

Reference Number

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Officer's Delegated Powers Report -
in Consultation with a Member of the Cabinet Executive**
(For use where powers exercised under Part 3 Section 1(c) of the Constitution)

PART A

1A. Report Author

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1B. Title of Report

Leicestershire County Council Minerals Development Framework: Preferred Options Consultation

1C. Public/Exempt?

Public

1D. Urgent Need for Decision?

No

2A. Forward Plan Reference (if applicable)

N/A

2B. Key Decision? (Contact HALS/CCM for advice)

No

3. Matter(s) for Consideration

Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider and agree a response to Leicestershire County Council on the Minerals Development Framework: Preferred Options Consultation

Introduction

3.2 Leicestershire County Council is currently reviewing the Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan Review (LMLPR) (1995). The reason for this review is due to the introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which requires Local Plans to be replaced by Local Development Frameworks by 2007. The current Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan is

therefore due to be replaced by a Minerals Development Framework (MDF), which will cover the period to 2021.

- 3.3 In accordance with Government requirements an Issues and Options consultation document was produced at the first stage in preparing the MDF, with the aim of generating initial ideas and opinions on the future of minerals development in Leicestershire. The Issues and Options consultation document identified key issues arising from the review of the current Minerals Local Plan and several options were identified as a means of addressing each issue. Consultees were invited to select a preferred option from the available options. The Head of Planning and Environmental Health Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Natural and Built Environment, responded to the Issues and Options consultation documents on behalf of Blaby District Council in August 2005.
- 3.4 The MDF Issues and Options consultation document indicated that there is a shortfall of permitted reserves of sand and gravel to meet future requirements. Having identified this shortfall in March 2006 Leicestershire County Council identified several potential minerals sites for inclusion in the MDF as allocated sites for future minerals development. Leicestershire District and Parish Councils were provided with a list of the sites and were invited to comment upon them. Two potential sand and gravel sites were located in Blaby District; an extension to Huncote Quarry and a new site at Flash Farm, Huncote.
- 3.5 The Issues and Options consultation document stated that, given the level of permitted reserves of igneous rock, there is no need to release further resources during the MDF period, therefore eliminating an extension to Croft Quarry from inclusion as an allocated site.

Current Consultation Stage

- 3.6 The comments received from the previous consultations have been used to inform the production of the MDF Preferred Options documents. The Preferred Options papers include a "Core Strategy and Development Control Policies" document and a "Site Allocations" document. Both documents are accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The documents are subject to a six week consultation period which ends on 6 October 2006.
- 3.7 Following this Preferred Options consultation, the MDF will be produced in a form suitable for submission to the Secretary of State. The MDF is intended to include a Core Strategy, Detailed Development Control Policies, a Site Specific Allocations document, a Proposals Map, and possibly Supplementary Planning Documents. All documents will first be produced in draft form giving members of the public and key stakeholders, including this Council, the opportunity to comment on each proposal.

Mineral Reserves in the District of Blaby

- 3.8 The key aim of the MDF is to balance the needs for mineral development with the need to protect the environment and the local community. The District of Blaby has a limited range of mineral resources but those that do exist are well established. Granite is extracted at Croft Quarry which is owned by Aggregate Industries. In 1995 an extension was granted to the quarry which at that time was expected to provide an additional 20- 25 years supply of

