

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee **DATE:** 2nd August 2017
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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

RESPONSE TO CENTRAL & EASTERN BERKSHIRE JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION PAPER

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to confirm the Council's formal response to the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Issues and Options Consultation Paper.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to resolve that:

The response to the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Issues and Options Consultation Paper set out in paragraphs 5.11 to 5.19 of the report be endorsed.

3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Ensuring that needs are met within the local area will have an impact upon the following SJWS priorities:

- *Health*
- *Economy and Skills*
- *Regeneration and Environment*
- *Housing*

3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes

Ensuring that we plan properly for minerals and waste in the area impacts upon

Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of the proposed action in this report which can be achieved within existing budgets.

(b) Risk Management

It is considered that the risks can be managed as follows:

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Risk/Threat/Opportunity</i>	<i>Mitigation(s)</i>
That the Committee endorses the response response to the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Issues and Options Consultation Paper.	The failure to make representations on neighbouring Authorities plans could have an adverse impact upon Slough and its plans.	Agree the recommendations.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications as a result of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equality impact issues.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council are working in partnership to produce a joint Minerals and Waste Plan for the period up to 2036.
- 5.2 West Berkshire has been preparing a similar plan for some time.
- 5.3 This Council decided not to join in with the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste plan because it was not considered to be a priority at this stage. Although Slough is surrounded by active and proposed gravel extraction sites there are very few opportunities left for further extraction in the Borough.
- 5.4 Whilst waste may be more of an issue for Slough, the future capacity of the Borough will be to a large extent determined by the future of the Grundon's Energy from Waste plant at Colnbrook which will be demolished if the proposed third runway at Heathrow goes ahead. This means that any strategic decisions about waste in Slough will have to wait until this is resolved.
- 5.5 The emerging Central and East Berkshire Plan will an impact upon Slough and so it is important that we are properly engaged in the process.
- 5.6 The document notes that there are around 30 waste management facilities in the 4 districts which do not provide sufficient capacity for the waste arising in the area. It also notes that Slough has around 20 such facilities and so, to fully consider realistic waste management options it may be necessary to take Slough into account.
- 5.7 Whilst Slough does not have many mineral resources it has a large number on its boundary and has the rail depot at Colnbrook which the neighbouring authorities are partly dependent upon. As a result the cross boundary movement of aggregates will also have to be taken into account in any minerals strategy.
- 5.8 As the first stage in the plan preparation process the Central and East Berkshire Authorities have produced an Issues and Options consultation which is intended to engage the community in discussing the issues for managing minerals and waste. It also seeks to gather more evidence to inform the options for developing policies and site allocation in the plan.
- 5.9 In order to do this the document contains 119 questions for people to answer. These range from what the plan period should be, to seeking comments on the vision through to a large number of technical questions about the source and accuracy of the data that has

been obtained.

Response to Consultation

- 5.10 The deadline for responding was 21st July and so Officers have submitted a response upon behalf of the Council. This concentrated on the questions that were most relevant to Slough and made the following points.
- 5.11 It is recognised that it is difficult to produce a meaningful spatial strategy for minerals and waste, particularly for a comparatively small area. Options are limited by the fact minerals can only be dug where they are and waste management is highly dependent upon the location of major operators. Nevertheless the Vision and the Spatial Strategy in the consultation document are very generic and not specific to Berkshire.
- 5.12 One of the key issues identified in the consultation is the future of the Grundons energy from waste plant which could be lost if the proposed third runway at Heathrow goes ahead. It is considered that this as a vital strategic waste management facility for Central and Eastern Berkshire as well as Slough and so should be replaced.
- 5.13 The document recognises the importance of the rail depot at Colnbrook for importing minerals which could also be affected by the proposed third runway. It is considered that this also important that this should be retained.
- 5.14 Although the consultation document considers the impact of major infrastructure projects such as the proposed third runway, it does not mention the proposed western connection passenger rail link to Heathrow which could have significant implications for the need for minerals and disposal of waste.
- 5.15 The consultation document does not refer to Slough Power station. It is considered that the increased capacity for incineration which could become available, as a result of the planning permission that we have granted to SSE, should be taken into account in the emerging Plan.
- 5.16 As a general point it is considered that Central & Eastern Berkshire should be more self sufficient in its processing of construction and demolition waste?
- 5.17 With regards to gravel extraction it is considered that remaining Preferred Areas in Slough identified the Berkshire Minerals Plan are unlikely to come forward because of access problems and the lack of any interest in the sites.
- 5.18 It should be noted that there are three active sites, and a fourth with planning permission, on Slough's boundaries in both Windsor and Maidenhead and Buckinghamshire. The haul routes from all of these sites come through Slough and so they should be capable of supplying any demand within the Borough. This should be recognised in any assessment of supply and demand in the area.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 It is important that Slough is properly engaged in the preparation of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan because of the implications that this could have for the Borough. The response to the Issues and Options consultation set out in this report is the first stage in this ongoing process.

7 Background Papers

- Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Issues and Options Consultation Paper – June 2017