

RUTLAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Statement Regarding the Sustainability of the Adopted Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document

September 2010

This Statement is prepared under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

How environmental considerations have been integrated into the document and how the sustainability appraisal has been taken into account

The Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (Minerals DPD) sets out policies and proposals that seek to protect the residential amenities and the character and environment of Rutland whilst, at the same time, ensuring that there are sufficient supplies of minerals that are needed. The DPD seeks to reduce the impact of mineral development by, amongst other means, encouraging the prudent use of resources, including the use of alternatives to primary aggregates, and promoting the sustainable transport of minerals.

A series of appraisals were produced in parallel with each stage of the preparation of the Minerals DPD. These assessed each option, core strategy objective and policy against sustainability appraisal (SA) objectives.

Before each policy was decided on, a range of options for particular issues was measured against the SA objectives. The assessment revealed varying degrees of sustainability across the options. Chosen options were influenced by the outcomes of the sustainability appraisal, for example:

- the principle of identifying an Area of Search for Ketton Quarry was deemed the most economically and social sustainable option to ensure long-term supply, given the national importance of the associated Cement Works and the local economic need for its continued operation;
- the international importance of Rutland Water was considered to warrant a specific policy which set out protection for the site;
- in respect of transportation, it was concluded that a combination of options would provide the highest degree of protection for assets and amenity;
- the identification of specific mineral safeguarding areas was regarded as having few negative effects on objectives and also, by restricting other development in favour of quality minerals extraction, supported other local objectives related to preserving the rural nature of eastern Rutland;

- the SA concluded that, based on current need and sustainability priorities, placing greater emphasis on biodiversity/recreation/amenity/countryside enhancement in restoration schemes was the most sustainable option.

The SA identified suitable wording and measures to ensure that the DPD has significant positive effects, and as few negative effects as practicable, on sustainability objectives within Rutland. The wording of many policies were subsequently revised to take into account recommendations outlined in the Sustainability Appraisal Report, for example:

- an overarching policy on Sustainable Development was introduced requiring mineral development to be sustainable;
- MDC Policy 1 (Impacts of Mineral Development) was amended to include reference to air pollution and CO2 emissions.

A summary of the environmental and social implications of the Minerals DPD is provided in the *Sustainability Appraisal Report* (July 2009), which may be viewed on the Council's website.

Following his examination of the Submission Draft Minerals DPD, the Inspector stated that none of the changes specified in his binding report should materially alter the substance of the overall plan and its policies or undermine the sustainability appraisal and participatory processes already undertaken.

How opinions expressed have been taken into account

Three stages of consultation were undertaken during the preparation of the Minerals DPD and a public hearing was held. As part of these consultations, comments were received from statutory bodies, interested parties and members of the public on a number of matters including the spatial vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy, Ketton Quarry Area of Search, supply of building and roofing stone, and the restoration of mineral workings.

All comments received were taken into account in producing the next stage of the documents and changes were made to the wording of the Minerals DPD to address the issues raised. For example comments from:

- the Government Office for the East Midlands led to amendments to the spatial vision and strategic objectives to provide more local distinctiveness by reference, in particular, to the minerals of particular importance within the County and the protection of Rutland Water;
- Defence Estates, Parish Councils and local residents led to amendments to the Ketton Quarry Area of Search and the associated Core Strategy policy (MCS Policy 4);
- English Heritage led to a more flexible approach to the supply of building and roofing stone;
- the Environment Agency led to greater emphasis being given to climate change issues, reducing flood risk, and opportunities to improve the water environment through site restoration;

- Natural England led to priority being given to biodiversity and geological conservation interests in the restoration of sites and the inclusion of reference to the protection of Local Wildlife Sites.

Full details of the consultations undertaken and the responses received can be found in the *Regulation 30 Pre-submission Consultation Statement* (September 2009), which may be viewed on the Council's website.

The reasons for choosing the document, as adopted

The Minerals DPD sets out the way in which minerals development in Rutland will be managed. The policies determine future provision and the form that this should take.

In developing the Core Strategy, a number of options were considered covering the following issues: supply of minerals; location of future mineral working, including options for an area of search for the future extension of Ketton Quarry; protection of residential amenity and other sensitive land uses; protection of the natural and built environment; transportation of minerals; safeguarding mineral resources; encouraging recycled and secondary aggregates; and restoration and aftercare. The final document represents a balance between many of the options that were identified for these issues.

The measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effect of implementation of the document

The Minerals DPD is designed to ensure that every opportunity is taken to minimise the risk of negative effects. Two principal steps will be taken to minimise and manage such effects, namely:

- every application for planning permission will be assessed on its environmental and social impacts against detailed policies contained within the DPD. This will include project level Environmental Impact Assessments and/or Appropriate Assessment, where applicable;
- annual monitoring will be undertaken of the significant environmental effects of the plan. Indicators have been developed for monitoring the performance of the DPD which will provide the basis for identifying where the DPD needs to be strengthened, maintained or changed in some way. The results of this monitoring will be reported annually through our Annual Monitoring Report.

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