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Darlington Borough Council  
 Hartlepool Borough Council  
 Middlesbrough Council  
 Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council  
 Stockton on Tees Borough Council

# Sustainability Appraisal of the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste DPD

Options Appraisal Report

October 2007



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## List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
CS	Core Strategy
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DBC	Darlington Borough Council
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Plan Document
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HBC	Hartlepool Borough Council
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
HWRC	Household Waste Recovery Centre
IRF	Integrated Regional Framework
JSU	Joint Strategy Unit
JWMS	Joint Waste Management Strategy
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
MC	Middlesbrough Council
JMWDPD	Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document
ODPM	Office of Deputy Prime Minister
PDL	Previously Developed Land
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RCBC	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SBC	Stockton Borough Council
TV	Tees Valley

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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Background

Entec was appointed by Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councils in August 2006 to develop two Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (JMWDPD), namely the Core Strategy and the Sites & Policies Document.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which will shape the content of the final documents, is also being undertaken by Entec in tandem with the development of the JMWDPDs. The SA incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and is being undertaken in line with guidance issued by the ODPM (2005) in 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents'.

MWDPDs will set out the spatial vision, objectives and core principles for Minerals and Waste development in the Tees Valley until 2021. The MWDPD Strategy will be influenced by a number of documents including the Waste Strategy for England (2007), Securing the Future: UK National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005), North East Regional Spatial Strategy and Tees Valley Structure Plan.

## 1.2 What is a Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

Whilst assessment and public scrutiny is already established practice prior to the adoption of many types of plans and programmes in the UK, SA brings a new emphasis on the following areas in particular: -

- Collecting and presenting information on the environmental, social and economic baseline, current problems and their likely future evolution;
- Predicting significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan or programme, including those of strategic alternatives;
- Addressing the adverse effects through mitigation measures;
- Consulting the public and authorities with environmental responsibilities as part of the assessment process; and
- Monitoring the environmental, social and economic effects of the plan or programme during its implementation.

**In summary, a Sustainability Appraisal provides a robust assessment of emerging policy based on environmental, social and economic data / trends whilst recommending mitigation to improve the plan's performance.**

