having conducted two calls for sites, the sites which were proposed for allocation in the Third Stage Consultation would not have provided the amount of mineral required over the life of the plan. A number of the sites had been submitted with very little supporting information which limited assessment and prevented them from meeting the proposed criteria for allocation. A 3rd call for sites which was undertaken as an integral part of the Third Stage Consultation, and the low number of sites was raised as a potential soundness issue in responses to the consultation and through a Critical Friend Review. A 4th call for sites was therefore required which would reach as many mineral operators and landowners as possible to maximise the likelihood of sites being put forward.

This was reported in the July 2017 LDS, and a further 4th call for sites was scheduled for the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2017 and 1st quarter of 2018, allowing sufficient time during that consultation for landowners and mineral operators to come to agreement to support further proposals. The 4th call for sites was conducted on time, running from September 2017 to January 2018.

- b) A number of consultees highlighted that allocating sites provides a presumption in favour of development and establishes the principle of development in those locations.

The site selection process which informed the Third Stage Consultation was based on the principle that both allocated and windfall sites within the Strategic Corridors would be equally acceptable in planning terms, with proposals assessed on a site by site basis at planning application stage. The Council had taken this approach to enable significant flexibility in light of the limited numbers of sites submitted for consideration.

It was reported in the July 2017 LDS that it was necessary to review this approach, and that actions to address these matters could result in changes to the locations for development proposed through the plan and therefore an additional consultation stage would be required to enable representations to be made under Regulation 18. This would also enable consultation on other wording and policy changes to the Minerals Local Plan following the representations received on the Third Stage

Consultation. The July 2017 LDS therefore included an additional a Fourth Stage Consultation on the draft plan, scheduled for Q4 2018.

Reasons for reviewing the Local Development Scheme

Preparation of Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan

- 3.4. Although preparation of the Fourth Stage Consultation version of the Minerals Local Plan is well underway, some staffing changes have taken place which were not known when the July 2017 LDS was approved. Due to the acknowledged difficulty in recruiting suitably qualified planning staff with knowledge and experience of mineral and waste planning policy development (see Table 5. Risk assessment matrix), this has been addressed through an internal reshuffle of roles and responsibilities within the wider Strategic Planning team, although the new team member is inevitably not as experienced in mineral and waste planning policy. The staff member from the Strategic Planning team previously produced the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) work for the Minerals Local Plan. This means that additional time is required for the SA work to be continued by specialist consultants.
- 3.5. Additional sites were submitted in response to the 4th Call for Sites, as well as some further information relating to existing site proposals. However, due to the need identified above to reassess the method for site selection, it is not appropriate to simply assess these submissions against the criteria used in the Third Stage Consultation. Options for managing and addressing these requirements have been considered alongside the need to have an up to date policy framework in place. Addressing site allocations in a separate Development Plan Document with its own preparation schedule will ensure that the strategic elements of the Minerals Local Plan can be progressed as quickly as possible to provide certainty over the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and development management policies. This will provide a high level of certainty in relation to whether stakeholders consider the method to be appropriate and robust, but will significantly delay the certainty provided to communities and developers by allocating Specific Sites and Preferred Areas.
- 3.6. The risk of decisions having to be made on mineral planning applications without an up to date local policy framework in place is high, as the local policies provided by the saved policies in the County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan are limited. Some of the sites which have been proposed in response to the calls for sites to date are now coming forward for pre-application discussions, Environmental Impact Assessment scoping requests and full Planning Applications, so further delay in setting the strategic framework and development management policies for assessing these sites is undesirable. If sites do come forward as planning applications, the timescales involved could mean sites are considered and may be permitted more quickly than a plan including site allocations could be progressed, risking the plan being out of date before it is even adopted.
- 3.7. A government consultation on draft changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has also recently been undertaken (March – May 2018). The likely changes to the NPPF outlined through this consultation are being taken into consideration in developing content of Fourth Stage Consultation document, but there is currently no firm date for the publication of final version. For these reasons, it is considered that there should not be any delay in publishing the Fourth Stage Consultation, but sufficient time needs to be allowed following the Fourth Stage Consultation to ensure consistency against any changes in the final update to the NPPF.

