

# **MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

## **CORE STRATEGIES**

# **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

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## **Purpose of the document**

The purpose of this document is to summarise the Sustainability Appraisal Report, which examines the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options.

The report considers whether there are any measures which could be introduced to better support the principles of sustainable development.

## Non-Technical Summary

### Sustainable Development

The Government has identified that in order for a plan to contribute to sustainable development, it must be implemented within environmental limits and promote a strong and just society. These principles are underpinned by the maintenance of a sustainable economy, the practice of good governance and the use of sound science responsibly.

In order to ensure that planning documents contribute to sustainable development these guiding principles must be considered in an integrated and open process of appraisal and assessment, allowing informed and transparent decisions to be made. Sustainability Appraisal allows the effects of a planning document on society, the environment and the economy to be considered before it is implemented, and to be monitored after implementation.

### Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

This *non-technical summary* describes the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process which has been carried out upon the North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategies. The SA process also includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the main purpose of which is to see whether the plan is likely to have any significant environmental effects (both positive and negative).

This summary will:

- highlight the activities undertaken on the SA so far;
- set out the current sustainability baseline relating to minerals and waste planning in the plan area;
- provide an assessment of the significant effects of the Council's preferred core strategies and alternatives for the minerals and waste core strategies;
- recommend how these effects can be avoided, offset or reduced; and
- establish proposals to monitor these effects.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report has been produced by North Yorkshire County Council's Sustainability Team, working with the Minerals and Waste Planning Unit. It has been subject to internal consultation in order to ensure a robust and transparent assessment process.

This non-technical summary and the SA Report document the findings of the appraisal in order to provide stakeholders with information of the potential significant effects of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies and with an opportunity to comment on the findings, at the same time as making comments on the Minerals and Waste Preferred Options Core Strategies.

### Responding to this Consultation

Comments on the Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper or the Sustainability Appraisal Report (either in full or this non-technical summary) can be returned through the following methods:

By Post:

Return the response form to the following address:

**Environmental Policy Officer  
Development & Countryside Service  
Business & Environmental Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AH**

By E-mail:

E-mail any comments to:

[mwdf@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:mwdf@northyorks.gov.uk)

Through NYCC's website:

At [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk) follow the *Environment* and *Planning* links and click on the *Minerals and Waste Development Framework Use our Form* button. The Council is now able to receive comments through its website. This will open a form where contact details and any comments can be submitted. Please include whether you are interested in Minerals issues, Waste issues or both.

**NB: RESPONDENT'S DETAILS AND RESPONSES WILL BE MAINTAINED ON A COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION DATABASE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PRODUCTION OF THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK. ALL RESPONDENT'S DETAILS AND RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED AS NON-CONFIDENTIAL.**

**Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope**

The first stage of the SA was a scoping process, which established the context for the sustainability appraisal, identified sustainability issues and indicated possible implications for the Minerals & Waste Core Strategies. The core strategies scoping report was produced between January and April 2005. The production of the scoping report involved:

- i. a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes that could be influenced by or have an influence on the core strategies and the derivation of twenty seven sustainability objectives from these plans;
- ii. collecting baseline data on a wide range of issues;
- iii. identifying a range of indicators with which to assess the performance of the core strategy once adopted;

- iv. the identification of local sustainability issues and problems that may influence the scope of the plan, which highlighted that the County has a high dependence on agriculture and tourism, access to services challenges, a lack of alternatives to road transport county-wide, and a need to facilitate rural renaissance and agricultural diversification;
- v. the identification of specific environmental issues in North Yorkshire, which highlighted that the County contains significant proportions of the total national resource of some habitats, currently has no air quality management areas, has a significant number of protected landscapes and scheduled ancient monuments and has very extensive river catchments;
- vi. the development of an SA framework or methodology.

At this stage in the SA several difficulties were encountered including: the collection of baseline data and compilation of indicators and targets in line with the plan timetable. This task took longer than anticipated, but has now been completed for consultation within the Sustainability Report.

