

01 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Soft Sand Review of the Joint Minerals Local Plan – Planning Inspector’s Report

In partnership, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) have undertaken a Soft Sand Review (SSR) of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan (JMLP), as required by Policy M2 of the adopted Plan. The SSR has considered the need for soft sand during the plan period (to 2033) and identified changes to the JMLP to meet this demand, including the need for new site allocations.

In April 2020, the proposed changes to the JMLP were submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Following hearing sessions for the examination between 25 and 27 August 2020, the Government-appointed Inspector indicated that the submitted changes needed to be modified to make them ‘sound’ and suitable for adoption.

Formal consultation on Proposed Modifications to the submitted changes took place during November and January 2021. The representations received were forwarded to the Inspector for his consideration following close of the consultation.

The Inspector has now issued his report. He has only recommended minor amendments to the Proposed Modifications and, subject to their inclusion, he concludes that the changes identified through the SSR satisfy the legal requirements and meet the criteria for soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The County Council will consider the Inspector’s Report at Full Council on 19 March 2021 and decide whether or not to adopt the formal changes (as modified) to the Joint Minerals Local Plan. The SDNPA will do likewise at its Full Authority meeting on 25 March 2021.

Following adoption by both Authorities, a notice of adoption will be issued and the adoption of the formal changes to the JMLP will be subject to a six-week period for legal challenge. The revised JMLP, incorporating the changes, will then be published.

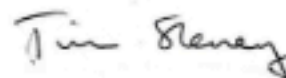
If you would like to view the Planning Inspector’s Report and the associated schedule of modifications, they are available on our website; www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf.

If you cannot access the documentation online, please contact the County Council’s Planning Policy and Infrastructure Team on 01243 642118 or email mwdf@westsussex.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



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Head of Planning Services
West Sussex County Council



Tim Slaney
Director of Planning
South Downs National Park Authority