Preparation of a Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document

- 3.8. As outlined above, preparation of a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document will allow the main Minerals Local Plan timetable to stay on course. In addition, it will build in flexibility for the Site Allocations to be reviewed and revised if necessary without affecting the strategic policies set out in the Minerals Local Plan.
- 3.9. This change in approach is consistent with emerging direction in the draft NPPF in relation to setting out strategic policies, and takes into account the new requirement that, from April 2018, under Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), local planning authorities must review local plans at least once every five years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community.

Review of the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire: Adopted Waste Local Plan

- 3.10. The Waste Core Strategy was adopted in 2012 and its implementation has since been monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report. Although the plan is for the period 2012-2027, it was set out in the July 2017 LDS that it is prudent to review the plan regularly to ensure that it is relevant to changes in local context and national policy.
- 3.11. From April 2018, under Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), local planning authorities must review local plans at least once every five years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community. This does not necessarily mean that wholesale revision will be required, but the government anticipates that most plans are likely to require revising in whole or in part at least every five years. Reviews should be proportionate to the issues, and Authority Monitoring Reports will play a significant role in determining whether there is a need to undertake a partial or full revision of a plan.
- 3.12. It is now more than five years since the Waste Core Strategy was adopted. A formal review will therefore be included as part of the next Authority Monitoring Report (Quarter 4 of 2018 to Quarter 1 of 2019), but as no significant failings have been identified through the Authority Monitoring Reports to date, the submission and examination of the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan and the preparation of the Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document have been given priority.
- 3.13. The requirement for review was anticipated in the July 2017 LDS, which included provision to commence preparatory work for the review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire in 2020 (Quarter 1). This provision for preparatory work is maintained in this LDS, but has been moved back to Quarter 2 of 2021. The implementation of the Waste Core Strategy will continue to be monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report and the Local Development Scheme will be revised if the need for a more urgent review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy is identified.

4. Documents to be prepared July 2018 – June 2021

- 4.1. Over the next three years Worcestershire County Council will prepare and adopt the Minerals Local Plan for Worcestershire, develop a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document, and commence the review (and revision) of the Waste Core Strategy. The following section sets out the content and timetable for producing these development plan documents. All references to Regulations in this section refer to The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Table 2. Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan

Document:	Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan
Status:	Local Plan (Development Plan Document) to supersede the saved policies in the County of Hereford and Worcester Minerals Local Plan.
Role and content:	Set out the strategic policies for mineral development and restoration in the county, including a vision, objectives, spatial strategy, development management policies and monitoring schedule. This includes a strategy for the delivery of steady and adequate supply of minerals and locational criteria for development.
Geographical coverage:	Whole of the county of Worcestershire.
Chain of conformity:	Consistent with National Planning Policy Framework, part of the Development Plan for Worcestershire.

Timetable	
Initial consultation (Regulation 18)	<u>Completed:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Stage Consultation (October 2012 – January 2013) Second Stage Consultation (November 2013 – January 2014) First call for sites (July 2014 – August 2014) Second call for sites and call for resources and infrastructure (July 2015 – September 2015) Third Stage Consultation including Third call for sites (December 2016 – March 2017) Fourth call for sites (September 2017 – January 2018) <u>Scheduled:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Stage Consultation: scheduled Q4 2018 – Q1 2019
Publication (Regulation 19 & 20)	Scheduled: Q3 2019
Submission (Regulation 22)	Scheduled: Q4 2019
Independent Examination (Regulation 24)	Anticipated: Q4 2019 – Q3 2020
Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)	Anticipated: Q3 or Q4 2020
Adoption (Regulation 26)	Anticipated Q4 2020 or Q1 2021

Table 3. Worcestershire Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document

Document:	Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document
Status:	Development Plan Document
Role and content:	To provide local policies to allocate specific sites and preferred areas for mineral extraction, to supplement the strategic policies in the Minerals Local Plan and assist with the delivery of steady and adequate supply of minerals.
Geographical coverage:	Sites within the county of Worcestershire.
Chain of conformity:	Consistent with National Planning Policy Framework, sits alongside the Minerals Local Plan as part of the Development Plan for Worcestershire.

