

EXAMINATION OF THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Position Statement submitted on behalf of Tarmac Trading Limited

Following the Inspectors Issues and Questions to the Council (Document Reference IN/02) where the issue of Mineral Safeguarding was raised, we have reviewed the Council's response to the Inspector (Document Reference EX/09). The Minor Modification to the wording of paragraph 3.1 as proposed is as follows,

'the allocation of sites for development needs to take account of the potential sterilization of mineral reserves'.

Whilst the intention to ensure allocations do not needlessly sterilize mineral resource in accordance with the NPPF is supported, it is unclear how the Local Planning Authority would monitor and ensure the non-sterilization of mineral resource for new developments not proposed for allocation. As such the modification is not considered effective nor is it consistent with the NPPF on mineral safeguarding (paragraph 143).

Leicestershire County Council are the Mineral Planning Authority. However, as advocated by the Planning Practice Guidance, specifically in regards to mineral safeguarding (paragraph 005 – reference ID 27-005-20140306), 'district councils have an important role in safeguarding minerals'. Three measures are included as to how Local Authorities should provide this role, the first of which is,

- 'Having regard to the local minerals plan when identifying suitable areas for non-mineral development in their Local Plans. District Councils should show Mineral Safeguarding Areas on their policy maps'.

To be effective and compliant with National Policy we consider the wording of the submission draft should remain the same, *'there exists supplies of minerals which need to be protected from development which would sterilise them'*. However, as was stated within our representations to the Submission Draft of the Leicestershire Local Plan, we consider that Mineral Safeguarding Areas should be included on the Local Plan Proposals Map to ensure a level of clarity to all future developers and the Local Planning Authority as to the location of known mineral resources within the District.

Further explanation on the role of the Leicestershire as Minerals Planning Authority would be beneficial. The adopted Minerals Core Strategy includes policy (MDC8) on safeguarding including reference to 'exempt development' as will the new Minerals Local Plan once adopted. Reference to the Leicestershire County Council Minerals and Waste Safeguarding Documents (Document S6/2015) - currently in preparation as part of the emerging Leicestershire Mineral and Waste Local Plan - would be helpful. In addition to reference to the proposed Mineral Consultation Areas which will be undertaken following adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Examination is likely to be held in 2017). Cross reference to these adopted and emerging policy documents would reduce the need for repetition within the North West Leicestershire Local Plan.