

Appendix to Annual Monitoring Report 2017/18

Conformity of Minerals Local Plan Policies with the Revised National Planning Policy Framework

(February 2019)



Conformity of Minerals Local Plan Policies with the revised National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018)

This table lists the relevant paragraphs in the revised National Planning Policy Framework in respect of which policies in the Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire as adopted in February 2017 now conform. Overall it was concluded that the revisions to national minerals planning policy in the revised NPPF were limited and that the policies in our Minerals Local Plan continue to conform with national planning policy and therefore continue to carry weight in the determination of planning applications for mineral development.

Minerals Local Plan Policy	Relevant paragraphs from revised National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018)	Comment on conformity
1: Provision of sand and gravel		
1.1 – 1.3 Extensions to sand and gravel sites	<p>20 b) Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development for ...minerals...</p> <p>204 a) Planning policies should provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance...</p> <p>207 Mineral planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates</p> <p>207 c) making provision for the land-won and other elements of their Local Aggregate Assessment in their mineral plans ... provision should take the form of specific sites, preferred areas and/ or areas of search and locational criteria as appropriate.</p> <p>207 f) ...maintaining landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel...</p>	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the provision of aggregates including sand and gravel. The policies in the Minerals Local Plan remain in conformity with national policy.
1.4 – 1.5 Proposals for new sand and gravel sites within the area of search	207 c) see above	Same comment as for policies 1.1. -1.3 above.

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1.6 Proposals for any other sand and gravel sites (extensions / new sites)	207 f) maintaining landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel... whilst ensuring that the capacity of operations to supply a wide range of materials is not compromised.	Same comment as for policies 1.1. -1.3 above.
2: Provision for Industrial Minerals used in the manufacture of cement		
2.1 Provision for Industrial Minerals used in the manufacture of cement	20 b) and 204 a) see above 208 Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial minerals 208 c) maintaining a stock of permitted reserves to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant, and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment.	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the provision of industrial minerals including minerals used to manufacture cement. The policy in the Minerals Local Plan remains in conformity with national policy.
2.2 – 2.4 Provision for Industrial Minerals used in the manufacture of cement	204 a) see above	Same comment as for policy 2.1 above.
3: Safeguarding Minerals of Local and National Importance and Important Infrastructure		
3.1 – 3.4 Safeguarding mineral resources	204 c) safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas; and adopt appropriate policies so that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not sterilised by non-mineral development where this should be avoided (whilst not creating a presumption that the resources defined will be worked); 204 d) set out policies to encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practical and environmentally feasible, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place;	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the safeguarding of mineral resources and minerals infrastructure as well as for prior extraction of minerals if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place. These policies in the Minerals Local Plan remain

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	206 Local planning authorities should not normally permit other development proposals in Mineral Safeguarding Areas if it might constrain potential future use for mineral working.	in conformity with national policy.
3.5 Safeguarding important mineral infrastructure sites	182 ...Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed. 204 e) safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products; and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material;	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the safeguarding minerals infrastructure and it is noted that the NPPF now provides a general safeguarding policy for the operation of an existing business. The policy in the Minerals Local Plan remains in conformity with national policy.
4: Minimising the impact of mineral development		
4.1 – 4.3 The environmental considerations	97 Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:... 98 Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails. 111 All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.	There has been no significant change to national policy as it relates to the environmental considerations as listed under policy 4.1 of the Minerals Local Plan. It is noted that paragraph 165 of the revised NPPF adds requirements for sustainable drainage systems in relation to major development and this would be an aspect to be covered as part of having regard to the

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	<p>146 Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These are:</p> <p>a) mineral extraction;</p> <p>155 – 165 Planning and flood risk</p> <p>170 Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <p>a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils.</p> <p>b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services - including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;</p> <p>d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity;</p> <p>e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.</p> <p>Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and</p> <p>f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.</p>	<p>flow and quantity of surface water under 4.1 n).</p> <p>These policies in the Minerals Local Plan remain in conformity with national policy.</p>

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	<p>172 Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in...Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty...</p> <p>175 a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;</p> <p>178 Planning policies and decisions should ensure that: a) a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination.</p> <p>180 b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason;</p> <p>184 – 202 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</p> <p>204 f) set out criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health, taking into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality;</p> <p>204 g) when developing noise limits, recognise that some noisy short-term activities, which may otherwise be regarded as unacceptable, are unavoidable to facilitate minerals extraction;</p> <p>205 b) ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, human health or aviation safety, and take into account the</p>	

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	cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or from a number of sites in a locality; 205 c) ensure that any unavoidable noise, dust and particle emissions and any blasting vibrations are controlled, mitigated or removed at source, and establish appropriate noise limits for extraction in proximity to noise sensitive properties;	
4.4 Liaison with the local communities	40 they (LPAs) should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community.	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to pre-application engagement and this policy in the Minerals Local Plan remains in conformity with national policy.
4.5 Higher environmental standards	205 ...In considering proposals for mineral extraction, minerals planning authorities should: f) provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity, to be carried out to high environmental standards,...	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the restoration of mineral sites and this policy in the Minerals Local Plan remains in conformity with national policy.
4.6 Ancillary development	204 Planning policies should: h) ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity,...	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the restoration of mineral sites and this policy in the Minerals Local Plan remains in conformity with national policy.

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5: Planning for Hydrocarbon Extraction		
5.1 - 5.2 Exploration and appraisal 5.3 Production 5.4 Overall assessment	209. Minerals planning authorities should: a) recognise the benefits of on-shore oil and gas development, including unconventional hydrocarbons, for the security of energy supplies and supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy; and put in place policies to facilitate their exploration and extraction; b) when planning for on-shore oil and gas development, clearly distinguish between, and plan positively for, the three phases of development (exploration, appraisal and production), whilst ensuring appropriate monitoring and site restoration is provided for;	There has been no significant change in national policy in relation to the planning requirements for oil and gas development and these policies in the Minerals Local Plan remain in conformity with national policy.
6: Restoration of Mineral Sites		
6.1 – 6.2 Restoration requirements 6.3 Regular review of the restoration strategies/ plans 6.4 Financial Guarantees 6.5 Overall assessment	96 Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. 98 Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, ... 157 c) using opportunities provided by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding (where appropriate through the use of natural flood management techniques); 170 Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value... b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services - including the economic and	There has been no significant change to national policy as it relates to the restoration of mineral sites as well as the provision of open space; public rights of way; flood management; and enhancing landscape, biodiversity or sites of geological value. These policies in the Minerals Local Plan remain in conformity with national policy.

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	<p>other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;</p> <p>d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;</p> <p>204 Planning policies should:</p> <p>h) ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place</p> <p>205 e) provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity, to be carried out to high environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions. Bonds or other financial guarantees to underpin planning conditions should only be sought in exceptional circumstances;</p>	

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