Timetable	
Initial consultation (Regulation 18)	<p><u>Completed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First call for sites (July 2014 – August 2014) • Second call for sites (July 2015 – September 2015) • Third call for sites (as part of the Third Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan) (December 2016 – March 2017) • Fourth call for sites (September 2017 – January 2018) <p><u>Scheduled:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on site selection methodology (alongside Fourth Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan): scheduled Q4 2018 – Q1 2019 • Consultation on draft Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document: scheduled Q3 2020 – Q4 2020
Publication (Regulation 19 & 20)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Submission (Regulation 22)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Independent Examination (Regulation 24)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Adoption (Regulation 26)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.

Table 4. Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy

Document:	Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire: Adopted Waste Local Plan
Status:	Local Plan (Development Plan Document)
Role and content:	Set out the strategic policies for waste management development in Worcestershire, including a vision, objectives, spatial strategy, development management policies and monitoring schedule. This includes identifying waste management capacity requirements for the county and setting out locational criteria for development.
Geographical coverage:	Whole of the county of Worcestershire.
Chain of conformity:	Consistent with National Planning Policy Framework, part of the Development Plan for Worcestershire.
Milestones: Adopted November 2012	

Review and Revision timetable:	
Plan review (Regulation 10A)	Scheduled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review through Authority Monitoring Report Q4 2018 – Q1 2019
Initial consultation (Regulation 18)	Scheduled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory work for review and revision of Waste Core Strategy Q2 2021
Publication (Regulation 19 & 20)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Submission (Regulation 22)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Independent Examination (Regulation 24)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Receipt of Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)	Outside the period covered by this LDS.
Adoption	Outside the period covered by this LDS.

5. Resources and Risk Assessment

Resources

- 5.1. The Council's Minerals and Waste Planning Policy team will lead on the development of the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan, Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document, and supporting evidence, and the review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire.
- 5.2. This will be supported as required through existing staff and expertise from the wider Planning unit (Strategic Planning, Development Management, and Environmental Policy) as well as from the Council's Archive and Archaeology, Highways Policy, Highways Development Management, Sustainability, Countryside and Flood Risk teams. Where support or specialist expertise from outside consultants is required, contracts will be managed by staff in the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy, Strategic Planning, or Environmental Policy teams (as most appropriate) to ensure delivery of specified outputs and outcomes.

Procedures for Member Approval

- 5.3. In order to develop the Minerals Local Plan in a timely and efficient manner the Cabinet has authorised¹ the Director of Business, Environment and Community in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure to agree the production, publication of and consultation on the documents prepared during the course of developing the Minerals Local Plan, without the need for further approval by Cabinet during the pre-publication stages of plan preparation (governed under regulations 18 and 19).
- 5.4. However the statutory Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) require that the plan must be approved by Cabinet and Council before submission to the Secretary of State for Examination or Adoption. The proposed submission version of the Minerals Local Plan will be submitted to Cabinet and Council for approval prior to the regulation 19 pre-submission consultation.
- 5.5. In addition all of the Council's Members will be consulted as part of every formal consultation and will be contacted as appropriate to inform them of any specific matters which might affect their division or responsibilities.

Risk Assessment

- 5.6. The Council recognises that there are risks in delivering the documents in the timescales set out in this Local Development Scheme. Some of these risks are within the Council's control and some are not. The main areas of risk, their impacts and the ways to overcome them so that the programme in the Local Development Scheme can be delivered are identified below.

¹ Cabinet meeting of 27 September 2012, Minute 1414.

Table 5. Risk assessment matrix

Area of potential risk	Consequences and impacts	Likelihood of occurrence	Measures to mitigate against potential risk	Overall risk level taking account of potential mitigation
Availability of qualified planning staff with knowledge and experience of mineral and waste planning policy development.	High impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to complete documents on time - consequential programme slippage leading to delay in adopting documents. • Unable to complete documents to the required standard – could lead to documents having to be withdrawn if found unsound, being subject to successful legal challenge. 	Medium likelihood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for staff turnover / sickness absence / maternity leave etc. • Recruitment of planning officers with suitable qualifications and experience has been demonstrably difficult both within Worcestershire and in the wider region.² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals and Waste Planning Policy team dedicated to plan production, enabling specialist mineral and waste skills and experience to be applied, and local knowledge to be utilised. • Planning staff are encouraged to undertake Continuing Professional Development in line with the Code of Practice of the Royal Town Planning Institute. • The council subscribes to the Planning Officers Society's Mineral and Waste Learning Group. • Further support and expertise is provided by the wider Strategic Planning, Environmental Policy and Development Management teams as necessary, with 	Medium

² In May 2017 there were only 15 experienced minerals and waste planners employed in the 14 Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities in the West Midlands.