The Council held a Scoping Workshop in March 2005 to assist in the development of objectives used in the appraisal. Internal experts, County Councillors, representatives of the District Councils within North Yorkshire, and the four statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage and Countryside Agency) were invited. Objectives were developed around the following issues:

Transport	Infrastructure
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity
Landscape	Land
Soil & Geology	Rural Affairs
Nuisance	Energy
Economic Development	Waste
Employment	Education
Water	Safety & Well Being
Air Quality & Minimising Emissions	Minerals
Climate Change	Social Exclusion
Tourism	Health
Recreation	Accommodation
Local Provision	Participation
	Security

### **Developing and refining options and assessing effects**

The Minerals and Waste Development Framework Issues and Options Paper set out a number of options for strategic policy approaches. Consultees were invited to indicate their preferred option on these strategic policy approaches. The

Sustainability Appraisal of key issues within the Issues and Options Paper was published for consultation between 13<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

This appraisal looked at the potential positive and negative effects of each of the plan options and ascribed a major, moderate, minor or neutral level of effect to each.

Using the results of this exercise it was revealed which combination of options had the potential to produce an alternative with the maximum number of positive effects and the fewest number of negative effects. This alternative was termed the “SA Preferred Option”. Preferred options of consultees were also identified. Using both preferred options the plan-makers developed their own preferred options. In many instances these were the same as the SA preferred option and consultee preferred option.

The significance assessment of the Strategic Options highlighted the following potential significant effects:

### **Aggregate Minerals Option 1**

- Traffic congestion in preferred areas (-ve)
- Use of the strategic road network rather than the local road network (+ve)
- Impacts on air quality and emissions, biodiversity, heritage, soil and geology, and the landscape due to the concentration of minerals workings in specific areas (-ve)
- Concentration of economic benefits in preferred areas (+ve)
- Increased pressure for water abstraction in preferred areas, and potential risks to water quality in these areas (-ve)
- Efficient use of existing infrastructure (+ve)
- Inflexibility may result in difficulties meeting regional apportionment (-ve)

### **Aggregate Minerals Option 2**

- Potential for increased numbers of journeys on local road network (-ve)
- Potential to find sites that do not have significant impacts on biodiversity, heritage, soil and geology, and landscape (+ve)
- Distribution of economic benefits, and supply chain linkages for the local economy and potentially creation of new employment opportunities (+ve)
- Efficient use of land and existing infrastructure (+ve)
- Flexibility to meet the County’s regional minerals apportionment (+ve)

### **Sand & Gravel Option 1**

- Reduced number of journeys and use of the strategic road network (+ve)
- Support minerals industry and its contribution to the local economy (+ve)
- Potential negative impact on the ability to meet the demand for sand and gravel (-ve)

## **Sand & Gravel Option 2**

- Increased requirement for the transportation of materials, resulting in more journeys and use of the local road network. This may in turn have negative effects on climate change and air quality (-ve)
- May provide new infrastructure in rural areas, which may in turn support rural diversification and economic growth (+ve)
- May ensure a steady supply of minerals, and the local provision of minerals (+ve)

## **Waste Management Strategic Spatial Option 1**

- Encourage the use of the strategic road network and provide the opportunity to transport more waste per journey (+ve)
- May result in longer journey times to waste treatment facilities, which may result in increased emissions and a negative impact on local air quality (-ve)
- Large scale facilities have the potential to have negative effects on the landscape and on site emissions (-ve)
- Encourage large scale investment (+ve)
- May provide employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas (+ve)
- Large scale sites have the potential to be “future proofed” with regards to climate change (+ve)
- Makes best use of existing infrastructure and focuses on strategic locations (+ve)
- Potential to make use of brownfield land (+ve)
- Potential to exploit economies of scale (+ve)

## **Waste Management Strategic Spatial Option 2**

- Increased use of local road network and result in more journeys with less waste per journey, with associated negative effects on air quality and climate change (-ve)
- Spread support for existing businesses (+ve)
- May require the construction of new infrastructure (-ve)
- Positive effect on the rural economy and job market (+ve)
- A larger number of small scale facilities have the potential for negative effects on archaeological sites and their context (-ve)
- Smaller scale facilities have the potential to provide local services (+ve)

## **Waste Locational Option 1**

- Potential increase in traffic congestion in settlements due to the development of new sites in these areas (-ve)
- Reduced transport distances in settlements for waste treatment (+ve)
- Increased transport distances outwith settlements for waste treatment, may have negative effects in terms of air quality and emissions (-ve)
- Potential to negatively affect the historic environment due to the use of brownfield sites (-ve)
- Potential for negative effects on the landscape, particularly outside of settlements (-ve)

