

Please ask for: Caroline Jeffery
Contact No: 01603 222193

Your ref:
My ref:

6 March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NORFOLK MINERALS SITE SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN
DOCUMENT (DPD) Single Issue Review of Silica Sand - Initial Consultation Document**

I am writing to inform you that the Initial Consultation on the Single Issue Silica Sand Review of the Norfolk Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan will take place over a six week period from 9 March to 20 April 2015 (inclusive), and I would welcome your comments.

Norfolk County Council in its capacity as the Mineral Planning Authority has some additional specific questions which it wishes to ask Sibelco UK Ltd, as the sole silica sand operator within Norfolk.

- 1) Paragraph 6.9 of the Initial Consultation document considers whether the cost impacts of transporting mineral to the processing plant result in a maximum distance at which extraction sites would be economic. At what distance would Sibelco UK Ltd consider that it would be uneconomic to transport silica sand to the processing plant, and is this best expressed as a distance or as a journey time?
- 2) Paragraph 6.10 of the Initial Consultation document considers quality and grade variances within the mineral resource. Are there areas of the silica sand resource, on which Sibelco UK Ltd have information which leads you to the view that they do not contain silica sand suitable for processing at the Leziate plant? If there are such areas, could Sibelco UK Ltd please provide details to Norfolk County Council, including map-based plans, to ensure deliverability of Allocations/Preferred Areas/ Areas of Search?

The Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan (adopted by full Council on 28/10/2013) contains a requirement for a Silica Sand Review of the Plan to be completed by 2016. The review is needed to address the predicted shortfall, of 2.6 million tonnes, in the quantity of silica sand extraction sites allocated in the Plan. It is predicted that around 750,000 tonnes of silica sand will be extracted from Norfolk per annum. It is expected that no more than

Continued

one or two additional specific sites will need to be allocated over the plan period (to 2026) to meet the shortfall. If suitable sites are not submitted through the Silica Sand Review process then Preferred Areas and/or Areas of Search for future silica sand extraction will need to be designated instead.

The Initial Consultation document contains a number of questions regarding the approach that the County Council propose to take in the assessment of specific sites and, if necessary, in the designation of preferred areas/areas of search for future silica sand extraction.

In accordance with the Planning Inspector's comments on the Minerals SSA Plan, "The review will also help ensure that attention is focused on suitable extraction areas within the silica sand resource area. Uncertainty and unwarranted pressure on unsuitable sites would be avoided."

Copies of the Initial Consultation Document, and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, are available for public inspection, free of charge, within normal opening hours up to and including 20 April 2015, at all public libraries and Council Face-to-Face centres in Norfolk, and at:

- Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2SG
- Breckland District Council, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, East Dereham, NR19 1EE
- Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1EX
- North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EL
- Norwich City Council, City Hall, Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH
- South Norfolk Council, South Norfolk House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, NR15 2XE
- The Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

All documents are also available on Norfolk County Council's website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf

Where possible the County Council would prefer representations to be made directly to www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf; however responses by post, fax and email will also be accepted. **All comments, in whatever form, should be made by 5pm on 20 April 2015.**

After the current consultation period finishes, the next stage in the preparation of the Silica Sand Single Issue Review will be the publication of the Preferred Options Document, which is planned to take place in summer 2015.

Any enquiries should be made to LDF@norfolk.gov.uk or to Caroline Jeffery, at the address on this letter.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Jeffery
Principal Planner (Minerals and Waste Policy)