Area of potential risk	Consequences and impacts	Likelihood of occurrence	Measures to mitigate against potential risk	Overall risk level taking account of potential mitigation
			contingency within allocated budgets to enable use of temporary staff or consultants to supplement in-house team if required.	
Changes to external context	High impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to national policy and guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consequential programme slippage while implications are considered and addressed, leading to delay in adopting documents. ○ could lead to documents having to be withdrawn if not in general conformity with national policy and found unsound, being subject to successful legal challenge, or difficulties in using the policies in decision making for mineral and waste planning applications if there is conflict with national policy. 	High likelihood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and national Planning Practice Guidance are anticipated, but no firm date has been set for their publication. • Uncertainty over further changes to national policy or legislation as a result of the UK exit from the EU. • The Local Plans produced by the City, Borough and District Councils are subject to requirements for regular review. Revision of some or all of the adopted Local Plans in the county is underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor national and local policy announcements and consultations, build in sufficient flexibility in LDS programme to consider and address anticipated changes (e.g. revised National Planning Policy Framework publication); • Regular assessment of consistency with national policy through Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for adopted plans; • Engage in constructive dialogue with City, Borough and District Councils in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate to ensure that implications for mineral and waste are taken into account in 	High

Area of potential risk	Consequences and impacts	Likelihood of occurrence	Measures to mitigate against potential risk	Overall risk level taking account of potential mitigation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development proposals in City, Borough and District local plans will impact on mineral resource demand and waste management infrastructure requirements, and could lead to sterilisation of mineral or waste resources or infrastructure. 		revisions to Local Plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor future trends and predictions. 	
The willingness and ability of other stakeholders to contribute effectively to the development of plans and advise on conformity with national policy and soundness.	High impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If stakeholders are not willing or able to respond or assist within requested timescales - consequential programme slippage leading to delay in adopting documents. If stakeholders are not willing or able to provide requested data or assistance – could lead to documents having to be withdrawn if found unsound, being subject to successful legal challenge. 	High likelihood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget and staffing pressures are being experienced by almost all statutory and third sector stakeholders. Statutory stakeholders such as Natural England and the Environment Agency are moving more towards standing advice and may not be willing or able to contribute in detail to plan development outside of formal consultation stages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders understand progress in the development of minerals and waste plans through regular updates. There is high-level understanding of the synergies between the organisation's aspirations and what the plans aim to achieve. A Green Infrastructure working group for the Minerals Local Plan has assisted with focused and collaborative input from relevant stakeholders during the development of the Minerals Local Plan. The council engages with other Mineral Planning Authorities, 	Medium

Area of potential risk	Consequences and impacts	Likelihood of occurrence	Measures to mitigate against potential risk	Overall risk level taking account of potential mitigation
			primarily through the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body for Waste (RTAB) and Aggregate Working Party (AWP), and discussing experiences and sharing good practice through the Planning Officers Society's Mineral and Waste Learning Group.	
Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and availability of Inspectors with minerals and waste experience	High impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PINS unable to meet demand for DPD examination – consequential programme slippage leading to delay in adopting documents and decisions on mineral and waste planning applications having to be made without an up to date local policy framework, and increased risk of inappropriate, speculative planning applications if there is no up-to-date Local Plan. PINS unable to provide an Inspector experienced in minerals and waste planning policy examination – could lead to longer examinations, 	Medium likelihood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff changes at PINS over the last few years have seen the retirement of several experienced mineral and waste planning inspectors. Officers are aware of several Mineral / Waste Plans being prepared on a similar timescale to the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan, and therefore there is a likelihood of high demand on PINS resources. 	Notify PINS three months prior to commencing Pre-submission consultation (Reg 19)	High

Area of potential risk	Consequences and impacts	Likelihood of occurrence	Measures to mitigate against potential risk	Overall risk level taking account of potential mitigation
	more hearing sessions and greater costs incurred than envisaged.			