## 1.3 Purpose of this document

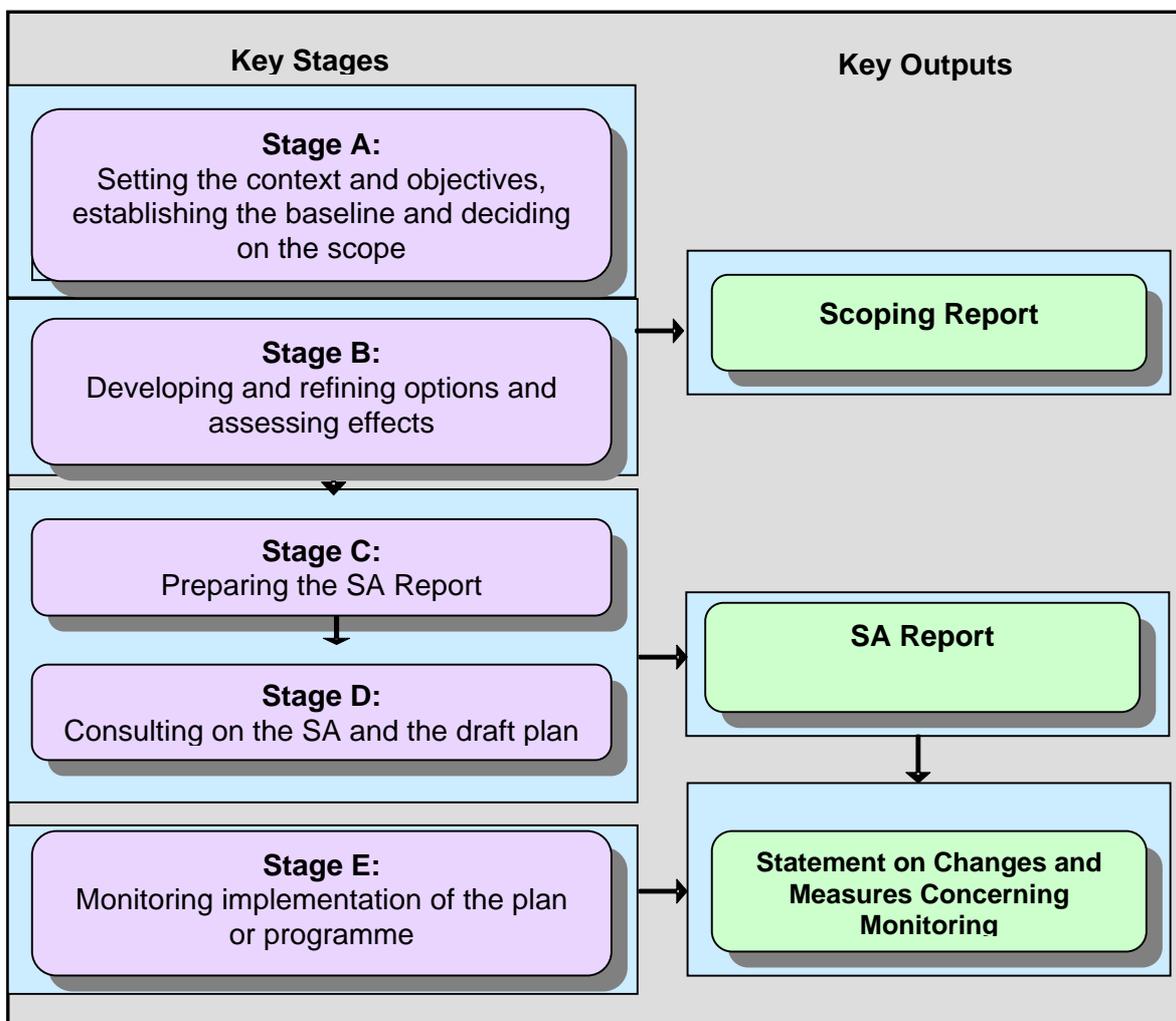
The aim of this document is to summarise Stage 'B' of the SA process (whole SA process is shown in box 1.1).

Stage 'A' of the process has been completed with the expiry of the 5 week statutory consultation period for the SA Scoping Report on each of the Council's websites. Comments received have been recorded and shall be fed into the Final SA Report which will be published alongside the Draft JMWDPD for consultation in February / March. We shall endeavour to take cognisance of late representations where appropriate.

Stage 'B' of the SA process seeks to establish what strategic options are most suitable for the JMWDPD in environmental, social and economic terms. Government guidance does not require public consultation on the findings of Stage 'B' of the SA process until the publication of the Final SA Report (~ July 2008).

**It is the aim of this document to identify the most 'sustainable options' to be carried forward into the draft Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents.**

**Box 1.1 Stages of Sustainability Appraisal**



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## 2. Strategic Options of the JMWDPD

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### 2.1 Introduction

SA requires that information is provided on the relative performance of alternative options for fulfilling the vision and aims of the JMWDPDs. Specifically, the SEA Directive states that the SA Report should consider ‘reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme’ and give ‘an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with’<sup>1</sup>. However, it is **not** the purpose of the SA to decide which alternative options should be chosen for the JMWDPDs. The SA simply provides information on the relative environmental, social and economic performance of alternatives to aid decision makers in coming to a more informed decision. Notwithstanding this, reasoned justification as to why the most ‘sustainable option’ has not been progressed must be afforded.

### 2.2 Strategic Options

The options were developed by Entec in conjunction with Officers of the 5 Local Authorities and are based on a variety of sources including; Government and DEFRA guidance, consultation with key stakeholders, local knowledge and knowledge of other minerals and waste issues throughout the UK. The comprehensive list of strategic options are contained within the ‘Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents – Issues and Options Report (May 2007).

This report has been subject of 6 weeks public consultation and should be read in conjunction with this options appraisal.

