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Sent: 30 September 2015 16:18  
To: Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation - E&E  
Cc: PHILLIPS, Kevin  
Subject: GCC Response to Oxfordshire County Council – Publication of Minerals & Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy

For the attention of the Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Policy Team –

Please accept the following representations as a technical officer response from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). For ease of consideration a series of issue-specific bullet points have been prepared. These relate back to previous comments submitted by GCC to earlier versions of the emerging Oxfordshire M&W Core Strategy: -

- GCC MPA officers acknowledge the recent permissions at Gill Mill and Caversham and the positive impact these will have on the local sand & gravel landbank. This may alleviate some of the previous concern expressed by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) regarding the continuing pressure placed upon its remaining local supplies of sand & gravel (and the realistic prospect of facilitating their sufficient replenishment);
- GCC MPA officers note the application of the updated LAA (2014) to inform the preparation of the 2015 proposed submission version core strategy document. In light of the consultation response from GCC in relation to the LAA itself earlier in the year, no further comment is made as to the consequential requirement put forward in the plan under the supporting text to policy M2. Specifically in respect of policy M2, the decision not to include figures from the current LAA is supported. A policy commitment to: - 'meet the requirements in the most recent LAA'; is wholly acceptable as it offers the right level of flexibility. It is deemed a sound way forward;
- GCC MPA officers welcome the revision to policy M3 and the expansion of the number of potential strategic resource areas that will be considered for the future potential working of sharp sand & gravel;
- GCC MPA officers welcome the revision to policy M4, particularly with respect to the less prescriptive policy framework for future site allocations work. The removal of arbitrary limits on site proposals within the principal locations for working aggregates is a positive change. Nevertheless, a degree of uncertainty remains as to how realistic achieving a different pattern of supply – away from the west and more to the south will be. The proposed core strategy doesn't include any assessment of candidate site allocations, which will ultimately determine whether the proposed strategy can realistically be implemented;
- In addition to the policy comments set out above, GCC MPA officers can confirm that the potentially strategically significant sand & gravel proposal at Down Ampney, which would have occurred across the county boundary between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire has been formally disposed of. This decision was published on 1st June 2015 following communication with the applicant – Hanson. This proposal equated to just under 5.5mt of sand & gravel over a working period of

approximately 12 years. Due to a change in landowners since the original submission (in 2009), a subsequent review of the land holding by the new landowner and a resulting decision to abandon the appointment of the preferred operator, it was confirmed that there was no prospect of the application being progressed. At this point in time no alternative proposal for mineral working is being pursued to the knowledge of the MPA. The implications of this decision are significant to the security of future local sand & gravel supplies from Gloucestershire (and Wiltshire) a circumstance that does not improve when considered against the paucity of other alternative potential local resources being promoted at this time. For Oxfordshire, this may have implications in terms of projected future supplies and the realistic prospect that the current level of imported sand & gravel from Gloucestershire will likely continue beyond the short term.