

## **Matter 1: Policy 1**

### ***Issue: Whether the Policy is consistent with the aims of the National Policy Framework.***

1. The Submitted Plan and the proposed modifications are considered to meet the requirements of national planning policy, are justified in the local context and therefore considered sound and legally compliant.
2. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (**NP026**) sets out the purpose of the planning system as contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. There are three parts to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, these are mutually dependant. To achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system (**NP026** NPPF paragraph 8, page 3).
3. Paragraph 15 of NPPF states that policies in Local Plans should be based upon and reflect, the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally (**NP026** NPPF paragraph 15, page 4).
4. As set out within NPPF, minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and therefore our quality of life. It is also established that Local Planning Authorities should, through their Local Plan, set out the environmental criteria against which planning applications will be assessed so as to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health (**NP026** NPPF paragraph 143, bullet point 6, page 33).
5. The Planning Inspectorate issued advice to Planning Authorities in the form of model wording that, if incorporated into a draft Local Plan Submitted for examination, would be an appropriate way of meeting the expectation that Local Plans should be based upon the presumption in favour of sustainable development (**RD034**). The wording of Policy 1: The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Minerals Development is based upon the advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate.

6. Policy 1: The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Minerals Development sets a position whereby positive consideration will be given to minerals development which accords with the policies set out in both the Minerals Plan and other relevant Local Plan (Local Development Framework) policies. It is important to note that the Minerals Plan must be read in conjunction with the relevant district Local Plan because it forms part of each Local Development Framework. The Minerals Plan addresses minerals-specific issues and all other general planning issues, including policies on climate change, etc. will be set out in Local Plans. An application for minerals development would therefore not be assessed against one policy, or even the Minerals Plan, in isolation. Instead, an application for minerals development would be assessed against a range of policies both within the Minerals Plan and other relevant plans, such as the Local Plan or NPPF. This is set out in paragraph 3.2 of the Submitted Plan (**SD001**) under 'Status and Use of the Minerals Plan'.
7. It is considered that by including a reference to these other plans and policies in Policy 1: The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Minerals Development, the three parts of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental gains are encompassed. It is not necessary or prudent for the Minerals Plan to repeat policies contained within other plans.
8. As an example, policies covering such areas as water quality, air quality and climate change, amongst a wide range of other areas, can be found in:
  - Other policies of the Minerals Plan (**SD001**) (e.g. Submitted Plan Policy 1: Key Planning and Environmental Criteria)
  - Policies contained within each Authority Local Plan (**LP001, LP057, LP058, LP004, LP059, LP062, LP007, LP008, LP060, LP010**) – **LP010**); and
  - The National Planning Policy Framework (**NP026**).
9. Policies contained within the Development Plans across Greater Manchester, including the Minerals Plan, will ensure that mineral operations will not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on people or the environment.
10. The Submitted Plan and the proposed modifications are considered to meet the requirements of national planning policy and are justified in the local context and therefore considered sound and legally compliant. As such no changes to the Plan are proposed.

11. Policy 1: The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Minerals Development is therefore considered to be consistent with the aims of the NPPF.