6. Monitoring and Review

- 6.1. It is a statutory requirement that the Council prepares an Authority Monitoring Report³ (AMR) to assess progress in the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the objectives of Worcestershire County Council's adopted development plan documents are being achieved or are still relevant.
- 6.2. In relation to each document included within the LDS, monitoring must be carried out on:
- The timetable included for that specific document;
 - The stage that the document has reached in the production process; and
 - If the document is behind the timetable set out in the LDS, the reasons for this.
- 6.3. The AMR will be published as soon as practical after the relevant data becomes available. The AMR both informs the council's own work and feeds into the preparation of Local Development Documents produced by the County, District and Borough Councils. As well as progress in plan-making, this will be the opportunity to report on the monitoring indicators in adopted Local Plans to assess policy performance. The AMR will provide the evidence to consider whether there is a need to review the Development Plan Documents adopted by Worcestershire County Council prior to the date of review set in those documents.
- 6.4. A full review of the LDS will be undertaken if changes impact on the milestones in Table 2, Table 3, or Table 4, or following the adoption of the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan.

³ Formally called the "Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme Authority Monitoring Report"

Appendix 1: Minerals and Waste Development Framework Project Plan Schedule

Key	C	Completed
	S	Scheduled

Document	Activity	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021		Beyond the period of this LDS
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan	Third Stage consultation (Reg 18)	C																		
	Consideration of representations		C	C																
	Fourth call for sites			C	C	C														
	Preparation of Fourth Stage Consultation document		C	C	C	C	C	S	S											
	Fourth Stage consultation (Reg 18)								S	S										
	Consideration of representations									S	S									
	Pre-submission consultation (Reg 19)											S								
	Submission (Reg 22)												S							
	Independent examination (Reg 24)												S	S	S	S				
	Receipt of Inspector's Report (Reg 25)															S	S			
	Adoption (Reg 26)																S	S		
Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document	Consultation on site selection methodology (under Reg 18)								S	S										
	Consideration of representations										S	S								
	Preparation of draft document												S	S	S					
	Consultation on draft document (Reg 18)															S	S			

Document	Activity	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021		Beyond the period of this LDS
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
	Consideration of representations																	S	S	
	Pre-submission consultation (Reg 19)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Submission (Reg 22)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Independent examination (Reg 24)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Receipt of Inspector's Report (Reg 25)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Adoption (Reg 26)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire	5 year review through Authority Monitoring Report				S	S														
	Preparatory work for review and revision of Waste Core Strategy																		S	
	Consultation on draft document (Reg 18)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Consideration of representations																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Pre-submission consultation (Reg 19)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Submission (Reg 22)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Independent examination (Reg 24)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Receipt of Inspector's Report (Reg 25)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS
	Adoption (Reg 26)																			Task to be scheduled in a future LDS

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Summary of the Minerals Local Plan Development

1. WCC commenced development of the Minerals Local Plan in 2012. The Minerals Local Plan is the statutory planning document which determines the approach to mineral development in the county of Worcestershire.
2. Prior to this, the last Minerals Local Plan adopted by Worcestershire County Council was the County of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan, adopted in 1997. Subsequent changes to national planning policy including the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have resulted in the majority of the planning policies in this plan being superseded, with only a minimal number of "saved" policies being applicable to minerals applications in the county.
3. Initial work on the Minerals Local Plan cumulated in the First Stage Consultation in 2012. This consultation took the form of:
 - A consultation leaflet which outlined minerals issues in Worcestershire, how they might be addressed and how people could be involved in the development of the Minerals Local Plan, and included questions to help develop the evidence base for the plan
 - An open morning at Worcester Woods Country Park
 - An interactive online quiz
 - A workshop for stakeholders, including County and District councillors and officers, minerals industry, and statutory organisations
4. A total of 37 responses were received during the consultation and the main issues which were raised during the consultation were:
 - Restoration of sites
 - Impact of mineral working
 - Links between sites and corridors
 - Matters for the strategy
5. A series of background documents was also published for consultation alongside the First Stage of the Minerals Local Plan. These were:
 - Coal in Worcestershire
 - Salt and Brine in Worcestershire
 - Clay in Worcestershire
 - The Draft Local Aggregates Assessment for Worcestershire
 - Ensuring an adequate and steady supply of industrial and energy minerals
 - Contributing towards Worcestershire's priorities (which set out how the Minerals Local Plan could contribute towards the Council's corporate priorities and the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy)
 - The Malvern Hills Acts (which looked at the unique legislative framework regarding mineral working in the Malvern Hills).
6. These documents formed the early evidence base for the Minerals Local Plan and outlined key matters which the plan needed to take into account in the development of policy and approach.
7. The First Stage Consultation also provided an opportunity to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

