

Minerals Local Plan Fourth Stage Consultation Health Impact Assessment Statement

November 2018

This statement has been prepared by the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team at Worcestershire County Council. It summarises how the Fourth Stage Consultation Minerals Local Plan (MLP) has addressed the recommendations made in the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) which was developed in cooperation with Public Health in July 2018. This statement highlights the relevant policy changes which could affect the conclusions of the HIA and demonstrates the current approach of the MLP to addressing health and wellbeing considerations.

Table 1 – Key HIA recommendations and how these have been addressed in the 4th Stage MLP consultation document

HIA July 2018 Recommendations	HIA Statement November 2018 Comments
<p>The restoration of the minerals sites offers multiple opportunities for health and wellbeing such as provision of green spaces, improvement to public rights of ways or mitigation of climate change. The planned approach to the design of these sites will be crucial in unlocking these benefits. This is why the preparation of Green Infrastructure Concept Plans setting out the design principles for the forthcoming minerals development sites was supported in the HIA. Health and wellbeing should be one of the core considerations of these Green Infrastructure Concept Plans.</p>	<p>The MLP 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. The MLP states that: <i>"The coordinated design, working and restoration of mineral sites will strengthen the distinctive character of each strategic corridor, as well as respecting the site specific context and addressing issues identified through effective community engagement. These mineral sites will be designed to deliver and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure and become integrated into Worcestershire's green infrastructure network. The planned contribution each site will make towards delivering a lasting legacy will be a prerequisite to development, ensuring all sites have a clear vision for delivering benefits throughout winning and working phases, and through delivering high quality restoration at the earliest opportunity to enable an appropriate after-use"</i>. This is supported by a number of policies in the Plan which address the whole life of a mineral development from inception to restoration and after-use.</p> <p>The Third Stage MLP consultation asked whether consultees would support the development of Supplementary Planning Documents that "masterplan" the green infrastructure components of specific sites and preferred areas. The consultation did not identify a significant support for this approach.</p>

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	<p>The revised Local Development Scheme (July 2018) introduced a timetable for the preparation of a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). Site specific issues which allocated sites need to address will be highlighted in this DPD, and it is therefore likely to highlight opportunities for health and wellbeing as one of considerations delivered through green infrastructure approach.</p> <p>Policy MLP 3: Green Infrastructure requires a level of technical assessment appropriate to the proposed development to demonstrate how, throughout its lifetime, it will enable the site to deliver multiple benefits, taking account of the local economic, social and environmental context of the site.</p>
<p>A Health Impact Assessment checklist: The Third Stage MLP introduced a requirement for Health Impact Assessments to be produced for new minerals developments. The inclusion of a HIA checklist was recommended. The HIA checklist is a list of health and wellbeing principles related to minerals developments serving as a guide to completing HIAs by the minerals providers. The HIA checklist will ensure that appropriate health and wellbeing matters are assessed and addressed during the operational and mineral restoration periods. Para 7.39 of the Third Stage MLP referred to Public Health England Gateway which will provide a necessary "know-how" to the minerals providers. However, the MLP could refer to a HIA checklist to be prepared at the later stage. This would help to ensure that all mineral development related health considerations will be covered in any prospective HIAs. It will also provide more certainty to the industry on what they are expected to submit and limit time they need to spend identifying the relevant document on the website.</p>	<p>Policy MLP 3: Green Infrastructure requires a level of technical assessment appropriate to the proposed development to demonstrate how, throughout its lifetime, it will enable the site to deliver multiple benefits, taking account of the local economic, social and environmental context of the site. It states that: <i>"Where significant deviation from the priorities of the relevant strategic corridor is proposed, this will only be considered appropriate where robust justification is provided to demonstrate that the proposal will deliver specific local economic, social and environmental benefits either through or alongside appropriate multifunctional green infrastructure measures"</i>.</p> <p>The Reasoned Justifications for this policy explains that <i>"the technical assessment required by policy MLP 3 should set out what local economic, social and environmental opportunities and limitations exist or are likely to arise in and around the site. This should include any opportunities to contribute to maintaining and improving health and well-being"</i>.</p> <p>Footnote 240 explains that <i>"Depending on the scale and nature of the proposed development, health and well-being issues may be addressed as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. A standalone Health Impact Assessment (HIA) may not always be required, but can be a useful tool to identify and enhance the positive</i></p>

