WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT RELEVANCE SCREENING
This exercise is not an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). It is a desktop screening exercise designed to establish if you need to carry out an EIA. When completing the screening please use plain English avoiding the use of acronyms or jargon. Any documents referred to should be attached to this screening form.

Remember, throughout this exercise the term 'policy' (or 'policies') is used as shorthand for 'policies, practices, activities, strategies, plans, projects, procedures, functions and protocols'. It therefore needs to be interpreted broadly to embrace the full range of functions, activities, plans and decisions for which the County Council is responsible.

For help completing this screening please refer to the County Council's EIA Guidance document.

Part One: basic information needed to identify the policy and prepare for screening

1.1	Directorate and Section/Unit:	Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy – Directorate of Economy and Infrastructure
1.2	Title of the policy being screened:	Publication Version of the Minerals Local Plan for Worcestershire
1.3	Screening by:	Natasha Friend
1.4	Date of screening:	16th May 2019
1.5	Summary of policy objectives	MO 1. Enable the supply of minerals MO 2. Protect and enhance the environmental and socio-economic function of Worcestershire's network of green spaces and natural elements (green infrastructure) MO 3. Protect and enhance the quality, character and distinctiveness of the built, historic, natural and water environment MO 4. Protect and enhance the health, well being, safety and amenity of people and communities

		MO 5. Protect and enhance the vitality of the local economy MO 6. Ensure the prudent use of natural resources
1.6	Related policies/functions:	The emerging Minerals Local Plan, first stage consultation was screened as part of its development in July 2012. A second stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan was undertaken in November 2013 – January 2014 but no EqIA screening was carried out. A third stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan was undertaken as in December 2016 to March 2017 and an EqIA was carried out as part of the screening. A fourth stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan was undertaken as in December 2018 to February 2019 and an EqIA was carried out as part of the screening. Other documents which form part of the statutory Development Plan for the county will be assessed for their impact on equality. Those produced by Worcestershire County Council include: • The Waste Core Strategy which was screened as part of its development in December 2009. • The adopted Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the timetable for producing Development Plan Documents has also been screened. • The Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document will be screened as it is developed.
1.7	To which section of the Directorate or Corporate "business/service plan" does this policy relate?	The Minerals Local Plan is a statutory requirement. It will contribute to the Council's priorities of "Open for Business", "Environment" and "Health and Well-being" of both the Corporate and Directorate Business Plans.

1.8	Is this a new or existing policy?	The Council has an extant Minerals Local Plan, the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan adopted in 1997. However this plan is now limited to "saved policies" following the implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Act, 2004 and the rest of the plan no longer forms part of the development plan for Worcestershire. The new Minerals Local Plan will replace the existing Herefordshire and Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan and will set out a new statutory planning policy framework rather than updating or refreshing existing Minerals Local Plan policies. Equality Impact Relevance Screening assessments have already been undertaken on the Emerging Minerals Local Plan, first stage consultation in July 2012 which concluded that further screening would be required as the plan developed. No EIA screening was undertaken as part of the second stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan. An Equality Impact Relevance Screening was undertaken on the third stage and fourth stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan as detailed above.
1.9	Does the policy affect service users, employees, the wider community, or a combination of these?	Mineral sites can be a significant source of concern to local communities, because of possible disturbance or harmful effects on their living and working environments. The policy will affect service users, employees, and the wider community. The principal groups which will be affected are set out below: **Service users** (Planning) • minerals industry as applicants for planning permission, • statutory and other consultees: both in developing the policy and in consultation on planning applications, • the public in developing the policy, in consultation on planning applications and in the determination of applications, **Employees** • planning officers and other related experts **Members**

		• members of Planning and Regulatory Committee, • members representing wards which have or are in proximity to mineral resources. The Minerals Local Plan is not intended to directly impact upon "protected characteristics" and is unlikely to affect these groups in relation to "protected characteristics". Documents will be made available in accessible formats in line with the Council's policy. However, it is possible that "protected characteristics" could be affected for some members of the wider community as a result of implementing the Minerals Local Plan: **The wider community** • people living or working near or visiting areas with mineral resources. Policy MLP 19: Amenity will ensure that Planning permission will be granted where it is demonstrated that the proposed mineral development, including associated transport, will not give rise to unacceptable adverse effects on amenity, health and wellbeing, the environment, or areas of tranquillity. Technical assessments will be required to demonstrate that the proposed development avoids harm to sensitive receptors. This might be through the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIA) of both the plan and subsequent minerals applications. All applications will be considered through the Development Management process and consideration of policy as and when applications are submitted.
1.10	Who is formally responsible for the **delivery** of this policy? If different, who is responsible for **leading** on the delivery?	Emily Barker, Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Manager Cabinet Member – Councillor Dr. Ken Pollock
1.11	What (if any) previous consultation has been carried out for this policy? Who was consulted and when?	• First Stage Consultation Oct 2012 – Jan 2013 • Second Stage Consultation Nov 2013 – Jan 2014. • Call for Sites Summer 2014 • 2nd Call for Sites, Resources and Infrastructure Summer 2015

		• Consultation on Background Documents Summer 2015. • Third Stage Consultation Dec 2016 - March 2017 • A 4th Call for Sites Sept 2017 - Jan 2018. • Fourth stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan Dec 2018 - Feb 2019. Direct consultation to all organisations, minerals industry and members of the public with a registered interest in minerals planning policy on the council's planning consultation database, advertised in all county newspapers, via the council's social media, and available on the council's website and in libraries. The Third Stage Consultation document included 'You said, we did' sections that demonstrated how past consultation responses had been taken into account in that consultation.
1.12	Is equality monitoring in place for this policy?	A (statutory) Mineral and Waste Local Development Scheme Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is produced by the council every financial year. Its purpose is to assess the effectiveness of the Council's planning policies. This report monitors the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out the approach to community consultation on planning applications and policy. The SCI was first adopted in 2006. The SCI has since been updated to take account of changes to the planning system and the updated version went out to consultation and was published and adopted in February 2015. This replaces the 2006 version. All consultations that take place related to the MLP have to be undertaken in accordance with the SCI.

