

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - optional ECIA review

Reference: ECIA577349368

Submitted: 24 January 2024 12:26 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy / decision:** Essex Minerals Local Plan, 2025-2040 (Regulation 18 – Issues and Options) Public consultation

**Policy / decision type:** Public consultation

**Overview of policy / decision:** The Essex Local Minerals Plan (MLP) was adopted in July 2014. The Plan provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029 and identifies future sites for mineral extraction.

Proposed amendments to the MLP 2014 were consulted on in March/April 2021.

An engagement exercise focusing on mineral provision, which included a call for new sites, was held in early 2022. Up to this stage it was intended to keep the Plan end date to 2029.

We are now proposing to extend the Plan to 2040 covering a 15-year period from 2025. New sites will be needed to meet the forecasted demand for aggregates (sand and gravel) over this period. Doing so will ensure that the Plan is robust and can help maintain a 'steady and adequate' supply of aggregates and meet the relevant 'tests of soundness' as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Due to the Plan date extension, a second call for sites exercise was held in September 2022. Both Call for Sites exercises generated 52 site submissions for consideration for inclusion in a new Plan.

The suitability of the 52 submitted sites has been assessed by independent consultants and a report of the findings prepared. A revised Plan has also been drafted, titled Essex Minerals Local Plan, 2025-2040 (Regulation 18 – Issues and Options).

We are now scheduled to hold a six-week public consultation on both of these documents and their associated evidence base starting in February 2024.

Following the public consultation, we will assess all comments received. Evidence may be presented that justifies additional amendments to the Plan and any of the site assessments.

Following the drafting of any additional amendments, we will consider the next appropriate step. This may include more detailed technical assessment on candidate sites in light of comments received or moving towards selecting Preferred Site allocations to inform any further consultation (Regulation 19 – Pre-Submission).

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Minerals underpin our entire way of life and support our plan led growth agenda, in being able to create great places for people. Minerals provide the construction materials we need in Essex to build our new homes, places of work, transport infrastructure and essential services such as health, education and recreational facilities. Minerals and aggregates are essential to energy generation, agriculture, manufacturing and many other businesses. We also have additional very important development and infrastructure projects to deliver over the coming decades, not least the emerging Garden Communities, Lower Thames Crossing, A12 upgrade and a proposed new nuclear power station at Bradwell.

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** Tom Walker (Economy, Investment and Public Health)

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Cllr Lee Scott (Planning a Growing Economy)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** Change to an existing policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** The Minerals Local Plan goes through various stages of public consultation with responses to each analysed for engagement and equalities issues. The analysis findings for each consultation stage are then highlighted within the Authority Monitoring Report which is published every December.

**Will this policy / decision impact on:**

**Service users:** No

**Employees:** No

**Wider community or groups of people:** Yes

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?:** Good jobs, Infrastructure, Future growth and investment

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment:** Transport and built environment, Minimise waste, Green communities

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** All Essex

## **Digital accessibility**

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

## **Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics**

### **Age**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - learning disability**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - mental health issues**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Sex**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Gender reassignment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Marriage / civil partnership**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Pregnancy / maternity**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Race**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Religion / belief**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Sexual orientation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The revised Essex Minerals Local Plan and proposed sites would impact the whole of Essex in general not just any one group listed above.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

## **Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts**

### **Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Children on Free School Meals**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Residents of Harlow**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Residents of Jaywick and Clacton**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Residents of Harwich**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Residents of Canvey Island**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The revised Essex Minerals Local Plan and proposed sites would impact the whole of Essex in general not just any one group listed above.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

**Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups**

**Refugees / asylum seekers**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Homeless / rough sleepers**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People who experience drug and alcohol dependence**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Offenders / ex-offenders**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Victims of modern slavery**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Carers**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Looked after children / care leavers**

**Nature of impact:** None

**The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People who are unemployed / economically inactive**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People on low income**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Sex workers**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Ethnic minorities**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The revised Essex Minerals Local Plan and proposed sites would impact the whole of Essex in general not just any one group listed above.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

**Equalities - Geographical Groups**

**People living in areas of high deprivation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People living in rural or isolated areas**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People living in coastal areas**

**Nature of impact:** None

**People living in urban areas**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The revised Essex Minerals Local Plan and proposed sites would impact the whole of Essex in general not just any one group listed above.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

## Families

**Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families before, during and after couple separation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The revised Essex Minerals Local Plan and proposed sites would impact the whole of Essex in general not just any one group listed above.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

## Crime & Disorder

**Crime and disorder**

**Nature of impact:** None

**The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Re-offending**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Serious violence**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:**

There are no crime and disorder impacts

**(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:**

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:**

N/A

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:**

## **Climate**

**Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit):** Yes

**Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?:** Planning applications for new minerals development proposals or proposals that generate traffic impact and/or an increase in traffic movements, shall be accompanied by a Transport Assessment or Transport Statement that demonstrates: - Appropriate measures to reduce car travel to the site, by workers and visitors and encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport, thus minimising carbon dioxide and methane emissions. Issues such as electric cars and low emission vehicles will be considered in future work.

**If car travel is unavoidable, are you specifying electric cars and vehicles?:** No

**What is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?:** Planning applications for new minerals development proposals or proposals that generate traffic impact and/or an increase in traffic movements, shall be accompanied by a Transport Assessment or Transport Statement that demonstrates: - Appropriate measures to reduce car travel to the site, by workers and visitors and encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport, thus minimising carbon dioxide and methane emissions. Issues such as electric cars and low emission vehicles will be considered in future work.

**Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?:** No

**Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new:** No

## **Nature of impact**

**Built Environment / Energy:** None

**Sustainable Transport / Travel:** None

**Waste:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The Minerals Local Plan Review including this public consultation would impact the whole of Essex in general.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

## **Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts**

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** No

## **Details of person completing the form**

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date ECIA completed:** 15/01/2024

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Rebecca Rushmer

**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** rebecca.rushmer@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Economy, Investment and Public Health

**Your service area:** Planning Service

**Your team:** County Planning

**Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** graham.thomas@essex.gov.uk