

Central & Eastern Berkshire

Joint Minerals & Waste Plan

Further Call for Sites 2018

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Q. Who will identify the minerals and waste sites?**

**A.** Sites can be put forward by anyone or any organisation and typically will be promoted by land owners, developers, agents and minerals and waste operators in Central and Eastern Berkshire.

**Q. Why is a further call for sites required?**

**A.** Previous call for sites resulted in nominations which informed the Draft Joint Minerals & Waste Plan which was subject to consultation during Summer 2018. The Draft Plan recognised that there is a shortfall in capacity particularly towards the end of the Plan period (2030+). A further call for sites is required to explore whether other site options are available to inform the preparation of the 'Proposed Submission' version of the Plan.

The Draft Plan and supporting documents can be viewed online:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult>

**Q. How is the call for sites being publicised?**

**A.** The exercise will be publicised through a call for sites in November 2018 and nominations have been requested to be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Letters/emails seeking information were sent to relevant bodies including parish councils, landowners, developers and local minerals and waste operators.

**Q. How will the sites be assessed as to whether they are suitable?**

**A.** Once the sites are nominated, they will be subject to an initial assessment to see whether there are any significant constraints which would mean the site was unsuitable for minerals or waste development. Any sites that are not ruled out at this stage will then be analysed in more detail, will be subject to a site visit and will be included in specialist technical assessments such as Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (see Question below).

**Q. What will happen to these sites?**

**A.** The sites will be technically assessed in terms of their suitability, availability and achievability (including viability) for minerals or waste uses. These assessments of the sites will be made public at the 'Proposed Submission' consultation stage.

**Q. If sites are identified in the 'call for sites' exercise and are being assessed does it mean that they will be allocated for development in the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan?**

**A.** No. The call for sites and the technical assessment of sites will be used to inform the Plan but does not necessarily mean a site will be allocated for development. This is because not all sites considered in the assessment will be suitable or ultimately acceptable for development.

All the sites will be considered holistically across the whole Plan area to ensure the best strategy can be achieved. Allocation of land will depend on different policy constraints (such as designated heritage or environmental sites) and practical constraints (such as rivers and hills).

The decision on allocation of sites will ultimately be made by the individual Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities following public consultation on the options available.

**Q. How many sites will be allocated within the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan?**

**A.** At this stage, we do not know how many sites will be allocated in the final 'Submission' version of the Plan. The Draft Plan established what provision of minerals and waste development was required. The extent to which sites can contribute to the provision will depend on their size and capacity.

The Draft Plan and supporting documents can be viewed online:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult>

**Q. Will the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities put forward any of their own sites for development?**

**A.** Each of the Authorities will review land under its ownership for consideration.

**Q. Will you be assessing every site that has been promoted?**

**A.** Yes. We will assess every site that has been promoted to us. Those that are potentially suitable for minerals and waste development will be subject to a site visit. These sites will also be subject to other technical assessments including Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (see Question below).

**Q. What is a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment?**

**A.** There is a requirement to produce a Sustainability Appraisal alongside the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal assesses the impact of the Plan (including policies and site allocations) against a range of social, environmental and economic objectives. This helps us to ensure that our future policies are sustainable, i.e. they support development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. All the sites will be assessed against the agreed sustainability objectives.

The Sustainability Appraisal will incorporate Strategic Environmental Assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects that implementing a Local Plan or programme would have on the environment, as well as reasonable alternatives.

**Q. What happens if I have already submitted a site for housing or employment land?**

**A.** If a site has already been nominated as a potential housing or employment site (through a previous call for sites exercise) but the landowner would also like the site to be considered for mineral or waste uses as an alternative, the site should be submitted again through this call for sites process.

**Q. Will the proposed mineral and waste sites be considered against the proposed housing and employment sites?**

**A.** Sites that have been submitted as a potential housing site or employment site will be checked for the presence of mineral resources (i.e. whether there are economically viable mineral resources within the vicinity of the proposed site) or existing minerals and waste sites. The outcome of this review will inform the decision-making on the potential sites but will not necessarily mean they are unsuitable on these grounds.

**Q. Will you be meeting with site promoters?**

**A.** Should we require any further information about a site later in the assessment process we will get in touch with the site promoter.

**Q. When will the Council allocate the sites?**

**A.** At the 'Proposed Submission' stage, (in 2019) the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities will undertake a consultation on the sites it proposes to allocate as part of the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan.

**Q. Who will make the final decision as to whether a site is allocated?**

**A.** Ultimately, the independent planning Inspector who examines the Local Plan will decide which sites are to be allocated within the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan. Following his or her recommendations, it will be for each of the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities to formally adopt the Plan so that it can be used for planning purposes.