**A summary of the strategic options subject to this appraisal is provided below. Please note that not all ‘key issues’ have been directly replicated given that some are open ended questions / discussion points rather than strategic options.**

#### **Issue 1 – Aim of the MWDPD**

The aim of the MWDPD shall be fully appraised against the SA Framework and is provided at Appendix A

#### **Issue 2 – Objectives of the MWDPD**

The objectives PD shall be fully appraised against the SA Framework and is provided at Appendix A

#### **Issue 3 – Requirement for Sand and Gravel**

How should the Tees Valley meet the sub-regional requirement for sand and gravel as set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy?

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<sup>1</sup> SEA Directive 2001/42/EC (Article 5.1 and Annex 1(h)).

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**Options**

- A. The Tees Valley's contribution to sand and gravel provision will continue to rely on the existing operations at North Gare;
- B. The resolution of the planning position at Stockton Quarry to allow it to continue production;
- C. The provision of further reserves through the allocation of additional sites and resources; or
- D. A combination approach which takes into account elements of the three options above.
- E. The requirement can be met by combining reserves with those in County Durham.

**Issue 4 – Rock Resources**

Does the Tees Valley have resources of rock of appropriate quality for aggregate use to contribute to the crushed rock landbank **beyond** the plan period?

**Options**

- A. No. The Tees Valley does not have sufficient resources to contribute to the crushed rock landbank, should a requirement arise in the future; or
- B. Yes. The Tees Valley can make a future contribution to the provision of crushed rock for aggregate use, above that which is currently provided from Hart Quarry.

**Issue 5 – Recycling of alternative materials**

How can the Tees Valley increase its contribution to the recycling of alternative materials for aggregate use?

**Options**

- A. Specific sites should be allocated for the processing of alternative materials so that they are suitable for aggregates use;
- B. The development of processing facilities on existing minerals or waste sites should be promoted;
- C. The development of processing facilities on existing development sites, which are not minerals and waste related, should be promoted; or
- D. A combination of the above.

**Issue 6 – Marine dredged sand and gravel**

How can the Tees Valley continue to support the landing of marine dredged sand & gravel?

**Options**

- A. Sufficient wharf infrastructure is in place to provide appropriate support to the landing of marine dredged sand and gravel, and no further land is required for further infrastructure;
- B. Allocate land adjacent to existing wharves to provide sufficient space for the expansion of the wharves;

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- C. Allocate land for the development of a new wharf, or wharves, to complement the existing facilities;
  - D. Safeguard land for future infrastructure use; or
  - E. A combination approach, taking elements from the above options.

#### **Issue 7 – Coal supply**

Are there sufficient remaining coal resources in the Tees Valley to enable the Tees Valley to make provision for the supply of coal in the plan period?

##### *Options*

- A. No. The coal resources which are located within the Tees Valley are unlikely to be viable to allow a provision to be made from the Tees Valley.
- B. Yes. The coal resources in the Tees Valley could provide a viable supply in the future and account should be made for this possibility.

#### **Issue 8 – Potash**

How should the existing Potash mine at Boulby be dealt with in the Minerals and Waste DPDs?

##### *Options*

- A. The Minerals and Waste DPDs should concentrate on the transport infrastructure required to transport the materials through the Tees Valley, and from Tees Dock.
- B. The Minerals and Waste DPDs should consider the possibility that extractive workings may be required within the Tees Valley, alongside the consideration given to the transport infrastructure.

#### **Issue 9 – Other Minerals**

Are there any other minerals which should be specifically considered by the Minerals and Waste DPDs?

#### **Issue 10 – Safeguarding mineral deposits**

What approach should be taken to the safeguarding of mineral deposits from sterilisation?

##### *Options*

- A. Given the scarcity of viable minerals deposits in the Tees Valley, minerals safeguarding areas should be identified and a high level of protection given to the resources in these areas to prevent their sterilisation; or
- B. There is no need to safeguard the remaining mineral deposits in the Tees Valley, given that the deposits which are remaining are of inferior quality

#### **Issue 11 – Spatial planning policies for waste**

Are there any other ways in which spatial planning policies can drive the management of waste up the waste hierarchy?

