

**FD.EVR6**

## **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

### **Policy 6: Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) and Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs)**

(was part of Policy 7: Mineral Allocation Areas, Mineral Allocation Consultation Areas and Mineral Safeguarding Areas at the preliminary draft stage)

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# 1. Introduction and National Policy Context

## Introduction

- 1.1. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are reviewing their joint adopted Minerals and Waste Development Plan and supporting documents. These comprise the following documents (with adoption date):
  - Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) (July 2011)
  - Site Allocations DPD (February 2012)
  - Block Fen and Langwood SPD (July 2011)
  - Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities SPD (July 2011)
  - RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD (February 2012)
- 1.2. The above Local Development Documents are to be replaced by a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan covering the period to 2036. The new Local Plan will set the overall spatial framework and development management policies for sustainable mineral and waste management development across the plan area.
- 1.3. This Evidence Report provides a narrative on the development of and justification for Policy 6: Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) and Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs) in the emerging new Local Plan.

## National policy

- 1.4. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provide the basis of national planning policy. Of specific relevance to Policy 6 are the following areas of the NPPF:
  - Paragraph 204 - *“Planning policies should:*
    - a) *Provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance, but do not identify new sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction;*
    - b) *So far as is practicable, take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of minerals, before considering extraction of primary materials, whilst aiming to source minerals supplies indigenously;*
    - e) *Safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for:...handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products;...*
    - h) *Ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality restoration and aftercare of minerals sites takes place.”*
- 1.5. A number of Paragraphs from the NPPG are also relevant, as follows:

*“Mineral planning authorities are encouraged to plan for minerals extraction using Ordnance Survey-based proposals maps and relevant evidence provided by the minerals industry and other appropriate bodies. Further information on the preparation of local plans can be found at the Local Plans section of the guidance.*

*This approach will allow mineral planning authorities to highlight areas where mineral extraction is expected to take place, as well as managing potentially conflicting objectives for use of land.”* (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 27-007-20140306)

*“Mineral planning authorities should plan for the steady and adequate supply of minerals in one or more of the following ways (in order of priority):*

*1. Designating Specific Sites – where viable resources are known to exist, landowners are supportive of minerals development and the proposal is likely to be acceptable in planning terms. Such sites may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction;*

*2. Designating Preferred Areas, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. Such areas may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction; and/or*

*3. Designating Areas of Search – areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply...”* (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 27-008-20140306)

*“Designating Specific Sites in minerals plans provides the necessary certainty on when and where development may take place. The better the quality of data available to mineral planning authorities, the better the prospect of a site being designated as a Specific Site.”* (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 27-009-20140306)

## 2. Local Context in Relation to Policy 6: Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) and Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs)

- 2.1. Local context for the Policy can be found in a separate evidence document available on the website, entitled “Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Level of Provision and a Spatial Strategy for Minerals”. Also see the latest published Local Aggregates Assessment.

## 3. Minerals & Waste Local Plan Policy

- 3.1. The Preliminary Draft Plan was published on 16 May 2018 and consulted on over a six week period to 26 June 2018.
- 3.2. Within the Preliminary Draft was Policy 7: Mineral Allocation Areas, Mineral Allocation Consultation Areas and Mineral Safeguarding Areas.
- 3.3. During the Preliminary Draft Consultation, there were 2 representations made on this policy, which were broadly in support. One representor suggested that the first sentence should include provision for alternative development, but only where it can be demonstrated that is acceptable, when considered against the other policies of the plan, and that the mineral has been appropriately won.

- 3.4. All representations were carefully considered.
- 3.5. As a consequence of the representations, as well considering any new evidence which may have emerged, the policy has been amended for the Further Draft Local Plan as follows:
- 3.6. First, Mineral Safeguarding Areas have been split out to form its own Policy (policy 5).
- 3.7. Second, like elsewhere, Mineral Consultation Areas has been merged with all other concusaltation areas in to its own policy (policy 16).
- 3.8. This means the resulting policy is a short one, confirming that allocations are made on the Policies Map, and that development within them must accord with its allocation.

## 4. Alternative Reasonable Options

- 4.1. The following alternative options have been considered (including in the Sustainability Appraisal Report):
  - A policy which defines Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) and Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs) on the Policies Map. This is the preferred approach, as it not only identifies such areas spatially to assist applicants and decision makers, it also protects MAAs from development being permitted other than in accordance with that which it was allocated for (including restoration).
  - Have no policy in relation to MDAs and MAAs. This option has been rejected because it would not provide clarity to applicants and decision makers, and would fail to protect existing and future mineral development from development other than which the site has been allocated for (including restoration).

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1. This evidence report demonstrates the rationale for the inclusion of this policy in the Further Draft Plan, and also demonstrates a summary of the issues raised at the earlier Preliminary Draft stage, and how the Councils have considered those issues raised.
- 5.2. Any representations received at the Further Draft consultation stage will be carefully considered, and this Evidence Report will be updated prior to the third and final consultation stage due in late 2019.