

# DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the council's Constitution

**Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

**Date:** 20 February 2012

**Decision in the matter of:** Minerals Issues Discussion Paper

**Decision:** That the Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity approve the Minerals Issues Discussion Paper for purposes of consultation on the development of minerals planning policies in the Local Plan.

**Background:** Cheshire East contains significant mineral resources and existing mineral operations. As such the Cheshire East Local Plan will need to contain strategic policies and specific site allocations in respect of minerals related development in the Borough. Policies in the Local Plan will supersede the existing Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan adopted by Cheshire County Council in 1999.

It will be the role of the Local Plan to ensure that adequate supplies of minerals are provided to meet foreseeable needs and that known mineral reserves are safeguarded from unnecessary development.

In order to stimulate debate and to seek the views of the minerals industry and other interested parties on the appropriate policy approach for minerals extraction, a Discussion Paper has been produced which it is intended to be subject to a period of consultation.

The document considers and asks for comments on 6 key issues as follows:

- Securing a steady and adequate supply of minerals
- Ensuring the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of mineral resources
- Safeguarding mineral resources
- Ensuring high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites
- Sustainable transport of minerals
- Underground gas storage following mineral extraction

It is intended that the document will be published for consultation for a

period of four weeks on the Council's website and specific invitations to comment will be sent to existing mineral operators present in the Borough, Town and Parish Councils, statutory consultees and environmental groups, although it will, of course be open to any person or organisation to submit comments. The results of the consultation will be reported back and ultimately will inform the content of the Local Plan.

**Background Documents:**

The background papers relating to this matter may be inspected by contacting the report writer.

**Approved:**

Councillor David Brown  
Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

**Date:**

20 February 2012

**Advising Officer:**

Richard House, Central Area Manager (Spatial Planning)