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**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

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To:
Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultees

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Date: 17 August 2015

Ref: S:\SPED\15.1.2\4.12
Please ask for: Peter Day

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Dear Sir or Madam,

**Publication of Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy
Proposed Submission Document, August 2015
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (Reg. 19)**

Towards the end of July we gave advance notice that we would be consulting on the County Council's new Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy proposed submission document. The Core Strategy sets out the County Council's vision, objectives, spatial strategies and core policies for minerals and waste developments in Oxfordshire to 2031. On 24 March 2015 the County Council approved the Core Strategy for publication and submission. On 22 July we made the Core Strategy available on the Council's website, in advance of publication.

The Council proposes to submit this plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy proposed submission document and other proposed submission documents are being **published on 19 August 2015**, to enable representations to be made on the plan before it is submitted for examination. The other documents include: a Statement about Consultation carried out in preparation of the plan; the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the plan; Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report; Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; Local Aggregate Assessment; and Waste Needs Assessment. We are also preparing a duty to co-operate statement and topic papers to support the Core Strategy, assist understanding of the issues and help explain the strategies and policies.

The **Core Strategy proposed submission documents will be available from 19 August 2015** for viewing and downloading from the Council's website at:

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy>

The accompanying statement of publication and availability of the plan and statement of representations procedure gives information on where the proposed submission documents can be viewed and how to make representations. Representations may be made in writing or by electronic communications and should be sent to the County Council using the representation form provided, by one of the two ways below. Forms can be downloaded from the Council's website (as above) or obtained from the Minerals and Waste Policy Team (details below).

a) Send by email to: mineralsandwasteplanconsultation@oxfordshire.gov.uk

b) Send by post to: Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Consultation
Environment & Economy
Planning Regulation (Minerals & Waste)
Oxfordshire County Council
Speedwell House, Speedwell Street
Oxford OX1 1NE.

Representations must be received by 5.00pm on 30 September 2015.

Representations received after this date cannot be accepted. Only representations received by this date will have a right to be considered by the Inspector who carries out the examination of the plan. It is important that you submit representations at this stage if you wish to have your views considered.

Representations may be made on whether the way the Core Strategy has been prepared is legally compliant and whether the content of the plan meets the government's tests of soundness. Guidance on making representations is provided with the representation form. Where individuals or groups have similar views, it would be helpful if they would join together to submit a single, joint representation.

After 30 September 2015, we will summarise the main issues raised in representations and will submit the Core Strategy, the summary of issues and the full representations to the Secretary of State. If any representations raise matters which suggest that fundamental changes to the plan are required, we will consider the appropriate way to proceed. In the event that the Council decides that a change to the plan should be proposed, this may be published for a separate period to enable further representations to be made.

The independent examination of the plan, by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2016. The Inspector may request persons making representations that raise substantive issues that require further consideration to attend an oral hearing part of the public examination. There is only a right for a representation to be heard at an oral hearing where a change to the plan is sought. Written and oral representations carry the same weight and will be given equal consideration by the Inspector. We expect to receive the Inspector's report in summer 2016. If the Core Strategy is found by the Inspector to be legally compliant and 'sound', the Council will then adopt it.

If you would like more information on this process, or to obtain a representation form, or if you are unable to access the proposed submission documents on-line, please contact the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy team at the address above or by:

Email: mineralsandwasteplanconsultation@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01865 815544 or 01865 810431.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Day – Minerals & Waste Policy Team Leader