

Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12

Summary Document

The Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2011/12 highlights the main changes which have been made to planning legislation over the financial year. It also set out the progress which has been made to the emerging 'Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies' and monitors the use of the saved minerals, waste, and general and environment policies contained in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan adopted in 2005. The Annual Monitoring Report notes the key minerals and waste planning decisions made over the financial year within the area of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire. In addition the Report lists the sites which have been refused or granted planning permission. It also identifies sales and reserves of aggregate sand and gravel, and silica sand, from mineral sites located within Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough.

This summary document records the key findings from the Annual Monitoring Report.

1) Key changes made to the planning system:

The Localism Act came into force on 15th November 2012, and includes provision for the revocation of all Regional Spatial Strategies, as well as the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. Applications for nationally important infrastructure will now be referred to the Planning Inspectorate. The Localism Act also requires Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to actively co-operate with other LPAs and stakeholders.

The Town and Country Planning regulations 2012 (no.767) made a number of changes in terminology. Development Planning Documents are to be renamed 'Local Development Documents', and Core Strategies are renamed 'Local Plans'. This means that the emerging Minerals and Waste Core Strategy will be renamed the 'Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies'.

2) Progress made on the Minerals and Waste Development

Framework (MWLDF):

Since the 1st April 2012 the Shared service has undertaken two public consultations on the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. The first consultation related to the tests of soundness, the second to a Main and Additional Modifications which had been made to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

Two Minerals and Waste Local Development Schemes have also been produced over 2011/12. The latest LDS (2012) reflects the changes in terminology, and includes a timetable of the production of the MWLDF, and considered that the Inspectors report on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is likely to be received in February or March 2013. It is anticipated that the Plan will formally become adopted in June/September 2013.

3) Planning Decisions:

A number of significant planning decisions were determined over the financial year 2011/12, including the Infrastructure Planning Commission's decision to grant the Development Consent Order for a Resource Recovery Facility at Rookery Pit South. Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils subsequently petitioned Parliament against the Order, through a Special Parliamentary Process.

In 2009 Biogen applied for planning permission to build and operate a 120,000 tonne energy recovery facility near Milton Ernest, to the north of Bedford. The applicant was refused planning permission, and the applicant appealed against that decision. In February 2012 the Secretary of State issued his decision letter, supporting the LPA's decision to refuse permission.

Over the financial year 2011/12, nineteen waste planning applications were granted planning permission, while two were refused permission. Fourteen mineral applications were granted planning permission, while none were refused permission.

Waste sites which were granted planning permission include: the Elstow waste transfer station, Monoworld, Chalgrave Golf club, Whitsundoles Farm, Brook Farm, Sundon Landfill, Brogborough Landfill, The Old Sand Pit and Octagon Farm North. Mineral sites which were granted planning permission include: Stone lane quarry, Great North Road, Chamberlains Barn, Warren Villas, Grovebury quarry, Broom quarry, Land to the south of A507, and Octagon farm (south). Only one mineral application increased the permitted reserves within the Plan area.

4) Policy usage

Commonly used saved policies from the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan include: policy GE1, Matters to be addressed in Planning applications, policy M6 Requirements for the determination of mineral

applications, policy W1 Key Principles, policy W9 Waste Transfer and Materials Recovery Facilities and policy W16 Landfill gas.

5) Enforcement action

Formal enforcement action was taken on four sites over the financial year, resulting in the issue of three Breach of Condition notices, two enforcement notices, and two hearings.

6) Minerals monitoring

Aggregate sand and gravel

Sales of aggregate sand and gravel in 2011 totalled 1,115,000 tonnes.

Permitted reserves of sand and gravel at 31st December 2011 total 19,899,000.

Silica sand

Sales of silica sand in 2011 totalled 551,000 tonnes, while permitted reserves of silica sand at 31st December 2011 totalled 10,745,000 tonnes.

Chalk

Permitted reserves of chalk within the Plan area totalled 44,005,000, 44 million tonnes is situated at Kensworth quarry, 5,000 located in Totternhoe quarry. Kensworth quarry supplies chalk to a cement works in Rugby, while Totternhoe quarry provides building stone to the local area.

7) Waste monitoring

In December 2011, the only non-hazardous landfill site operating within the Plan area- Stewartby landfill, ceased to receive non-hazardous waste. The majority of municipal solid waste (MSW) produced within Bedford and Central Bedfordshire are managed at:

- Sidegate Lane Landfill site (Northamptonshire),
- Elstow MRF and transfer station (Bedford Borough),
- Kingsway MRF (Luton)
- the community waste facility (Milton Keynes).

Please refer to the Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report for more information.