

To: planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk

Philip Matthews
Executive Director

c/o Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich, IP1 2BX

28 February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

West Berkshire Council Local Plan Review 2022-39

Nuleaf (the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) is the Local Government Association (LGA) representative body on nuclear legacy wastes and decommissioning. We are directly supported by over 100 local authorities and national park authorities across England and Wales and speak for the wider LGA. West Berkshire Council is a member of Nuleaf, though this submission has been prepared without any engagement with representatives of the local authority.

Nuleaf's remit encompasses all aspects of the management of the UK's nuclear waste legacy. Our primary objectives are:

- to provide a mechanism to identify, where possible, a common local government viewpoint on nuclear legacy management issues;
- to represent that viewpoint, or the range of views of its member authorities, in discussion with national bodies, including the Welsh and UK Government, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the regulators;
- to seek to influence policy and strategy for nuclear legacy management in the interests of affected communities; and
- to develop the capacity of its member authorities to engage with nuclear legacy management at a local level.



Our Radioactive Waste Planning Group is an expert forum for senior land-use and waste planning officers, which aims to support the development of Local Plans and Minerals and Waste Plans. Nuleaf advocates that all Local Plans and Minerals and Waste Plans, particularly those covering areas which include parts of the UK's nuclear infrastructure, should have policies on decommissioning and radioactive waste management. More information on our suggested approach is set out in our **Briefing Paper 11: Approaches to Radioactive Waste Management in Local Plans**.¹

The absence of clear policies leaves local authorities and communities less able to influence proposals for the disposal, storage, management or transportation of radioactive materials within their area. We therefore welcome the inclusion of Policy DM33 on **Development within AWE**, covering the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. This policy is primarily aimed at facilitating appropriate development within the two sites.

We also note that the **West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2022-37** (M&WP) includes **Policy 13** that covers the management of all relevant categories of radioactive waste and requires that a need is proven before the development of any new waste facilities is permitted.

We would propose that DM33 is amended to reference Policy 13 of the M&WP i.e. that any new development at the AWE sites which has implications for radioactive waste management should have to demonstrate need and be based primarily in managing waste that has arisen locally.

Yours faithfully,



Philip Matthews
Executive Director

¹ [Briefing Papers - Nuleaf](#)