

Shropshire Council - Examination of Shropshire Local Plan 2016-2038

Inspectors: Louise Crosby MA MRTPI, Carole Dillon BA (Hons) MRTPI & Nick Palmer
BA (Hons) BPI MRTPI

Programme Officer: Kerry Trueman – Programme Officer Solutions Limited

Tel: 07582 310364

email: programme.officer@shropshire.gov.uk

Mr E West,
Planning Policy and Strategy Manager
Shropshire Council
PO BOX 4826
Shrewsbury
SY1 9LJ

1 June 2022

Dear Mr West,

Inspector's Initial Questions – Minerals and Waste Policies

I have carried out an initial review of the minerals and waste policies of the Shropshire Local Plan and the submitted documents. Further to this, I have some concern as to whether the Plan is positively prepared, and therefore sound, with respect to aggregate supply. It would also assist me if you would provide clarification regarding how the Plan will provide for necessary waste infrastructure.

With these points in mind, I have identified initial questions for the Council to address. Your responses to these questions will enable me to consider these matters further and to progress my main issues and questions for the examination.

Please would you provide your responses to the following questions by 30 June 2022 via the Programme Officer. If you require additional time to provide your responses, please contact the Programme Officer.

Minerals

1. Has a more recent Local Aggregate Assessment than the 2019 document been produced? If so, please provide a copy.
2. The Planning Practice Guidance sets out that 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):
 - i) 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;
 - ii) 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

- iii) 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.

Why has this approach not been taken?

3. Is there any national policy that supports the use of a windfall allowance when planning for steady and adequate supply of aggregates and if not, is the windfall allowance therefore justified?
4. The Minerals Technical Background Report notes that 70% of permitted reserves are contained within sites which have been unworked for over 5 years and that several require significant capital investment. Therefore, will all permitted reserves come forward as anticipated over the Plan period?
5. Are the saved allocations deliverable within the plan period?
6. What evidence exists to show that windfall sites will come forward within the plan period at the rate expected?

Waste

7. Is it sufficiently clear in the Local Plan what capacity gaps for each waste stream exist and how these will be addressed?

Nick Palmer

INSPECTOR