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	<p><i>aspects of a proposal through assessment, while avoiding or minimising any negative impacts, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged sections of communities that might be affected".</i></p> <p>Additionally, Policy MLP 19: Amenity requires that the proposed mineral development, including associated transport, will demonstrate that they do not give rise to unacceptable adverse effects on amenity, health and well-being, the environment, or areas of tranquillity.</p> <p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA to be undertaken on the developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents.</p> <p>The HIA checklist is a detailed matter which will be dealt with in the future through the validation process or through the introduction of additional planning guidance if it is deemed necessary/useful.</p>
<p>Focus on health and wellbeing opportunities in MLP 16 Health and Quality of Life: Appropriate wording is needed in policy MLP 16 to ensure that focus is not only on reducing negative impacts but that the restoration of minerals sites makes full use of opportunities to provide health and wellbeing enhancements.</p>	<p>MLP 16 Health and Quality of Life no longer part of the 4th Stage Consultation MLP; however, policies in the consultation draft address both potential adverse negative impacts and potential opportunities for health and wellbeing enhancements through the provision of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Policy MLP 19: Amenity requires that the proposed mineral development, including associated transport, will demonstrate that they do not give rise to unacceptable adverse effects on amenity, health and well being, the environment, or areas of tranquillity.</p> <p>Policy MLP 3: Green Infrastructure requires protection and enhancements networks of green infrastructure throughout the life of the development which can offer opportunities for health and wellbeing enhancements through measures such as provision of accessible recreation routes and areas.</p>

Table 2 –HIA analysis and how this has been addressed in the 4th Stage MLP consultation document

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Theme	How MLP is addressing this?	Potential positive or negative impact on health & wellbeing?	HIA Recommendations	Comments
Housing	As part of the evidence base for the Minerals Local Plan, the 2016 Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) sets out the amount of minerals that are likely to be required over the life of the plan to provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals, including aggregates. A Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) will be produced annually and monitoring indicators included in the Minerals Local Plan to ensure the Plan is making provision for an adequate supply of minerals in the case of market demands changing over the life of the plan.	It is considered that the MLP will have overall long terms positive impact on the health and wellbeing by supporting housing growth in the County.	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested.	The Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) has been updated since but this has no impact on the conclusions.
Construction / Operation	The MLP sets out a number of policies designed to ensure minerals developments do not have an adverse impact on the safety and health of nearby residents. These include specific policies for aspects such as dust,	Mineral operations which will come forward during the Plan period will generate potential health and wellbeing impacts. However, the negative impacts will be minimised	Ensure that site specific HIAs assess the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical and chemical impacts of construction/operation period of minerals 	The 4th Stage Consultation MLP includes specific policies for aspects such as dust, noise, land stability and water quality (MLP 19: Amenity and MLP 27: Water Quality and Quantity). Liaison groups are still encouraged in the plan (Para 6.4).

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	<p>noise, land stability and water quality. Liaison groups are encouraged in the plan to ensure residents are kept up to date with plans.</p> <p>The MLP also includes a requirement for HIAs to be undertaken on new minerals developments – this will help to identify any potential health and wellbeing issues in relation to the site and offer ways of mitigating them.</p>	<p>with MLP policies. This is why the impact of the MLP can be considered as neutral.</p>	<p>developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental health impacts - Identifies vulnerable population groups and concentrations of ill health - Considers the surrounding communities and the mineral sites' employees and visitors. <p>Mitigation of the negative impacts and enhancement of the positive impacts should be part of the assessment.</p>	<p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA to be undertaken on the developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents. This secured through policies MLP 3 and MLP 19 (see table 1 for details)</p> <p>The HIA checklist is a detailed matter which will be dealt with in the future through the validation process or through the introduction of additional planning guidance if it is deemed necessary/useful.</p>
Development Design	<p>The MLP has a series of policies designed to ensure the design of a site mitigates against a range of impacts during its working phase, including both environmental and social impacts, as well as seeking to ensure sites are restored at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure the benefits of the enhancements the restorations</p>	<p>Some negative impact through the operational period – minimised by policies but cannot be fully removed.</p> <p>Site restoration and aftercare will create significant health and wellbeing opportunities through the restoration</p>	<p>Include HIA checklist to ensure that all relevant matters are assessed and addressed during the operational and restoration periods.</p> <p>Ensure that focus is not only on reducing the negative impacts but that the restoration of minerals sites</p>	<p>The site specific allocations, and issues those sites will need to address in site design and working and restoration plans, will be in a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan document (see Table 1 for details).</p> <p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA</p>

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	<p>scheme offers to the area are realises as soon as possible, this will also help reassure communities.</p>	<p>focus on GI corridors. Additionally, the HIA policies will pick up on the health only related matters.</p>	<p>makes full use of opportunities to provide health and wellbeing enhancements.</p> <p>Para 7.39 of the Third Stage Consultation document refers to PHE Gateway which will provide a necessary "know-how" to the minerals providers. However, the MLP could refer to a HIA checklist to be prepared at the later stage. This would help to ensure that all mineral development related health considerations will be covered in any prospective HIAs. It will also provide more certainty to the industry on what they are expected to submit and limit time they need to spend identifying the relevant document on the website.</p> <p>Prepare the GI Concept plans with health and wellbeing as one of considerations to set</p>	<p>to be undertaken on the developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents. This secured through policies MLP 3 and MLP 19 (see table 1 for details)</p> <p>The HIA checklist is a detailed matter which will be dealt with in the future through the validation process or through the introduction of additional planning guidance if it is deemed necessary/useful.</p>

