

A New Plan

To prepare a new plan or update an existing plan requires a lot of evidence and information in support of the sites or policies being proposed. This can take a long time and be expensive to prepare.

The Government is changing the way plans are prepared, to make the process faster and easier. We are beginning to collect the information and evidence that will be needed to support the plan review for Dorset. Your input will help us with this.

A Minerals and Waste Plan would normally cover topics such as:

- how much mineral Dorset should provide for local and national use
- where it should come from
- where new quarries should be located - areas already used for mineral working, or in new areas where the mineral is found?
- how we should protect undeveloped mineral still in the ground
- how existing quarries and waste management sites should be protected. For example, keep them separate from other development?
- where and how our waste should be managed
- protection for local communities and the environment, and how this can be achieved most effectively
- limits on lorry movements, and how this is managed

Q7. Do you think there are any topics missing from the new draft plan?

Please tell us here:

The following topics should be included in the new draft plan:-

- **End of Life restoration/use of quarries/mineral extraction sites** - policies should reflect the huge potential that former sites have for future uses including (1) re-claiming for nature contributing to the nations 30 by 30 targets, (2) renewable energy generation (3) agriculture and food security (4) recreation (5) culture and heritage (6) business and training.
- **Treatment of hydrocarbons/fossil fuel reserves** - as the major driver of climate change, careful consideration needs to be given to the county's fossil fuel reserves. These should remain in the ground. Existing licences for extraction should not be renewed.
- **Mineral Deposits in Protected Landscapes** - mineral deposits of national significance for example Ball Clay, are located in Dorset's precious National Landscapes. The minerals and waste plan should contain policies that ensure that the extraction of these minerals is carried out in such a way as to minimise the harm to the Landscape.
- **Waste handling in Protected Landscapes** - stringent policies should be included to ensure that proposals for new waste handling facilities in the Protected Landscapes are situated in locations that have the least impact on the landscape and are sensitively designed.
- The minerals and waste plan should also seek to contain policies for potential **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** sites (onshore and offshore), heat resources for geothermal heating projects, underground hydrogen storage and Direct Air Capture (DAC) subject to national and local policy.
- **Aggregate & inert waste recycling** - policies should be put in place to ensure that construction and demolition waste is recycled, this will not only prevent this waste entering landfill but will also reduce pressure to extract aggregates. Within this topic area it would be helpful if applications suitable for recycled aggregate use are identified.
- **Landfill Mining** - historic landfill sites that contain valuable materials should be identified and a strategy put in place to extract and utilise those materials. Freeing up the land for use of other purposes. This will reduce landfill use and conserve natural resources.
- **Impact on Water Resources** - in line with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (WD) the draft plan must contain policies that ensure that surface and ground water is protected from the impact of mineral extraction be that from pollution, excessive use resulting in scarcity in the environment and ecosystem disruption.

Q8. Do you have any concerns we should consider when updating the Minerals and Waste Plan?

Please tell us here:

Dorset CPRE have significant concerns regarding the siting and use of waste incinerators/energy from waste (EFW) plants in the county. These plants have been demonstrated to not only produce significant quantities of toxic particulates that are released into the atmosphere but also produce the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions for each unit of energy as coal power. In addition, waste incineration discourages the recycling of waste, in fact it encourages continued waste supply to fulfil existing contracts.

Dorset Council should consider a policy that minimises waste sent for incineration, looks to phase out the use of waste incinerators in the county and ensures no new consents are granted for incinerators. Zero waste from the county should be incinerated at the proposed new waste incinerator to be built on Portland. A target should be set for zero unabated incineration by 2035 (i.e. incineration without associated CCS). Basic calculations indicate that the recently approved Portland Incinerator will have the capacity (202 kt per annum) to process more household waste than is generated in the county including BCP (circa 174 Kt before recycling etc), indicating that the intention is for the incinerator to handle waste from other counties or countries, this is simply not on! Dorset's precious landscape should not be polluted by its own waste let alone that from other authorities or countries!

A Vision for the new Minerals and Waste Plan

An important part of any plan is its Vision, setting out what the plan is meant to achieve and the ways in which this will be done. The Vision is intended to describe the key aims and priorities.

