

Milton Keynes Minerals Local Plan **Equality Impact Assessment**

Context

Milton Keynes Council is preparing a new Minerals Local Plan (MLP) in line with the NPPF which will replace the Minerals Local Plan 2006. The emerging MLP will set out the policies and proposals against which planning applications will be determined.

The scope of the MLP will include:

- Vision and objectives for minerals-related development within Milton Keynes;
- Spatial strategy for minerals extraction;
- Aggregate provision to be met;
- Commitment to maintaining landbanks;
- Safeguarding of minerals resources and ancillary development/infrastructure;
- Development Control and management policies; and
- Identification of specific sites for minerals-related development required to facilitate delivery of the identified aggregate provision.

The role of the MLP is to set out the strategic vision and objectives for minerals related development, identify the mineral resources of local and national importance as well as the amount of these to be provided from within Milton Keynes, identify the development strategy and site-specific allocations to facilitate delivery of a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and maintenance of landbanks, and set out the policies and proposals against which planning applications for minerals related development will be determined. The MLP also sets out the policies and proposal that apply to other forms of development, covering matters such as the safeguarding of minerals resources of local and national importance, committed and allocated minerals-related development and associated infrastructure as well as measures to reduce potential land use conflict with incompatible forms of development.

Engagement and Consultation

National policy requires that all local planning authorities ensure that local communities, stakeholders and interest groups are effectively engaged in consultation. The Council, to guide this consultation and engagement, has adopted a Statement of Community Involvement. As well as consulting groups and organisations that are out in Government guidance the Council keeps a consultation database. Those that have expressed an interest in minerals planning in the County are added to this database and contacted at the next consultation stage.

Local Plan Policy Analysis

The Local Plan sets out the aggregate provision to support growth through the plan period, however the strategy for minerals also aims to reduce reliance on primary materials. Policy 7 provides the development principles for facilities for secondary and recycled aggregates.

The spatial strategy sets out the potential locations for minerals development. Policy in the plan requires a justification of the need for the site to be developed. This ensures that development occurs in appropriate locations in order to reduce potentially adverse effects and maximise the contribution towards creating sustainable communities.

Policy 9 seeks to achieve a net gain in natural assets and resources and enhance the local landscape character to reduce the potential impacts to local residents as a result of minerals development. In relation to restoration of sites Policy 16 also aims to maximise the benefits

to local residents who may be affected by the minerals development, for example by promoting after-use of sites that support recreational or economic opportunities.

Policy 18 seeks to prevent sterilisation of economically important minerals resources and ensure the prudent use of natural resources through the application of Minerals Safeguarding Areas that seek to protect resources both during and beyond the plan period for current and future generations.

Policy 19 aims to prevent land use conflict occurring as a result of the interface of incompatible development. This in turn will act to reduce environmental nuisance for any potential neighbours of minerals development.

Policy 17 promoted the formation of Local Liaison Group for new minerals development. This allows local communities to build up positive working relationships with developers so that any issues relating to the site can be quickly managed.

The policies in the Local Plan identify sites and locations in line with the spatial strategy that will deliver the required minerals to support the growth in Milton Keynes throughout the plan period. The identification of specific sites within the policies does not equate to the grant of planning permission, all sites brought forward by the industry will be subject to assessment through the planning application process and must satisfy the requirements set out in the Local Plan.

EqIA Assessment Groups

- **Age** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.
- **Disability** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.
- **Gender reassignment** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.
- **Ethnicity and Race** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.
- **Religion or Belief** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.
- **Sexual orientation** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Sex** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Pregnancy and Maternity** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate against this section of the community. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Marriage and Civil Partnerships** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Human Rights** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

- **Other Groups** No adverse impacts have been identified. The Local Plan provides an overarching spatial framework for the whole Borough and hence does not discriminate. Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has consulted a wide cross section of community groups and all consultation materials have been deposited at accessible locations.

The Council is required to comply with the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to promote race equality and also the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which places a duty on the service providers not to discriminate against the disabled people by providing a lower standard of service. To meet this requirement of the Acts the Council has ensured that all consultation and engagement has included a wide range of groups and bodies that represent the interests of disabled and ethnic groups. However, from previous consultations, it has been noted that generally none of the equalities groups have responded. Nevertheless this is a specialist subject and this applies to the community at large, except where a nearby quarry is proposed.

Conclusions

The Local Plan has regard to the Milton Keynes Community Strategy. In particular the MLP supports the commitment to sustainable development and protecting and enhancing environmental assets and quality of life linked to the Strategies aspirations falling under Priority Pillar 1: Reinvesting our city, places and spaces – designing and planning together, and Being a modern city.

The Council in developing the Local Plan has consulted a wide range of consultees including groups and bodies that represent the interests of disabled and ethnic groups. Therefore the Council believes that the consultations have been inclusive and have provided an opportunity for all sections of the community to become involved in the Local Plan.

It is considered that the policies outlined in the Local Plan will not lead to adverse impacts on particular groups within Milton Keynes. The policies are overarching and cover the whole of the district. Therefore the Local Plan does not give preference to, or neglect, such groups within Milton Keynes.