



www.rbwm.gov.uk



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Address:** Hampshire Services c/o  
Strategic Planning,  
Hampshire County Council,  
First Floor, EII Court West,  
The Castle, Winchester,  
SO23 8UD

**Email:** [berks.consult@hants.gov.uk](mailto:berks.consult@hants.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01962 846732

11 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan  
Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation: Sand & Gravel Provision and Operator Performance**

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

The Joint Minerals and 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 the vision.

To date, several information gathering consultations have been achieved to inform the Plan, each of these form part of Regulation 18:

- In Summer 2017, an 'Issues and Options' Consultation was undertaken to gather technical information and confirm the evidence base;
- During Summer / Autumn 2018, a 'Draft Plan' consultation set out the proposed approach for the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan
- Due to a limited number of site options, a further 'Call for Sites' exercise was carried out. This resulted in an additional site (Bray Quarry Extension) being proposed. This was subject to consultation during the Summer of 2019

Work is underway to prepare the Proposed Submission version of the Plan. However, one of the proposed allocations was recently refused planning permission. The landowner has 'shelved' any plans for extraction and has not renewed the option to extract minerals from the site with the operator. As a result, the plan was making limited provision of sand and gravel. In order help address this, a further call for sites was undertaken in late 2019 and an 'Area of Search' approach was explored.

The Consultation document sets out the criteria for defining an 'Area of Search' for sand and gravel provision. It also includes two new sites (which have been nominated following a recent 'Call for Sites' exercise) and these are being considered for allocation in the Plan. These sites are: Land

west of Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood which is within the Borough of Wokingham and has the potential to provide sand and gravel and; an area between Horton Brook and Poyle Quarry, which is within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and has the potential to provide 250,000 tonnes of sand and gravel.

In addition, and as a result of the responses received in relation to the 'Draft Plan', including concerns raised by local residents, a new policy has been drafted. It aims to ensure the past performance of minerals and waste operators form part of the material considerations taken into account in decision making.

The Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities are required to undertake the same level of consultation for these newly proposed sites and new policy as the rest of the Plan and background evidence base.

As a result, the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities are inviting feedback from statutory consultees, stakeholders, communities, local organisations and businesses on the 'Areas of Search' approach, the potential new sites (Land west of Basingstoke Road and the Area between Horton Brook and Poyle Quarry) and the Operator Past Performance Policy.

The responses received from this Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation will inform the Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) which is being prepared by Hampshire Services on behalf of Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities and is intended to be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

The consultation document supporting this consultation can be found by visiting [www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult](http://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult) Documents are also available for inspection during normal working hours at the following locations:

- **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:** Maidenhead Library, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1QU
- **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 online or can be downloaded from [www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult](http://www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult)

Please send completed hard copies of the response form to the address provided at the top of this letter. There is no need to repeat previous comments made on the plan.

This consultation will be launched on Tuesday, 11 February 2020 and will run for six weeks, closing at **5pm on Monday, 23 March 2020.**

Yours faithfully,

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.