

WORKSHOP 3
Restoration

BLUE GROUP

- b) Which of these approaches is considered most appropriate to be taken forward through the Core Strategy;
- i. Plan wide restoration strategy
- The Group agreed that a Plan wide restoration strategy was acceptable in principle, provided it was not too prescriptive. However the Group concluded that bespoke or site specific restoration schemes were preferable.
 - The Plan horizon to 2026 provides an opportunity to think about restoration in the long term, which was considered an advantage of this approach.
 - It was noted that former mineral sites could be used for water supply (reservoirs), buffer zones etc and therefore could enable future development
- ii. Bespoke site specific restoration schemes
- The Group supported the principle of bespoke restoration schemes, however they felt that such schemes were probably best considered in the Sites Allocation DPD rather than the Core Strategy.
 - Flexibility is needed in any bespoke scheme. It should also be acknowledged that effective restoration takes time and there is a degree of uncertainty.
 - Bespoke would include restoration appropriate to the area.
- iii. Mineral type/area specific strategies
- Area specific strategies allow opportunities for the consideration of restoration on a more comprehensive basis, where several sites may be closer together. It was recognised however that land ownership could be an issue.
 - An area wide restoration policy is needed for known resources so that opportunities can be capitalised upon.
- iv. Other
- Questions were raised over whether a 5 year aftercare period is long enough; it depends on what the site is being restored to.
 - Operators work under lease, with final restoration often dictated by the landowner, therefore public access can be an issue. It needs to be recognised that minerals operators do not always have a choice in restoration.
 - Restoration needs to be seen as an opportunity.