

Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Main Issues Statement

Main Matter 8 – Delivery, Implementation and Monitoring

Questions 131 to 135

Issue: Whether the delivery, implementation and monitoring arrangements will be effective.

Question 131: Would the indicators to monitor effectiveness be sufficiently detailed to enable effective monitoring?

Response

131.1 There is a balance to be struck in monitoring between gaining a suitable level of understanding of policy effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes and ensuring that the act of monitoring is not over-onerous for the resource(s) involved.

131.2 The indicators have been developed to focus on the key outcomes desired through each policy, but without becoming burdensome in their number or nature. They are considered to be sufficiently detailed to enable effective monitoring.

Question 132: Does the monitoring process for minerals and waste provide for co-operation and participation and are the appropriate participants involved?

Response

132.1 Monitoring the Plan is the responsibility of Herefordshire Council, to be reported in Annual Monitoring Reports and the Local Aggregates Assessments, with more detailed review undertaken every five years.

132.2 However, Herefordshire Council is an active member of both the West Midlands Aggregates Working Party (WMAWP) and Regional Technical Advisory Body (WMRTAB), two groups that regularly share information across the participants. This includes preparation of the regional Annual Monitoring Report, which draws data from each participant authority's Annual Minerals Survey.

132.3 Co-operation between smaller groups of authorities within the West Midlands is also fostered, as demonstrated, for example, by the *Statement of Common Ground held between Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire Councils* (Examination Library ref: [D2.30](#)).

132.4 The Environment Agency and representatives from both the minerals and waste industries are members of the WMRTAB and WMAWP. These groups provide a good forum for co-operative working, and enabling a wider approach to monitoring both minerals and waste.

Question 133: Does the monitoring process for minerals and waste provide for flexibility? What contingency measures are in place in the event of non-delivery or lower than expected delivery of minerals and waste facilities? What measures are in place to allow for higher than forecast levels of demand for minerals and waste facilities?

Response

133.1 The Plan has been prepared building in flexibility; it is deliberately silent on unnecessary detail, instead focussing on providing a positive framework within which to bring forward new development.

- 133.2 Monitoring does not provide the flexibility. It provides check points for the Council to understand the effectiveness of the Plan and to identify when change to policy may be required, and what that change should be. Monitoring would be undertaken annually, with more detailed review every five years.
- 133.3 The Development Management Team at Herefordshire Council has advised of recent, active interest in the mineral site allocations; consequently it is reasonable to expect that these will be brought forward. Delivery of residual waste infrastructure is less certain, and has been recognised as a key challenge within Herefordshire throughout preparation of the Plan.
- 133.4 The approach within the Plan has been to identify a number of sites, in different locations and forms, to provide a range of opportunity for the market to bring forward development proposals.
- 133.5 There are opportunities to deliver more minerals and waste development than is forecast through the evidence base, so providing some flexibility in the event of greater demand.

Question 134: Are suitable arrangements in place for reviews of the minerals and waste sections (either separately or as part of the wider plan) at appropriate sites?

Response

- 134.1 Polices M3 and M4 specifically refer to five-year reviews. Annual monitoring will be undertaken, with more detailed review implemented as necessary.
- 134.2 Herefordshire Council is a unitary authority with good working relationships between the Development Management and Policy Teams. The Development Management Team has been involved throughout preparation of the Plan, providing information and advice and commenting on draft policy. There is already an exchange of information between the teams that will provide for ongoing review of the Plan.

Question 135: With reference to Policy SP1 and Table 3 (Monitoring) how will reduction in waste and promotion of a circular economy be measured?

Response

- 135.1 A reduction in waste can be identified through waste data gained from Waste Data Interrogator and WasteDataFlow. However, it is important to recognise that waste generation is influenced by a number of different factors, and it is unlikely to be possible to ascribe any of the activities presented in policy SP1 to any specific reduction in waste.
- 135.2 Promotion of a circular economy can be measured through records of the actions that the council has undertaken, through details presented in the Resource Audits and through recording the details of development proposals that include relevant activities.