

**Hertfordshire County Council**

**Supplementary Planning Document:**

**Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report**

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**Sustainability Appraisal Report**

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DATE	23/04/07	
AUTHOR	CLARE HEELEY	
CHECKED	KEITH WALMSLEY	

**Jacobs**, School Green, Shinfield, Reading RG2 9HL  
Tel: 0118-988 1555 Fax: 0118-988 1666

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# NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This is a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Hertfordshire County Council's Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas.

## **The SA/SEA Process**

An SA of the Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire has been undertaken to ensure that the process follows the principles of sustainable development, and is in line with Government appraisal requirements and the EU Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC). The SA incorporates SEA.

The objective of SEA is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development"<sup>1</sup>. SA broadens the scope of SEA to encompass economic and social impacts. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Planning Authorities are required to undertake SAs of their Local Development Documents, and the Government's approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process.

## **Aim of this Report**

The aim of this report is to summarise the likely significant effects on sustainable development of defining Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) in Hertfordshire. It considers three options, and concludes which option is most sustainable for defining MCAs.

## **Basis for the Appraisal**

The methodology used for undertaking the SA/SEA is set out in paragraphs 1.6 – 1.12 of this report. It includes the following stages:

Stage A	Setting the context, objectives and establishing the baseline, and deciding on the scope;
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing the effects;
Stage C	Preparing a Sustainability Appraisal Report;
Stage D	Consultation;
Stage E	Monitoring.

The appraisal has been carried out using professional judgement.

## **Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire: Supplementary Planning Document**

Jacobs was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to produce a Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas in the county. Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) are areas where mineral resources are known to be present and consultation must be sought from the County Council regarding any new surface development in the area. They have been defined to ensure that the county's mineral resources are not unnecessarily lost by new surface development.

### **Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context**

Hertfordshire County Council has already carried out an SA for the draft versions of its Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016. Baseline data has been collected for these appraisals and so this information will be used to inform the SA of the Supplementary Planning Document.

Hertfordshire's minerals supply consists of a sand and gravel belt in the south of the county. The County is a densely populated area with certain areas at risk of flooding, and pressures on water and traffic increasing. The County is aiming to protect local amenity and maintain a high quality environment to ensure future economic success. It is also aiming to decrease reliance on landfill which will have implications for mineral voids.

The Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas will support the policies detailed in the recently adopted Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016. Minerals Policy 5 is detailed in paragraph 2.3 in the main SA report and will be used by the County Council when it is consulted regarding development in a Minerals Consultation Area.

The existing SA for the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan sets out sustainability objectives used as the appraisal framework. These have been used for the SA of the SPD. The objectives considered relevant to this SA are listed in table 2.2 those omitted are in table 2.1 of the main SA report.

### **Consideration of Options**

Chapter 3 of main SA report develops and refines the options for defining MCAs in the SPD. The following options are appraised in this SA:

#### **Option 1: Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas).**

This option identifies the whole of the sand and gravel belt (excluding urban areas), as defined by the outer limits of the 'Minerals Areas' shown on the 1996 version of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Proposals Map, as a single MCA and includes applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas.

## **Option 2: Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas) but excluding barren areas.**

This option identifies the whole of the sand and gravel belt (excluding urban areas), as defined by the outer limits of the 'Minerals Areas' shown on the 1996 version of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Proposals Map, as a single MCA, but excludes barren areas however also includes applications on land larger than XXha already built upon within urban areas.

## **Option 3: Viable Resource Blocks**

This option identifies viable resource blocks, as identified in the Key Issues Document and by industry, as MCAs. In addition, existing permitted areas where unworked reserves remain are included. Margins of e.g. 250m around these resource blocks boundaries are included in the MCAs, as are adjustments of boundaries to match with natural features on the ground.

## **Assessment of Options**

An assessment of the options was carried out against the sustainability objectives considered relevant for the Supplementary Planning Document.

The assessment of option 1 indicates that this option scores fairly well on most objectives but scores negatively for ensuring that mineral resources are managed efficiently. This is because the option does not exclude areas that are unfeasible or barren and so the consultation process would not allow mineral resources to be managed efficiently and it would result in an unnecessary number of consultations.

The assessment of option 2 shows that this option scores positively against all the objectives considered, as it excludes barren areas of the sand and gravel belt but like option 1 includes large redevelopment areas within urban areas. It was judged that mineral resources would be managed fairly efficiently, although more specific viable areas would be better for ensuring an adequate supply.

The assessment of option 3 shows that this option scores very well against all the objectives considered. Defining MCAs as viable resource blocks helps ensure that supply is adequate, steady and managed efficiently and that mineral sterilisation is minimised.