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			out the design principles for these sites at the outset.	
Active Travel and Connectivity	The MLP has specific policies encouraging the use of sustainable transport measures both on and off site through both the operational and restoration phases of the development. These include improvements to the Public Right of Way network.	The potential improvements expected to be delivered through the restoration policies of the Minerals Local Plan in the long term will outweigh any small negative impacts associated with disruptions to the existing walking and cycling networks by the extraction of sites in the short term.	Ensure that restoration policies reflect active travel/connectivity networks. HIAs and concept plans to ensure this.	<p>The Fourth Stage Consultation MLP addresses sustainable travel and improvements to the Public Right of Way network in policies MLP 20: Access and Recreation and MLP 29: Transport.</p> <p>The site specific issues will be addressed in a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan document (see Table 1 for details).</p> <p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA to be undertaken on the developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents. This secured through policies MLP 3 and MLP 19 (see table 1 for details).</p> <p>The HIA checklist is a detailed matter which will be dealt with in the future through the validation process or through the introduction of additional planning guidance if it is</p>

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				deemed necessary/useful.
Healthy foods	Policy MLP20 states that minerals developments will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that soil resources and the long term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land will be conserved.	Potential negative impact associated with the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land however this is partially mitigated through MLP20. Some potential positive impacts as a result of the restoration of minerals sites.	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested. The restoration opportunities to be covered through the concept planning.	<p>Policy MLP 25: Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land requires that the proposed mineral development will safeguard the long term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>Any site specific issues will be addressed in a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan document (see Table 1 for details).</p>
Public open space	Policies MLP 2 to MLP 6 set out priorities for each of the strategic corridors, including improving the network of public access routes or optimising opportunities for accessible semi-natural green space as appropriate. Policy MLP 17 also seeks improvements to public access networks and protects rights of way and accessible green space.	Positive impact through the creation of new, or improvements to existing networks or areas of public open space.	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. However, the adequate provision should be measured through an HIA undertaken on the proposals and it could become a consideration in the future Concept Plans.	<p>The 4th Stage Consultation MLP strongly supports the creation of new, or improvements to existing networks or areas of public open space. This is represented in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities of each of the strategic corridors - Policies MLP 4 to MLP 8 • Policy MLP 3: Green infrastructure • Policy MLP 20: Access and Recreation <p>However, site specific issues will be addressed in a separate Mineral Site</p>

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				<p>Allocations Development Plan document (see Table 1 for details).</p> <p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA to be undertaken on the developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents. This secured through policies MLP 3 and MLP 19 (see Table 1 for details)</p>
Community Safety	The Minerals Local Plan sets out a number of policies to ensure community safety, such as restricting public access from hazardous areas once the site is restored, ensuring road safety is considered in all traffic and routing arrangements for minerals movements to and from the site, and do not give rise to unacceptable hazards both on and off site.	Minerals development, if well planned, can support crime prevention and community safety, with natural surveillance of parking areas, and creating a space that is well connected, readily understood and easily navigated.	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested.	<p>The 4th Stage consultation MLP still addresses these points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport safety - Policy MLP 29: Transport • Land stability - MLP 19: Amenity <p>Since the Third Stage MLP consultation, it is considered that other "unacceptable hazards" do not need to be specifically addressed in the Fourth Stage MLP for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the distance thresholds for safeguarding

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				<p>the aerodromes , only one is relevant to Worcestershire (Birmingham airport) and the distance only covers a very small part of the county and does not coincide with any of the Strategic Corridors. Therefore it is no longer considered necessary to include reference to aviation safety / bird strike</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other hazards / impact on utilities - requirements apply through other legislation regardless of planning policy and therefore should not be duplicated.
Employment and Economy	<p>The Minerals Local Plan sets out to provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals into the economy, supporting Worcestershire's growth and the wealth of the region and its residents. It will contribute towards Worcestershire's housing and infrastructure provision, as well as through the restoration of minerals sites to create an attractive</p>	<p>Minerals development can have a positive impact on the economy through the creation of new jobs both in the minerals industry, and through providing the necessary minerals for other industries to thrive.</p> <p>Some negative impact through the operational period – minimised by</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested.</p>	<p>The Fourth Stage consultation MLP aims to be a part of "<i>a holistic approach to delivering sustainable economic growth, supporting health and quality of life</i>". Additionally, the MLP sets objectives to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable the supply of minerals (MO 1) • Protect and enhance the environmental and socio-economic function of Worcestershire's network of

