

1 Response Paper – Plan Introduction

Purpose of Plan Introduction

- 1.1 The plan Introduction is a high-level strategic section of the plan that provides an overview of components expressed in more detail elsewhere in the plan. The Introduction provides a map of the Essex administrative area to which this Plan relates and explains the need for the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) Review.
- 1.2 The Introduction also discusses the economic importance of minerals, the plan area, the minerals supply hierarchy in Essex, the plan's legal status, marine aggregate provision, and minerals development covered by the plan.

Summary of Amendments Prior to March 2021 Regulation 18 (Reg 18) Consultation

- The foreword from the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Map 1 updated
- Section was re-ordered, and proposed amendments were made to update the status of the plan and include some contextual information relating to the Review.
- Proposed amendments to correct planning context and remove text that would date the plan

Impact of Revisions to NPPF 2021

- 1.3 Paragraph 1.3(1.2) of the Plan Introduction will need to be updated to reference the NPPF 2021 rather than the NPPF 2019.

Summary of Issues Raised through March 2021 Reg 18 Consultation

- 1.4 A number of responses indicated that they agreed with the proposed Plan Introduction although no further detail as provided. A number of objections, clarifications and other proposed amendments were suggested through the raising of the following issues:
 - Foreword does not recognise investment in nationally significant infrastructure
 - Require the word “non-recyclable” to be included in paragraph 1.14 (1.15) to align the plan Introduction with the Spatial Vision
 - Welcome the inclusion of marine planning systems but new wording needs correcting
 - Section is dated and does not consider overall environmental impacts

Addressing Issues Arising Out of March 2021 Reg 18 Consultation

- 1.5 This section acts to address the issues raised through the March 2021 Regulation 18 Consultation in relation to this policy, as set out above, and

subsequently details any changes in approach made through their consideration. These changes of approach will be incorporated within The Draft Essex Minerals Local Plan 2025-2040 Regulation 18 document which will again be subjected to a Regulation 18 public consultation.

- 1.6 There now follows a discussion of each of the main issues raised in relation to this Plan section:

Foreword does not recognise investment in nationally significant infrastructure

- 1.7 Through the Regulation 18 Consultation 2021 it was stated that the foreword does not appear to recognise the current and ongoing comprehensive investment in nationally significant infrastructure that is apparent both within the county and the southeast of England sub region. It was suggested that it may be beneficial to do so at the outset as latter sections of the plan do recognise this context.
- 1.8 The MWPA notes that the Plan Foreword is an introductory message from the Essex Cabinet Member with responsibility for the production of the Minerals Local Plan. The Foreword is a summary of the importance and issues of mineral supply in order to highlight the role and importance of the MLP, particularly to local residents. The Foreword is not intended to be a comprehensive assessment of the role and contents of the MLP.
- 1.9 It is however agreed that the MLP also has a strategic role to play with regards to the provision of mineral. Table 1, in the Spatial Vision, criteria C is proposed to be updated to recognise that there are significant infrastructure projects planned within Greater Essex which will potentially create additional localised need for mineral. The list of 'Major Infrastructure Schemes' in the Spatial Portrait and Key Mineral Planning Issues section of the plan has also been updated.

Aligning Plan Introduction with the Spatial Vision

- 1.10 Through the Regulation 18 Consultation 2021, it was stated that the word "non-recyclable" should be added to Paragraph 1.15 before the inserted wording of "construction demolition and excavation waste" to align the statement to Section 3.0 Strategy, the Spatial Vision and Table 1: Vision for Essex to 2029 point (F) which promotes the need to maximise construction demolition and excavation waste recovery to support a circular mineral economy.
- 1.11 The MWPA notes that part of the MLP's overarching ambition, as stated in paragraph 1.14 (1.15), is to reduce "as far as practicable the quantity of mineral used and construction, demolition and excavation waste generated", not only "non-recyclable" waste. The addition of the words "non-recyclable" to this paragraph would assume that the MWPA are only aiming to reduce non-recyclable waste, and not waste in its entirety. Criteria F of the Spatial Vision seeks to maximise the recycling and reuse of construction, demolition, and excavation waste. As such, the current wording of the amendment is considered to remain appropriate.