All three options score the same for objectives regarding maintaining the viability of the minerals industry and allowing the public to be involved in the mineral planning process.

## **Conclusions**

The assessment of the 3 options indicates that compared to options 1 and 2, option 3 is the most sustainable option for defining Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire. This is because the option defines MCAs as *viable* resource areas and therefore helps ensure the supply of minerals is not sterilised, and that it is managed efficiently ensuring an adequate and steady supply to maintain the viability of the minerals industry.

## **Monitoring Measures**

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of implementing plans or programmes are monitored. Monitoring should identify any unforeseen adverse effects and ensure remedial action is taken.

Any gaps identified in the baseline data of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan SA upon which this SA is based will be monitored as part of the overall Local Plan monitoring.

## **References**

1. European Parliament and Council of the European Union (2001) Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels

# 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This is the report of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Hertfordshire County Council's Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas. The overall aim of this assessment is to ensure that this Supplementary Planning Document maximises its potential to support the delivery of social, economic and environmental objectives. This report provides an account of how the appraisal was undertaken.
- 1.2 Jacobs was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to produce a Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas in the county. Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) have been defined to ensure that the county's mineral resources are not unnecessarily sterilised by new surface development. MCAs require the District Council to liaise with the County Council, at the planning application stage, regarding the effect of developments on mineral supply. By defining MCAs the County Council will be able to effectively implement Minerals Policy 5 in the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016 which was adopted on 27 March 2007.

## **The SA/SEA Process**

- 1.3 An SA of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire has been undertaken to ensure that the Local Development Document (LDD) follows the principles of sustainable development, and is in line with Government appraisal requirements and the EU Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC). The SA incorporates SEA.
- 1.4 The objective of SEA is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development"<sup>1</sup>. SA broadens the scope of SEA to encompass economic and social impacts. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Planning Authorities are required to undertake SA of their Local Development Documents, and the Government's approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process. The combined SA/SEA process is referred to in this document as 'Sustainability Appraisal' (SA).
- 1.5 Hertfordshire County Council has already commissioned consultants to undertake a SEA of the draft versions of their Minerals Local Plan 2002-2016. Three appraisals were carried out between July 2002 and May 2004 and included both SEA and SA of the first and second deposit drafts and their modifications. In September 2005 an SA/SEA of the Proposed Modifications to the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Second Deposit Draft was carried out. This SA report will be an addendum to the existing appraisals undertaken.

## METHODOLOGY

- 1.6 The SPD SA is undertaken based on the following Government guidance:

*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, November 2005);*

*A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, September 2005).*

- 1.7 Although the methodology follows the above guidance, it also takes into account what has been done before and builds on the existing SEA/SA for the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review First and Second Deposit Drafts. The following stages have been followed in carrying out this SA. Where the assessment is based on the existing SA, this is clearly referenced in the report.

### **Stage A            Setting the Context, Objectives and establishing the baseline, and deciding on the scope**

- 1.8 This stage includes reviewing relevant plans and programmes to take account of relationships between the SPD and policies and programmes that may influence it. It also revisits baseline information provided in the appraisals carried out for the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review as it provides the context for the appraisal and a basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the SPD.

### **Stage B            Developing and refining Options and assessing the effects**

- 1.9 The SEA Directive requires the identification of reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan/policy being assessed. It also requires information to be provided outlining reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with. During this stage the effects of the SPD options will be assessed to ensure that the most sustainable way forward is adopted for implementing this LDD

### **Stage C            Preparing a Sustainability Appraisal Report**

- 1.10 The Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating an Environmental Report as required by the SEA Directive is the key deliverable of the SA. The purpose of the report is to illustrate the process undertaken; to allow consultation; and to demonstrate compliance with the SEA Directive.

### **Stage D            Consultation**

- 1.11 Consultation will be carried out on the SA Report with a number of organisations, including the statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage,

Natural England). Following consultation, responses received will be taken into account as appropriate.

## **Stage E            Monitoring implementation of the Apportionment**

- 1.12 Monitoring allows for any significant effects of the implementation of the apportionment policy to be tested against those predicted in the SA. It also helps in collection of baseline information where gaps have been identified for use in future SAs. Proposals for monitoring will be developed and a monitoring framework proposed in the final SA Report.

