



**The Coal
Authority**

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FAO: Planning Policy Team
Selby District Council

[By email to: ldf@selby.gov.uk]

4 August 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

Selby District Council - Issues and Alternative Solutions (Draft Studies)

Thank you for your email of 25 June 2015 from Ms Atkinson advising The Coal Authority of the above consultation.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body which works to protect the public and the environment in coal mining areas. Our statutory role in the planning system is to provide advice about new development in the coalfield areas and also protect coal resources from unnecessary sterilisation by encouraging their extraction, where practical, prior to the permanent surface development commencing.

As you will be aware, coal resources are present within the Selby District Council area, and the area has been subjected to coal mining which will have left a legacy. By way of illustration, there are 15 recorded mine entries within the administrative area. In addition, records indicate that there are also recorded geological faults / fissures and the Coal Authority has in the past been called upon to deal with 18 surface hazards within the LPA area.

Specific comments on draft studies

In terms of the Employment Land Review (Draft Report) and with reference to question code **Q2e**, The Coal Authority considers that it would be prudent to include a criterion within the Market Assessment Criteria (as outlined in Appendix 4) which assessed coal mining data. In accordance with NPPF guidance (paras. 109, 120, 121 and 166), this would be a due diligence check to ensure that potential development sites do not contain any mine entries or other coal related hazards which would require remediation or stabilisation prior to development.

However, I would emphasise that former mining activities and related hazards are certainly not a strict constraint on development; indeed it would be far preferable for appropriate development to take place in order to remove these public liabilities on the general tax payer. The Coal Authority would therefore not wish to suggest that any potential sites should be excluded from the assessment on the grounds of former mining legacy issues.

With reference to the Framework for Site Selection (Draft Report) and question **Q9 (SS) (b)**, The Coal Authority welcomes the criterion contained within the Site Selection Methodology which is aimed at assessing the implications for mineral sterilisation. We do, however, consider that a criterion should be included in the methodology which makes explicit reference to the assessment of coal mining data, for the reasons outlined above.

In terms of the Designated Service Villages Growth Options Report and with reference to question **Q11 (DSV)**, The Coal Authority has no views on which growth options should be adopted, this is a matter for local determination. However, where proposed allocations are intended to be located within the Kellingley licensed underground coaling area, the potential operational sterilisation relationship between highly sensitive non-mineral surface development and the underground licence should be considered as part of any site allocation methodology.

We look forward to continuing to receive your emerging planning policy related documents, preferably in an electronic format. For your information, we can receive documents via our generic email address planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk, on a CD/DVD, or a simple hyperlink which is emailed to our generic email address and links to the document on your website.

Alternatively, please mark all paper consultation documents and correspondence for the attention of Planning and Local Authority Liaison.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully

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