Correcting Reference to Marine Planning Systems

- 1.12 It is proposed to amend paragraph 1.21 (1.19) of the plan Introduction which currently states that “Both the terrestrial and marine planning systems apply to the intertidal area (between Mean High Water Springs and Mean Low Water Springs).” A representation received through the Consultation noted that this was incorrect and stated that the wording should be amended as follows, “(from Mean High Water Springs to the territorial limit).” The MWPA proposes to make this amendment.

Introduction is Dated and does not consider overall environmental impacts

- 1.13 A respondent to the Reg 18 Consultation stated that they Strongly disagreed with the Plan Introduction. It was considered that it was already dated and that it does not consider the overall environmental impact in the areas under extraction. It was further noted that since Climate change action groups are proposing to reduce carbon then the production of aggregates has to decrease.
- 1.14 The Introduction was updated prior to the Reg 18 Consultation to bring the plan up to date, and certain references such as specific financial statistics have been removed as they would quickly date the plan. As previously mentioned, the plan Introduction is a high-level strategic section of the plan that provides an overview of components expressed in more detail elsewhere in the plan. Policy S12 (Mineral Site Restoration and After-Use) and DM1 (Development Management Criteria) in particular address potential impacts to local amenity from extraction activity.
- 1.15 With regards to matters of climate change specifically, the Government’s Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener recognises the impact that construction has on the environment and seeks to decarbonise. Approaches include decarbonising the supply chain and considering the full life cycle of new buildings to reduce waste associated with demolition. With regards to the strategy of sand and gravel provision, the role of the MLP is to make sustainable provision for a steady and adequate supply of minerals, and this amount is determined by the market. The MLP has a stated aim of seeking to ‘reduce reliance on primary mineral resources’, which the MWPA is able to do by making alternative materials more readily available and economically attractive by promoting a network of aggregate recycling facilities and subsequently safeguarding them (Policy S5, Policy S8/ emerging Policy S9), such that the ‘demand’ for primary minerals is reduced through the provision of economically viable alternatives.
- 1.16 It is also noted that Policy S3: Climate Change includes a number of proposed amendments which seek to better realise the potential climatic benefits from site restoration and after-use schemes, including those set out in relevant Local Plans and Green Infrastructure Strategies, for biodiversity and habitat creation, flood resilience, countryside enhancement, green and blue infrastructure and the provision of living carbon sinks. It is also proposed to be stated that the Mineral Planning Authority will support minerals development which increases

the resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts and require minerals development to consider the use of decentralised and low and zero carbon energy technologies generation, where feasible and viable, in order to reduce the consumption of energy and natural resources.

- 1.17 The MLP cannot however artificially suppress mineral demand by not making sufficient provision for the demand or banning the use of minerals in construction or requiring the use of certain technologies. Such interventions would be required to be mandated by Central Government.

Conclusion

- 1.18 A number of responses indicated that they agreed with the proposed Plan Introduction although no further detail was provided. With respect to the issues raised, a minor amendment is proposed to correct a reference to the spatial coverage of marine plans. A suggestion to add the word 'non-recyclable' to the types of mineral waste that the MLP should seek to reduce was considered to have the potential to undermine the Plan intention to reduce *all* types of mineral waste so it is not proposed to make this amendment. A comment was also received which stated that the Introduction was dated, doesn't address the impact of quarries on local amenity and should seek to reduce the production of aggregates due to the need to reduce carbon. However, it is noted that the Plan Introduction is a high-level strategic section of the plan which primarily sets out its over-arching purpose, and there are individual policies which cover specific issues, such as mitigating potential impacts on local amenity from extraction activity. With regards to seeking to reduce aggregate demand, the MLP cannot artificially suppress mineral demand by not making sufficient provision for that demand or banning the use of minerals in construction. Such interventions would be required to be mandated by Central Government. As such, no amendments were made in relation to these issues.

Table 1 - Schedule of Proposed Amendments to the Plan Introduction following March 2021 Regulation 18 Consultation on MLP Review

Old Ref	New Ref	Proposed Amendment
1.21	1.19	<u>Both the terrestrial and marine planning systems apply to the intertidal area (from Mean High Water Springs to the territorial limit).</u>

Table 2 - April 2021 Regulation 18 Consultation Responses to the Plan Introduction

