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**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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9<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities - Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation**

Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, and Wokingham Borough Council (collectively referred to as the 'Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities') are working in partnership to produce a Joint Minerals & Waste Plan which will guide minerals and waste decision-making in the Plan area.

The Joint Minerals & Waste Plan will build upon the formerly adopted minerals and waste plans for the Berkshire area, eventually providing replacement policies based on up to date evidence of the current levels of provision for minerals and waste facilities in the Plan area. Importantly, the Plan aims to establish the future levels of provision required to meet national and regional policy targets and objectives. It will set out a new Vision of how this will be achieved and provide details of strategic sites that we propose will deliver that Vision.

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Plans) Regulations 2012, an Issues and Options Consultation paper has been produced and this forms the first stage of the plan preparation. The Paper sets out the Vision and Objectives of the Plan, as well as the initial issues and options regarding minerals and waste data which will inform the Plan. The purpose of this consultation is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to consider the important issues around the extraction of minerals and management of waste before any decisions are taken on Preferred Options.

The Issues and Options consultation paper poses a series of questions to prompt discussion and elicit further evidence. You can respond to as many of the questions as you feel are appropriate to you or the organisation which you represent. There is also capacity to make free text comments on any matter that you feel would help consideration of these issues.

The Consultation Paper is supported by a number of evidence base documents including:

- Minerals: Background Study
- Waste: Background Study
- Methodology Reports (including for assessment of Sites, Transport & Landscape)
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment: Methodology and Baseline
- Consultation Strategy
- Equalities Impact Assessment.

The Consultation Paper and supporting documents are available to view on the consultation webpage: [www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult](http://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult)

Documents are also available for inspection during normal working hours:

- **Bracknell Forest Council offices:** Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD
- **Reading Council offices:** Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
- **The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead offices:** Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead SL6 1RF
- **Wokingham Borough Council offices:** Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1BN
- **Public libraries** within the administrative areas of the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities.

A consultation Response Form is available to complete on-line or download from the consultation webpage: [www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult](http://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult)

Please send completed hard copies to the contact details provided at the top of this letter.

The outcomes of the consultation will help to shape the next stage of Regulation 18: Preferred Options, which will outline how and where minerals and waste will be managed within Central & Eastern Berkshire.

Following the completion of the consultation, the information received will be used to update the evidence and inform decisions on preferred options for the next stage in plan making. A full report detailing the outcomes of the consultation will be produced and made available online.

The Issues and Options Consultation will be launched on **9 June 2017** and will run for six weeks, closing at 5pm on **21 July 2017**.

Yours sincerely,

\*Hampshire Services



\*Hampshire Services, part of Hampshire County Council, is working in collaboration with the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities to assist them in the preparation of the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan. Data sharing statements are outlined on the consultation Response Form.