

KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN: CORE STRATEGY

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Between

KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

And

THE COAL AUTHORITY

In respect of:

- **Matter 9, Question 9.6: Should Policy CS19 include a reference to the need to address mining legacy issues?**
- **Matter 10, Question 10.5: Is the strategic approach to minerals in policy CS25 consistent with national policy? (...) Should the policy include a reference to mineral reserves "of local and national importance"? Is the reference to the economic importance of mineral deposits relevant and justified?**

Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to identify areas of agreement between The Coal Authority and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) on matters relating to the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (KLPCS) submission document and specifically:

- Matter 9 (Question 9.6) **Should Policy CS19 include a reference to the need to address mining legacy issues?** and
- Matter 10 (Question 10.6): **Is the strategic approach to minerals in policy CS25 consistent with national policy? (...) Should the policy include a reference to mineral reserves "of local and national importance"? Is the reference to the economic importance of mineral deposits relevant and justified?**

Background

This SoCG relates to one representor (The Coal Authority) in relation to its representations concerning policies CS19 and CS25 of the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy. The Coal Authority submitted comments in relation to the KLPCS Proposed Submission document (November 2012) objecting to the current wording of policies CS19 "Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development" and CS25 "Management of Mineral Resources".

The Coal Authority representations sought changes to the wording of these policies as follows (in summary):

- Policy CS19 should refer to the need to *"address any issues of land instability, including that arising from mining legacy, to ensure that it is either removed or appropriately remediated through the development process"*.
- Policy CS25 should be changed by replacing the reference to *"viable mineral deposits considered to be of current or future economic importance"* with *"mineral resources of national and local importance"*.


Matters of Agreement

The following matters are agreed between the parties:

- a) Subject to paragraph d) below the Council is willing to consider proposing a main modification to policy CS2 of the KLPCS as set out in annex A to this Statement of Common Ground, the effect of which would be to require proposals for new developments to identify and address any ground stability

issues on the site and to address these so as to adequately mitigate risk to occupiers and users of the development.

- b) Subject to paragraph d) below the Council is willing to consider proposing a main modification to policy CS25 of the KLPCS as set out in annex B to this Statement of Common Ground, concerning the approach to the potential future designation and purpose of Minerals Safeguarding Areas.
- c) Provided that these changes are made to the KLPCS the Coal Authority is willing to withdraw its representations on the KLPCS.
- d) The suggested potential modifications to the KLPCS set out in Annexes A and B are put forward to assist the consideration of this matter at the Examination in Public of the KLPCS. These and any other potential modifications would need to be approved by the Council's Cabinet and undergo formal public consultation before being considered for inclusion in any version of the KLPCS which is finally adopted.
- e) The Coal Authority has identified that parts of Knowsley (as defined in the plan at annex C) contain coal resources which may be capable of extraction by surface mining operations.

| Signed on behalf of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council | Signed on behalf of The Coal Authority |
|---|--|
|  | <i>Mark Harrison</i> |
| Date 15/11/13 | Date |
| Director of Regeneration and Housing | Planning Liaison Manager |

ANNEX A

POTENTIAL MODIFICATION TO POLICY CS2 "DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES"

Potential Main Modification

Amend policy CS2, Principle 4, clause i. to read:

"i. address any issues of unstable land, resulting from recognising and managing Knowsley's legacy of minerals extraction; and"

NB This potential modification should be considered alongside other potential modifications to other clauses in policy CS2 as set out in the Council's statement on matter 2 "Spatial Development Strategy and Principles".

ANNEX B

POTENTIAL MODIFICATION TO POLICY CS25 "MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES"

Potential Main Modification

Amend policy CS25 clause 2 to read:

"Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) for mineral resources of national and local importance viable mineral deposits considered to be of current or future economic importance will be identified in the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies and shown on the Policies Proposals Map. The purpose of such MSAs will be to ensure that such resources are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development whilst not creating a presumption that these resources will be worked".

ANNEX C

KNOWSLEY DISTRICT SURFACE MINING COAL RESOURCE AREAS

(SEE ATTACHED FILE)