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Ms Kirby-Hawkes
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Enquiries to: Gavin Stonham
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My reference:
Your reference:
Date: 07 July 2015

Dear Ms Kirby Hawkes

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – Draft Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire and Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Documents

Thank you for consulting Havant Borough Council on the above draft supplementary planning documents. The comments of the Borough Council are set out below.

Havant Borough Council welcomes Hampshire County Council's commitment to work with local planning authorities that fall within the Minerals and Waste Plan area around cross-boundary issues of common concern and interest. Minerals and waste safeguarding and oil and gas development are strategic issues that affect any authority that has minerals sites within its boundary. It is therefore important to fulfil the duty to co-operate in the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework for our authorities to engage constructively on such issues.

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – Draft Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire SPD

Comment:

The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Minerals Consultation Area 2015 policies map shows that there are superficial sand and gravel sites and brick clay sites in Havant Borough, mostly in the undeveloped gap between Havant and Emsworth. It also shows three safeguarded Minerals and Waste infrastructure sites, in Brockhampton, on land between Crookhorn and Farlington and on land adjacent to the A3(M) between Purbrook and Leigh Park.

The guidance in paragraphs 4.10 and 4.14 on when the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority should be consulted on local plan preparation and on non-minerals or waste development proposals that could affect these sites is generally clearly set out, as is the process for consultation on page 30 (figure 3). This guidance should help to avoid unnecessary consultation as well as ensuring that Hampshire County Council is consulted when it needs to be on new local plan allocations or future non-minerals or waste development proposals that could affect a minerals resource.

I did not feel however that it was clear from pages 32-34 of the SPD as to which sites fall within the Minerals Consultation Area (MCA) and which sites are safeguarded. I understand from discussion with your planning officers that safeguarded sites are known sites which are part of the Plan and are defined on the Minerals Consultation Area 2015 policies map and that the MCA is all of those sites collectively. I feel that it would be desirable for this to be better explained, either in the body of the SPD or in the glossary.

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There are a number of housing allocations in the Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) which are either within or adjacent to safeguarded minerals sites as indicated on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2015 policies map. The Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) policies for these allocations contain a requirement for Hampshire County Council to be consulted on development proposals for these areas.

It is anticipated that there *may* be a future requirement for Havant Borough to accommodate additional housing, employment and associated infrastructure development under a new Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Spatial Strategy 2016-2036, when it is finalised. The Minerals sites identified by HCC are currently protected against development to some degree by policy AL2 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) (Urban Area Boundaries and Undeveloped Gaps between Settlements). Should additional housing be required within the MCA that cannot be accommodated within the urban area, this would not necessarily cause a conflict with the need to safeguard minerals but it could generate pressure for minerals sites to undergo prior extraction (subject to a separate planning application to Hampshire County Council being approved) to address the safeguarding issue, if the criteria in Policy 15 of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013 cannot be successfully demonstrated. It will therefore be important for our authorities to liaise closely over any potential future development in this area. Havant Borough Council would not wish any potentially important development sites to be undermined by uncertainties created by the need for prior extraction of minerals.

Draft Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document

Comment:

Havant contains oil and gas sites, as shown on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Minerals Consultation Area 2015 policies map. However, unless the development is classified as permitted development, planning permission to develop these sites for oil or gas extraction would need to be sought from the Minerals Planning Authority (i.e. Hampshire County Council). These applications would not be dealt with by Havant Borough Council.

The SPD explains that oil and gas resources are not safeguarded due to their depth beneath ground level and low likelihood of a resource sterilisation threat from surface level development. This means that for ordinary non oil or gas development planning applications Havant Borough Council would not need to consult Hampshire County Council.

Based on this information, the SPD appears to have no specific direct impact for Havant Borough Council as a non-Minerals Planning authority and so I have no comments to make on it.

If you would like to discuss any the matters raised in this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Stonham
Policy Planner