8. The Second Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan commenced in November, 2013. The consultation included three open days, staffed by members of the Minerals and Waste Planning team to facilitate wider involvement in the plan, promote discussion and answer questions. The open days were held at Worcester Woods Country Park, the Spadesbourne Suite (Bromsgrove) and Kidderminster Library. Two specific workshops were proposed, one for the minerals industry and the second to focus on green infrastructure. Places could be booked on these workshops through the consultation process. Unfortunately, no booking were received for these workshops, and they did not take place.

9. The interactive minerals quiz which had been developed for the First Stage Consultation remained active on the website throughout the Second Stage Consultation as a way of engaging the community and generating interest in minerals planning.

10. The consultation documents included a main document which set out the processes undertaken and options considered in arriving at the proposed approaches and covered the following topics:

- A portrait of Worcestershire
- A draft vision and objectives for what the Minerals Local Plan should aim to achieve
- A draft of a spatial strategy
- Details of minerals required and their locations
- Ideas for the working of minerals and restoration of sites
- Details of minerals safeguarding and proposals for implementation

11. In addition to this document, a series of background papers were also available for consultation. These were:

- Analysis of Mineral Resources in Worcestershire
- Coal in Worcestershire
- Salt and Brine in Worcestershire
- Clay in Worcestershire
- Building Stone in Worcestershire
- The Local Aggregates Assessment for Worcestershire – June 2013
- The Draft Local Aggregates Assessment for Worcestershire – October 2012
- Ensuring an adequate and steady supply of industrial and energy minerals
- Contributing to Worcestershire's priorities
- Minerals and Climate Change.
- The Malvern Hills Acts
- Profile documents for Environmental Character Areas

12. A total of 66 responses were received in response to the Second Stage consultation. The main issues raised are summarised below:

- The restoration-led approach of the plan was supported by the conservation organisations, although the minerals industry expressed reservations which were actioned in the subsequent stages of the minerals local plan through refinement of the areas of search and the methodology employed to determine them.
- Cross boundary issues were raised as an issue of concern, and further engagement was proposed with local authorities within and surrounding Worcestershire. These included projected housing

development and demand for aggregates, crushed rock provision and sustainable transport.

- Individuals and parish councils expressed concern about particular sites, and ensuring that Worcestershire's local character is captured and expressed in the draft plan.
- There was general agreement that the proposed policy criteria were correct, and that these should form the basis for policy development.
- Monitoring was identified as a cross-cutting issue in the responses, and further work needed to identify how monitoring requirements could be incorporated into the draft policies for the third stage consultation.

13. The Second Stage Consultation included an opportunity to comment on the initial Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment, with the main issues raised concerning consideration of alternative approaches within the plan and soil compaction.

14. The full suite of background documents was consulted on alongside the second call for sites in summer 2015, covering the following topics:

- Analysis of Mineral Resources (updated)
- Sand and Gravel in Worcestershire (new)
- Crushed rock in Worcestershire (new)
- Clay in Worcestershire (updated)
- Building stone in Worcestershire
- Silica sand in Worcestershire (new)
- Salt and brine in Worcestershire
- Coal in Worcestershire (updated)
- Oil and Gas in Worcestershire (new)
- Batching plant in Worcestershire (new)
- Local Aggregates Assessment (updated)
- Supply of industrial and energy minerals
- Biodiversity and mineral sites in Worcestershire: Guidance for the sustainable management of biodiversity action plan habitats at Worcestershire mineral sites
- Contributing towards Worcestershire's priorities
- Minerals and Climate Change
- The Malvern Hills Acts
- Profile documents for the Environmental Character Areas