- Support existing businesses and encourage investment, may contribute to employment opportunities (+ve)
- Potential negative effect where brownfield land opportunities are susceptible to flooding (+ve)
- Potential for co-location may result in the re-use of infrastructure and the efficient use of land (+ve)
- Limit the volume of waste treated because of the limited supply of brownfield land (-ve)

### **Waste Locational Option 2**

- Potentially reduces transport distances, with potential effects on air quality and emissions (+ve)
- The use of greenfield sites may have an impact on previously unknown archaeological sites and their context, biodiversity, soil and geology, the landscape, and climate change (-ve)
- Contribute to employment opportunities and support the viability and diversity of the rural economy (+ve)
- More flexibility to avoid flood risk (+ve)
- Significant quantities of new infrastructure may be required (-ve)
- Ensure that the volume of waste being treated is maximised (+ve)

### **Waste Locational Option 3**

- The use of greenfield sites may have an impact on previously unknown archaeological sites and their context, biodiversity, soil and geology, the landscape, and climate change (-ve)
- Support existing businesses and encourage investment, and contribute to employment opportunities (+ve)
- More flexibility to avoid flood risk (+ve)
- Potential negative effects on air quality due to the potential for greater transport distances (-ve)
- Flexibility and responsiveness to the waste industry may encourage co-location and the re-use of existing infrastructure, and the best use of land (+ve)
- Ensure that the volume of waste being treated is maximised (+ve)

The findings of this stage of the SA were fed into the development of the Preferred Options.

The next stage of the SA involved predicting the likely effects of each of the core strategy options in terms of their significance. Significance was attributed to an effect by evaluating a number of different factors:

- Probability that the effect will occur;
- Scale of the effect should it occur;
- Spatial extent; including any transboundary effects;
- Timescale or duration;
- Permanence; and
- Frequency

The following tables reveal the significant effects that the SA has predicted. It notes whether the effect is positive (+ve) or negative (-ve) and describes where mitigation to significant effects has been taken into account in the Preferred Policy Approaches within the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies Preferred Options Paper. It also reveals where mitigation is yet to occur, such effects are highlighted.

### Minerals Preferred Core Strategy Significant Effects and Mitigation

	Minerals - Significant Effects	Minerals Preferred Options Reference/Recommendations
1	Transportation of large volumes of material, mainly on the road network may result in emissions and negative effects upon air quality (-ve)	M1 Paragraph 12.42 M11 M16
2	Consideration of transport early in the planning process may encourage the use of alternative forms of transport (+ve)	M7 M11 Paragraph 12.42
3	Potential negative impacts on in situ archaeological remains (-ve)	M13 M15
4	Potential negative impacts on the setting of archaeological remains (-ve)	Consideration should be given in the development of policies to the settings of archaeological sites
5	Disruption of soils and destruction of geomorphological features may occur (-ve)	Consideration should be given in the development of policies to the effects of the disruption of soils and geomorphological features
6	Potential negative effects on landscape and natural beauty (-ve)	M13
7	Consideration of locally designated landscapes and protection of other environmental features may enhance the landscape (+ve)	M13 M14 M15
8	Site restoration plans include the need to take into account the landscape (+ve)	To maximise this effect reference could be made in the development of policy to the impact of afteruse on wider landscape considerations
9	May lead to mineral sterilisation due to wider protection afforded to environmental features (-ve)	M13 M14 M15
10	Does not take into account the practicality/affordability of alternative forms of transport (-ve)	Paragraph 12.42 M11
11	Promotes the optimal use of primary resources and the development of a secondary aggregates industry (+ve)	M1 M2 M5 M6 Consideration should be given to including this in M4
12	Support existing aggregate industry (+ve)	M5 M6

