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My ref:

9 May 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Norfolk Minerals Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD):
Single Issue Silica Sand Review – Pre-Submission Document:
Invitation to make representations**

I am writing to inform you that the County Council has published the Pre-Submission version of the Minerals Site Specific Allocations DPD – Single Issue Silica Sand Review. This document has been published to allow representations on the soundness and legal compliance of the document to be made, over a six week period, between **9am on 16 May and 5pm on 27 June 2016** (inclusive).

The silica sand resource in Norfolk occurs entirely within the administrative boundary of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

The Single Issue Silica Sand Review is needed to address the predicted shortfall, of 2.6 million tonnes, in the quantity of silica sand extraction sites allocated in the Minerals Site Specific Allocations DPD. It is predicted that around 750,000 tonnes of silica sand will be extracted from Norfolk every year.

The Silica Sand Review has been through the following stages: an Initial Consultation during March and April 2015, a 'call for sites' in June 2015, and a Preferred Options Consultation during November and December 2015.

The Pre-Submission version of the Silica Sand Review allocates one specific site for silica sand extraction and six Areas of Search (AoS) which have been defined by planning officers. Areas of search are large areas within which permission for silica sand extraction may be granted on a smaller area of land. Developers wanting to extract mineral from specific sites or land within an area of search allocated in the Silica Sand Review will still need to apply for and be granted planning permission before mineral extraction can take place.

The areas of search and site allocated in the Silica Sand Review Pre-Submission document are located in the following parishes: Bawsey, Dersingham, East Winch, Ingoldisthorpe, Marham, Pentney, Runcton Holme, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Snettisham, Stow Bardolph, Tottenhill, Wormegay.

Continued.

In addition to the Pre-Submission document, the following documents which provide information to support the policies in the Silica Sand Review have also been published:

- Revised Policies Map (illustrates the policies contained in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan)
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (Parts A and B) (shows social, environmental and economic impacts of the Silica Sand Review)
- Sustainability Appraisal non-technical summary (summary of above)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (of impacts on European-designated nature conservation sites)
- Pre-Submission Statement of Consultation (details consultees and their responses)
- Equality Impact Assessment (how different people will be affected by the Silica Sand Review process and policies)
- Flood Risk Sequential Test (demonstrates compliance with the requirements of paragraphs 100-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework)

These documents are available for public inspection, free of charge, within normal opening hours up to and including **27 June 2016**, at all public libraries in Norfolk, and at:

- Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH
- 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 on the Silica Sand Review webpage.

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. The statement of the representations procedure and representations form is enclosed. A downloadable and printable representation form is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf.

All representations, using whatever method, must be made by 5pm on 27 June 2016.

Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified, at a specified address, of any of the following:

- that the Silica Sand Review has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector
- the publication of recommendations of the Planning Inspector appointed to carry out the independent examination of the Silica Sand Review
- the adoption of the Silica Sand Review

Following the end of the representations period, the Pre-Submission version of the Silica Sand Review, relevant background documents and the representations received will be submitted to the Secretary of State later in 2016, for public examination by a Planning Inspector.

Yours faithfully



Caroline Jeffery Principal Planner (Minerals and Waste Policy)