

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](#) available on SID.

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:	Minerals Local Plan for Worcestershire Development Plan Document (part of the Local Development Framework for Worcestershire).
1.3	Screening by:	Natasha Friend
1.4	Date of screening:	24 November 2016
1.5	Summary of policy objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver development in accordance with the priorities of the spatial strategy. 2. Maximise the contribution of substitute, secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste to overall mineral supply. 3. Maintain the steady and adequate supply of sand and gravel and address shortfalls in the landbank of permitted reserves. 4. Maintain the county's role in the steady and adequate supply of brick clay, bricks and brick products. 5. Foster an adequate and diverse supply of building stone. 6. Enable the sustainable supply of other locally and nationally important mineral resources found in the county, including crushed rock and silica sand. 7. Safeguard locally and nationally important minerals and supporting infrastructure from being needlessly sterilised.

		<p>8. Promote community inclusion in mineral development from inception to after-use so that local issues are understood and addressed.</p> <p>9. Ensure that mineral development contributes to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and makes prudent use of natural resources.</p> <p>10. Ensure that mineral development protects and enhances the health, well-being, safety and amenity of people and communities in and around Worcestershire.</p> <p>11. Ensure that mineral development protects and enhances the natural and historic environment and distinctive local character.</p> <p>12. Ensure that mineral development protects and enhances the vitality of the local economy.</p> <p>13. Optimise opportunities to integrate economic, social and environmental benefits through the delivery of high quality multifunctional green infrastructure throughout the life of the mineral development.</p>
1.6	Related policies/functions:	<p>Other relevant documents which form part of the Local Development Framework will be assessed for their impact on equality.</p> <p>The emerging Minerals Local Plan, first stage consultation was screened as part of its development in July 2012.</p> <p>A second stage consultation on the emerging Minerals Local Plan was undertaken in November 2013 – January 2014.</p> <p>The Waste Core Strategy was screened as part of its development in December 2009.</p> <p>The adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS) has also been screened.</p>
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.

		<p>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.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Relevance Screening has 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.</p>
1.9	Does the policy affect service users, employees, the wider community, or a combination of these?	<p>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:</p> <p>Service users (Planning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, <p>Employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning officers and other related experts <p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • members of Planning and Regulatory Committee, • members representing wards which have or are in proximity to mineral resources. <p>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.</p>

		<p>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:</p> <p>The wider community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people living or working near or visiting areas with mineral resources. <p>Policy MLP 16 "Health and Quality of Life" 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 impacts on the health or quality of life of residents or businesses. Technical studies 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. Applications that are not covered by HIA, will be addressed through the Development Management process and consideration of policy as and when applications are submitted.</p>
1.10	Who is formally responsible for the delivery of this policy? If different, who is responsible for leading on the delivery?	<p>Emily Barker, Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Manager</p> <p>Cabinet Member – Councillor Dr. Ken Pollock</p>
1.11	What (if any) previous consultation has been carried out for this policy? Who was consulted and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Stage Consultation Oct 2012- Jan 2013 • Second Stage Consultation Nov 2013 – Jan 2014. • Call for Sites Summer 2014 • Second Call for Sites, Resources and Infrastructure Summer 2015 • Consultation on Background Documents Summer 2015. <p>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, and available on the council's website and in libraries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This third stage of consultation includes 'You said, we did' sections that demonstrate how past consultation responses have been taken into

		account in this 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 on 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?	✓		<p>The Minerals Local Plan primarily focuses on the mineral resources which are most prevalent in the county and have the highest likelihood of being both suitable and commercially attractive for exploitation during the lifetime of the plan. The Plan addresses the whole life of a mineral development from inception to restoration and after-use.</p> <p>The Minerals Local Plan defines minerals safeguarding areas and contains both policies and mineral consultation areas to ensure that mineral resources of local and national importance and supporting infrastructure are not needlessly</p>

				<p>sterilised by non-minerals development.</p> <p>Mineral working is more likely to affect those people who live nearby and are at home during the day, as minerals operations generally take place during the day. This will therefore have a greater 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 third stage consultation a HIA will be undertaken which will identify both positive and negative health impacts of the MLP and suggest mitigation for any negative impacts. The potential impacts identified above are health related.</p> <p>Positive impacts could result from restoration of minerals sites, particularly where restoration includes public access. This may include appropriate consideration for disabled users in public access, as detailed in the Reasoned Justification for Policy MLP 17. Minerals development may temporarily prevent or alter access to green spaces, public rights of way or other access routes, but by planning and designing individual sites as part of a landscape-scale corridor, opportunities to connect, extend or enhance recreation assets can be optimised.</p>
2.2	Does the policy involve a significant commitment, or reduction, of resources?		✓	<p>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.</p>

2.3	Does the policy relate to an area where inequalities are already known to exist?		✓	<p>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 as preferred areas for minerals extraction, subject to developer and landowner interest and successful planning applications.</p> <p>Minerals across the county can be found across the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive sand and gravel deposits in Worcestershire are associated with the terraces of the River Severn, the River Avon and the Carrant Brook. Glacial sand and gravel deposits are less predictable in geographical extent. • Solid sand and gravel resources (including silica sand resources) lie between Bromsgrove and the Clent Hills in the north east of the county, and also stretch from Stourport towards Staffordshire and Dudley over the northern county boundary. • Limestone is found in the south of the county in the Cotswold outlier Bredon Hill and the edge of the Cotswold plateau near Broadway. Smaller limestone deposits form the Suckley, Abberley and Woodbury Hills in the west of the county. Igneous rocks occur in the Malvern Hills on the county's western boundary with Herefordshire. • There are extensive clay deposits across the whole county, but planning applications for clay extraction in Worcestershire have all been limited by the industry
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				<p>to a localised area near to Kidderminster which correlates with the location of processing plant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock salt occurs around Droitwich and Stoke Prior to the north-east of Worcester, although the southern limit of the salt deposits is not known and there is very little information regarding the extent of brine due to the complex hydrology of the area. <p>These however do not mean that all these resources will be worked but minerals can only be worked where they are found.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To further strengthen the approach, major planning applications will also be expected to undertake a HIA as part of the Development Management process. This will assess any local impacts and identify any concerns and mitigations required to minimise the impact on the local community.</p>
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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

Minerals can only be worked where they are found. This plan has identified where these occur and some preferred areas for extraction. 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 to determine how the groups identified above will be impacted on would be difficult or potentially inaccurate at this current stage. Both the potential positive and negative impacts of those with protected characteristics as identified are health related. The MLP states that it will expect health impacts from a minerals development to be considered through a Health Impact Assessment.

High level impacts on health from the emerging local plan will be identified and assessed through the HIA process which will take place as part of the third stage consultation, and mitigation proposed.

HIA will also be undertaken on a site by site basis as part of the planning application process. This approach addresses the issues raised in this screening report and supports the conclusion that EIA is not required at this stage.

Signed (completing Officer/Manager): ...Natasha Friend

Date: ...29.11.2016.....

Signed (Line Manager):Emily Barker

Date:30.11.2016.....