## 2 CONTEXT

### **Stage A            Setting the Context, Objectives and establishing the baseline, and deciding on the scope**

- 2.1 A Scoping Report was not considered necessary at this stage as the overall scope has been set out in the SA/SEA of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan drafts which have also been through consultation.
- 2.2 The baseline study from the SA for the draft Hertfordshire MLP has been used to inform this SA of the Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas. Evidence from the baseline study indicates the following are key issues for sustainable minerals development in the County:
- The County's mineral supply is in the form of a sand and gravel belt in the south of the county and the landscape in this area reflects this.
  - Hertfordshire has a high quality environment which needs to be maintained to ensure future economic success.
  - It is a densely populated county which needs to therefore protect its local amenity.
  - The County has a rich cultural heritage which must be protected, and water resources need to be used efficiently as they are under considerable pressure.
  - Certain areas of the county are at risk from flooding, and traffic pressures are increasing, therefore mineral development must not exacerbate these problems.
  - Hertfordshire is aiming to decrease the reliance on landfill which will have implications for the restoration of mineral voids.

- 2.3 The Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 is of relevance to the Supplementary Planning Document as this sets out the need for minerals supply and provides the purpose of defining MCAs. Minerals Policy 5 will be used when the County Council is consulted regarding development in an MCA. This policy states:

**Mineral extraction will be encouraged prior to other development taking place where any significant mineral resource would otherwise be sterilised, or where despoiled land would be improved following restoration.**

**The County Council will object to any development proposals within, or adjacent to areas of potential mineral resource, which would prevent, or prejudice future mineral extraction unless it is clearly demonstrated that:**

- i) the land affected does not contain potentially workable mineral deposits; and/or**
- ii) there is an overriding need for the development; and**
- iii) the mineral cannot practically be extracted in advance.**

- 2.4 The existing SA for the first deposit draft of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan contains the sustainability objectives which form the appraisal framework for the SA.

These objectives have been used to devise an appraisal framework for the SA of the Supplementary Planning Document. It was decided that many of the objectives were irrelevant to the SPD SA. **Table 2.1** lists the objectives excluded from the appraisal framework.

**Table 2.1 Objectives considered irrelevant for this SA**

High Objective	Objective
To protect and maintain our most vulnerable assets (HLO3)	To protect and enhance natural habitats and species and geological features, and where appropriate to create new habitats/wildlife sites.
	To protect and enhance the landscape, and to reflect and respect landscape character.
	To protect and enhance the county’s cultural heritage (including the use of local building materials).
	To maintain and improve air quality.
To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible (HLO6)	To promote energy efficiency (to help reduce global warming).
	To minimise the demand for raw materials (including aggregates) and encourage re use and recycling.
	To protect and improve ground and surface water resources and quality.
	To reduce waste production and increase recycling, and in particular, reduce the necessity for landfill.
To deliver more sustainable patterns of location of development (HLO2)	To protect the county’s agricultural resources
	To ensure the most appropriate and effective restoration and afteruse is achieved.
	To encourage development on previously developed/brownfield land.
	To minimise the risk of flooding.
	To ensure site access can be achieved without compromising safety, the environment or other interests.
To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth. (HLO1)	To reduce reliance on road freight movements and encourage efficient use of waterways, ports and rail for transport of goods.
Social progress which meets the needs of everyone.	To consider the potential economic impacts of mineral workings on the wider economy.
	To protect and enhance recreation facilities and opportunities.
	To protect and improve the health and living conditions of individuals and communities.
	To protect the amenity of local residents/communities.

**Table 2.2 Objectives considered to be relevant for this SA**

High Objective	Objective
To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible (HLO6)	To ensure that mineral sterilisation is minimised and mineral resources are managed efficiently.
To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth. (HLO1)	To ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals to meet society's needs.
	To maintain the viability of the minerals industry and associated activities.
Social progress which meets the needs of everyone.	To allow for public involvement in the mineral planning process.

2.5 Objectives shown in **table 2.2** are those remaining and are considered relevant for the SA of the Supplementary Planning Document for Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire.

### 3 DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS

**Stage B      Developing and refining Options**

- 3.1 The SEA Directive requires the assessment and evaluation of reasonable alternatives and requires information to be provided on reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with.
- 3.2 The options considered for defining the Mineral Consultation Areas are shown in the table below.

Options for MCA definition	
	1. Sand and gravel belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas).
	2. Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas) excluding barren areas.
	3. Viable resource blocks as identified in KID/by industry and existing permitted areas where unworked reserves remain including a margin of e.g. 250m around boundaries/adjusting boundaries to match with natural features on the ground.

**3.3 Option 1: Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas).**

This option identifies the whole of the sand and gravel belt (excluding urban areas), as defined by the outer limits of the ‘Minerals Areas’ shown on the 1996 version of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Proposals Map, as a single MCA and includes applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas.

