

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2024

MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

Purpose of report: To update members about progress in preparing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Introduction:

1. Surrey County Council (SCC) in its capacity as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date development framework in respect of minerals and waste management development. At present, this framework comprises the following development plan (DPD) and supplementary plan (SPD) documents:
 - The [Surrey Waste Local Plan 2019 – 2033](#).
 - The [Surrey Minerals Plan Core Strategy 2011 – 2026](#).
 - The [Surrey Minerals Plan Primary Aggregates DPD 2011 – 2026](#).
 - The [Surrey Aggregates Recycling Joint DPD 2013 – 2026](#).
 - The [Surrey Minerals Plan Site Restoration SPD 2011 – 2026](#).
2. Planning applications for minerals and waste management development in the county must by law be determined in accordance with these policy documents and any other material planning considerations e.g., the [National Planning Policy Framework 2023](#) (NPPF). Surrey's 11 Local Planning Authorities (LPA) must also have regard to these policy documents in preparing their local development plans and making planning decisions.
3. In November 2020, SCC's Cabinet resolved to begin the preparation of the county's first joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) recognising that the minerals development framework requires updating, and to address a range of challenges. These included a changing climate, biodiversity loss, and the growing overlap between minerals and waste management development, and in particular the positive role recycling can play in conserving and keeping primary materials in use for as long as possible to prevent waste.
4. In March 2021, officers updated the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee (CEHSC) about the preparation timetable for the MWLP and

preliminary work done in respect of the first formal stage of the plan-preparation process - the Regulation 18 Issues and Options Public Consultation. At this time, an initial member engagement strategy for this stage of the plan-preparation process was agreed following and taking on board engagement with members of the CEHSC.

5. In September 2021, officers briefed the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth (the Cabinet Member) about the purpose, scope, and range of the Issues and Options consultation and held an all-member briefing session about the same.
6. In October 2021, the Cabinet Member, in consultation with SCC's Cabinet, agreed to the launch of the Issues and Options public consultation. Accordingly, in November 2021, the MWPA commenced the Issues and Options consultation which was open for 16 weeks. The consultation closed in March 2022.
7. In June 2022, officers provided the CEHSC with a written update about the preliminary outcomes of the Issues and Options consultation and the associated implications for the MWLP. In September 2022, the MWPA published a Summary of Responses Report relating to the MWLP and the Issues and Options public consultation.
8. In May 2023, the Cabinet Member agreed an extension to the timetable for the preparation of the MWLP by 24 months to address the lack of waste site options and because of various uncertainties as discussed in paragraphs 31 to 33 below. This resulted in amendment of the [Minerals and Waste Development Scheme](#) (MWDS).
9. At present, a range of project and technical work is ongoing with respect to the second stage of the MWLP preparation process - the Regulation 18 Preferred Options Public Consultation. This consultation will commence in June 2025 and a draft MWLP document will be published at the same time.

Looking Back – Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Issues and Options Public Consultation

10. The first of several formal stages of preparing a local development plan document is prescribed by [Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#). It requires that the MWPA formally notify a range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders about SCC's intention to prepare a local development plan document and invite their representations about what that document ought to include.
11. Consequently, the purpose of the 16-week Issues and Options public consultation was to: (a) formally notify statutory and non-statutory stakeholders

of SCC's intention to prepare the MWLP; (b) scope relevant challenges and opportunities; and (c) find out what is important to stakeholders in respect of minerals and waste management development.

