

Record of operational decision

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| Decision title: | Decision to approve and sign a Statement of Common Ground with Worcestershire County Council and Gloucestershire County Council on strategic, cross-boundary minerals and waste planning matters. |
| Date of decision: | 27 July 2022 |
| Decision maker: | Interim Service Director, Planning and Regulatory |
| Authority for delegated decision: | Economy and Directorate Scheme of Delegation; Strategic Planning, paragraph 6. |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | None |
| Decision made: | To approve and sign a Statement of Common Ground with Worcestershire County Council and Gloucestershire County Council on strategic, cross-boundary minerals and waste planning matters. |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>The Statement of Common Ground (SOCG), at appendix A, endorses the principle that Herefordshire Council (HC) has collaborated with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) during the preparation of the emerging Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan in identifying strategic planning matters. It demonstrates effective and ongoing joint working across administrative boundaries.</p> <p><i>Reason for SOCG</i></p> <p>The SOCG has been drawn up in pursuance of the statutory requirements to maintain effective cross-boundary co-operation, as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (paragraphs 24 to 27).</p> <p>The SOCG updates and replaces the 2019 memorandum of understanding between HC, WCC and GCC.</p> <p><i>Purpose of the SOCG</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out roles and responsibilities to aid collaborative working on strategic matters; • Demonstrates how statutory obligations under the Duty to Cooperate are being met in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ facilitating the steady and adequate supply of land-won sand and gravel, crushed rock aggregates and industrial minerals; and ○ the delivery of sustainable waste management throughout the three administrative areas; • Promotes the adoption of good practice partnership working; • Establishes clear, consistent, effective and mutually beneficial and consistent approaches to evidence gathering, data analysis and dissemination; and • Supports local plan-making functions and local decision-making on planning applications, as well as potentially informing sub-national or national policy development. |

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| | <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <p>After the SOCG has been signed by HC, it will be sent to WCC and GCC. Once signed by all three authorities, the SOCG will be made publically available on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan examination pages of the Herefordshire Council website.</p> <p>Appendix A: Statement of Common Ground between Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire County Council and Gloucestershire County Council on strategic, cross-boundary minerals and waste planning matters</p> |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | <p>There are no implications for the council's equality duty arising from the proposed SOCG.</p> <p>There are no additional costs expected to result from the process, other than some staff time in drafting and implementing the SOCG.</p> <p>There are no health and safety implications in relation to this decision.</p> <p>No legal issues are foreseen, as the SOCG is not intended to be legally binding. However, the SOCG will assist the Council in meeting the duty to cooperate requirements of the Localism Act (as amended).</p> <p>Signing the SOCG will help reduce the risk of failing the statutory duty to cooperate tests, which will be considered at the forthcoming independent Examination in Public of the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan. There is a greater risk attached if the SOCG remains unsigned.</p> |
| Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: | <p>The only alternative option is not sign the prepared SOCG. Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire council have been collaborating over a number of years on the production of positively prepared and justified minerals and waste planning strategies for their authorities. The SOCG sets out the principle of this joint working approach and the expectation for future effective planning on minerals and waste matters.</p> <p>To decline the opportunity to be a signatory to the SOCG would not be in accordance with the council's statutory obligations under the duty to cooperate or with advice contained in the National Planning Policy Framework or in nation planning policy guidance.</p> |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | None |

I am an officer delegated to make the decision

Signed:

Print Name: Tracey Coleman

Job Title: Interim Service Director, Planning & Regulatory