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	environment in Worcestershire. Policy MLP 16 protects against unacceptable impacts on the health or quality of life of residents, businesses and other sensitive receptors, including issues such as noise and dust.	policies.		<p>green spaces and natural elements (green infrastructure) (MO 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the vitality of the local economy (MO5) <p>Policy MLP 19 Amenity protects from unacceptable adverse effects on amenity, health and well being etc.</p>
Equality and social cohesion	<p>Policy MLP17 sets out that publically accessible green space made through minerals restoration, including Public Rights of Way should be accessible and engaging for all members of society, including those with disabilities. Furthermore it aims to ensure all members of the community feel engaged through the use of minerals liaison groups to keep the residents informed on the development throughout its life.</p>	The plan will have an overall positive impact on equality and social cohesion through the creation of public open space that is accessible for all members of the community.	Provide tools which will allow delivering this objective at the site level. This should be measured through an HIA undertaken on the proposals and it could become a consideration in the future Concept Plans.	<p>The Fourth Stage consultation MLP addresses the equality and social cohesion points through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy MLP 20: Access and Recreation - Paragraph 6.4 (Development Management) stating that <i>"Applicants are advised to engage in pre-application consultation with statutory consultees, local communities and interest groups at an early stage to inform the development of their proposals"</i>. <p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA to be undertaken on the</p>

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				<p>developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents. This secured through policies MLP 3 and MLP 19 (see Table 1 for details).</p> <p>Any site specific issues will be addressed in a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan document (see Table 1 for details).</p> <p>A separate Equality Impact Assessment Screening of the Fourth Stage Consultation document has also been undertaken which does not identify any equality impacts.</p>
Climate change	The Minerals Local Plan seeks to ensure all minerals developments are both resilient to, and take steps to mitigate the effects of, climate change. Policy MLP 15 sets out that all developments should be resilient to climate change including avoiding both contributing to the causes of climate change, and being vulnerable to the range of impacts arising from climate	Small positive impact through mitigation against certain aspects of climate change through restoration schemes such as those that return rivers to their natural patterns of flooding or provide water storage.	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested. Potential site level mitigation measures to be identified through HIAs. The restoration opportunities to be covered through the concept planning process.	The Fourth Stage Consultation MLP seeks to ensure all minerals developments are both resilient to, and take steps to mitigate the effects of, climate change. This is overarching trend running across the document and represented through the vision, strategic objectives and policies including MLP3: Green Infrastructure, priorities of each of the strategic corridors - MLP 4 to MLP 8, MLP 27: Water Quality and Quantity, MLP 28: Flooding.

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	<p>change. MLP 2-6 – identify priorities for biodiversity, water environment and agriculture that should contribute to climate change resilience and mitigation.</p> <p>MLP 15 is the overarching requirement to be resilient to climate change.</p> <p>MLP 18 requires optimising biodiversity gain by enhancing, linking and extending existing habitat networks.</p> <p>MLP 20 requires protection of soil quality and avoiding damaging the long term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>MLP 22 requires gains for the water environment, avoiding increasing flood risk, avoiding harm to the water environment.</p> <p>MLP 24 requires opportunities for the use of alternatives to road transport</p>			<p>The MLP offers a flexible approach to the HIA process which will allow, where relevant, to request the HIA to be undertaken on the developments that may significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents. This secured through policies MLP 3 and MLP 19 (see Table 1 for details).</p> <p>The site specific issues will be addressed in a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan document (see Table 1 for details).</p>
Environmental Hazards	MLP15 seeks to ensure developments do not give rise to unacceptable hazards, these include land instability,	The plan will have a neutral impact on Environmental Hazards by ensuring mineral working avoids	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested.	The 4th Stage Consultation MLP still addresses these points through MLP 19: Amenity and MLP 28: Flooding.

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	subsidence, and aviation safety. In addition, hazards such as air quality, dust, odour, noise, vibration, light and visual impact are all dealt with in policy MLP16, and flood risk is addressed in policy MLP 22.	causing these hazards.		Since the Third Stage MLP Consultation it has been identified that based on the distance thresholds for safeguarding the aerodromes, only one is relevant to Worcestershire (Birmingham airport) and the distance only covers a very small part of the county and does not coincide with any of the Strategic Corridors. Therefore, it is no longer considered necessary to include reference to aviation safety / bird strike within MLP.
Impact on Services	MLP15 ensures mineral working avoids causing harm to utility services that cross, abut or are adjacent to the proposed development site.	The plan will have a neutral impact on these services by ensuring they continue to operate without interference.	This area is sufficiently covered in the MLP. No further recommendations suggested.	<p>Since the Third Stage MLP Consultation it is considered that requirements in relation to hazards / impacts on utility services apply through other legislation regardless of planning policy and therefore should not be duplicated within MLP.</p> <p>Any site specific issues could be highlighted as part of the separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.</p>