

Matters, Issues & Questions:

Matter 1: Minerals – Overview

Question 1 - 3

Overview

1. Does the MWJP identify all the main challenges to providing minerals sustainably in the Plan area, and are these challenges properly reflected in the vision and objectives and incorporated in policy?

Chapter 3: *Issues and Challenges* in the *Publication Draft (CD17)* identify all the main challenges to providing minerals sustainably in the Plan area. The *Vision and Objectives* respond to the issues and challenges identified in Chapter 3 (page 35). Although potash and hydrocarbons are not specifically mentioned in the *Vision and Objectives* they are referred to in paragraph 3.4 (page 35) of the *Issues and Challenges* Chapter. The *Vision and Objectives* are intentionally more generic; whereas, the challenges are reflected in the policies within the document and this is mirrored indirectly within each policy box, where there is a link back to specific *Objectives*.

2. How does the MWJP seek to achieve the efficient use of minerals resources?

The Plan seeks to achieve the efficient use of mineral resources in several ways.

- Maximising the use of alternatives to primary minerals, such as secondary and recycled aggregate alternatives to primary minerals, such as secondary and recycled aggregate covered by *Policy M11: Supply of Alternatives to land-won primary aggregates*.
- Maintaining a steady and adequate supply of a range of minerals covered by policies
 - M02: Provision of sand and gravel;
 - M04: Landbanks for sand and gravel
 - M05: Provision of Crushed Rock;
 - M06: Landbanks for crushed rock;
 - M07: Meeting concreting sand and gravel requirements;
 - M08: Meeting building sand requirements;
 - M09: Meeting crushed rock requirements;
 - M12: Continuity of supply of silica sand;
 - M13: Continuity of supply of clay;

- M15: Continuity of supply of building stone
 - M22: Potash and salt.
 - Recognising the area's role in aggregates provision in the Yorkshire and Humber Area and adjacent North East region and Planning for future supply requirements covered by policies
 - M02: Provision of sand and gravel;
 - M04: Landbanks for sand and gravel;
 - M03: Overall distribution of sand and gravel provision;
 - M05: Provision of Crushed Rock;
 - M06: Landbanks for crushed rock;
 - M07: Meeting concreting sand and gravel requirements;
 - M08: Meeting building sand requirements
 - M09: Meeting crushed rock requirements
 - Recognising the importance of using local minerals to help maintain and improve the quality of the areas built environment covered by Policy
 - M15: Continuity of supply of building stone.
 - Encouraging the use of non-road transport where feasible to move the mineral around and minimise road transport covered by policies
 - *I01: Minerals and waste transport infrastructure;*
 - *S04: Transport infrastructure safeguarding*
 - *D03: transport of minerals and waste and associated traffic impacts.*
 - Safeguarding mineral resources and supply infrastructure from other forms of development so will be there in the future, as detailed in the issues and challenges summary under paragraph 3.4 (page 35) of the Plan *Publication draft (CD17)* covered by policies
 - *S01: Safeguarding of mineral resources;*
 - *S02: Developments proposed within Mineral Safeguarding Areas;*
 - *S04: Transport infrastructure safeguarding;*
 - *S05: Minerals ancillary infrastructure safeguarding*
 - *S06: Consideration of applications in Consultation Areas*
3. Bearing in mind that minerals can only be worked where they are found, does the MWJP seek to achieve the most appropriate spatial strategy for minerals development? How is this reflected in the Plan?

The Plan seeks to achieve the most appropriate spatial strategy for minerals development. The Plan area has a broad distribution of resources as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 (page 27) of the *Publication Draft (CD17)* of the Plan, although inevitably there are substantial variations in the extent and distribution of the particular types of minerals found. The Plan area is a significant producer of minerals at a regional and in some cases national scale.

The starting point for considering the most appropriate spatial approach for minerals development is to consider the evidence which identifies the location of minerals and also the economic viability of the mineral which is present. British Geological Survey provided the mineral resource data for all minerals within the Plan area as shown in Figure 4 (page 27), Figure 5 (page 27), Figure 9 (page 48), Figure 10 (page 66), Figure 11 (page 69), Figure 16 (page 99 of the *Publication Draft*) (CD17) and on the *Policies Map* (CD22) (interactive version) and CD23 (paper version).

The *Minerals Key Diagram* in the *Publication Draft* (CD17) (page 44) identifies the general extent of surface mineral resources and the location of mineral sites showing the distribution of extraction. It also includes the main transport routes out of the Plan area. Important known export market destinations for aggregate minerals are indicated to illustrate important cross-boundary supply relationships. The *Minerals Key Diagram* provides a spatial overview of surface minerals in the Plan area and particular minerals and issues are dealt with through the development of the Plan.