15. The Third Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan commenced in December, 2016. This consultation was on a draft version of the plan which included draft policies, both strategic and development management policies, alongside areas of search, preferred area and specific site allocations, and included the following:

- A portrait of Worcestershire giving an overview of the minerals found in Worcestershire and identifying the key issues affecting the county.
- A draft vision and 13 objectives for what the Minerals Local Plan should aim to achieve.
- A key diagram which set out very broadly what type of development the County Council would like where.
- A spatial strategy that included five "strategic corridors" where development should be located, with three "specific sites" and two "preferred areas" within the corridors.

- Green infrastructure priorities for each strategic corridor.
- Details of how much of each mineral we need to provide and when.
- Development management policies setting out the criteria that would be used when determining planning applications for minerals development, covering a broad range of issues, including the environment, health and flooding.
- Policies to safeguard minerals and supporting infrastructure.
- An implementation and monitoring framework.
- A third 'call for sites'.

16. No further background documents were developed for this consultation, as a full draft of the plan it was based on the available background documents and these remained on the website to inform any consultations and further plan development.

17. The consultation included a series of six open days which were held at Upton Assembly Rooms, Bromsgrove Library, Kidderminster Library, The Hive (Worcester), Droitwich Library and Evesham Library.

18. A total of 56 responses were received in response to the Third Stage consultation which are summarised below:

- The landscape scale green infrastructure approach was generally supported, although greater emphasis was needed on the balance between the social, economic and environmental aspects of green infrastructure.
- The spatial strategy with the priorities for each strategic corridor was well received although the potential to better integrate flood betterment and water quality enhancements was raised.
- Amendments to proposals to ensure contributions to the corridors priorities during both working and restoration phases and to clarify the need to balance comprehensive extraction of mineral resources with the need for landforms and restoration which are appropriate within the landscape.
- Concern was raised over how the strategic corridors were identified, and the misunderstanding that these were based solely on environmental considerations and that the corridors were too wide to provide certainty.
- Comments were received on a number of the policies, with amendments required to bring them in line with national policy, and whether it was appropriate to rely solely on national policy for green belt.
- A requirement for further and ongoing work with District councils concerning safeguarding and in particular the consideration of urban areas and allocated housing and employment sites.
- Concerns related to the ability to supply adequate sand and gravel resources, primarily due to the small number of allocated sites and low level of industry interest.
- Some issues with the sand and gravel sales and imports/ export figures.
- The approach to crushed rock and industrial minerals was supported, although some wording alterations were suggested with regard to the landbank requirements in national policy.

- It was suggested that the natural and historic environment should be addressed through separate objectives and that the links between the objectives and the policy framework lacked clarity.

19. The Third Stage Consultation also included a Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment for comment. There was very limited comment on these documents; Historic England raised a concern about the approach to as yet uncovered archaeology on minerals sites and further work was proposed with the Environment Agency concerning the wider water environment. Both of these issues were addressed as part of subsequent revisions to the Minerals Local Plan.

20. The Fourth Stage Consultation on the Minerals Local Plan commenced in December, 2018, on a full draft of the plan including strategic and development management policies.

21. The consultation included a single open day at The Hive, Worcester, chosen as a central location for the county. A total of 36 responses were received to this consultation.

22. As outlined in the adopted 2018 Local Development Scheme, the Fourth Stage Minerals Local Plan did not include any "preferred area" or "specific site" allocations. These will be considered through the separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

23. The Fourth Stage Consultation proposed:

- a preference for mineral development within site allocations, including "areas of search"; these areas of search were defined in the Fourth Stage Consultation Minerals Local Plan, based on known mineral resources which have passed viability, environmental and amenity tests.
- five large "strategic corridors" which contain the areas of search, with locally appropriate priorities set for each of the strategic corridors to help coordinate how mineral working and restoration should take place to maximise benefits for the environment, the economy and communities.
- policies to enable a sufficient supply of minerals.
- policies to guide the assessment of minerals planning applications, covering issues including health, well-being, and the natural, built, historic and water environments.
- policies to safeguard important mineral resources, mineral sites and supporting infrastructure for the future.

