

**GREATER MANCHESTER MINERALS PLAN DPD
EXAMINATION – 22 and 23 FEBRUARY 2012**

Hearing Statement and Appendices

The Coal Authority has submitted statements for Matters 1, 3 and 4 which are supported by one set of three Appendices which apply to all three statements.

The commentary set out below should be read in conjunction with the detailed comments made on the Publication DPD which for ease are set out in Appendix 1 for information. Appendix 2 summarises the comments The Coal Authority has made on the Core Strategy DPDs of the 10 constituent LPAs, together with the mineral policy wording from those Core Strategies to allow the issue of consistency and conformity to be considered at the Examination Hearings. Appendix 3 includes a number of case studies which detail the prior extraction of surface coal resources from within urban areas across England.

Background

The Coal Authority is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and is a 'Specific Consultation Body' for Development Plans and a 'Statutory Consultee' for Development Management. The Coal Authority was established by Parliament in 1994 to undertake specific statutory responsibilities associated with the licensing of coal mining operations in Britain; handle subsidence claims which are not the responsibility of licensed coalmine operators; deal with property and historic liability issues and provide information on coal mining.

The main areas of planning interest to The Coal Authority in terms of policy making relate to:

- the safeguarding of coal as a mineral in accordance with the advice contained in MPS1 and MPG3 in England; and
- ensuring that future development is undertaken safely and reduce the future liability on the tax payer for subsidence and other mining related hazards claims arising from the legacy of coal mining in accordance with the advice in PPG14 and MPG3 in England.

extraction is substantially less than some other forms of extraction there are unlikely to be the same enforcement difficulties that can arise from trying to enforce outdated restoration and aftercare plans.

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