

Minerals Local Plan – Progress to date (June 2015)

A new Minerals Local Plan (MLP) is being prepared to replace the existing MLP adopted in April 2006. As a Minerals Planning Authority, we have a statutory duty to have an up-to-date MLP and while the development management policies within the plan remain extant and relevant, there is a pressing need for new site allocations to help maintain our supply and landbank of extraction sites. Cabinet is considering the minerals plan on Monday 8th June and this note is provided for further information.

Appointment of Northamptonshire County Council	March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full procurement process undertaken to appoint consultant to prepare new Minerals Local Plan. NCC successful bidders
Background evidence gathering and Call for Sites	March – September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC work with MKC to gather background evidence and information on minerals issues, and invite local landowners, agents and industry to submit sites for consideration in the plan
Issues and Options Consultation (see paragraphs 2.3-2.5 of the Cabinet report)	30 October 2013 – 22 January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 week consultation on Issues and Options document which set out the issues to be addressed by the plan, with questions on those issues, usually with a preference for the way forward suggested. Issues included the apportionment (the quantity of sand and gravel that should be extracted each year within the Borough) and the spatial strategy options for where that extraction should focus. Included the sites that had been put forward for consideration as possible allocations and asked for comment on the suitability or otherwise of those proposed sites. Opportunity for landowners/agents to put forward additional sites for consideration. Officers offered to attend meetings in affected communities, and public meetings and drop-in sessions were held in several locations. Officers also attended area forums.
Preferred Options 'Draft Plan' Consultation (see paragraphs 2.6-2.22 of the Cabinet report)	13 August – 5 November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 week consultation period on the Draft Plan document, which included proposed allocations for sites to meet the proposed 0.17 million tonnes per annum apportionment figure. Engagement again included drop-in sessions and public meetings in affected communities, with the opportunity to discuss concerns with officers. Majority of responses to the consultation related to the proposed allocations.
Additional Call for Sites (see paragraphs 2.15-2.16 and Annex C of the Cabinet report)	February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following concerns raised by some Ward Councillors and respondents to the Draft Plan that there hadn't been a proper exploration of alternatives, a further Call for Sites was undertaken which involved letters directly to landowners in the primary and secondary focus areas, to make sure they had had the opportunity to have their sites considered in the Minerals Local Plan, and to understand their reasoning for not wanting to put a site forward at this time, if that was the case. Analysis of the sites that have been put forward concludes that those already identified are more appropriate for inclusion in the final plan.
Final Draft Plan 'Proposed Submission Version' – Publication and Submission (see paragraphs 2.23-2.25)	Cabinet 8 June 2015 Council 15 July 2015 Publication August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet are asked to recommend to Full Council that the Final Draft Plan is published for comment. Representations received on the Final Draft Plan are submitted with the plan to the Secretary of State to be subject to independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
Examination and Adoption	Expected early-mid 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination hearings on the Plan are expected to be held in early 2016 (subject to PINS availability). It is expected that the Inspector's report (whose findings are binding if the Council wishes to adopt the Plan), will be published in Spring 2016.