

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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16 October 2015

Mrs Julie Greaves
 Minerals and Waste Planning Manager
 County Development Unit
 County Hall
 Hertford
 Herts
 SG13 8DN

Our Ref: PL03/DH
 Your Ref:
 Contact Officer: David Hill
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 herts.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Greaves

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW (2015)

Thank you for providing North Hertfordshire District Council the opportunity to comment on the Minerals Local Plan Review document. This consultation whilst public in nature, does appear to be more focussed towards the industry, therefore comments are not overly numerous. Only those issues which may be relevant to North Hertfordshire have been commented on. Additionally as I attended the workshop earlier in the year in relation to site selection methodology and the SA/SEA process there has already been some input into the process by the Council. The conclusions of the workshop appear to have been taken forward in this emerging document.

Issues 1, 2 and 3

Vision 1 appears to be more focused and seemingly guided by economic factors, where as Vision 2 is more concerned with place. A combination of the two might be a good way forward.

Issue 4-5

The chosen objectives seem sensible and appear to cover all relevant aspects of the plan.

Issue 6

A 15 year plan timeframe would meet with national guidance and so would appear to be the most appropriate approach.

Issue 8

The chosen "sieved" approach would appear to be a sensible way of guiding site selection and in line with what was discussed at the stakeholder workshop.

Issue 10

The constraints in Sieve 2 seem sensible and represent the conclusions of discussions held at the workshop as there is only a small number of what would be deemed "absolute constraints" for minerals extraction. However, I do believe that it would be very difficult to justify mineral extraction specifically within a European designated Site (SPA / SAC) and this should potentially be added to this list of constraints.

CABINET (10.11.15)

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Issue 11

The list of criteria for Sieve 3 seem reasonable, however, I do believe the European designations should be within Sieve 2.

Issue 12

Prior extraction of minerals should be encouraged where appropriate and the local plan should define minerals consultation areas and sterilisation areas in accordance with national guidance.

Issue 13

Continuing to use the existing consultation procedure would seem sensible.

Issue 19

Use of secondary and recycled aggregates should be encouraged in line with the Waste Local Plan.

Issue 24

The headline objectives from the SA/SEA appear to meet the SEA Directive and provide a sound basis for assessment of the plan, however, the sub-objectives will also be important, to ensure all relevant issues are covered.

If you wish to discuss these comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

David Hill
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Services