13	Support potential energy mineral development (+ve)	M7 M8
14	Support existing non-aggregate minerals industry (+ve)	M9
15	Helps to maintain current employment levels in the industry and sets the context for further employment opportunities (+ve)	As this is very much a secondary effect of the Mineral Core Strategy no specific reference is available
16	Potential to create new employment opportunities in energy mineral industry (+ve)	As this is very much a secondary effect of the Mineral Core Strategy no specific reference is available
17	Protection of water quality and resources and avoidance of flood risk to and from developments (+ve)	Flood risk included in M16 Ground and surface water protection in M16 in terms of water abstraction but more consideration should be given in the development of policies to water quality issues
18	Potential benefits to water quality, resources, and flood defence through site restoration (+ve)	See above plus Consideration should be given in the development of policies to maximise benefits to water quality through restoration
19	The burning of minerals may result in emissions and negative effects on air quality (-ve)	Consideration through monitoring and policy development should be given to minimise the effects on emissions and air quality
20	Potential localised air pollution problems through concentrating development in specific areas (-ve)	See paragraph 12.42 re: location of sites
21	Extraction and transportation of minerals may result in the emission of greenhouse gases (-ve)	Consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change should be given in the strategic aims and reflected throughout policies where appropriate; however paragraph 12.42 re: location of sites is noted
22	Burning of energy minerals may result in the emission of greenhouse gases (-ve)	
23	Appropriate location of sites may result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (+ve)	
24	Maintenance of the character of North Yorkshire may result in positive effects on the tourism industry (+ve)	M13
25	Measures to protect the amenity value of a site and its surroundings (+ve)	M10 M16
26	Restoration plans may include recreation or amenity use (+ve)	M12
27	Maximises the use of existing infrastructure and minimises the need for new infrastructure (+ve)	Consider inclusion in the development of policies in M16

28	New sites for mineral workings have potentially negative effects on biodiversity (-ve)	M14
29	Protection of designated nature conservation sites and protection and enhancement of priority BAP habitats and species (+ve)	M14
30	Potential for restoration to be focussed on nature conservation and/or rare habitats/species (+ve)	M12
31	Promotes the development of non-renewable energy mineral production (-ve)	M7 M8
32	Promotes the prudent use of energy mineral reserves by promoting new means of energy production (+ve)	PPA10
33	Generation of potential large volumes of inert waste requiring disposal (-ve)	This is a cross cutting negative effect of the plan as a whole, needs to be addressed at a strategic level.
34	May lead to a decrease in potential secondary aggregates being discarded as waste (+ve)	M1 M2
35	Inert waste may continue to be used to infill sites as part of the restoration process (+ve)	M16
36	Promote the prudent use of primary resources and encourage development of secondary minerals, whilst potentially promoting locally derived minerals (+ve)	M1 M2 M5 M6 Consider including mention of locally derived minerals in the development of policies.
37	Sets the framework for the consideration of particular local issues during the production of restoration plans (+ve)	M16

**Waste Preferred Core Strategy Significant Effects and Mitigation**

Waste - Significant Effects		Waste Preferred Options Reference/Recommendations
1	Encourages a reduction in the need to travel and transport distances for waste (+ve)	W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7 W8 W11
2	Potential negative impacts on in situ archaeological remains (-ve)	W13
3	Potential negative impacts on soil resources (-ve)	W15
4	Waste facilities could have negative impacts on the landscape (-ve)	W12 W15
5	Moves waste away from landfill towards treatment/energy recovery (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points
6	Offers protection to locally designated landscapes (+ve)	W12 W15
7	May result in restoration plans which are more appropriate to the landscape (+ve)	Potentially included in W15
8	Consideration of site location factors and <b>alternative transport methods</b> may reduce potential nuisance (+ve)	Location: This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points <b>Alternative transport methods should be considered in relation to significant effect 10</b>
9	<b>Potential difficulties in finding appropriate locations for new waste facilities (-ve)</b>	<b>This is a cross-cutting potential negative effect of national guidance rather than the MWDF.</b>
10	<b>Does not take account of the practicality/affordability of alternative forms of transport (-ve)</b>	<b>Consideration should be given to the practicality/affordability of alternative transport methods (note sustainability issue on lack of alternative opportunities)</b>
11	Sets the context for investment in new waste treatment and disposal methods (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points
12	Helps to maintain current employment levels in the industry and sets the context for further employment opportunities (+ve)	As this is very much a secondary effect of the Waste Core Strategy no specific reference is available
13	Consideration has been given to the appropriate location of sites relating to water quality, resources, and flooding (+ve)	W12 W15