24. The main issues raised in this consultation concerning the Minerals Local Plan were:

- The need for flexibility in sand and gravel supply, and potential differences in the markets for sand and gravel deposits in the north and the south of the county.
- Policies were broadly supported, but some points raised to ensure policy wording closely reflects national policy and guidance, specifically in relation to silica sand, biodiversity, the historic environment, and health impact assessments.

- The importance of Worcestershire's river terrace geology in understanding how it was formed and the Palaeolithic archaeology it may hold. Potential impacts on non-designated archaeology.
- Support for the green infrastructure approach, but with the need for flexibility and ability to manage any conflicting priorities.
- Concern that the strategic corridors and areas of search could result in blight for properties and landowners.
- Updated data availability and minor data errors in some mapped information.
- Transport impacts and the suitability of local road networks for transporting minerals, and concerns over implementation and monitoring to ensure conditions are met.

25. The consultation on the Minerals Local Plan also included a series of statutory documents including the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Health and Equalities Impact Assessments. No significant comments were received on any of these documents, although Natural England provided new evidence in relation to the Severn Estuary SPA and functionally linked land.

26. The matters raised in response to the Fourth Stage consultation have been addressed through relatively minor amendments to the plan to form the Publication Version which will be the subject of the regulation 19 consultation.

Duty to Co-operate and Statements of Common Ground

27. The NPPF requires minerals resources and minerals infrastructure to be safeguarded from non-minerals development, even if there are no current proposals for extraction of the mineral. Non-minerals development includes housing and employment land.

28. Throughout the development of the Minerals Local Plan, WCC have worked with the City, Borough and District Local Planning Authorities to develop a safeguarding policy which will safeguard the most important minerals resources and infrastructure from development and, where full safeguarding is not possible, to encourage extraction of some of the mineral resource prior to alternative development.

29. This policy has been refined throughout the development of the Minerals Local Plan, and will be subject to a Statement of Common Ground between Worcestershire County Council and the six District Local Planning Authorities.

30. The last working crushed rock quarry in Worcestershire, Broadway Quarry, ceased working in 2009, and has subsequently been restored. Worcestershire's crushed rock requirement has since this date been accommodated from imported resources from outside of the County, predominantly from the South West region.

31. Crushed rock was included in the calls for sites, but no sites have been submitted through this process. There are crushed rock deposits in the county, predominantly in the Malvern and Abberley Hills, and Cotswolds. However, there are significant constraints on the extraction of these resources. These constraints are not necessarily an absolute impediment to minerals extraction but the combination of the significant level of environmental protection imposed through legislation and policy tests and the unique responsibility of the M H Trust together

mean that crushed rock has not been worked in Worcestershire since 2010 and is unlikely to be commercially attractive for the foreseeable future.

32. To address this, discussions have taken place with the West Midlands, East Midlands, South West and South Wales Aggregate Working Parties, which concluded that Worcestershire's production guideline for crushed rock should be reduced to 0 tonnes, rather than being based on the average of the previous 10 years sales, but that the emerging Minerals Local Plan should provide a policy framework which could enable crushed rock development to take place. The Mineral Planning Authorities and Aggregate Working Parties have indicated that supplying Worcestershire's demand for crushed rock can be accommodated.

33. The Minerals Local Plan does includes policies for crushed rock, enabling applications for crushed rock to be determined should any come forward in the lifetime of the plan, and indicators have been included in the plan to ensure that this situation is monitored.

34. A memorandum of understanding has been developed with Gloucestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council to address minerals and waste issues in general. Mineral supply matters, including crushed rock, will be subject to a Statement of Common Ground between Worcestershire County Council and surrounding Mineral Planning Authorities and the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party.

35. The Minerals Local Plan has a focus on delivering green infrastructure which has informed the development of the policies and the strategic corridors. To assist in this development, a Green Infrastructure Steering Group has developed from members of the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership including the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and, internally Archive and Archaeology, Countryside Services and Environmental Policy.

36. This joint working has been on a voluntary basis, but has assisted in developing the policies in the Minerals Local Plan and the corridor priorities.

37. This ongoing collaboration will be reflected in a Statement of Common Ground to continue working towards delivery of the green infrastructure objectives of the Minerals Local Plan.