

Emma Pierce-Jenkins,
Principal Planning Officer,
Environment and Regeneration,
Borough of Telford and Wrekin,
Darby House, PO Box 212,
Lawn Central,
TELFORD TF3 4LB

5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Direct Line: 0121 352 5482

Fax: 0121 352 5313

Email: mike.price@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

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Dear Emma,

**Telford and Wrekin Local Development Framework,
Minerals Development Plan Document – Preferred Options Report,
Consultation 1st November -13th December 2006.**

Thank you for your letter dated 31st October 2006 and the Preferred Options Report for the Minerals DPD. There are a number of comments I have to make which I hope will be helpful in the preparation of the Submission Document.

Firstly, I note that you are taking a spatial approach and considering the issues and options and selecting your preferred options for minerals policies in relation to social, economic and environmental matters rather than purely land use issues. This is to be welcomed.

Following your consideration of issues and options you are not looking to set out a policy to meet every circumstance but rather propose a set of generic policies which will be used to guide and control minerals development in Telford and Wrekin. You have taken the opportunity to address cross-boundary issues with Shropshire County Council. Again, this is to be welcomed. You will need to follow this approach through to the Submission Document. It will be important to show how the policies relate to minerals policies relate to those in the remainder of Shropshire and the Region.

With regard to national policy, you will be aware that MPS1 "Planning and Minerals" and its associated Practice Guide were issued in November 2006. MPS1 replaced MPG1 and completed the replacement of MPG6, both of

which have been cancelled. I am aware that you have followed the guidance in the draft MPS1 in preparing the Preferred Options Report. You will need to take into account the published guidance in preparing the DPD for Submission. In particular you should note the Government's objectives and the guidance on landbanks for minerals.

Whilst Telford as a growth point is referred to in the Report, you may wish to consider in more detail the implications of the recent announcement on New Growth Points in terms of the future demand for minerals in the Submission Document. On a related point, in terms of the need to include flexibility in the DPD, you will need to take account of the emerging revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

I note that the options are based on evidence of supply and estimated demand and that you have also included the regional apportionment for minerals. There is a brief justification for the choice of preferred options. It may have been helpful to include evidence from the Sustainability Appraisal to support the choice of the preferred options.

Reference is made to monitoring in the Report. It will be important to set out in the Submission Document a clear implementation and monitoring framework with clear references to targets and milestones.

You have mentioned climate change in the Report, recognising that this is an important issue. You will need to take into account emerging policy on climate change and the provisions of the draft PPS when preparing the Submission Document.

Finally, I note that, having established the preferred options, you go on to set out what are generic development control policies for minerals. It is not necessary to set out at this stage draft versions of policies. You may need to reconsider them in the light of the guidance contained in MPS1.

I apologise for not completing the representations forms but I think the comments are of a more general nature. However, should you wish to discuss any of the points raised, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

MIKE PRICE

Senior Planning Officer

Western Division (Planning and Transport)