The Government wants to strengthen the role of local plan visions, to make them more focused and specific than those in the current system. Plans should be genuinely shaped by the views of communities on how their place should evolve and be informed by the information collected and inputs from other stakeholders coming from early involvement and participation. Visions should be anchored in measurable outcomes that are locally specific, supporting plans to achieve high quality development.

To give local communities an early opportunity to become involved, we have begun to prepare a Vision for the Minerals and Waste Plan. Everyone is invited to comment on it and to help to shape it.

The Draft Vision, based on the *Dorset Council – Council Plan 2024-2029*, is set out below. Please read and consider the Vision and supporting Objectives and answer the questions.

The Draft Minerals and Waste Plan Vision

In Dorset, during the lifetime of the plan, minerals will be provided and waste managed in a sustainable manner which:

- meets identified local and wider needs
- supports Dorset's economic growth and contributes to meeting local housing need
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions and increases Dorset's resilience to the impacts of a changing climate
- provides opportunities for rural access and recreation to improve community health and quality of life for all
- conserves and enhances the character and quality of Dorset's landscapes and natural, built and historic environments; and
- protects and enhances our land, rivers, and seas for wildlife.

Objectives to support and deliver the Vision

Ensure a Steady and Adequate Supply of Minerals

Identify enough land, in the right location and at the right time, to enable the provision of a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and other important minerals, over the Plan period, to meet national, sub-national and local needs and to support sustainable economic growth and local and national economic prosperity.

Provide for the appropriate location of waste management, including wastewater, facilities

Locate waste management facilities appropriately, as close as practicable to the origin of waste in order to reduce the distance waste is transported.

Optimise self sufficiency, through the provision of an appropriate number and range of well designed, appropriately sized facilities for the management of waste, recognising that some waste requires specialist management facilities of a strategic nature.

Minimise Impacts of Climate Change and Flood Risk

Reduce the effect of mineral and waste development on the causes of climate change and facilitate adaptation to the effects of climate change, including flood risk.

Minerals and waste development will be located, designed and operated in ways which;

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help meet national and local carbon targets
- optimise on-site water and energy use
- maximise energy provision from renewable and low-carbon sources and incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques
- maximise the use of sustainable transport associated with minerals/waste development
- maintain or enhance water quality, and
- reduce the risk of flooding both on site and in the wider area.

Protect Local Communities

Protect the existing amenity, health, safety and well-being of local communities from visual impacts, noise, dust, vibration, emissions to air, light pollution, land instability, ground contamination and transport impacts by avoiding, minimising and mitigating potential adverse impacts. This will include any cumulative impacts of minerals and/or waste development and will take into account the legacy of the minerals and waste industry and other industrial development in the Plan area.

Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Natural, Built and Historic Environment

Protect, conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment of the Plan area including its distinctive landscapes, green and blue infrastructure, habitats, wildlife, historic buildings, parks and gardens, archaeology, ancient woodlands and veteran trees, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, green belt, tranquil areas, dark skies and other important features and assets, by avoiding, minimising and mitigating potential adverse impacts, including any cumulative impacts, of minerals or waste development, taking into account the legacy of the minerals and waste industries and other industrial development in the Plan area.

Move Waste up the Waste Hierarchy

Support the prevention and minimisation of waste generation in line with the Waste Hierarchy. Where waste cannot be avoided, maximise the recovery value from waste.

Support an increase in the proportion and the quantity of waste that is re-used, recycled and recovered within Dorset.

Ensure the Prudent Use of Primary Resources

Ensure the prudent use of primary resources to enable their long-term conservation through minimising waste and maximising levels of secondary and recycled aggregates. Promote the sustainable use of materials, including the use of secondary and recycled aggregates, and require the prior extraction of minerals before other development takes place.

Safeguard Mineral Resources and Minerals and Waste Infrastructure

Ensure that known important mineral resources, existing minerals and waste operations, and the infrastructure that is used to process and transport minerals and waste are safeguarded from inappropriate development, on or near to such operations/resources, that would impair their availability and use for future generations.