ORGANISATION	ON BEHALF OF	PLAN INTRODUCTION	PLAN INTRODUCTION	ECC RESPONSE
Name of Organisation	Are you responding on behalf of another individual or organisation? - If Yes, Who?	1.Do you agree or disagree with the proposed amendments as set out in this section of the emerging Minerals Local Plan?	Please provide any comments and/or alternative wording for this section of the Plan below:	
Runwell Parish Council (631132323)	Runwell Parish Council	Agree	N/a	N/A
W H Collier Limited (769297167/ 942768790)		Agree		N/A
Thurrock Borough Council (97704900)	Thurrock borough Council	Agree	No additional comment.	Noted
GeoEssex (538324742)		Agree	no amendment to make	Noted
Blackwater		Agree (but wish	Within paragraph 1.15 The	It is proposed to amend the

<p>Aggregates (623162177)</p>		<p>to clarify)</p>	<p>word “non-recyclable” should be added before the inserted wording of “construction demolition and excavation waste” to align the statement to section 3.0 Strategy, Spatial Vision, Table 1 Vision for Essex to 2029 point (F) which promotes the need to maximise construction demolition and excavation waste recovery to support a circular mineral economy:</p> <p>... non-recyclable construction demolition and excavation waste ...</p>	<p>plans overarching ambition, as stated in paragraph 1.14 (1.15), to reduce “as far as practicable the quantity of mineral used and <u>construction, demolition and excavation</u> waste generated”, not only “non-recyclable” waste. The addition of the words “non-recyclable” to this paragraph would assume that the MWPA are only aiming to reduce non-recyclable waste, and not waste in its entirety. Criteria F of the Spatial Vision seeks to maximise the recycling and reuse of construction, demolition, and excavation waste.</p>
<p>CEMEX (982058282)</p>		<p>Agree (but wish to clarify)</p>	<p>Within paragraph 1.15 The word “non-recyclable” should be added before the inserted wording of “construction demolition and excavation waste” to align the statement to section 3.0 Strategy, Spatial Vision, Table 1 Vision for Essex to 2029 point (F) which promotes the need to maximise construction demolition and excavation waste recovery to support a circular mineral economy:</p>	<p>It is proposed to amend the plans overarching ambition, as stated in paragraph 1.14 (1.15), to reduce “as far as practicable the quantity of mineral used and <u>construction, demolition and excavation</u> waste generated”, not only “non-recyclable” waste. The addition of the words “non-recyclable” to this paragraph would assume that the MWPA are only aiming to reduce non-recyclable waste, and not waste in its entirety. Criteria F</p>

			... non-recyclable construction demolition and excavation waste ...	of the Spatial Vision seeks to maximise the recycling and reuse of construction, demolition, and excavation waste.
Gent Fairhead Aggregates (871678397)		Agree (but wish to clarify)	<p>Within paragraph 1.15 The word “non-recyclable” should be added before the inserted wording of “construction demolition and excavation waste” to align the statement to section 3.0 Strategy, Spatial Vision, Table 1 Vision for Essex to 2029 point (F) which promotes the need to maximise construction demolition and excavation waste recovery to support a circular mineral economy:</p> <p>... non-recyclable construction demolition and excavation waste ...</p>	It is proposed to amend the plans overarching ambition, as stated in paragraph 1.14 (1.15), to reduce “as far as practicable the quantity of mineral used and <u>construction, demolition and excavation</u> waste generated”, not only “non-recyclable” waste. The addition of the words “non-recyclable” to this paragraph would assume that the MWPA are only aiming to reduce non-recyclable waste, and not waste in its entirety. Criteria F of the Spatial Vision seeks to maximise the recycling and reuse of construction, demolition, and excavation waste.
Resident (850344129)		Agree (but wish to clarify)	<p>Within paragraph 1.15 The word “non-recyclable” should be added before the inserted wording of “construction demolition and excavation waste” to align the statement to section 3.0 Strategy, Spatial Vision, Table 1 Vision for Essex to 2029 point (F) which</p>	The plans overarching ambition, as stated in paragraph 1.14 (1.15), is to reduce “as far as practicable the quantity of mineral used and <u>construction, demolition and excavation</u> waste generated”, not only “non-recyclable” waste. The

