

GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT MINERALS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

OFFICER STEERING GROUP

6TH December 2011

Briefing Note on the Changes to the Minerals Plan during and after the Hearing

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Plan should not be submitted for examination unless the submitting authorities consider it 'sound'. So, strictly speaking, there is no expectation of changes to the Plan. In reality there usually are a few changes, however minor.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out a procedure for responding to these changes during and after the Hearing. The Hearing will take place during the last week of February 2012. At the moment Inspector's reports are binding. Local Authorities have no scope for changing recommendations. Accordingly, a procedure is necessary to influence the Inspector's recommendations.

2. Pre Hearing Indications

- 2.1 The sort of changes proposed by the Inspector are unlikely to be a complete surprise. The Pre Hearing Meeting (PHM) may give some indications. The Agenda and list of questions to be explored at the Hearing, issued after the PHM, will give some insight into the topics to be considered. The representations made at Publication will also provide an indication of what could be covered or may directly seek changes to the Plan. In response to these representations it is proposed to produce statements of common ground with key representors to identify precisely what is in dispute and what is not.
 - It is proposed to circulate these statements of common ground and the Hearing list of questions with Steering Group Officers prior to the Hearing.

3. During the Hearing

- 3.1 It is possible that during the Hearing on the Minerals Plan the Inspector will suggest that the Minerals and Waste Planning Team try to reach an acceptable way forward with a particular representor. Any such agreement will need to be submitted to the Inspector shortly after the Hearing closes.

- It is proposed to circulate these issues to Steering Group Officers and Joint Minerals Planning Committee Members for comment and agreement on the extent of any changes. Any resulting discussions will need to be approved by Joint Minerals Planning Committee Members before submission to the Inspector.

4. Changes to the Minerals Plan After the Hearing

- 4.1 About 2 weeks after the close of the Hearing the Inspector will send a letter outlining proposed changes. It is likely that there will be 4 to 6 weeks to respond. The Programme Officer will advertise and consult on these changes. Many of these proposed changes will be minor spelling or wording changes but a few may have more significant implications.
- 4.2 MWPU will coordinate consultation on the letter of proposed changes with GM Districts (the Programme Officer does the other consultations). An additional Sustainability Appraisal may need to be undertaken (it is for the planning authorities to decide) for significant changes, together with discussions/negotiations with affected third parties.
 - It is proposed that MWPU consult Steering Group Officers and Joint Minerals Planning Committee Members on the Inspector's proposed changes and any response / actions arising.

5. Consultation on Post Hearing Changes

- 5.1 Should additional changes be required as a result of the Hearing Sessions, a further consultation exercise will be undertaken. This will be carried out in accordance with previous stages and would last for a period of 6 weeks. This consultation would include all stakeholders and would not be limited to those who had made a representation at Publication of the Plan.
- 5.2 All documents required for consultation would be placed at the agreed deposit points across Greater Manchester as well as on the Minerals Plan website and links from the districts websites. A press advert will also be placed in the Manchester Evening News (MEN) as this covers the whole of Greater Manchester.
- 5.3 Following completion of the consultation, a summary of the representations will be compiled as well as a document detailing our response to this. This information will then be passed to the Inspector for use in compiling his report in to the soundness of the plan. The documents will also be made available on the Minerals Plan website and notification sent to those who have made a representation.
- 5.4 Depending on the nature of the changes, if they are only minor, then consultation could begin fairly quickly after the close of the hearing sessions as these do not require full council approval and a meeting of

the Joint Minerals Plan Committee for approving the changes can be scheduled in for early March. The formal 6 week consultation would then commence in May to avoid the Purdah period.

- 5.5 If the changes were considered to be Major this would require approval from each district's Full Council. Each District has a different timetable for Full Council meetings, and not all occur monthly, therefore until the new Full Council dates are announced following the May Elections it is difficult to give an accurate position as to when such approvals would occur, but it could be estimated that this will happen before the end of July once new members have been sworn in and full meetings have commenced.
- 5.6 It is important to note that the Purdah Period may impact on this timetable if internal committees do not occur in April and May. If this is the case, then there may be further delays as a result of the lead in period for ensuring papers get on the forward plan for each authority in order for them to be considered by the Full Council.