

**FD.EVR8**

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

### **Policy 8: Recycled and Secondary Aggregates, and Concrete Batching**

(was Policy 9 at the Preliminary Draft stage)

March 2019

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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 (MWLP) 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 8: Recycled and Secondary Aggregates, and Concrete Batching 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 8 are the following areas of the NPPF:
  - Paragraph 204 - *“Planning policies should... b)so far as practicable, take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials, whilst aiming to source minerals supply indigenously; ... e) safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport , handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products; and handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material; ...”*
- 1.5. The following paragraph from the NPPG is also relevant:

*“Planning authorities should consider the possibility of combining safeguarded sites for storage, handling and transport of minerals with those for processing and distribution of recycled and secondary aggregate. This will require close co-operation between planning authorities.”*  
(Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 27-006-20140306)

## 2. Local Context in Relation to Policy 8: Recycled and Secondary Aggregates, and Concrete Batching

- 2.1. There are a number of existing sites in the Plan area which produce recycled or secondary aggregate, some are located in association with mineral sites or with other land uses such as the Network Rail's National Track Recycling Centre at March, or the brickpits at Whittlesey; and others are stand alone waste management sites. Temporary aggregate recycling facilities can also be located at strategic development locations, and may be on site throughout the construction phase of the development. Together these sites make a valuable contribution to the supply of aggregate in the plan area, which reduces the need to use virgin land won mineral, in line with national planning policy and the overarching principle of sustainability.
- 2.2. Similarly, there are a number of concrete batching facilities in the area, some of which are permanent, whilst others can be temporary associated, for example, with the delivery of a major infrastructure scheme. In Cambridgeshire, as it is a two tier local authority area, concrete batching plants may be permitted by the County Council if they are proposed in association with mineral or waste management development; or by the relevant district council if they are proposed elsewhere.
- 2.3. It is important to facilitate the provision of such facilities given the significant level of growth planned over the period to 2036.

## 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 9: Recycled and Secondary Aggregates (now numbered Policy 8) which set out the importance that recycled and secondary aggregates can make to the general supply of aggregates, in accordance with the NPPF and NPPG. The two councils consider it necessary to include a policy which reflects the authorities proposed approach, which accords with national policy, and provides a policy framework for developers and decision makers.
- 3.3. During the Preliminary Draft Consultation, there was 1 representation made on this policy, which was in support of it, plus an additional comment on the supporting text which made reference to Block Fen / Langwood Fen - that allocation is dealt with in separate evidence reports.
- 3.4. Nevertheless, despite no objections to the Policy, the policy has been amended to include:
  - Reference to concrete batching, so as to be consistent with NPPF para 204;
  - Reference to allocations being made in the plan has been removed;
  - Further text on where suitable sites for such purposes could be located;
  - A new paragraph requiring recycling facilities on site for all strategic scale development proposals.
- 3.5. In addition, a new supporting text paragraph has been added in relation to concrete batching.

## 4. Alternative Reasonable Options

- 4.1. The following alternative options have been considered (including in the Sustainability Appraisal Report):
- Option 1 (preferred policy): include a policy, which is broadly based on the current adopted policy, which provides a clear succinct framework for developers and decision makers, supporting the principle of recycled and secondary aggregates, and concrete batching, and directing such proposals to likely suitable locations.
  - Option 2: No policy and rely on national policy. While this option has some merit, relying solely on national policy would not provide the locally specific policy framework considered necessary by the councils.
  - Option 3: A more restrictive policy, through setting specific allocations only for such proposals. This has been rejected due to the inflexibility that would arise, though it is acknowledged that such a policy would have more certainty as to where such proposals were likely to take place.

## 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.