#### **Issue 12 – Waste facilities**

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Are there any materials for which there is a shortage of waste management facilities in the Tees Valley, and need to be considered specifically in the allocation of sites? If so, what types of materials need to be considered?

**Issue 13 – Provision of waste management facilities**

In the allocation of sites for waste management facilities in the Tees Valley, what approach should be taken?

*Options*

- A. Clusters of related waste resource facilities on sites located in the traditional industrial areas around the River Tees;
- B. Clusters of related waste resource facilities with no particular focus on their location;
- C. Individual sites spread throughout the Tees Valley; or
- D. A combination approach, which provides both individual sites throughout the area, and also clusters of facilities to provide a wider ranging focus for waste management.

**Issue 14 – Allocation of sites**

What approach should be taken to the allocation of sites, should it be determined that allocations are required?

*Options*

- A. A flexible approach, that leaves the development policies on the site open ended to allow for changing circumstances in the future; or
- B. A focussed approach which gives more certainty as to what developments would be permitted on the site and the use of review and amendment procedures to take into account changing circumstances in the future.

**Issue 15 – Land for waste developments**

How should land for waste developments be identified within the Policies and Sites DPD?

*Options*

- A. Site specific allocations where development would normally be permitted, subject to the proposals being in accordance with all other relevant policies;
- B. Areas of Search within which plots of land for development are likely to be acceptable, subject to being in accordance with all other relevant policies;
- C. A combination of A and B, where site specific allocations are made where possible, but areas of search are also used as a guide to where other developments would be appropriate; or
- D. No allocations are made and all proposals are assessed against the relevant policies in the Local Development Framework as to whether they are appropriate.

**Issue 16 – Land for waste developments**

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Should the allocation of sites focus on existing sites in the Tees Valley, or look to provide new sites?

*Options*

- A. Existing sites, including extensions.
- B. New sites.
- C. A combination of the above two options should be used.

**Issue 17 – Development control policies**

What scope should the protective Development Control policies of the Minerals and Waste DPDs take?

*Options*

- A. An extremely limited range of policies. The various subjects would be protected from any adverse impacts as the result of development existing policy and by other legislation and organisations, which are already in place. Policies should only be included where there is no other relevant protection afforded elsewhere.
- B. A range of development control policies which do not exclude any areas of land from development, but ensures every proposal is assessed on its individual merits against the sensitivities of its proposed location.
- C. A comprehensive range of development control policies which are specifically written with minerals and waste developments in mind, and which provide a high degree of protection to local communities and rule out development in sensitive areas to ensure they are not adversely affected.

**Issue 18 – Criteria assessment**

What subjects should be considered when the positive impacts of proposals are assessed?

**Issue 19 – Sustainable transport**

What approach should be taken to the planning for sustainable transport?

*Options*

- A. Sustainable transport will be adequately covered elsewhere in the Local Development Frameworks and as the principles are the same for minerals and waste developments, as they are for all developments, there is no need to repeat them in the Minerals and Waste DPDs.
- B. Sustainable transport relating to minerals and waste developments is distinct from other forms of development, and should therefore be specifically covered in the Minerals and Waste DPDs.

**Issue 20 – Reclamation**

What approach should be taken in respect of the reclamation of sites?

Options:

- A. An approach which provides a specific focus for all reclamation schemes.
- B. A less focussed approach which allows for reclamation proposals designed specifically for that site.

Should option A be considered, what focus should reclamation schemes have?

Options include:

Bio-mass fuel production;

Bio-diversity;

Woodlands;

Tourism;

Informal Recreation.

**Issue 21 – Waste Audit**

Are the limits set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 for major development, appropriate for identifying the developments which will require a waste audit?

### 3. Assessment of the Strategic Options

The options detailed in the previous chapter have been subjected to a full assessment using the agreed SA Framework. The SA Framework has been developed and amended following public consultation at the Scoping Report Stage of the SA Process (Stage A – as shown in Box 1.1).