A first draft of the policies dealing with minerals was in the *Issues & Options Consultation Document – February 2014* (IPC01). Having considered all responses to the consultation, a preferred policy approach for each mineral was published in the *Preferred Options Main Consultation Document* (Nov 2015) (PPC01) which generated further consultation responses leading to the finalisation of the policies in the *Plan Publication Draft* (CD17). This iterative process has ensured that the Plan seeks to achieve the most appropriate spatial strategy for minerals. There is not one overall policy which deals with all minerals, each one is considered separately, reflecting particular circumstances and constraints.

Policy M01: Broad geographical approach to supply of aggregates provides a spatial approach to dealing with sand and gravel and crushed rock. This reflects the relatively wide distribution of aggregates within the Plan area, including the fact that these resources lie within areas subject to the highest degree of restraint in terms of planning policy (i.e. within the National Park and AONBs). It also reflects the fact that aggregate minerals are particularly important at a regional scale, with the Plan area being the largest supplier of concreting sand and gravel within the Yorkshire and Humber, all of which is extracted in the North Yorkshire County Council area. When considering the concreting sand and gravel resources, the Plan acknowledges an established sub-division into two areas, based upon the markets certain active concreting sand and gravel sites serve. The two areas are the northern distribution area, which mainly supplies the North East Region, and the southern distribution area which mainly supplies the Plan area along with South and West Yorkshire. This split is displayed on the *Minerals Key Diagram* on page 44. *Policy M03: Overall distribution of sand and gravel provision* (page 51), and *Policy M07: Meeting concreting sand and gravel requirements* (page 56) reflect this division of the Plan area.

Crushed rock is also an important source of aggregate, overall there is a large level of reserve of crushed rock within the Plan area and if considering crushed rock on this basis there is no likelihood of a shortfall before the end of the Plan period. Crushed rock has also been considered in terms of the types of crushed rock present in the Plan area, these are Carboniferous limestone, Jurassic limestone and Magnesian limestone. The reserves of Carboniferous limestone and Jurassic limestone are considered sufficient to fulfil supply requirements up to the end of the Plan period and beyond. The supply of Magnesian limestone is more limited and as a result Policy M06: *Landbanks for crushed rock* (page 55) specifically identifies a separate landbank for Magnesian limestone and Policy M09: *Meeting crushed rock requirements* (page 60) deals in the first instance with the provision of Magnesian limestone.

Other important minerals in the Plan area include potash and silica sand. The active potash mine is the only operational potash mine in the country, although another one is currently under development in the Plan area; the approach to potash is identified in Policy M22: *Potash, Polyhalite and Salt supply* (page 102). Potash resources are highly constrained as a result of their location only within the National Park, and this constraint is reflected in the policy approach. Silica sand is recognised as a scarce and nationally significant mineral. There is one active site and one dormant site within the Plan area. The approach to silica sand is identified in Policy M12: *Continuity of supply of silica sand* (page 67). Silica sand resources are also highly constrained in terms of their very limited geographical distribution and location partly within the Nidderdale AONB. These circumstances are reflected in the approach set out in Policy M12.

The profile of hydrocarbons has increased since work on the Plan started due to both public and commercial interest. It has developed into a priority to address in the Plan following the announcement by Government in late 2015 of new petroleum exploration and development licences (PEDLs) in the eastern part of the Plan area, as shown in Figure 12 (page 75 of CD17). The Government supports the exploration, appraisal and production of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons and national planning guidance states that conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons are minerals of national and local importance. Detailed policy criteria for this form of development have been included in the Plan through Policies M16 (*Key spatial principles for hydrocarbon development*), M17 (*Other spatial and locational criteria applying to hydrocarbon development*) and M18 (*Other specific criteria applying to hydrocarbons development*) to ensure that an effective local policy is in place. Further information is provided in response to the questions in relation to hydrocarbons.

Clay, building stone and shallow coal are present at a much smaller scale but Policies M13: *Continuity of supply of clay*, M15 *Continuity of supply of building stone* and M21: *Shallow coal*, provide the spatial approach to dealing with these specific minerals. Deep coal is a large resource, but is currently not mined and Policy M20: *Deep coal and disposal of colliery spoil* provides the policy approach for deep coal. The policies for these minerals set out a flexible, criteria-based

approach whilst seeking to allocate land where suitable proposals have been put forward.

Prepared by;

**North Yorkshire County Council
City of York Council
North York Moors National Park Authority**