12. The consultation also involved a 'call for sites' exercise which comprised an invitation to landowners and the minerals and waste management industry to nominate any land in Surrey that may be suitable for future minerals or waste management development.
13. In summary, the Issues and Options consultation material set out the strategic planning (regulatory, spatial and policy) context for minerals provision and waste management in Surrey and explored the overall scale of need for additional minerals and waste management facilities over the MWLP's 15-year plan-period.
14. A wide range of traditional and social media, digital tools, correspondence, meetings, and exercises were employed by officers to notify and engage with stakeholders about the consultation and encourage their feedback. These initiatives included informal discussions with Surrey's Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and other special interest groups (such as the Weald Action Group) prior to commencement of the consultation; written notification of over 650 stakeholders (including Surrey's Members of Parliament); a [YouTube video](#); a GIS-based and interactive [story map](#); and advertised public drop-in events at public libraries.
15. The Issues and Options consultation attracted 144 written representations whilst its digital consultation platform attracted over 2,300 visitors and 205 contributions. Over 245 stakeholders watched the MWPA's YouTube video and over 200 stakeholders subscribed to receive news and updates about the MWLP. The use of social media to promote and publicise the consultation resulted in over 334,000 targeted and organic social media impressions with over 580 clicks. The 'call for sites' undertaken in parallel to the Issues and Options consultation generated over 20 site nominations.
16. Despite the concerted efforts of officers to publicise the Issues and Options public consultation and meaningfully engage with stakeholders about the same, the consultation attracted a modest response.
17. However, alongside digital and traditional engagement activities, the MWPA commissioned Lake Market Research to conduct qualitative research and gather informed, in-depth feedback from Surrey residents about the vision and 13-strategic objectives proposed in the Issues and Options public consultation. This comprised two deliberative, virtual focus group workshops held with 53 residents in March 2022. The information collected from these exercises is intended to complement other consultation outputs and provide additional insight from a representative resident audience who do not typically engage in planning

consultation exercises (hard to reach groups) and help officers gain a fuller understanding of the perspective of Surrey's range of communities.

18. Overall, feedback received in response to the Issues and Options public consultation was largely constructive and positive and will be helpful in informing the continued preparation of the MWLP. The MWLP's [digital consultation platform](#) and the relevant Issues and Options consultation material remains accessible to stakeholders.

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

19. Following the Issues and Options consultation, in June 2022, officers reported the key themes and outcomes emerging from consultation to the CEHSC. This report included a selection of non-representative comments made by stakeholders and detail about the nature and extent of the relevant consultation material, stakeholder engagement, and publicity.

Summary of Responses Report

20. In September 2022 the MWPA published a [Summary of Responses Report](#) relating to the preparation of the MWLP and the Issues and Options public consultation. This report, in accordance with SCC's [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (2019) provides a detailed summary of the nature and extent of the Issues and Options consultation material, stakeholder engagement, and publicity; and representations made by stakeholders. It also records and sets out the MWPA's initial responses to the issues raised and feedback provided by stakeholders and lists the nominations made pursuant to the associated 'call for sites'.
21. The policy options identified, and material planning matters raised by stakeholders, along with site nominations made pursuant to the 'call for sites' exercise, will be considered by officers and used to inform the preparation of the draft MWLP and Regulation 18 Preferred Options Public Consultation.
22. Publication of the Summary of Responses report on SCC's website was advertised by way of the ['latest news'](#) facility related to the MWLP digital platform.

Site Identification and Evaluation

23. The NPPF requires that planning policies should provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance, and that the MWPA should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals (sharp sand and gravel and soft sand¹) and industrial minerals (silica sand² and brick clay³) in the

¹ Permitted reserves of 7-years

² Permitted reserves of 10-years for individual sites

³ Permitted reserves of 25-years

form of specific sites, preferred areas and/or areas of search and locational criteria as appropriate.

