

# WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
<b>Date Of Decision</b>	03 August 2023
<b>Decision Maker</b>	John Hobbs, Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with Marc Bayliss, the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills
<b>Brief Description Of Decision</b>	Decision to delay the development of the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document, and to delay the return of an update to the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme (LDS) to Cabinet for approval until 2024.
<b>Reason(s) For Decision</b>	<p>The LDS sets out the Council's priorities for producing planning policy documents over the coming three-year period. The LDS is updated periodically to reflect changes to timetables to ensure it provides a useful source of information for interested parties and meets the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, and Government guidance.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council Cabinet resolved on 24th September 2020 that during the period 2020-2023, the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure be delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure, to approve updates to the Mineral and Waste Local Development Scheme, subject to call-in, and that an updated Mineral and Waste Local Development Scheme be returned to Cabinet for approval in 2023.</p> <p>However, changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which were proposed to be introduced in Spring 2023 have not yet been confirmed. Significant changes to the legislative requirements for developing planning policy documents are also proposed through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, the progress of which through Parliament has also taken longer than anticipated and has not yet received Royal Assent. Under transition arrangements proposed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the timescales allowed for preparing plans under the existing planning system are insufficient to progress the development of the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document in its current form. With significant uncertainty remaining about the implementation of the revised system, it is not possible to produce a meaningful update to the LDS at this stage.</p>

<p><b>Alternative Options Considered And Rejected</b></p>	<p>Under the current LDS, a public consultation on the “Preferred Options” draft of the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document had been due to take place in Summer/Autumn 2023. The Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure (in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills) considered whether to continue progress and undertake the “Preferred Options” consultation, or whether to delay this consultation until any changes to the National Planning Policy Framework have been confirmed and can be addressed and there is clarity about changes to the wider plan-making system. It was considered that consulting on the “Preferred Options” draft at this stage could result in greater uncertainty if the significant changes to national policy impact on site selection or policy content. In addition, it is not possible to give a clear indication of next steps and timescales for the Mineral Site Allocations DPD to be finalised and adopted due to uncertainties of transitioning to a new planning system.</p> <p>The Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure (in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills) also considered whether to return an updated LDS to Cabinet in 2023, but as the timescales and requirements for preparing plans under the existing planning system or transitioning to the revised system are not clear, it is not possible to produce a meaningful update to the LDS at this stage. The Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure (in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills) will publish a new timetable once there is greater certainty about the new planning system and its requirements.</p>
<p><b>Joint Equality, Public Health, Data Protection and Sustainability Impact Assessments carried out</b></p>	<p>A. The JIA screening did not identify any potential considerations requiring further assessment during implementation.</p> <p>(Impact Assessment Id: #569, undertaken 18/07/2023 by Marianne Pomeroy)</p>
<p><b>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Reference</b></p>	<p>07/2023</p>
<p><b>Legal Check</b></p>	<p>TP 5/9/2023</p>