

## **LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

### **LEICESTERSHIRE AND LEICESTER WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

#### **Statement Regarding the Sustainability of the Adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents**

**September 2009**

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

#### **How environmental considerations have been integrated into the documents and how the sustainability appraisals have been taken into account**

The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents seek to manage waste with less reliance on landfill and to maximise the use of alternative materials in order to reduce the reliance on primary-won minerals, having regard to sustainability objectives. At the same time, the documents will seek to provide protection to the environment and the quality of life enjoyed by those who live, visit and work in the area.

A series of appraisals were produced in parallel with the preparation of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents. These assessed each option, core strategy objective and policy against the sustainability appraisal objectives. Chosen options were influenced by the outcomes of the sustainability appraisal reports, for example, the report indicated the preference for the extension of sand & gravel sites offered employment and infrastructure benefits. Where negative impacts were predicted amendments to the policy wording were suggested to prevent or reduce the severity of any adverse effects – the policy on international and national sites in both documents was amended as a result of the recommendations of the sustainability appraisal at the preferred options stage. Furthermore, measures were recommended for the core strategy as a result of the appraisal, for example, locating waste sites near to their arisings and minerals sites to their markets.

A summary of the environmental and social implications of the Core Strategy is provided in the *Sustainability Appraisal Report*.

#### **How opinions expressed have been taken into account**

Four stages of public consultation and an examination in public were undertaken during the preparation of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents. As part of these consultations, detailed comments were received from statutory bodies covering issues such as nature conservation and site restoration. Views were also expressed by members of the public and interested parties on a number of topics, including the strategy for extending current mineral sites, impacts upon Green Wedges, and the effects of locating waste facilities in urban areas. All comments received were taken into account in producing the next stage of the documents and, numerous changes were made throughout; such as comments from Natural England led to a change to the wording of Policy WCS10 and, likewise, Policy MCS17 was amended in response to the Coal Authority's suggestions.

Full details of the consultations undertaken and the responses received can be found in our *Consultation Statement*, published on the Council's website.

### **The reasons for choosing the documents, as adopted**

The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents set out the way in which waste and natural resources in Leicestershire will be managed – protecting mineral resources and increasing recycling and recovery of waste. The policies and targets will be fundamental in determining the number of new facilities to plan for and the form that these should take.

In developing the Core Strategy, a number of options were considered. These included meeting new minerals' demand from new sites, establishing a forward programme of workable reserves for coal, continuing a reliance on landfill and making no attempt to encourage non-road transport. The final documents represent a balance between many of these options.

### **The measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effect of implementation of the documents**

The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents are part of a set of documents for minerals and waste planning designed to ensure that every opportunity is taken to minimise the risk of adverse impacts. Three principal steps which will be taken to minimise and manage such effects:

1. production of Site Allocations documents which will identify sites for new development based on strict criteria about their potential environmental and social impacts. Sustainability Appraisals will be undertaken on all potential sites. Opportunity to comment on these criteria, sustainability appraisals and on potential sites will be available when work recommences. Visit [www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk) for updates;
2. every application for planning permission will be assessed on its environmental and social impacts against detailed policies contained within the documents;
3. annual monitoring will be undertaken of the significant environmental effects of the plan, as described in the documents and in the Sustainability Report, and will identify whether the documents are providing positive benefits. The results of this monitoring will be reported annually through our Annual Monitoring Report.

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