**3.4 Option 2: Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas) but excluding barren areas.**

This option identifies the whole of the sand and gravel belt (excluding urban areas), as defined by the outer limits of the ‘Minerals Areas’ shown on the 1996 version of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Proposals Map, as a single MCA, and includes applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas, but excludes barren areas of the sand and gravel belt.

**3.5 Option 3: Viable Resource Blocks**

This option identifies viable resource blocks, as identified in the Key Issues Document and by industry, as MCAs. In addition, existing permitted areas where unworked reserves

remain are included. Margins of e.g. 250m around these resource blocks boundaries are included in the MCAs, as are adjustments of boundaries to match with natural features on the ground.

3.6 A detailed assessment of options 1-3 is presented in Chapter 4.

## 4 ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

4.1 The options appraisal was based on professional judgement and carried out by a team.

4.2 The symbols have been colour-coded to make the tables easier to interpret. The symbols are as follows:

- ✓✓ Clear, strong positive impacts
- ✓ Overall impact likely to be positive
- ? Overall impact neutral, mixed or unclear
- ✗ Overall impact likely to be negative
- ✗✗ Clear, strong negative impacts
- Not addressed, but likely to be important
- 0 Not applicable

4.3 In some instances, a combination of symbols is used. For example ✓/✗ is used to illustrate where there is likely to be both positive and negative impacts. Where it is considered necessary, a commentary is provided explaining the scores.

4.4 The matrix tables are shown in tables 4.1 to 4.3 and the assessment findings are detailed in paragraphs 4.5 – 4.12.

**Table 4.1 Option 1: Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas).**

High Objective	Objective	Score	Comments
To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible (HLO6)	To ensure that mineral sterilisation is minimised and mineral resources are managed efficiently.	✓/✗	Sterilisation would be minimised as a result of the coverage of the MCA which includes large areas of land for redevelopment in urban areas. However this option does not efficiently manage minerals as it is not indicating any viable areas either in or outside the urban area as the MCA includes barren and unfeasible areas.
To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth. (HLO1)	To ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals to meet society’s needs.	✓	This option would help ensure an adequate and steady supply by helping to protect any mineral resource however it would specifically protect the most viable mineral areas.
	To maintain the viability of the minerals industry and associated activities.	✓✓	This option helps maintain mineral supply by defining an MCA which helps to minimise sterilisation therefore this maintains the viability of the minerals industry.
Social progress which meets the needs of everyone.	To allow for public involvement in the mineral planning process.	✓	Public involvement will be facilitated indirectly as a result of MCAs as there will be public consultation for planning applications in MCAs.

4.5 The assessment of this option shows that there are positive and negative impacts of defining a single MCA as the entire sand and gravel belt. Although this option shows that there is likely to be a positive impact for minimising sterilisation, a negative score was given for the management of the supply. By not defining viable or existing areas for extraction the supply of mineral is likely to be inefficiently managed, and the Council would be consulted more than is necessary as the developments within this MCA could be on barren land or where the extraction is already deemed unfeasible.

4.6 This option scores positively for ensuring an adequate supply. Specific resource areas are likely to be more effective in providing an adequate supply, as these would be viable areas for extraction. The viability of the minerals industry would be maintained as the process of defining an MCA is helping to preserve mineral supply.

4.7 By defining MCAs, the public will be consulted on minerals planning issues indirectly at the planning application stage. Therefore this option receives a positive score for public involvement. This option also ‘promotes good governance’ which is identified in the

national strategy for sustainable development as one of the five guiding principles for use in the assessment of sustainable development.

**Table 4.2 Option 2: Sand and Gravel Belt (including applications on land larger than XXha already built upon in urban areas) but excluding barren areas.**

High Objective	Objective	Score	Comments
To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible (HLO6)	To ensure that mineral sterilisation is minimised and mineral resources are managed efficiently.	✓	Sterilisation would be minimised as a result of defining a consultation area. Mineral resources would be managed fairly efficiently by excluding barren areas, however defining MCAs as viable areas would mean more efficient management.
To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth. (HLO1)	To ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals to meet society's needs.	✓	This option would help ensure adequate and a steady supply by helping to protect any mineral resource, however specific areas are more likely to be effective in helping to prevent any loss of <i>viable</i> mineral supply.
	To maintain the viability of the minerals industry and associated activities.	✓✓	This option helps maintain mineral supply by helping to minimise sterilisation, therefore this maintains the viability of the minerals industry.
Social progress which meets the needs of everyone.	To allow for public involvement in the mineral planning process.	✓	Public involvement will be facilitated indirectly as a result of MCAs, as there will be public consultation for planning applications in MCAs.

