

## Telford & Wrekin Local Plan: Examination in Public

### Initial Statement by the Council – Matter 7: Environmental Resources

1. Our Local Plan will retain the commitment in the saved policies of the joint minerals plan to safeguard our mineral resources. The areas safeguarded rely on the evidence submitted by the British Geological Survey. However, we do not need to – nor should we - extend safeguarding areas into the urban areas of Telford or Newport because the overwhelming amount of mineral resources in these areas has been exploited, is sterilised or benefits from Section 7(1) New Towns Act consent already.
2. We have proposed modifications to Policy ER2 following discussion with the Minerals Products Association (set out in Document G3 and G6). These include setting MSA's and their buffer areas on an interactive policies map. We have proposed this modification to clarify where new development will be supported and to prevent minerals and minerals-related infrastructure from being sterilised from non-minerals activity in the immediate proximity. Our approach is manifestly consistent with national policy.
3. We consider that these modifications and alterations to the Policies Map generally improve the plan. We reject the notion that this Statement of Common Ground has changed the policy significantly.
4. We work jointly with Shropshire on a Local Aggregate Assessment consistent with the NPPF and our Duty to Cooperate. This joint working is supported by the West Midlands Aggregates Working Party. Overall, sites in the borough provide the subregion with crushed rock from Leaton and brick clay from Hadley. On the other hand, Shropshire provide the subregion with sand and gravel.
5. Both this Council and Shropshire will show there is no need to allocate the Pave Lane site for sand and gravel before the Woodcote Wood site in Shropshire. That said, Policy ER4 will allow for other sand and gravel development where the need arises.
6. We have shown there is no need to make any allocation for any new waste management sites especially as most of our domestic waste goes to energy from waste facilities in Shropshire and Staffordshire. Policies EC1 and ER7 would allow new waste facilities to go to strategic employment areas should the need arise. The Council has already shown in Matter 4 that we have a substantial amount of land for industrial and other purposes.
7. Our approach to flood risk management has been endorsed by the Environment Agency. Audley Avenue Business Parks have now removed their objection to Policy ER12 (refer G17).

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