The performance of each option against the finalised range of environmental, economic and social criteria was discussed at length and agreed by Environmental Consultants from Entec during workshops held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007. The results have been verified by the JMWDPD Steering Group.

The detailed assessment matrices relating to the appraisal of the options are set out at **Appendix A**.

The assessment used the following scoring mechanism:-

**Table 3.1 Possible Alignment between the Options and the SA Objectives**

Alignment	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The proposed option contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive Impact	The proposed option contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed option does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	0
Minor Negative Impact	The proposed option detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Major Negative Impact	The proposed option detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed option and the achievement of the objective.	X
Uncertain	The proposed option has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?

The detailed appraisal matrices found at **Appendix A** are condensed / summarised below:-

#### **Issue 1 – Aim of the MWDPD**

The Aim / Vision scored well or significantly well against the majority of the sustainability criteria given its overarching and aspirational nature, seeking to establish a comprehensive minerals and waste sector in the sub region. There were no negative relationships identified although a number of minor wording changes could improve scoring and clarify matters.

## Recommendations

Emphasis should be placed on locating minerals and waste process industries close to minerals and waste sources as well as explicitly promoting the use of rail and port facilities where transboundary movement of materials is required.

- **The final line of bullet point 1 could be reworded to state:-**

It is recognised that there are limited opportunities for the extraction of primary minerals, but that the nature of construction work over the plan period will help promote the use of secondary and recycled materials. The Tees Valley will contribute to the national, regional and local requirements for minerals by ensuring minerals are used, managed and extracted in a manner which drives mineral use up the minerals hierarchy, with opportunities for the processing and use of secondary and recycled minerals being maximised as close to source as feasible and without significant environmental degradation ;

- **Amend bullet point 2 to read:-**

A modern waste management industry is in place, which provides an adequate provision of facilities which are driving waste management up the waste hierarchy. Advantage will be taken of the opportunities presented to the waste management industry for education, training, employment, improving the environment, innovation and the symbiotic relationship with other environmental industries, which arise from the nature of the existing industries and available land in the Tees Valley;

- **Bullet point 3 may be strengthened by the following re-emphasis:-**

‘Minerals and waste related developments will be provided and located in a sustainable manner which contributes to the Tees Valley being a place where present and future generations have a high quality of life and where all members of the community have the opportunity to realise their full potential, through the provision of a vibrant economy, a safe and healthy environment and dynamic educational and cultural resources.

## Issue 2 – Objectives of the JMWDPD

The draft objectives scored significantly well against the sustainability criteria and on a number of occasions the criteria actually aligned with the broad strategic principles therefore having an optimum relationship. Notwithstanding this overall positive result, one negative relationship was identified between the draft objectives and SA criteria 7. A number of other minor wording recommendations have also been afforded.

A negative relationship has been identified with criteria 7 because it was deemed that the objectives are development focused and seek to stimulate a variety of minerals, waste and transport facilities in the sub region. Although objective 3.2.5 ensures ‘environmental protection’ it is considered that this does not explicitly extend to the protection of greenfield land or the sustainable use of previously developed land (PDL). To this extent, and taking cognisance of the nature of the document, it is considered that a marginally negative relationship is afforded as there is no explicit emphasis to encourage the use of PDL over greenfield locations.

## Recommendations

Objective 3.2.5 should include the sentence:-

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All development should be located on previously developed land and assumptions made against any greenfield site usage unless in exceptional or location specific circumstances.

The relationship with SA objective 10 could be marginally strengthened by including the term 'social protection' in the body of section 3.2.5 to align with this sustainability objective and imply a crime prevention perspective to the criteria.

The relationship with SA objective 8 could be marginally strengthened by including the term 'cultural environment' in the body of section 3.2.5 to align with the sustainability objective and imply a social perspective to the criteria.

### **Issue 3 – Requirement for Sand and Gravel**

#### **Most Sustainable – Option B - D**

Options B – D all scored relatively well as they seek to consolidate and potentially expand the sand and gravel extraction industries in the Tees Valley. It was noted that they were characterised by having a relatively poor performance against environmental and minerals hierarchy objectives but scored positively when assessed against economic growth and reduction of transport objectives.

