

Minerals and Waste Joint Plan

York, North York Moors and North Yorkshire County Council Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Member Briefing Meeting Agenda

Friday 23rd January 2015, 1pm

City of York Council Offices – Auden Room (GO47), West Offices, Station Rise, York,

1. Appointment of a Chair
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Agree last meeting's Minutes
4. Presentation on Oil and Gas extraction followed by discussion
5. Preferred Options – Draft Oil and Gas policies
6. Preferred Options – Draft Vision and Objectives
7. Update on Further Sites consultation timetable
8. Site assessment panels
9. Duty to Cooperate
10. Any Other Business

Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Member Briefing Session

Notes of Meeting held at City of York Council, West Offices 23 January 2015

Present:

Cllr Peter Sowray	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Robert Packham	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Dave Merrett	City of York Council
Cllr Tony Richardson	City of York Council
Alison Fisher	North York Moors National Park Authority
David Hugill	North York Moors National Park Authority

In attendance

Vicky Perkin	North Yorkshire County Council
Rob Smith	North Yorkshire County Council
Rebecca Harrison	City of York Council
Caroline Skelly	North York Moors National Park Authority
Mark Hill	North York Moors National Park Authority

1. Introduction

Cllr Merrett appointed as Chair for the meeting

Introductions were made.

2. Apologies for Absence

All present

Cllr Peter Sowray substituting for Cllr Dadd

3. Presentation on Fracking

Vicky Perkin gave an objective presentation on Fracking
Cllr Merrett raised a concern regarding the responsibility of the cement casing for the wells particularly in terms of decommission sites. He highlighted the problems in the past in relation to coal mines, stating that the industry must put money aside for restoration and that the planning authority should have a financial bond in place.

Mark Hill stated that the borehole would be plugged with concrete. Restoration is covered across the various regimes but DECC have the final say.

Cllr Richardson and Cllr Merrett raised queries about the depth of the wells and the height of the rigs. It was confirmed that as a generalisation the greater the depth, the greater the height of the rig.

Mark Hill discussed the treatment of radioactive NORMs (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials) and potential on-site facilities.

4. Draft Oil and Gas Policies

Caroline Skelly introduced the policies.

Cllr Richardson initiated a discussion around background seismic activity and how the policy could address this.

Cllr Merrett referred to the openness of the Green Belt, stating that it should be protected by this policy. Rob Smith clarified that there will be specific Green Belt policies in the Plan although there may be scope to refer to it in the Fracking policy as well.

Cllr Fisher suggested that other regulatory regimes should be referenced in the glossary for clarification on where responsibility lies in relation to the process of fracking. A positive statement of our expectations should also be included.

Cllr Packham stated that the policy/chapter needs to make it very clear that information needs to be included with any application to avoid delay and a potential appeal on non-determination grounds. It should also be included that there is an expectation that fracking would be EIA development.

It was agreed that more text was needed about the production phase and also the restoration phase.

5. Draft Vision and Objectives

Rebecca Harrison introduced the paper.

It was agreed that the Vision should be included before the priorities. The Vision should also make reference to a sustainable future, not a 'business as usual' approach as currently taken.

Objective 5 should reflect the obligations under the climate change act.

6. Update on Sites Assessment Process

Rob Smith updated the group on the progress of the Joint Plan towards Preferred Options. The Supplementary Consultation on sites runs until March 13th. Site Assessment Panels with technical specialists (officers and statutory bodies) are running in January, February and March.

7. Duty to Cooperate

Rob Smith introduced a paper which considered how work on the Joint Plan meets the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate. It considered how to increase the level of Member involvement.

Cllr Merrett commented that the Leeds City Region portfolio discussed aggregates and that the group would be a good starting point for Member involvement on a more formal basis. We should consider obtaining an agreement with the LCR authorities and potentially have someone to represent the LCR at future Member WG meetings.

Cllr Hugill suggested that Tees Valley is also included in discussions but less priority should be given to Sheffield City Region.

8. Any other Business

Rob Smith informed that group that the Local Aggregate Assessment was out for technical consultation with stakeholder and once this had received ratification in the spring, it would become evidence base for the Joint Plan.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24 March 2015 at North York Moors National Park Authority offices (TBC)

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