

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040>

Every five years the council (ECC) is required to review the effectiveness of its Minerals Local Plan and propose amendments as necessary. This is the second Regulation 18 public consultation and acts to extend the Plan period to 2040. This public consultation is now open until **5pm 19th March**.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040/draft-replacement-minerals-local-plan>

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/Replacement%20Minerals%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

= Draft Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan (3.6MB) – regulation 18 public consultation

(p20) 2.16 Map3 Spatial Pattern of Mineral Resources in Essex

(p98) 4.4 Not all of these 52 remaining candidate sites will be appropriate or needed to be allocated for minerals development, to meet the County's mineral requirements. The MWPA is therefore currently assessing these submitted sites and the remaining undeveloped allocations from the MLP 2014, to determine which sites should be selected as site allocations in the RMLP....

(p99) 4.5 To support and inform the site allocation process, the Council is seeking views, through this Regulation 18 consultation, on the site assessment methodology and the application of the methodology to assess individual sites, as presented within the 'Assessment of Candidate Sand and Gravel Sites' report. The Assessment can be viewed on the ECC website within the RMLP evidence base.

[https://www.essex.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.essex.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/Assessment%20of%20Candidate%20Sand%20and%20Gravel%20Sites.pdf)

[02/Assessment%20of%20Candidate%20Sand%20and%20Gravel%20Sites.pdf](https://www.essex.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/Assessment%20of%20Candidate%20Sand%20and%20Gravel%20Sites.pdf) = **Assessment of Candidate**

Sand and Gravel Sites

288page REPORT (26MB) in number order of sites

A total of 52 sites were put forward – so NOT chosen by ECC... Their suitability has been assessed by independent consultants; this is the report of their findings.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040/candidate-sites-assessment/appendices>

Appendix J - Candidate Sites Red Line Boundaries – no internal detail like ProWs (PDF, 4.81MB)

The following appendices include the reasoning behind the RAG (red/amber/green) assessment for:

Appendix I = Public Rights of Way, Geo-Environmental, Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Drainage, Air Quality, Soil Quality, Services & Utilities, Health & Amenity, Green Belt, and Airport Safeguarding Zones (PDF, 707.87KB)

Appendix H Access:... to what extent can an appropriate access be provided to serve the Site that accords with current highway standards and is deliverable within public highway and/or land in the control of the applicant (PDF, 415.51KB).

Appendix C Biodiversity (PDF, 1.38MB)

Appendix B - Landscape and Visual Sensitivity:... Assessment is based on an outline site area only.. so this landscape assessment is at a higher level than would be the case at the planning application stage.. (PDF, 1.86MB)

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/planning/42a7d44e/consultation/>

→ overarching questions about the policies and a set of questions with information for each numbered site
Closes 5pm Tuesday 19 March

Information sent to Parish Councils by Essex County Council

What is the current Minerals Local Plan?

The Essex Minerals Local Plan (MLP) was adopted in July 2014. The Plan provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029 and identifies future sites for mineral extraction. Alongside other Local Plans, the MLP forms part of the development plan for Essex.

Why are we reviewing the Minerals Local Plan?

Every 5 years the council is required to review the effectiveness of its MLP. Proposed amendments to the MLP 2014 were consulted on in March/April 2021. An engagement exercise focusing on mineral provision, which included a call for new sites, was held in early 2022. Up to this stage it was intended to keep the Plan end date to 2029.

Why are we extending the Plan end date to 2040 and why do we need new sites?

Extending the Plan to 2040 ensures that we will have a new plan covering a 15-year period from 2025. New sites will be needed to meet the forecasted demand for aggregates (sand and gravel) over this period to ensure we can provide a 'steady and adequate supply of aggregates' in Essex. Doing so will ensure that the Plan is robust and can help maintain a 'steady and adequate' supply of aggregates^[1] and meet the relevant 'tests of soundness^[2]' as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. Due to the Plan date extension, a second call for sites exercise was held in September 2022. Both Call for Sites exercises generated 52 site submissions for consideration for inclusion in a new Plan.

What we are proposing to do next

The suitability of the 52 submitted sites has been assessed by independent consultants and a report of the findings prepared. A revised Plan has also been drafted, titled "Essex Minerals Local Plan, 2025-2040 (Regulation 18 – Issues and Options)".

We have responded to the comments received in 2021 and 2022 and stated whether the comments have caused further changes to the emerging Plan. *So, we are holding a....* further public consultation on both documents and their associated evidence base in February 2024, which will include the location of the 52 sites and the assessment findings of each one. Following this public consultation, we will assess all comments received. Evidence may be presented that justifies additional amendments to the Plan and any of the site assessments. Following the drafting of any additional amendments, we will consider the next appropriate step. This may include more detailed technical assessment on candidate sites in light of comments received or moving towards selecting Preferred Site allocations to inform any further consultation (Regulation 19 – Pre-Submission).

What does this mean for a Parish/Town Council?.....

Key information about the forthcoming consultation

Additional sites were called for so to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates to take us to 2040 with a 7 year 'landbank'^[3] beyond.

The submitted sites have not been identified as Preferred or Non-Preferred Site Allocations at this stage.

The submitted sites are not planning applications and their submission does not mean that planning permission will be granted in the future. Sites that are eventually included in the Plan will stand a greater chance of gaining planning permission.

During the consultation there will be two documents to comment on: the revised Plan and the site assessment report.

Footnotes:

[1] Paragraph 213 of the National Planning Policy Framework

[2] Paragraphs 35 and 36 of the National Planning Policy Framework

[3] See paragraph 213 of the National Planning Policy Framework and paragraphs 80 – 85 of National Planning Guidance

If you have any further questions regarding the Mineral Local Plan, please feel free to get in touch at mandwpolicy@essex.gov.uk.