

**Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Minerals Core Strategy
Stakeholder Meeting 1
7th March 2006**

Outcomes from the Blue Group – facilitated by Tim Snell

Workshop 1 - Sustainability Objectives

The group discussed the economic environment for minerals production and the fact that the market determines how quickly minerals are worked and sites completed. One delegate informed the group that the Avon quarries have experienced a 50% reduction in sales due to increased recycling rates on building sites etc. It was also noted that minerals only make up a small section of Dorset's economy, with tourism and leisure also being important constituent elements.

In terms of the general objectives discussed, the group felt that the reduced list on the first sheet were not suitable. In a number of instances, the group felt that a number of duplications had been made. For example 'shopping and consumerism' might be implicit under 'economy'.

Instead, the group felt the more comprehensive list of objectives on the other sheets formed a suitable starting point although the terminology and interpretation needed some changes. The agreed comments were as follows:

Objective 1

The group felt this was an appropriate objective, although it was noted that environmental goods and services should be a driver for the economy and the wording of the second sub-objective may need to be changed accordingly.

Objectives 2 & 3

The group felt these were appropriate objectives.

Objective 4

There was consensus amongst the group that transportation should be mentioned in this section. In particular, it should be an objective to 'reduce road transport' or to 'move minerals and waste in the most environmentally friendly way possible'. The group felt it was important to move goods onto rail / ship wherever possible.

Objective 5

The group felt that these objectives could be re-worded to create a more positive set of objectives. Instead (for example) of 'encouraging the greater use of re-use and recycling of waste', the group felt it was better to 'increase re-use and recycling of waste'.

Similarly, 'minimise the use of raw materials / minerals' should be changed to read 'reduce the use of raw materials / minerals'.

The group felt the third sub-objective should be expanded to include ‘more sustainable use of water resources’.

Objective 6

With respect to minerals production, a new sub-objective suggested by the group is: ‘to maximise the yield of existing and dormant sites’.

The group felt this was an appropriate objective although it was noted that this is more of a government level objective, and may be beyond the remit of the Dorset Minerals Core Strategy.

Other issues considered

Throughout discussing the overarching objectives, the group discussed other important issues, including:

- The expanding of Military of Defence Estates and potential conflicts between this and mineral workings; and,
- The issue of working minerals from the sea as an environmentally friendly (comparatively) alternative (Sea 1 Sand). Also discussed was the need to wash such sand before it is suitable for use as a building material and the water resource implications of this.

Workshop 2 - A Vision for the Future

The group suggested the following vision for the core strategy:

“ A practical strategy for extracting minerals which takes into account local economic needs, local community concerns, and Dorset’s unique environment.”

Workshop 3 – Objectives for Future Minerals Planning

The group began by looking at the objectives contained within the existing minerals and waste local plan, and refined them. The group comments were as follows:

Objective 1

The group felt this objective should be revised to read as follows:

“To reconcile the need for minerals and the need to protect the environment, which maximises long-term sustainability.”

Objective 2

The group felt this objective needed deleting, and re-writing as follows:

“To use the most appropriate method of extraction to ensure waste minimisation and the use of less damaging and more efficient technologies to reduce the requirement for new resources.”

The group thought this objective would lend more to improving the yield and efficiency of sites.

Objective 3

The group felt this objective should be revised to read as follows:

“To identify areas where mineral working can take place without prejudicing the local environment or the amenities or living conditions of its residents and visitors.”

Objective 4

The group felt this objective should be revised to incorporate number 5. It would therefore read as follows:

“To ensure restoration takes place at the earliest opportunity and to seek, where appropriate and practicable, a positive contribution in terms of landscape enhancement, habitat creation, public access or recreational use on the restored mineral sites.”

Objective 5

To be included as above.

Objective 6

The group felt this objective should be revised to read as follows:

“To seek the co-operation of the minerals industry in upgrading the working and restoration of existing permitted sites to the best current standards.”

Objective 7

The group felt this objective should be revised to read as follows:

“To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of valuable mineral resources by other forms of development.”

The group then recommended two additional objectives as follows:

“To have regard to:

- access issues
- the historic environment
- the natural environment
- wildlife
- geological interest
- and other community concerns”

This objective was suggested originally by one delegate, based on a number of real life examples, and the group felt it would work better as a ‘catch-all’ objective.

“To maximise the transportation of minerals by rail and water transport wherever practicable.”

The group felt it was important to move minerals off the road wherever possible.

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