

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of Meeting: 20th February 2012
Report of: Spatial Planning and Housing Manager
Subject/Title: Minerals Issues Discussion Paper
Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces a Discussion Paper on the key issues to be considered in planning for Minerals in Cheshire East. It is intended to be published for stakeholder and general consultation.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the Minerals Issues Discussion Paper for purposes of consultation on the development of minerals planning policies in the Local Plan.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To ensure that the views of stakeholders are obtained on future minerals planning policy for Cheshire East.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including carbon reduction and health

- 6.1 The Cheshire East Local Plan will set out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and policies for the development of Cheshire East (outside the National Park) to 2030. It will interpret national planning policies within the context of Cheshire East Borough and will aim to ensure that the future development of the Borough is planned in a sustainable manner. It will be developed in co-operation with other adjacent local authorities to ensure that it contributes to the strategy for the future development of the sub-region.
- 6.2 The Local Plan will take into account other strategies and plans produced by the Council and its Local Strategic Partners in order to present a shared

vision and strategy to ensure consistency in programme delivery. It will deliver the spatial aspects of the Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy, “Ambition for All”.

- 6.3 The preparation of the Local Plan will include a Sustainability Appraisal which will assess the options for the policies and proposals for the plan against a number of social, economic and environmental objectives. These include objectives to reduce carbon emissions, health impacts and equality and diversity impacts.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 The printing of the document and the consultation will be funded from existing budgets.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 The production of a Local Plan that includes planning policies for minerals development is a statutory duty of Cheshire East as Minerals Planning Authority.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 None.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Cheshire East Local Plan will need to contain strategic policies and specific site allocations in respect of minerals related development in the Borough as it 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.
- 10.2 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 is intended to be subject to a period of consultation. A copy of the consultation document is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 10.3 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

10.4 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 analysed and ultimately will inform the content of the Local Plan.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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