24. Similarly, the [National Planning Policy for Waste 2014](#) (NPPW) explains that the MWLP should identify sites and/or areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities in appropriate locations and to provide sufficient capacity to manage an equivalent amount of waste to that arising in the county over the MWLP plan-period.
25. To this end, and since November 2022, the MWPA has assessed 287 individual sites (including 22 'call for sites' nominations pursuant to the Issues and Options consultation) to establish their suitability for inclusion in the draft MWLP as potential minerals and waste management site options.
26. These preliminary assessments focused on potential sites for aggregate minerals and waste management and involved a range of differing policy and environmental filters to narrow down long lists of site options to short-lists which were and could be subjected to further detailed assessment.
27. For aggregate minerals, the site identification and evaluation process yielded a shortlist of 15 site options which will be subject to further assessment, engagement, and consideration in 2024 to ascertain their viability for future mineral working. Further detail relating to this work is provided in paragraphs 58 to 61 below.
28. However, the site identification and evaluation exercise for waste management produced fewer suitable options. Of the 12 site options initially shortlisted for waste management only 1⁴ was considered suitable following further assessment by officers.
29. At the close of the Issues and Options consultation, the county was forecast to experience a waste management capacity gap of up to 1.3 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by 2035⁵. This capacity gap was anticipated mainly due to the expiry of several temporary planning permissions for construction, demolition and excavation waste (CD&E waste) recycling facilities⁶ and the lack of capacity to manage (residual) waste that cannot be reused, recycled or recovered i.e., 'other recovery' capacity.
30. The waste management capacity gap anticipated and the absence of suitable waste management site options poses a significant challenge to the preparation

⁴ Some 3ha of land for 'other recovery'.

⁵ Based on SCC's 2019 Waste Capacity Needs Assessment.

⁶ One of the main ways in which inert waste is managed.

of the MWLP in that it will need to provide for sufficient facilities to manage waste arising in Surrey over the 15-year plan-period.

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme

31. The need to identify suitable land for waste management facilities to bridge the forecasted capacity gap in Surrey beyond 2035 is a challenge which has not been resolved by the 'call for sites' undertaken as part of the Issues and Options consultation, or the subsequent site identification and evaluation exercises undertaken by officers.
32. Preparation of the MWLP also faces significant hurdles and uncertainties arising from the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#); the Government's intention to amend the NPPF, reform the plan-making system, and introduce National Development Management Policies; forthcoming regulations pursuant to the Environment Act 2021; and Natural England's review of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundaries – all of which have the potential to materially affect the way the MWPA plans for future minerals and waste management development.
33. For these reasons, in May 2023, the Cabinet Member approved an extension to the timetable for preparing the MWLP for an additional 24-months. This extension means that second stage of the plan-preparation process, the Regulation 18 Preferred Options Public Consultation, will take place in June 2025 whilst the MWLP is anticipated to be examined in public in late 2026 to coincide with the end of plan-period associated with the existing minerals development framework. The updated MWDS was published on SCC's website and advertised by way of the 'latest news' facility related to the MWLP's digital platform.

Waste Capacity Needs Assessment

34. To partly address the need to identify suitable land for waste management facilities and to update SCC's 2019 Waste Capacity Needs Assessment (WCNA), the MWPA commissioned a comprehensive WCNA for the county covering the period up to 2042 including a review of land-take requirements for modern waste management facilities.
35. In this regard, since December 2022, officers have been working with waste planning consultants to review anticipated arisings for principal waste streams and identify corresponding management capacity requirements for Surrey over the MWLP plan-period (2026 to 2042). These assessments have established that:
 - There is a sufficient capacity to meet the recycling and composting requirements through to the end of the MWLP plan-period.

- From 2031 there is a predicted shortfall in non-inert landfill which will result in a cumulative shortfall in residual waste management capacity of some 607,000 tonnes towards the end of the MWLP plan-period.
 - Even when considering capacity at the gasification facility at Charlton Lane Eco Park there is a predicted shortfall in 'other recovery' capacity throughout the MWLP plan-period.
 - A shortfall in inert waste (CD&E waste) recovery capacity of some 224,500 tonnes is predicted to arise in 2027 increasing to about 1,219,000 tonnes per annum in 2042.”
36. To address these challenges it will be necessary to, inter alia, safeguard Surrey’s existing waste management facilities; establish if capacity at facilities outside Surrey will remain available for the MWLP plan-period; and identify land (where appropriate) to provide for ‘other recovery’ capacity for non-inert waste, recovery capacity for inert waste either in the form of CD&E recycling facilities or permanent deposit to land (such as the restoration of mineral workings or large-scale engineering schemes), and/or the possible provision of further non-inert landfill capacity.
37. The WCNA has been published on SCC’s website and advertised by way of the ‘latest news’ facility related to the MWLP’s digital platform.