14	Potential benefits to water quality, resources, and flood defence through restoration (+ve)	Potentially W15
15	May result in localised air pollution problems through focusing development at locations adjacent to current transport routes (-ve)	Consideration through monitoring and policy development should be given to minimise the effects on emissions and air quality
16	A reduction in waste production/increase in recycling rates may result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (+ve)	Consideration should be given as to how this benefit of the Waste Core Strategy may be promoted
17	Energy from waste may result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (-ve)	W3 W11
18	Alternative modes of transport/more efficient movement of waste may result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emission (+ve)	Consider promoting this benefit of the Waste Core Strategy through policy development
19	Maintenance of the character of North Yorkshire may result in positive effects on the tourism industry (+ve)	W12 W13 W15
20	Protection of the amenity value of a site and its surroundings (+ve)	Paragraph 13.18-13.19 Paragraph 13.20-13.23 W10 W15
21	Restoration plans may include recreation or amenity use (+ve)	Paragraph 13.20-13.23 W15
22	Sets the context for local treatment/disposal of waste (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points
23	Maximises the use of existing infrastructure and minimises the need for new infrastructure (+ve)	Consider inclusion in W15
24	Reduction in the number of landfill sites due to tackling waste further up the hierarchy (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points
25	Protection of designated nature conservation sites, and protection and enhancement of priority BAP habitats and species (+ve)	W13
26	Potential for restoration to be focussed on nature conservation and/or rare habitats/species (+ve)	Paragraph 13.22
27	Focus development on previously developed land; avoiding need to use greenfield sites wherever	W2

	possible (+ve)	
28	Sets a framework to ensure that facilities are located where they are needed (+ve)	W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7 W8
29	Potential to improve access to services, especially for rural communities (+ve)	See Above
30	Reduction in waste production/increase in re-use/recycling may result in savings in energy. May also lead to energy recovery from waste (+ve)	Paragraphs 10.5-10.8 Paragraphs 10.9-10.16 Paragraph 10.17 W3 W4 W5
31	Potential to transport waste in bulk may lead to energy efficiencies (+ve)	W2 W11 W15
32	Protection of environmental resources may place constraints on new waste developments (-ve)	W12 W13 W14
33	A reduction in waste permanently disposed of to landfill may promote the development new waste treatment technologies (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points
34	Potential for site activities to focus on minimising risk to safety and promoting well-being (+ve)	W2 W7 W15
35	May promote the re-use/recycling of waste mineral products (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points
36	May lead to more efficient use of, and a requirement for less, primary mineral development (+ve)	This is a cross-cutting theme of the Waste Core Strategy and is referenced at numerous points

Where adverse effects have been predicted by the SA, measures to prevent, reduce or offset these effects have been proposed.

The SA has also identified some cumulative effects. Cumulative effects can be the result of policies in the Core Strategy having insignificant effects on their own, but when combined with other the effects of other policies they affect are significant. Cumulative effects can also occur where several individual significant effects of the Core Strategy have a combined effect equal to the sum of its parts. These include for both core strategies high level concerns around climate change, the effects of transportation of goods and materials, impacts on air quality and impacts on environmental assets.

## **Consultation**

The Council has been involved in ongoing consultation and has held informal meetings at the request of interested parties, as well as responding to queries regarding the sustainability appraisal process. The results of the consultation have informed the sustainability appraisal.

The Consultation process relating to the SA has been open to over 190 organisations including specified consultees, general consultees, such as environmental, community or business groups, and other interested parties.

## **Monitoring**

Once the core strategies are implemented, their effects on the environment, society and the economy are to be monitored to allow actions to be taken to reduce and/or offset any significant effects on the environment. The SA Report includes proposed measures to monitor the significant effects of the plan.

## **Next Steps**

The publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Report signifies the start of the consultation process, whereby the statutory bodies, key stakeholders and the public are given the opportunity to comment on the contents of both the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies and the SA Report.

The outcomes of the SA Report and the results of this public consultation will be used to guide the development of the Submission Core Strategies for Minerals and Waste. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategies will continue to be developed prior to the final submission policy document being submitted to the Government Office in July 2007.