

21 January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Soft Sand Review of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan: Issues and Options Consultation (Regulation 18)

In partnership, West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority prepared the Joint Minerals Local Plan, which was formally adopted in July 2018.

Policy M2 of the adopted Plan requires the Authorities to undertake a 'Single Issue Soft Sand Review' of the Joint Minerals Local Plan. The Review must address the strategy to maintain a steady and adequate supply of soft sand.

The Authorities have prepared an Issues and Options consultation document, seeking views from all stakeholders on three key issues:

1. the amount of soft sand that needs to be planned for;
2. strategy options for soft sand supply; and
3. potential sites and site selection.

The consultation document includes a number of questions about each issue that we would like you to answer.

Please note that the identification of sites with potential for mineral extraction does not imply that the Authorities consider that the sites are suitable for development either now or in the future. Furthermore, the consultation document cannot be taken as representing either an intention to allocate these sites or as a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

A number of evidence base documents have been published in support of the consultation document. There include the Local Aggregates Assessment and the Soft Sand Site Selection Report.

Comments must be submitted by **18 March 2019** using one of the following:

- our online response form – available via our website (www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf) – **our preferred method**;
- a hard copy response form, which can be found at deposit points and libraries county wide, or downloaded from our website, posted to
 - Planning Services (Ref. SSR), West Sussex County Council, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH;

- emailing your comments to mwdf@westsussex.gov.uk – please provide the information requested on **Part A** of the response form and make it clear which question/s you are answering.

All relevant documents are available on our website, and being made available at West Sussex libraries and County, District or Borough Council offices, including the South Downs National Park office in Midhurst.

What Happens Next?

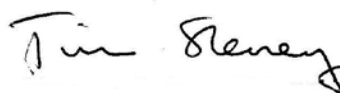
We will use your comments to help inform the preparation of a Proposed Submission Draft Soft Sand Review. During summer 2019, we will then invite representations on legal and procedural compliance and the 'soundness' of the Review, before submitting it for independent examination by a Government-appointed Planning Inspector.

Please contact Planning Services on 01243 642118 or email the team via mwdf@westsussex.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Elkington
Head of Planning Services
West Sussex County Council



Tim Slaney
Director of Planning
South Downs National Park Authority