Call for Sites

38. Consequently, to identify new site options for future waste management development officers issued another ‘call for sites’ in November 2023 targeted specifically at land that may be suitable for waste management development.
39. The ‘call for sites’ held in 2021/2022 was linked to the Issues and Options consultation and targeted at landowners and organisations in Surrey. In contrast, the second ‘call for sites’ is targeted at a UK-wide audience by being publicised in several prominent national agricultural, materials/waste, and land-use planning publications. Officers hope that this national approach will enable a good selection of Surrey site options to be nominated by landowners for the MWPA’s consideration. The second ‘call for sites’ is set to close at the end of February 2024, further detail is provided in paragraph 53 below.

Looking Ahead – Minerals and Waste Local Plan
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40. With the new timetable for the preparation of the MWLP, officers are undertaking a range of preparatory work relevant to the second stage of the plan-preparation process, the Regulation 18 Preferred Options Public Consultation which will commence in June 2025. This work can be separated into several key streams.

Project Management

41. Officers will adopt a project management approach to the preparation of the draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation to align with SCC's ambitions for delivering projects and programmes across the organisation, support SCC's priority objectives⁷ and provide the best outcomes for residents.
42. Officers are therefore in the process of preparing a project plan which is due to be finalised in early 2024. The purpose of the project plan is to provide transparency, structure, certainty, and appropriate oversight in relation to preparation of the draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation. It will also identify key workstreams, tasks and milestones. This approach is consistent with SCC's ambition for consistent and high-quality project management.
43. As part of the project plan, officers will be proposing four gateways at key points in the project timeline which will facilitate, and be used to assess, project progress, and determine whether it is on track to meet its objectives or whether it requires remedial action. Where remedial action is required, gateways will be used to identify what action(s) need to be taken by officers to correct course or otherwise expedite progress. At each gateway, there will be a meeting of a project board to review relevant work that has taken place or due to take place, evaluate project progress and help officers make necessary decisions. Initially, the project board will agree the scope of the project, its objectives and outcomes, governance arrangements, project timeline, and project risks and mitigations.
44. It is anticipated that the project board will comprise members who have permanent and temporary roles. Permanent board members will be expected to be available at each gateway and include an Executive Sponsor, a Senior Responsible Owner, a Project Manager, a Project Officer, and a Technical Expert. Temporary board members will be invited to contribute to the management of the project on an ad-hoc basis according to relevant workstreams and the need for specific skills, knowledge, expertise, or advice. Ad-hoc board members could include the Cabinet Member, SCC Directors, and specific team managers or senior officers who specialise in relevant subjects including planning law, spatial planning, development management, communications, and community engagement.

Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan

45. The project plan will be supplemented by a Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (SCEP) which is anticipated to be finalised before the end of March 2024 with the help of SCC's community engagement and communication teams/officers. This plan will set out how the MWPA will communicate and

⁷ Enabling a growing economy and a greener future, tackling health inequalities, and empowering thriving communities.

engage with stakeholders (including elected members and residents) relative to the preparation of the draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation.

46. Having regard to the four project gateways discussed at paragraphs 43 and 44 above, a summary of key communication and engagement work to be carried out by officers is set out below for illustrative purposes⁸:

Table 1: Key Project Stages

Project Gateway 1	Foundation
<i>By 31 March 2024</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and present officer report updating CEHSC members about MWLP preparation progress. • Hold SCC members Q&A forum. • Finalise SCEP. • Maintain open-door policy for members who wish to discuss any aspect of the MWLP preparation process. • Continue to use 'latest news' facility to advertise MWPA publications e.g. Local Aggregates Assessment, Annual Monitoring Report, WCNA. 	
Project Gateway 2	Sites
<i>By 31 January 2025</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to use 'latest news' facility to advertise MWPA publications e.g. Local Aggregates Assessment, Annual Monitoring Report, WCNA. • Preparation of public events to be held during the Preferred Options consultation window including those related to locations of preferred site options. • Prepare and hold an all-member briefing and Q&A about preferred site options. 	
Project Gateway 3	Policy
<i>By 31 March 2025</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise preparation of public events to be held during the Preferred Options consultation window including those related to locations of preferred site options. • Commence publicity of public events to be held during the Preferred Options consultation window including those related to locations of preferred site options. 	
Project Gateway 4	Consultation Launch
<i>By 30 June 2025</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise preparation of digital consultation platform. 	

⁸ See Draft SCEP at Appendix 2 for further detail.

- Prepare and publish social media, and other publicity material including leaflets posters.
- Prepare and distribute hardcopy prints of Preferred Options consultation material.
- Prepare digital and traditional press advertising in a range of publications.

47. The draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation is set to be published and commence by 31 June 2025 respectively. The consultation is anticipated to be open to stakeholders for at least 10 weeks meaning that it is likely to close in early September 2025.
48. During the Preferred Options consultation window, several public events will be held at a range of venues (at differing times) across Surrey. Some of these events may be by invitation only, and others will be open to all that have an interest in the preparation of the MWLP. These events will be managed by officers and used to facilitate constructive face-to-face engagement with a range of stakeholders particularly residents, communities and elected members who may be close to preferred site options identified in the draft MWLP.
49. Officers will also utilise the 10-week Preferred Options consultation window to respond to any questions, concerns, or requests made by stakeholders (including residents and elected members). During this time, officers would also make themselves available to meet with any special interest groups, resident associations, statutory stakeholders, and elected members to discuss the draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation where requested, practical, and appropriate.

Member Engagement Strategy

50. Elected members are important stakeholders for the purposes of the draft MWLP and Preferred Options public consultation. Consequently, officers will seek to keep them informed and engaged leading up to and during the consultation. Officers intend engaging with members in the following ways leading up to the launch of the Preferred Option consultation in June 2025:

Table 4 – Member Engagement

Action	Date
From December 2023 to June 2025, officers will continue to maintain an open-door policy for members so that they can seek information, ask questions, or raise concern about any aspect of the MWLP preparation process including the forthcoming publication of the draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation.	

Officers will prepare and hold a Q&A session with members of the CEHSC about the preparation of the MWLP.	Early 2024
Officers will provide the CEHSC with a written updated about MWLP preparation progress and challenges since December 2023.	December 2024
Officers will prepare and hold a Cabinet Member Briefing about preferred site options (minerals and waste) to be included in the draft MWLP.	By end of January 2025
Officers will prepare and hold a Cabinet Member Briefing about preferred policies to be included in the draft MWLP	By end of April 2025
Officers will prepare and hold an All-Member Briefing about preferred site options and policies to be included in the draft MWLP	Before June 2025
Officers will prepare a written report for SCC's Cabinet seeking approval for Preferred Options consultation to commence.	Before June 2025

Waste Capacity Needs Assessment

51. As explained in paragraphs 34 to 37 above, the 2023 WCNA is an important evidence document for the preparation of the MWLP. It is an objective and quantitative assessment that determines the waste management capacity gap in Surrey for each principal waste stream, and in turn how much land may need to be identified by the MWLP for new waste management facilities by 2041/2.
52. The 2023 WCNA has informed the preparation of SCC's 2022 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), and in 2024 (and subsequent years) the WCNA and AMR will be updated by officers⁹ concurrently to provide for a consistent evidence base which supports the preparation of the MWLP. These documents will be published on SCC's website as appropriate, and publications will be advertised using the 'latest news' facility related to the MWLP's digital platform.

⁹ With the support of technical experts where necessary.

