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**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Address: Hampshire Services c/o
Strategic Planning,
Hampshire County Council,
Elizabeth II Court West,
The Castle, Winchester,
SO23 8UD

Email: berks.consult@hants.gov.uk

Tel: 0370 779 5634

02 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Regulation 22 Notice of Submission of Documents to the Secretary of State

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 Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities have now submitted the plan for independent examination, under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and have made the relevant documents available.

The Joint Minerals and Waste Plan will replace the adopted minerals and waste plans for the Berkshire area, 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 completed to inform the Plan, under Regulation 18 (of the Local Planning (England) Regulations 2012) between 2017 and 2020. The Proposed Submission Plan was consulted on for six weeks, beginning on 3 September 2020 and ending 15 October 2020. The Proposed Submission Plan, the evidence base and all representations received have been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination and are available to view online.

Hearing Sessions

Hearing Sessions will be announced at a later date, at least 6 weeks before the opening of the hearings.

The Inspector

A Planning Inspector will be appointed to undertake an independent examination into the soundness of the Plan.

The Inspector's task is to consider the soundness and legal compliance of the submitted Plan, based on the criteria set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (the Framework) and associated regulations, such as the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Inspector will take into account the representations submitted upon the Submission Plan as far as they relate to soundness considerations. A number of informal debates will take place on the principal matters identified by the Inspector - these are termed Hearing Sessions. The Inspector may invite those who made representations on the Proposed Submission Plan to submit further material or take part in specific Hearing Sessions.

At the end of the Examination, the Inspector will prepare a report to the Council with precise recommendations, these recommendations may include modifications to the Plan, if such a request is made by the Council.

The Programme Officer

The Programme Officer will act as the contact for any person who has an interest in the Examination and as a liaison between the Inspector, Council and Representors. They are an independent Officer of the Examination and work on behalf of the Inspector to organise and manage the administrative and procedural elements of the Examination process.

Any queries people may have regarding the Examination process should be directed to the Programme Officer who will be happy to assist. Any matters that anyone wishes to raise with the Inspector should be submitted via the Programme Officer.

Contact details: Stephanie Street

Address: The Central and Eastern Berkshire – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester, SO23 8UD

Phone: 0370 779 2422

Email: stephanie.street@hants.gov.uk

Examination Library

The Plan and all other relevant documents have been compiled into an Examination Library. This library will be added to as further documents become available.

Due to Covid-19, electronic techniques and communications will be employed. Documents will be available to view on the dedicated consultation website (www.hants.gov.uk/berksconsult). Please refer to the relevant Authority websites regarding availability of hard copies at libraries and/or council offices.

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.