

JOINT LANCASHIRE MINERALS & WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY

Statement Regarding the Sustainability of the Adopted Core Strategy

February 2009

This Statement is prepared under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

How have environmental and social considerations been integrated into the Strategy?

A series of assessments ran in parallel with the preparation of the Core Strategy and looked at the environmental and social implications of options considered. These included an assessment of impacts on key sustainability objectives as well as of more localised matters such as flood risk and impacts on wildlife conservation sites.

The Core Strategy provides direction for managing waste and minerals in more sustainable ways. The benefits of this will be tangible – reducing the need for quarrying and moving away from the use of landfill sites – as well as providing wider benefits in terms of combating climate change and creating new economic opportunities.

A summary of the environmental and social implications of the Core Strategy is provided in the *Sustainability Appraisal Report*.

How have we listened to the concerns of communities and individuals?

Three stages of public consultation were undertaken during the preparation of the Core Strategy, as well as at a public examination led by an independent Inspector. As part of these consultations, detailed discussions were held with the statutory conservation bodies, whose roles involve protecting the local environment.

Through these various consultations, concerns were expressed by respondents on a number of topics, including the transport implications of new waste facilities, the impacts of locating facilities close to residential areas and the risks to landscape character. Full details of the consultations undertaken and the responses which we received can be found in our original *Submission Consultation Statement*, which is published on the Council's Website.

Why have we chosen the options that we have, and what alternatives did we consider?

The Core Strategy sets out the way in which waste and natural resources in Lancashire will be managed – protecting mineral resources, increasing recycling and re-use and diverting waste away from landfill. The policies and targets set out in the Strategy will be fundamental in determining the number of new facilities that we will need to plan for and the form that these should take.

In developing the Core Strategy, a number of options were considered. These included placing strict environmental limits on mineral extraction and putting

increased reliance on rail-based transport, as well as other options such as allowing greater opportunity for businesses to decide the need for new facilities.

The Core Strategy represents a balance between many of these options, providing a clear direction of travel whilst recognising the need to be flexible to new opportunities and local circumstances.

How we will respond to unforeseen consequences?

The Core Strategy forms part of a framework for minerals and waste planning, which has been designed to ensure that every opportunity is taken to minimise the risk of adverse impacts. Three principle steps which will be taken to minimise and manage such effects:

1. We will go through a detailed process of identifying sites for new development, identifying these sites based on strict criteria about their environmental and social impacts. Opportunity to comment on these criteria and on potential sites will be available over the coming months. Visit www.lancsmwdf.com for more information.
2. Every application for planning permission will follow strict policies on environmental and social impacts, which will be set out in a separate Development Control Policies Document. Visit the website above for more information.
3. Frequent and on-going monitoring will be undertaken, as described in the Core Strategy and in the Final Sustainability Report, and will identify whether the Core Strategy is providing positive benefits. The results of this monitoring will be reported annually through our Annual Monitoring Report.

Next Steps

To plan for the new developments we will need to deliver the Core Strategy's objectives, we will be preparing two additional documents – one addressing specific site allocations for new developments, the other setting out new development control policies. A Sustainability Appraisal will be conducted alongside these documents.

Further Information:

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