

# **Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Appraisal of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Up to 2031**

## **Adoption Statement**

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 16 (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 a sustainability appraisal (SA) is required for all local plans, including minerals and waste. European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) also requires the preparation of an environmental report that considers the significant environmental effects of a local plan. Government advice is that both SA and SEA can be carried out in a single appraisal process and this has been the case with the preparation of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Up to 2031 (LMWLP).

Leicestershire County Council formally adopted the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Up to 2031 (LMWLP) on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

### **How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan**

The LMWLP seeks to provide protection to the environment and amenity of local residents, whilst ensuring a steady supply of minerals and the provision of waste management facilities in accordance with Government policy and society's needs. It aims to maximise the use of alternative materials in order to reduce the reliance on primary-won minerals, to significantly increase levels of reuse and recovery of waste, and move away from landfill as a means of disposal. It also provides controls relating to the beneficial reinstatement of land following mineral working and landfill operations.

### **How the environmental report has been taken into account**

A series of sustainability appraisals were carried out and reports produced at each stage of the preparation of the LMWLP. These assessed each option, strategic objective and policy against the SA objectives. The chosen options were influenced by the outcomes of the SA reports. For example, the SA indicated that the preference for the extension of sand & gravel sites offered employment and infrastructure benefits. Where negative impacts were predicted amendments to the policy wording were suggested to prevent or reduce the severity of any adverse effects. For example policy M3 was expanded to limit the potential for greater sand and gravel extraction to take place from unallocated sites than the identified need, and policy W1 was amended to be clear that waste management provision should be to manage the equivalent of the predicted arisings for the County.

### **How opinions expressed during consultation have been taken into account**

The first round of consultation was undertaken at the scoping stage alongside consultation on the LMWLP Issues document in October 2013. The scoping report set out the methodology to be used for the SA and the aim of the consultation was to ensure that all the relevant issues were identified at an early stage of the plan making process. SA reports were then issued and consulted on with the Consultation Draft LMWLP in 2015, the Pre-Submission Draft LMWLP in 2016 and the Proposed Changes to the Pre-Submission Draft LMWLP in 2017.

All comments received were taken into account and changes made. For example a new sustainability objective was created to cover comments received on the scoping report advised that the sustainability objectives should be revised to reflect the Government's desire for biodiversity and historic assets to be enhanced as well as protected. In addition comments were received to the lack of reference to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the failure to consider the implications of non-inclusion of an allocation at Lockington. These matters were addressed in the SA report accompanying the Pre-Submission Draft LMWLP.

### **The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted on light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with**

As part of the iterative SA/SEA process a number of reasonable alternatives for the plan were considered. These included alternative options for levels of mineral aggregate supply; the release of the majority of new sand and gravel reserves from extensions to existing sites or from new sites; reliance on alternative data sets for determining the requirement for waste management provision; and different options for focussing the location of waste facilities.

The reasons for choosing the options in the adopted plan were that they represented the best balance and would have the most positive outcome for the environment. The policies and site allocations derived from the selected alternatives were assessed against the sustainability objectives, and adjustments made as far as possible to maximise their positive effects in terms of sustainability. Overall the SA concluded that the LMWLP would have a significantly positive effect on Leicestershire on all of the sustainability objectives.

### **The measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan**

The LMWLP will provide the basis for determination of planning applications for minerals and waste development in Leicestershire and seeks to ensure that every opportunity is taken to minimise the risk of adverse impacts. The following steps will be taken to minimise and manage such effects:

1. every application for planning permission will be assessed on its environmental and social impacts against detailed policies contained within the LMWLP;
2. annual monitoring will be undertaken of the significant environmental effects of the plan, as described in the LMWLP and in the SA Report, and will identify whether the documents are providing positive benefits. The results of this monitoring will be reported annually through the Annual Monitoring Report.

The adopted Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Up to 2031, Policies Map documents, the Adoption Statement, the SA Report and the SA Report Adoption Statement can be viewed on line and downloaded at:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/local-plan-adoption>

and are available for inspection free of charge at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA between the following hours:

**Monday-Thursday:** 8.30am – 5pm

**Friday:** 8.30am – 4.30pm

Members of the public wishing to view the documents at County Hall are advised to contact the planning team by emailing [planningcontrol@leics.gov.uk](mailto:planningcontrol@leics.gov.uk) or phoning 0116 305 1085.