

Rachael Copping

From: Faulkner, Alethea <Alethea.Faulkner@urbanvision.org.uk>
Sent: 01 September 2010 11:25
To: Rachael Thorne
Subject: RE: GM Minerals Plan: Defining MSAs Consultation Response

Rachael,

Thanks for the response, which I received last week and I have now had a chance to read through. From your response I believe you are requesting information on three specific areas in relation to the consultation: 'implications of safeguarding', 'extent of safeguarding- specific sites, preferred areas, areas of search' and finally 'detail of plans'. I will deal with each of these in turn, using simplistic examples to assist your understanding.

1. Implications of safeguarding

The definition of Mineral Safeguarding Areas and their purpose is set out within guidance produced by the British Geological Survey: http://www.englishstone.org.uk/documents/mineral_safeguarding_oct07.pdf
This guidance is a fairly easy to read guide, but it's based on MPS1 and its production was supported by CLG back in 2007. A key

In Greater Manchester, national planning policy and the BGS guidance have been used to identify a range of options for defining MSAs for the different minerals occurring within the sub region. The purpose of defining MSAs is not to preclude automatically other forms of development, but to make sure that mineral resources are adequately and effectively considered in landuse planning decisions. In very broad terms, the definition of an MSA for a mineral resource is aimed at ensuring that viable mineral resources are not sterilised and opportunities are maximised for the extraction of a mineral prior to sterilisation by another development.

For example an MSA for Glaciofluvial Sand and Gravel could be defined in Greater Manchester (as per option 1 in the consultation document) which draws a boundary around all sand and gravel resources in GM. If a planning application seeks permission for any permanent development within the boundary of the sand and gravel MSA, the applicant would be required to provide information on the viability of extracting the resource prior to the commencement of the development- which would sterilise the resource. The presence of the MSA would not preclude the development, but would ensure that viable sand and gravel resources are extracted and utilised where ever feasible.

The options set out in the consultation report aim to set out how the MSA should be defined for each mineral resource in Greater Manchester, as there are different considerations for each resource. For example coal resources are considered valuable but where an application for a development within an MSA defined for coal, within the urban area is unlikely to result in the extraction of coal prior to development due to the size of the site or other environmental issues. Therefore the MSA options set out the possible exclusion of the urban area from the MSA for coal in Greater Manchester.

To be clear MSAs do not seek to safeguard a resource for extraction of the mineral, that is the purpose of other allocations and policies within the Plan.

2. Extent of safeguarding

Mineral Safeguarding Areas are allocations separate from preferred areas, areas of search and specific sites.

As set out within the BGS guidance (see purpose of MSAs on page 6) 'there is no presumption that any area within an MSA will ultimately be environmentally acceptable for minerals extraction. Areas of search, Preferred Areas and Specific Sites are designated for that purpose. The purpose of MSAs is not to preclude automatically other forms of development, but to make sure that mineral resources are adequately and effectively considered in landuse planning decisions'.

3. Detail of plans

My colleague Philippa Lane has been contacted by you colleague David Thompson and I believe an agreement has been reached between them, which will see GIS data relating to the range of MSA options for each mineral types in Greater Manchester. This will provide you the ability to scrutinise the detail of the boundaries in a much depth as you wish.

I hope my responses set out above are helpful, having read through your answers to the consultation questions I wonder if you wish to recast these as I think there may be some confusion over the purpose of MSAs.

Please get back to me as soon as you can.

Kind Regards

Alethea

From: Rachael Thorne [mailto:rthorne@peel.co.uk]
Sent: 27 August 2010 15:47
To: planningteam@gmmineralsplan.co.uk
Cc: Faulkner, Alethea; Lane, Philippa
Subject: GM Minerals Plan: Defining MSAs Consultation Response

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached consultation response on behalf of Peel Holdings (Management) Limited.

As already agreed, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss some issues raised within the attached response with a view to submit a finalised response by Friday 3rd September, if necessary.

Regards

Rachael Thorne
Graduate Planner

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