

Issue 15: Has the Plan been positively prepared and is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy in respect of its policies and proposals for minerals and waste needs in Leicester?

General Questions on Minerals and Waste Needs

455. Should mention be made of dealing with wastewater from new developments? In particular, who is intended to secure, or provide, further investment in wastewater treatment?

Yes. Wastewater from new development is addressed in paragraph 6.29 of the Climate Change and Flood Risk chapter of the plan. However, if it is considered that wastewater is more appropriately addressed within the Future Minerals and Waste Needs chapter, then the Council is content to move the paragraph by a minor modification to give it greater prominence.

The Council has undertaken a Water Cycle Study (EB/CC/3), which was updated in 2023 (EB/CC/3a). The Council has also consulted with Severn Trent Water (STW), who will provide further investment in wastewater treatment. As stated in Section 10 of EB/CC/3a in the part relating to wastewater, growth forecast within the Local Plan is likely to be served entirely by Wanlip Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) to the north of Leicester. STW have highlighted the limited capacity at Wanlip in their draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan. In response to this, several phases of investment are being planned by STW to ensure sufficient capacity is provided. STW have commented that they "would not anticipate any issues in providing capacity for the proposed growth for the Local Plan, subject to the completion of the currently proposed schemes for Wanlip WwTW in development". In a meeting with the Council in February 2023, STW confirmed that construction on the project is expected to start in the near term and will take four years. STW has a strategy in place so that capacity at the WwTW is not reduced during the construction period and development will not be prevented from coming forward during that time. This will therefore not comprise an impediment to development.

456. To ensure consistency between the Plan's policies should any design criteria for new development incorporate storage space for waste and investigate the opportunities for processing of waste on site?

Yes. The Designing Quality Places chapter policy DQP07 specifies criteria for providing storage space for waste in new development. Furthermore, the Council has waste management guidance which sets detailed criteria for effective waste and recycling storage and collection and is to be taken into consideration by developers at the design stage of proposed developments.

The Council would consider positively any opportunities to process waste on site and is therefore happy to add a criterion into DQP07 and supporting text for the policy to explain the requirements.

457. Given the role of the Environment Agency in permitting new waste sites, for clarity, should there be mention of this role within the supporting text to this chapter?

Yes, supporting text should mention the role of the Environment Agency in permitting new waste sites and the Council proposes making a minor modification to this effect.

458. Where specific sites have been identified, how does the evidence demonstrate that the allocations are appropriate to meet identified requirements?

Since the removal of the proposed household waste recycling centre as part of the former Western Park Golf Course site (Site 702), there are no waste/recycling sites identified for allocation in the Local Plan.

Please note that the Council is intending to undertake a separate Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which is intended to allocate sites. The Council has however included a criteria-based policy in this plan should any proposals for waste sites come forward prior to the Minerals and Waste Plan being adopted.

459. Is the supporting text at paragraphs 17.9-17.10 consistent with the approach set out in national policy, particularly relating to facilitating the sustainable use of minerals?

It is considered that paragraphs 17.9-17.10 do not sufficiently make clear that the Council's approach to facilitating the sustainable use of minerals is consistent with national planning policy. However, the Plan's policy approach is consistent with national policy as Policy FMWN03 ensures that areas of the city are identified for the safeguarding of minerals and sets criteria for proposals for minerals

development in a minerals safeguarding area, in line with para. 210 of the NPPF. Therefore, the Council proposes amending the wording of paragraphs 17.9-17.10 to clarify that the Council's approach is consistent with the approach set out in national policy.

460. For clarity, should the Plan clearly set out that Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) are areas of known mineral resource that are of sufficient economic or conservation value to warrant protection for generations to come?

Yes, the Council agrees that the Plan should set out that MSAs are areas of known mineral resource of sufficient economic or conservation value to warrant protection for generations to come and proposes making a modification to include this in supporting text.

Policy FMWN01 - New Waste and Existing Waste Uses

461. Is the first part of Policy FMWN01, concerning applications for new and extensions to existing facilities, justified, effective and consistent with national policy, particularly in terms of biodiversity and conservation?

Yes, the first part of the policy is justified, effective, and consistent with national policy, with particular regard to biodiversity and conservation, as the policy specifies in criterion e) that any impacts on the natural environment can be adequately mitigated. However, it is noted that the plan policies relating to biodiversity and conservation, namely Policies NE01, NE02, NE03, and NE04, are not referenced at the end of the criterion and the Council proposes making a modification to include these references in the policy text as follows (additional text to the current policy wording is underlined):

e) Any impacts on the natural and historic environment, and residential amenity can be adequately mitigated in line with policies regarding these matters within this plan (HE01, DQP06, NE01, NE02, NE03, NE04)

462. How would Policy FMWN01 drive waste management up the waste hierarchy?

The Council considers that a main modification is necessary to add a criterion into the policy which would require development proposals to be accompanied with an explanation as to how it will help drive waste management up the waste hierarchy.

Policy FMWN02 - End of Life Vehicle Facilities

463. How would Policy FMWN02 drive waste management up the waste hierarchy and promote the circular economy?

See answer to Q. 462.

Policy FMWN03 - Managing Leicester's Minerals Resources

464. Are issues of mineral extraction within the scope of the Plan and would the criteria form an effective basis for determining planning applications?

Yes, issues of mineral extraction are within the scope of the Plan. The Council's current minerals-related policies are the saved policies in the City of Leicester Local Plan (2006). Inclusion of minerals-related policies in this Plan is an effective approach to updating the city's policies in this area until such time that a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan is adopted.

465. Does Policy FMWN03 provide a positive approach/framework to bring forward necessary mineral resources?

The Council recognises that the policy does not provide a positive approach/framework in the sense of identifying sites for allocation, however, the Council is intending to address this situation in the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Until such time that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is adopted, inclusion of minerals-related policies in this Plan is an effective approach to updating the city's policies in this area.

Policy FMWN04 - Provision of New Aggregate Recycling Facilities

466. How does the Plan influence non-minerals development with a view to minimising the reliance on primary aggregates, such as the adoption of sustainable design principles, construction methods and procurement policies and reusing or facilitating the recycling of wastes generated on-site and using alternative construction materials?

The Plan influences non-minerals development with a view to minimising reliance on primary aggregates through policies in the Climate Change and Flood Risk chapter, most notably Policy CCFR02, which supports the use of materials that have a reduced level of embodied carbon, e.g., through the re-use or recycling of materials,

and the design of development to be disassembled and re-used or recycled (rather than demolished) in accordance with circular economy principles. However, to clarify the Council's position, it is considered beneficial to add a policy in the Designing Quality Places chapter to support the re-use of materials in construction.

467. Does the Plan provide sufficient guidance to applicants as to how compliance with Policy FMWN04 is expected to be achieved?

The Council is willing to provide further clarification as to how compliance is expected to be achieved in supporting text for the policy.

468. How will the effectiveness of this policy be monitored?

This will be considered within the Local Plan's monitoring framework.