4.8 This option scores positively for minimising sterilisation as it will cover the whole of the mineral resource in Hertfordshire including land in urban areas larger than XXha which are being redeveloped and excluding barren areas which are not necessarily of the greatest importance when minimising mineral sterilisation. It indicates that mineral would also be managed fairly efficiently, as a result of barren areas being excluded from the consultation areas. In addition, this option would ensure an adequate and steady supply, however it would still include unviable areas within the sand and gravel belt. Defining viable areas would be better in helping to prevent any loss of *viable* mineral supply and reduce the number of applications needing consultation.

4.9 By defining MCAs Option 2 maintains the viability of the minerals industry by helping to protect supply, and allows public involvement in the minerals planning process through

application consultation indicating that any development in a MCA may sterilise potential mineral supply. Therefore this option receives a positive score for public involvement. As with the other options, this option also ‘promotes good governance’ which is identified in the national strategy for sustainable development as one of the five guiding principles for use in the assessment of sustainable development.

**Table 4.3 Option 3: Viable Resource Blocks**

High Objective	Objective	Score	Comments
To use natural resources, both finite and renewable, as efficiently as possible, and re-use finite resources or recycled alternatives wherever possible (HLO6)	To ensure that mineral sterilisation is minimised and mineral resources are managed efficiently.	✓✓	Sterilisation is minimised and minerals are managed efficiently by specifying resource blocks and using permitted areas. By giving these blocks appropriate boundaries to maximise extraction supply, this includes a margin for error allows the whole extent of the deposit to be safely worked.
To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth. (HLO1)	To ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals to meet society’s needs.	✓✓	This option will help ensure adequate and steady supply to meet needs as viable resource blocks have been defined.
	To maintain the viability of the minerals industry and associated activities.	✓✓	This option helps maintain mineral supply by helping to minimise sterilisation therefore this maintains the viability of the minerals industry.
Social progress which meets the needs of everyone.	To allow for public involvement in the mineral planning process.	✓	Public involvement will be facilitated indirectly as a result of MCAs, as there will be public consultation for planning applications in MCAs.

4.10 Option 3 scores very well for all the objectives considered. As a result of defining MCAs as viable resource blocks, mineral sterilisation is minimised where it is of greatest importance and these MCAs help ensure that viable supply is adequate, steady and managed efficiently. In addition, this option reduces the number of planning applications that require consultation and helps focus the aims of Minerals Policy 5 by making it clear to developers and local planning authorities that these areas are at most risk of sterilising viable mineral resources.

4.11 The option also includes the use of permitted areas where mineral is known which therefore uses existing infrastructure to provide supply. Additionally, for this option the definition of MCAs includes a buffer zone around reserves and also the adjustment of boundaries to match with natural features. This ensures there is a margin for error and allows the consultation area to be identified easily and the whole extent of the mineral to

be worked safely. It may also assist with the landscaping of the area if mineral working were to take place.

- 4.12 Similar to options 1 and 2, option 3 helps to maintain the viability of the minerals industry, allows for public involvement, and 'promotes good governance' in line with the national strategy for sustainable development.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Results of the assessment can be summarised as follows:

**Table 5.1 Options Assessment Results**

Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
To ensure that mineral sterilisation is minimised and mineral resources are managed efficiently.	✓/✗	✓	✓✓
To ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals to meet society's needs.	✓	✓	✓✓
To maintain the viability of the minerals industry and associated activities.	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
To allow for public involvement in the mineral planning process.	✓	✓	✓

5.2 The assessment of the 3 options indicates that compared to options 1 and 2, option 3 is the most sustainable option for defining Mineral Consultation Areas in Hertfordshire. This is because the option defines MCAs as *viable* resource areas and therefore helps ensure the viable supply of minerals is not sterilised, and that it is managed efficiently ensuring an adequate and steady supply to maintain the viability of the minerals industry. It also includes a buffer zone and an adjustment of boundaries to allow a margin of error; the consultation area to be easily identified; and for the whole extent of the mineral to be worked.

### Monitoring Measures

- 5.3 The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of implementing plans or programmes are monitored. Monitoring should identify any unforeseen adverse effects and ensure remedial action is taken.
- 5.4 Any gaps identified in the baseline data of the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan SA upon which this SA is based will be monitored as part of the overall Local Plan monitoring.

## References

1. European Parliament and Council of the European Union (2001) Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels