

**Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Minerals Core Strategy  
Stakeholder Meeting 2  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

**Outcomes from the Green Group – Facilitated by Andy Blaxland**

**Workshop 1 – Key Issues for Minerals Planning**

The Group considered that the most appropriate way to consider the key issues would be to take each of the four main mineral types in turn, and then to consider general issues applicable to all. The Group identified the following key issues:

Ball Clay

- Rail should be the preferred option for transportation
- There is a lack of a strong policy framework in the RSS, however Ball Clay is of national and international importance and should be reflected in the RSS
- The environmental capacity of the extraction areas, which are localised
- A need to know the extent of current consents, and the number of years supply this will provide - and thus what level of future supply is needed to meet demand
- The need to review the current safeguarding approach
- How to identify potential sites
- The most appropriate means of restoration given length of life of sites, and whether there are alternatives to heathland restoration

Hydrocarbons

- If there has been a reduction in output from Wytch Farm, there should be “spare infrastructure” that could be readily utilised for processing and transportation.
- There is a need to consider carefully the potential environmental impact of oil exploration on the Purbeck ridge
- It is recognized that oil extraction has relatively less environmental impact than other forms of mineral extraction

Aggregates

- The impact on neighbouring counties of the need for gravel to serve Dorset – should Dorset seek to continue to rely on imports or seek greater local provision?
- The crucial importance of transport infrastructure – particularly in relation to import and export of aggregates
- The proximity principal relating to supply
- The environmental impacts of extraction of aggregates and the potential difficulties in identifying sites
- The promotion of recycling and re-use, and the role of other policy documents (e.g. LDFs) in promoting sustainable design and use of recycled materials

Blockstone

- The importance to Dorset of Blockstone must be recognized, in terms of the character of the built environment, historical and cultural development of the County, and the development and retention of skills
- The potential to increase the proportion of crushed rock for exports / local use
- The suitability of crushed rock in construction uses

Aside from the issues relevant to the four mineral types, the Group also discussed the need to carefully consider the cumulative impacts of minerals extraction within

Dorset. It was considered that minerals extraction is relatively localised (e.g. Portland and Purbeck) and to this extent the issues relating to extraction, such as transport, landscape impact, noise etc, are more concentrated than might be the case in other counties.

Arising from all of the above, the Group identified the following 6 issues for further consideration through workshops 2 and 3:

1. How does Dorset meet demand for minerals?
2. The demand for Aggregates (gravel)
3. The demand for Blockstone
4. The demand for Ball Clay
5. The demand for Hydrocarbons
6. Transport – how to reduce lorry miles

## **Workshop 2 – Options for Future Minerals Planning**

The Group discussed potential options for dealing with the 6 issues identified in the first workshop. Following discussion, the following Options were identified for each Issue:

Issue 1: How does Dorset meet demand for minerals?

Option 1: Policy driven approach

Option 2: Market driven approach

Issue 2: The demand for Aggregates (gravel)

Option 3: Continue to rely on imports from outside the County

Option 4: Increase the level of dredged gravel

Option 5: Extract more aggregate from within Dorset

Option 6: Increase the supply of recycled/re-used aggregate – this could include crushed blockstone

Option 7: Require more efficient use of aggregate to reduce demand for new extraction

Issue 3: The demand for Blockstone

Option 8: Focus on large scale commercial supply

Option 9: Focus on local supply only

Option 10: Achieve a balance between large scale and local supply

Issue 4: The demand for Ball Clay

Option 11: Meet the level of demand (including national and international)

Option 12: Meet demand in an environmentally acceptable way

Option 13: Don't meet demand

Issue 5: The demand for Hydrocarbons

Option 14: Continue present production levels

Option 15: Increase on-land exploration

Option 16: Encourage off-shore exploration

Option 17: Reduce or prevent further exploration

Issue 6: Transport – how to reduce lorry miles

Option 18: Promote the use of rail and sea transport

- Option 19: Locate minerals facilities (extraction sites/processing plants) close to markets
- Option 20: Concentrate facilities (small number of large sites)
- Option 21: Disperse facilities (large number of smaller sites)

### **Workshop 3 – Delivering the Options**

The Group considered each of the options they identified against a number of sustainability objectives. The options were assessed as either having a positive, negative or neutral impact. The results of this assessment are shown on the attached matrices. Where comments or caveats were identified, these are reflected in the matrix.

Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd  
May 2006