Part Two: The purpose of the following exercise is to assess the potential relevance of the policy in the lives of staff and/or residents who have one or more of the following "Protected Characteristics":
Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage/Civil Partnership, Pregnancy/maternity, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

The questions in this section ask you to consider factors you will need to take into account in assessing the relevance of the policy in the lives of people who have one or more of the Protected Characteristics. The answers you provide will help you determine whether you will need to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment.

		Yes	**No**	**Details and comments**

2.1	Could this policy have a significant impact on service delivery or other aspects of daily life for people because they have one or more of the Protected Characteristics listed above?	✓		The Minerals Local Plan is not intended to directly impact upon "protected characteristics" and is unlikely to affect these groups in relation to "protected characteristics". However, this Plan could have an impact on service delivery or other aspects of daily life for people because they just so happen to have one or more of the Protected Characteristics and because they live nearby and are at home during the day, as minerals operations generally take place during the day. This will therefore have a greater potential impact on older people, children or adults with disabilities, adults with childcare responsibilities or home workers which may mean they spend a greater proportion of time at home than the general population or that they have less personal control over exposure to any adverse impacts. There may be local increases in lorry movements and potential for some noise and dust nuisance. However as part of the fourth stage consultation a HIA was undertaken which will identified both positive and negative health impacts of the MLP and suggest mitigation for any negative impacts. The potential impacts identified above are health related. The HIA found that the Minerals Local Plan strongly supports multiple opportunities for health and wellbeing that the restoration of the minerals sites can offer. It is also supportive of the planned approach to the design of these sites. Positive impacts could result from restoration of minerals sites, particularly where restoration includes public access.
2.2	Does the policy involve a significant commitment, or reduction, of resources?		✓	Policy will enable planning applications for minerals development to come forward for determination against a current set of local policies within the framework of the NPPF, and will therefore require continued staff and

				resources similar to current levels.
2.3	Does the policy relate to an area where inequalities are already known to exist?		✓	This plan does not relate to an area where inequalities are already known to exist. Minerals are naturally occurring and can only be worked where they are found. This means that some parts of the county will be affected by mineral workings while others will not. Work has been undertaken to determine where mineral resources exist and the Minerals Local Plan includes strategic corridors to direct the location of mineral working, subject to developer and landowner interest and successful planning applications, as well as directing how working and site restoration should contribute to green infrastructure. However, this does not mean that all these resources will be worked but minerals can only be worked where they are found. These are large geographic areas, and the equalities impact on health will be assessed through a HIA of the Plan, which will identify any current issues which can be addressed and mitigated through the plan making process. Depending on the scale of any proposed development, HIA may be necessary to accompany individual applications to assess any local impacts and identify any concerns and mitigations required to minimise the impact on the local community. Worcestershire County Council as Mineral Planning Authority has committed[1] to producing a Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document to provide increased certainty to mineral operators to encourage them

[1] The timetable for the preparation of the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document is set out in the *Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme*

				to bring forward mineral sites, and also to provide greater certainty to communities about where mineral development is likely to take place. This document might lead to the identification of locations where people as identified under the Protected Characteristics listed above live and so could potentially benefit from having an EqIA carried out on it.

2.4 Is there any evidence of potential or actual unplanned variations in the participation levels or use of the policy between different groups (Existing policies only)?

Characteristic	**Yes**	**No**	**Details, including what information you have based your answer on**
Age			N/A
Disability			N/A
Gender reassignment			N/A
Marriage/Civil Partnership			N/A
Pregnancy/maternity			N/A
Race			N/A
Religion or belief			N/A
Sexual orientation			N/A
Sex			N/A

If the answer to question 2.3 is "yes" or "could be yes" then you **must complete an EIA**.

For existing policies, if the answer to question 2.4 is "yes" or "could be yes" then you **must complete an EIA**.

If the answer to questions 2.1 or 2.2 is "yes" or "could be yes" then you may need to complete an EIA. Please refer to Section 3 of the EIA Guidance document for further clarification on when an EIA should be completed.

2.5 Based on the factors above, is an Equality Impact Assessment required for this policy?

Yes	
No	✓

An EIA is not always needed. Where you have decided that an assessment is not required please clearly summarise the reasons for your decision, including any factors you have taken into account, in the box below. Please then ensure this screening form is signed-off by your line manager and sent to the Corporate Equality and Diversity Team for publication.

EIA not required: reasons and additional comments
The Minerals Local Plan is not intended to directly impact upon people with "protected characteristics" and is unlikely to affect these groups in relation to "protected characteristics". Although there is a possibility that proposals might subsequently come forward that could impact on people that fall within at least one of these groups, just as a result of where they live. But it is not possible for this plan to pick up on this Minerals can only be worked where they are found. This plan has identified where these occur and directs where mineral development should take place through identifying Strategic Corridors and allocating Areas of Search. However this does not mean that these sites will come forward or how the resources will be worked if a planning application was submitted on these sites. As a result it is not possible to determine how the groups identified above could be potentially be impacted upon. Where sites come forward as a planning application they could potentially be assessed as part of the HIA processes, which would identify positive and negative health related impacts and how the positive impacts could be enhanced and recommendations for reducing the negative impacts where possible. This approach addresses the issues raised in this screening report and supports the conclusion that EIA is not required for the reasons identified above.

N. Friend

Signed (completing Officer/Manager) Date: 16/05/19

Signed (Line Manager Date: 16/05/19