The 'agent of change' principle will be applied to any new proposed development impacting on safeguarded sites.

Achieve Sustainable Transport

Minimise the potential adverse impacts of minerals and waste development relating to road-based transport, including emissions, and maximise the use of alternatives to road transport including rail, water, conveyor and pipeline. Minimise waste transport and distance by locating new waste facilities as close as practicable to the origin of the waste.

Ensure the Sustainable Restoration of Mineral and Waste Sites

Mineral and waste development will support the high-quality restoration and aftercare of sites at the earliest opportunity, to the most appropriate after use, taking into account aviation safety, providing maximum local and strategic benefits to the wider area and local communities, including benefits that will contribute towards emissions reduction and climate change adaptation and resilience and achieve a net gain in biodiversity (BNG) of at least 10% above the pre-working baseline.

Q9. How much do you agree or disagree with the Vision?

Please select only one item

	Strongly agree
*	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know

Q10. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following proposed objectives for the new Plan.

Please select only one item per statement

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Ensure a Steady and Adequate Supply of Minerals			*			
Provide for the appropriate location of waste management, including wastewater, facilities	*					
Minimise Impacts of Climate Change and Flood Risk	*					
Protect Local Communities	*					
Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Natural, Built and Historic Environment	*					
Move Waste up the Waste Hierarchy	*					
Ensure the Prudent Use of Primary Resources	*					
Safeguard Mineral Resources and Minerals and Waste Infrastructure	*					
Achieve Sustainable Transport	*					
Ensure the Sustainable Restoration of Mineral and Waste Sites	*					

Q11. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about the Vision or the objectives

Let us know here:

Dorset CPRE broadly welcome the proposed Minerals and Waste Plan Vision. In particular we support the objectives to 1) to Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Natural, Built and Historic Environment, and 2) to Minimise the Impacts of Climate Change and Flood Risk.

If the objective to Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Natural, Built and Historic Environment is to be achieved it is essential that the inherent damage caused through mineral extraction is recognised and that the over-riding aim of the minerals plan is to ensure that extraction is minimised. The pressure on the county's precious reserves can be reduced by prioritising and encouraging the use of recycled materials wherever possible. We have mentioned in answer to Question 7 the importance of restoring quarries/mineral extraction sites, if these sites are to be successfully restored for nature this requires considered planning and understanding of the basic elements (soil type, water etc) required for successful habitat creation.

In considering applications for new mineral extraction sites/quarries it is important that the cumulative impact of extraction in areas where there are multiple quarries/mineral extraction sites in close proximity is considered, not only on the environment, but also on the local communities.

Whilst we acknowledge the ongoing need for minerals, we are concerned about the implications to Dorset's precious landscapes and ecosystems of supplying minerals to meet national needs in addition to those of the county.

Dorset Council has set out its vision in the **Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023-2025 Refresh** for a carbon neutral, nature positive and resilient Dorset, with the goal of being Net Zero by 2050. The council has previously stated (**Responding to the Climate Crisis**) its ambition to minimise the impact of climate change through reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions, if this is to be achieved it must be backed up with policies that ensure that Dorset's hydrocarbon reserves remain in the ground, and that no new licences for extraction are granted and existing licences are not renewed. The recent landmark case of *R (Finch) v Surrey County Council* has highlighted the importance of considering the impact of downstream greenhouse gas emissions in the decision making process.

The circular economy plays a significant role in reducing waste going to landfill. The objective to Move Waste up the Waste Hierarchy makes no reference to this. As mentioned in answer to question 7, not only should we be looking to recycle current waste, but also considering how to extract useful materials from historic, inert, landfill sites through 'waste mining'. Increasing support and encouragement of small businesses which take waste and repair &/ repurpose it should be included as part of this objective.

We welcome the objective to Ensure the Sustainable Restoration of Mineral and Waste sites, we would like to see this objective supported by policies that set ambitious targets for the re-use of sites encouraging, where appropriate, their restoration for nature and consider their potential for renewable energy generation.

Accessibility and Understanding

We are now going to ask you some questions that refers to the consultation materials and the Vision and objectives text

Q12. How easy or difficult is the consultation text to understand?

Please select only one item