Site Identification and Evaluation

53. Considering the waste management capacity gaps set out in paragraph 35, officers anticipate that the MWLP would, in theory, need to provide for additional waste management capacity through the allocation of new sites. However, in practice, this need will be met through a combination of:
- Identifying suitable land appropriate for new permanent and strategic waste management facilities through a second 'call for sites' for sites exercise and evaluating the suitability of any new site options nominated pursuant to the second 'call for sites'.
 - Initiating specific discussions with Surrey's LPAs with a view to identifying land that may be suitable for CD&E waste recycling and 'other recovery' facilities, including employment, housing, or brownfield land.
 - Initiating specific discussions with neighbouring MWPA's to explore the potential for a proportion of Surrey's CD&E waste management and 'other recovery' capacity requirements to be provided for by existing waste management facilities or allocated waste sites in neighbouring counties.
 - Carefully considering and assessing the implications of continuing with the existing policy approach of providing for temporary CD&E waste recycling capacity at mineral workings contrary to the preferences of stakeholders as expressed during the Issues and Options consultation.
 - Working with LPAs and SCC's development management officers to prepare planning policy and associated guidance which emphasises the strategic importance of safeguarding Surrey's existing waste management infrastructure and promotes and facilitates sustainable waste management and a circular economy.
 - Continuing discussions with landowners and waste operators to identify new land that may be suitable for waste management, and existing waste management facilities that may be suitable for expansion, diversification, or improvement to provide for new or additional waste management capacity.
54. The suitability of any new sites or land identified through these initiatives would be evaluated by officers in the same way as site options previously assessed as discussed in paragraph 26 above.
55. Issues that affect the likely spatial distribution or location of future waste management development in Surrey are identified and described in Appendix B of the NPPW. However, there are additional challenges that will need to be considered by officers in this regard including the Metropolitan Green Belt;

locations where growth in waste arisings is likely to materialise over the MWLP plan-period; identified need for future waste management capacity; and the distribution of existing waste management facilities including CD&E waste recycling.

56. As discussed in paragraph 27 above, the situation regarding aggregate minerals site options is generally more favourable, and it is expected that once the existing short-list of site options has been subjected to further assessment officers are expecting there to be sufficient suitable site options to provide for the 7-year landbank requirement for soft sand and sharp sand and gravel over the course of the MWLP plan-period.
57. However, following the completion of the further assessment work the aggregate mineral site options identified will need to be evaluated to establish their viability. Viability of mineral site options would concern factors such as the extent and quality of mineral deposit and certainty that the landowner would provide for the extraction of the mineral resource. Ascertaining viability would also involve a range of technical input from several stakeholders including the Highway Authority; the Lead Local Flood Authority; the Environment Agency; relevant LPAs; and SCC's Historic Buildings Officer, Archaeologist, Landscape Officer, and Ecologist¹⁰.
58. The number of site options for aggregate minerals to be included in the draft MWLP (or the amount of sand and gravel the MWLP will provide for) will be based on local and regional aggregate demand and supply economics over the 15-year plan-period. This need is calculated annually by the MWPA having regard to a range of factors and presented in SCC's LAA documents which are published on SCC's website following agreement with the South East England Aggregates Working Party (SEEAWP).
59. Similarly, in 2024, site identification, evaluation, and viability exercises will be undertaken for industrial minerals (silica sand and brick clay). The number of site options for industrial minerals to be included in the draft MWLP will also be based on quantitative demand and supply assessments prepared by officers and published as part of the Preferred Options public consultation.
60. The location all mineral site options to be included in the draft MWLP will be based on the draft spatial strategy for minerals presented to stakeholders as part of the Issues and Options consultation. For minerals development (excluding oil and gas) any spatial strategy is limited by the fact that minerals can only be worked where they are found, and some resources are sterilised or

¹⁰ Similar efforts would be made in respect of waste site options particularly technical input from technical experts such as the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Environment Agency, and the Highway Authority.

cannot be worked due to the presence of other development (such as housing). The type of resources available in different parts of the county reflect the underlying geology of the area. For example, sharp sand and gravel is generally limited to the northwest, soft sand (and silica sand) is found in a narrow band that generally runs through the centre of the county, and brick clay deposits are generally found in the south.

61. For oil and gas development, the MWLP will not set out a spatial strategy or identify or otherwise allocate land. These are matters which are predetermined by Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDL) issued by the [North Sea Transition Authority](#) (formerly the Oil and Gas Authority). However, the MWLP will seek to provide guidance for each PEDL area about matters that need to be considered when developers' select locations for new well sites.
62. During the 10-week Preferred Options consultation window, officers intend holding public events at suitable venues in (or close to) communities which may be affected by preferred site options identified by the draft MWLP. This will enable officers to meet residents and elected members in person and discuss the relevant site identification and evaluation process and any concerns they may have about preferred site options (or any other aspect of the draft MWLP).
63. Site identification and evaluation reports and quantitative demand and supply assessments prepared by officers to inform the draft MWLP and Preferred Options consultation will be published as part of the consultation exercise in the interests of transparency and stakeholder scrutiny. These reports are also likely to be the principal subject of discussion at some of the public events to be held during the Preferred Options consultation window.

Conclusions:

64. Preparation of the MWLP faces several challenges which have arisen since conclusion of the Regulation 18 Issues and Options public consultation in March 2022. To address some of these challenges officers will need to undertake a range of specific actions which would not be possible within the original plan-preparation timetable. Consequently, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth agreed an extension to the plan-making timetable for an additional 24-months.
65. Since June 2022 officers have been undertaking a range of work to lay a sound foundation for preparing and publicising the draft MWLP and Regulation 18 Preferred Options public consultation which is set for June 2025. This has included the preparation of a comprehensive and up-to-date Waste Capacity Needs Assessment, Annual Monitoring Report, and Local Aggregate Assessment. It has also involved preparing and publishing a Summary of

Responses report associated with the Issues and Options consultation, identification and evaluation of 287 minerals and waste site options, and preparation and publication of a second 'call for sites'.

66. Looking ahead, officers will continue to prepare the draft MWLP and Regulation 18 Preferred Options consultation within a project management framework to ensure that associated workstreams are managed effectively to meet the key gateways set out in the project timeline¹¹. In this way, officers are confident in overcoming the challenges discussed in this report including identification of sufficient suitable minerals and waste site options to meet Surrey's need for a steady and adequate supply of minerals and sufficient facilities to manage its waste. It will also help ensure that officers prepare a positive and effective draft MWLP and Preferred Options public consultation that provides clarity and certainty to stakeholders and which enables a growing economy and a greener future, tackles health inequalities, and empowers thriving communities.

Recommendations:

67. To note the progress made in preparing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan since the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee was last updated in June 2022; and the challenges to the same following the conclusion of the Regulation 18 Issues and Options public consultation.
68. To acknowledge the project management approach to preparing the draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and Regulation 18 Preferred Options public consultation.
69. To encourage member feedback about the draft Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan or any other aspect of the plan-preparation process set out in this report.

Next steps:

70. Officers will continue to prepare the draft MWLP and Regulation 18 Preferred Options public consultation in line with any finalised project plan and Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan. The Preferred Options public consultation is set to be undertaken in June 2025 in accordance with SCC's Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement.

¹¹ See Appendix 1 for a streamlined version of the draft project plan timeline.

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Sources/background papers

Delegated Report to Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth about Minerals and Waste Development Scheme – 25 April 2023.

Minerals and Waste Development Scheme - May 2023.

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Issues and Options Summary of Responses Report 2022.

Surrey County Council 2022 Annual Monitoring Report.

Surrey County Council 2022 Local Aggregate Assessment.

Surrey County Council Waste Capacity Needs Assessment 2019.

Surrey County Council Waste Capacity Needs Assessment 2023.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Surrey County Council Statement of Community Involvement 2019.