

MINERALS - MONITORING

Key Issue:

Whether there are clear arrangements for managing and monitoring the delivery of the strategy. (PPS 12, Paras 4.1 and 4.47)

1. *Are there likely to be new or amended objectives that will need to be monitored?*

The Council does not anticipate that there will be any new objectives that will need to be monitored. The Council proposes minor changes to 2 objectives, but does not consider that these will affect any of the proposed monitoring indicators or targets.

2. *As a basis for effective monitoring, does the DPD provide sufficient information on how an adequate and steady supply of minerals is to be maintained?*

The Council considers that the principal means of maintaining the adequate and steady supply of these minerals is through the maintenance of appropriate landbanks. The DPD provides information regarding the provision of appropriate landbanks for aggregates and brickclay. Specific contributions are not identified for the provision of other minerals extracted within the County as there are no national or regional targets for such minerals. The Government does not consider that landbanks are appropriate in the case of energy minerals.

3. *Are there date specific targets where appropriate?*

There are no date specific targets as the Council does not consider that any are appropriate in relation to minerals.

4. *Are the key targets set out in the body of the DPD and are the monitoring provisions consistent with those targets?*

The Council considers that key targets are set out in the main body of the DPD and that the monitoring provisions are consistent with those targets.

5. *Is it clear what action will be taken if the targets are not met (many are "monitor only")? Are there (should there be) contingency plans within the strategy that would be triggered if key targets are not met?*

Chapter 13 sets out output indicators and targets for monitoring for each of the objectives and policies in the DPD. The Council considers that this provides a suitable monitoring framework for the Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) to measure and assess the performance and delivery of the DPD. Para 6.5 indicates that the DPD will be subject to continual review and revised if necessary. The AMR will be the key document used to identify any necessary changes. The Council considers however that many of the policies in the DPD are sufficiently flexible to deal with changing circumstances.

6. *How is the effectiveness of Policy CS13 (Charnwood Forest) to be secured? [CBC]*

The Council intends that the effectiveness of Policy CS13 mainly be secured through the determination of planning applications. It will involve working with the minerals industry and others to ensure that any mineral proposals within or adjacent to Charnwood Forest are developed in a way that reflects the policy.

Policy CS13 is included within the section of the monitoring framework dealing with Environmental Protection and Enhancement. The Council proposes that the policy be monitored only, primarily under the first and fifth indicators.

7. *In respect of new aggregate recycling facilities, how has the target of 75% been arrived at?*

The target of 75% was canvassed at the preferred options stage in relation to Preferred Options Policy 3. This policy indicated that aggregate recycling facilities should be located at existing mineral operations, existing waste management operations, appropriate industrial estate locations, and other appropriately located sites close to the source of materials with good infrastructure links. The target of 75% reflected the importance that the Council expected such sites to play. This target figure was canvassed at the preferred options stage. No comments were received regarding the inclusion of this target.

In the light of representations received, the policy in respect of aggregate recycling was rewritten to deal with facilities at existing mineral sites only. The revised policy recognises that such facilities should be located close to the source of materials, have good infrastructure links and not cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities. The Council intends that the Waste Development Framework address recycling proposals in other locations.

Whilst the policy on aggregate recycling facilities was altered, the related monitoring target was inadvertently not changed. The Council does not consider that the target of 75% of new sites at existing mineral sites is appropriate. The Council accordingly proposes that the target be amended to: 'All facilities at mineral sites to be located in accordance with the requirements of Policy DC22'.

8. *In respect of the number of new sites with restoration proposals to priority after uses, how has the target of 50% been arrived at?*

The target of 50% was canvassed at the preferred options stage in relation to Preferred Options Policy 41. This figure was considered appropriate to monitor the effect of the Policy in seeking particular after-uses whilst recognising that many mineral sites will continue to be restored to an agricultural use. No comments were received regarding the inclusion of this target. The Council has therefore concluded that it is reasonable to use this figure as a guide to judge the efficacy of the policy, but acknowledges that, as with the DPD policies themselves, the appropriateness of this target will need to be monitored and reviewed if necessary.

9. *Are the monitoring provisions easy to follow given the grouping of policies and objectives and the wrapping of new sections onto different pages?*

The Council considers that the grouping is necessary because in many cases an indicator is intended to monitor more than one policy. The Council accepts, however, that the layout would be improved by setting out each group/section on a separate page.