			<p>promotes the need to maximise construction demolition and excavation waste recovery to support a circular mineral economy:</p> <p>... non-recyclable construction demolition and excavation waste ...</p>	<p>addition of the words “non-recyclable” to this paragraph would assume that the MWPA are only aiming to reduce non-recyclable waste, and not waste in its entirety. Criteria F of the Spatial Vision seeks to maximise the recycling and reuse of construction, demolition and excavation waste.</p>
<p>Coggeshall Parish Council (598729813)</p>	<p>Coggeshall parish council</p>	<p>Disagree (please clarify)</p>	<p>Strongly disagree</p> <p>This policy is already dated it does not consider the overall environmental impact in the areas under extraction. Since Climate change action groups are proposing to reduce carbon then the production of aggregates has to decrease</p>	<p>The Plan Introduction has been amended to bring the plan up to date. Certain references have been removed as they would quickly date the plan, for example, specific financial statistics. The Plan Introduction is a high-level strategic section of the plan that provides an overview of components expressed in more detail elsewhere in the plan. Policy S12 (Mineral Site Restoration and After-Use) and DM1 (Development Management Criteria) in particular address potential impacts to local amenity from extraction activity.</p> <p>With regards to matters of climate change specifically, the Government’s Net Zero</p>

				<p>Strategy: Build Back Greener recognises the impact that construction has on the environment and seeks to decarbonise. Approaches include decarbonising the supply chain and considering the full life cycle of new buildings to reduce waste associated with demolition. With regards to the strategy of sand and gravel provision, the role of the MLP is to make sustainable provision for a steady and adequate supply of minerals, and this amount is determined by the market. The MLP has a stated aim of seeking to 'reduce reliance on primary mineral resources', which the MWPA is able to do by making alternative materials more readily available and economically attractive by promoting a network of aggregate recycling facilities and subsequently safeguarding them (Policy S5, Policy S8/ emerging Policy S9), such that the 'demand' for primary minerals is reduced through the provision of economically viable alternatives.</p>
--	--	--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

				<p>It is also noted that Policy S3: Climate Change includes a number of proposed amendments which seek to better realise the potential climatic benefits from site restoration and after-use schemes, including those set out in relevant Local Plans and Green Infrastructure Strategies, for biodiversity and habitat creation, flood resilience, countryside enhancement, green and blue infrastructure and the provision of living carbon sinks. It is also proposed to be stated that the Mineral Planning Authority will support minerals development which increases the resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts and require minerals development to consider the use of decentralised and low and zero carbon energy technologies generation, where feasible and viable, in order to reduce the consumption of energy and natural resources.</p> <p>The MLP cannot however</p>
--	--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

				artificially suppress mineral demand by not making sufficient provision for the demand or banning the use of minerals in construction or requiring the use of certain technologies. Such interventions would be required to be mandated by Central Government.
CPRE Essex (665562826)		No comment		N/A
Strutt & Parker (891506607)	G&B Finch	No comment		N/A
Suffolk County Council (549043477)		No comment	No Comment	Noted
David L Walker Ltd (559449615)	Brice Aggregates	Not Answered	The foreword of the document clearly sets out the rationale behind the proposed amendments to the plan referencing the wide range of types in which minerals are used. The foreword does not appear to recognise the current and ongoing comprehensive investment in nationally significant infrastructure that is apparent both within the county and the south east of England sub region. It may be beneficial to do so at the outset as latter sections of the plan do recognise this context.	1.8 The MWPA notes that the Plan Foreword is an introductory message from the Essex Cabinet Member with responsibility for the production of the Minerals Local Plan. The Foreword is a summary of the importance and issues of mineral supply in order to highlight the role and importance of the MLP, particularly to local residents. The Foreword is not intended to be a comprehensive assessment of the role and contents of the MLP. 1.9 It is however agreed

				that the MLP also has a strategic role to play with regards to the provision of mineral. Table 1, in the Spatial Vision, criteria C is proposed to be updated to recognise that there are significant infrastructure projects planned within Greater Essex which will potentially create additional localised need for mineral. The list of 'Major Infrastructure Schemes' in the Spatial Portrait and Key Mineral Planning Issues section of the plan has also been updated.
Marine Management Organisation (667230933)		Not Answered	On section 1.19: You refer to South East Marine Plan, stating that it applies to the intertidal areas. The South Marine Plan remit extends from MHWS to the territorial limit. Please see our explore marine plans service here for a mapped version of the marine plan area extent and a link to a "how to" guide here . Please also note that chrome is recommended when using this service.	Paragraph 1.19 (1.21) is proposed to be amended as follows, " <u><i>Both the terrestrial and marine planning systems apply to the intertidal area (from Mean High Water Springs to the territorial limit).</i></u> ".