

GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT MINERALS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

Main Modifications

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum

March 2012

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In August 2009, agreement was reached across the ten Greater Manchester authorities to prepare a joint Minerals Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) (the Minerals Plan). Once adopted, the Minerals Plan will set out the locations in Greater Manchester where mineral extraction may take place, safeguard minerals resources with potential for future extraction, and provide guidance on all aspects of environmental and resource protection including the sustainable transportation of minerals. Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, where a Local Planning Authority is preparing a Development Plan Document it is mandatory for the plan to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout its production, to ensure that it is fully consistent with, and helps to implement, the principles of sustainable development. The Minerals Plan was therefore subject to SA throughout its preparation.
- 1.2 The Minerals Plan was published in July 2011, prior to it being submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2011. The SA report was published alongside the Minerals Plan and is available to view at: <http://www.gmmineralsplan.co.uk/docs.html>.
- 1.3 A number of main modifications to the Minerals Plan are proposed following the Examination into the Minerals Plan in February 2012. These modifications are being suggested to update the Minerals Plan prior to its adoption to reflect the results of the public examination, factual amendments and errata. These modifications will be subject to consultation between **Friday 3rd August 2012 and Friday 14th September**.
- 1.4 This report has been produced to consider the implications of these main modifications for the SA of the Minerals Plan.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The SA Framework, together with details of how it was developed and the methodology for the appraisal are set out in the Minerals Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report November 2009. The SA of the Plan was also informed by national guidance and best practice. The main modifications that are proposed to the Plan following the Examination have been assessed by members of the team that undertook the original SA of the Plan in order to consider whether these modifications merit further SA.

3. Main Modifications

- 3.1 The following table lists all the main modifications to the body of the Submission version of the Minerals Plan and whether the modifications are considered to have any significant implications for the SA of the Plan.

Change ID number	Policy/Para number	Reason for change	Suggested change	SA implications
PAMC/AGMA/3	Policy 2 Primary Extraction of Minerals- Aggregates. Aggregate Extraction within Areas of Search	To reflect the information set out within Appendix 1 regarding the requirement to maintain an adequate landbank for crushed rock and sand and gravel.	<p>Policy 2 will be amended as follows:</p> <p>Applications for the extraction and/or processing of sand, gravel or sandstone/gritstone within the Areas of Search identified on Map 2 within this Plan will be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mineral is required to meet a demonstrated need <i>the required landbank of:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. at least 7 years for sand and gravel or</i> <i>ii at least 10 years for crushed rock;</i> and 2. The site contains adequate reserves of the mineral, in terms of quality and quantity for extraction to take place; and 3. The proposal is in accordance with the Key Planning and Environmental Criteria in Policy 1; 	The proposed modification is not considered to significantly alter the intent of the policy and it is noted that the landbank figures had previously been incorporated into Appendix 1 of the Plan. As such, it is considered that the inclusion of these figures within the policy itself is unlikely to have any significant material impact on the SA.
PAMC/AGMA/5	Policy 12 Restoration and Aftercare	To reflect the changes which were agreed during the Preferred Approach consultation, which are supported by the text set out within paragraph 7.28	<p>Policy 12 will be amended as follows:</p> <p>Applications for minerals extraction will be permitted where they are accompanied by appropriate proposals for site restoration and aftercare. This should include all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details of the final restoration scheme and proposed future land use; 2. Details of timescales for completion of restoration including details of completion of individual phases of restoration where a progressive restoration scheme is proposed; 3. Details of financial provision to be put in place to guarantee the restoration of the site; 4. Details of aftercare arrangements that are to be put in place to ensure the maintenance and management of the site once restoration is 	The clause in the policy that made reference to the requirement to submit details on the financial provisions to be put in place to guarantee the restoration site did not have a significant impact on the performance of the policy in the SA process. As such, the deletion of this clause from the policy is unlikely to have any significant material impact on the SA.

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			<p>complete;</p> <p>5. Details of community liaison measures to be put in place during the operation of the site including mineral extraction, restoration and final land use.</p> <p>In defining the future land use for the site, restoration should be geared towards improvement of final landuse and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority that the proposal is in accordance with the Key Planning and Environmental Criteria in Policy 1; ii. Reflect the requirements of the relevant Development Plan; iii. Take account of the pre-working character of the site and its landscape setting where appropriate; iv. Where land is to be restored for agricultural or forestry, use appropriate restoration techniques to ensure that the land is capable of supporting such uses in the long term; v. Provide for the enhancement of the quality of the landscape, biodiversity assets, local environment, European sites, ecological value of the site or the setting of historic assets to the benefit to the local or wider community. 	
PAMC/AGMA/24	Policy 7, page 38	To ensure soundness	<p>Policy 7</p> <p>Mineral Safeguarding Areas</p> <p>Prior extraction of Mineral Resources</p>	The policy as previously drafted noted that the exclusion of the urban area from the Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs)

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			<p><i>Within Minerals Safeguarding Areas</i></p> <p>All non-mineral development proposals within the Mineral Safeguarding Area (see maps 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8) should extract any viable mineral resources present in advance of construction. Proposals for prior extraction of minerals will be permitted provided the proposal is in accordance with Policy 1 'Key Planning and Environmental Criteria'.</p> <p>Proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas <i>which that</i> do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for the development outweighs the need to extract the mineral; or 2. It can be clearly demonstrated that it is not environmentally acceptable or economically viable to extract the mineral prior to non-mineral development taking place; or; 3. It can be clearly demonstrated that the mineral is either not present or of no economic value or too deep to extract in relation to the proposed development; or; 4. The development is limited (10) or temporary and would not prevent minerals extraction taking place in the future. <p>Exemptions</p> <p>This policy does not apply to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applications for Householder development ii. Applications for extension to commercial developments 	<p>did not mean that prior extraction of minerals was wholly unsuitable in these locations. It did therefore allow for the extraction of viable mineral resources prior to non-minerals development taking place on sites outside of MSAs.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to the policy make it more explicit that suitable prior extraction outside of the MSAs is to be encouraged. The modifications do not however significantly alter the intent of the policy and it is considered that they are unlikely to have any significant material impact on the performance of the policy in the SA process.</p>

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			<p>similar in scale to householder developments iii. Applications for Conservation Area Consent iv. Applications for Listed Buildings Consent v. Applications for Advertisement Consent vi. Applications for Tree Works vii. Prior notifications (telecommunications; forestry' agriculture; demolition); or viii. Certificates of Lawfulness of Existing or Proposed Use or Development (CLEUDs and CLOPUDs)</p> <p>Outside Mineral Safeguarding Areas</p> <p><i>All non-mineral development proposals outside the Mineral Safeguarding Areas where the potential for prior extraction to take place has been identified¹, should seek to extract any viable mineral resources present in advance of construction. Proposals for prior extraction of minerals will be permitted provided the proposal is in accordance with Policy 1 'Key Planning and Environmental Criteria'.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals for non-mineral development outside the Mineral Safeguarding Areas as referred to in footnote¹ that do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where they accord with points 1 to 4 above.</i></p>	

¹ Either through Site Allocation DPDs or other LDF Documents or by the developer

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 As noted in the table above, it is considered that all three proposed main modifications do not significantly alter the intent of the policies. Accordingly, it is concluded that the proposed main modifications are unlikely to have any material impact on the performance of the policies in the SA process and do not therefore merit further appraisal.