Option E was deemed to be the least sustainable through assessment given that it will eradicate the sand and gravel industry in the sub region by solely relying on extractions from Durham. This fared poorly against economic, transport and social objective although it scored well against a variety of environmental protection and landscape objectives when examined on a Tees Valley level.

Option A was appraised to be significantly detrimental to biodiversity and landscapes given the harmful nature of sand / gravel dredging on marine and coastal ecosystems. This is compounded by the fact that some of the sub-regions most important ecological areas are within costal and fluvial locations. Notwithstanding this, Option A did score well against waste hierarchy objectives and economic stability objectives given that has sand and gravel shall be extracted from a replenishable source which is also currently used.

It must be noted that Option D scored relatively uncertainly given that it seeks a combination approach which, as yet, cannot be readily defined. Notwithstanding this, it still seeks to increase the extraction of sand and gravel within the Tees Valley. If a suitable combination could be achieved utilising Option A and others then Option D could be considered to being an appropriate and flexible approach particularly in view of the external uncertainty over the status of the reserve at Stockton Quarry

In summary, the progression of Options B – D is deemed to be the most sustainable.

### **Issue 4 – Rock Resources**

This is a question of opinion and invitation to submit information to support each option rather than a spatial option for assessment.

### **Issue 5 – Recycling of alternative materials**

#### **Most Sustainable – Option D**

All Options scored significantly well against a number of Sustainability Objectives such as moving up the minerals hierarchy, economic growth and making best use of resources.

Notwithstanding this, Options A – C scored a high number of uncertain relationships with some of the more detailed / specific criteria questions, for example in terms of impacts on transport, climate change and landscape.

In terms of transport and climate change it was noted that some ‘new sites’ (Option A) may be located in a suitably central location rather than being juxtaposed to specific contributing industries. Alternatively specific recycling methods may principally benefit from adjacent industries through symbiotic process therefore having them within or next to current sites (Options B and C) will reduce transportation.

Uncertain relationships were also identified with landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment as all locations / types of installations will have very different impacts that can only be assessed at a project level. The assumption has been made that all of the options will seek to develop on PDL as a priority and therefore impact on landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and resources may be kept to a minimum. **It is a recommendation of this appraisal that explicit reference is made to the preferential use of brownfield / previously developed land.**

Overall it is considered that Option D scores marginally better than all other options given that it retains a flexible nature / approach so that sites can be located in the most appropriate locations bearing in mind the above unknowns that should be assessed at a project level.

#### **Issue 6 – Marine dredged sand and gravel**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option A**

Options B – D all scored relatively well against economic objectives but poorly against biodiversity, landscape and cultural environment ones given that increased wharf development creates potential to negatively impact on sensitive areas on Teesmouth. The Teesmouth and river banks support a number of SSSIs and the sub regions only European Protected sites. Given the sensitivity of the area a precautionary approach is likely to be favoured towards development in close proximity to designated sites. Notwithstanding this, it is clear that mitigation and appropriate siting of new infrastructure can reduce or eliminate negative impacts. Option E was deemed to score uncertain given that it recommends a combination approach that at present cannot be quantified.

Option A was appraised to be the most sustainable option given that it seeks to retain the current baseline of dredging, thereby scoring well against economic objectives, but also not expanding operations that create potential to negatively impact on what can be a relatively sensitive area in ecological and landscape terms.

#### **Issue 7 – Coal supply**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option A**

This issue is very dependant on a full and proper consideration of all available evidence such as British Geological Survey reports and other information to assess the quality of coal in the Tees Valley. Notwithstanding this, this appraisal has shown that Option B is considered to create new jobs, contribute towards making the Tees Valley self sufficient in coal and reduce the reliance / transport of transboundary mineral movements in the long term. **It is a recommendation of this appraisal that if Option B is pursued that explicitly cognisance is given to the increased use of port and rail facilities for both internal and transboundary materials movement from new extraction sites.**

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Option B did however score relatively poorly against environmental objectives as it creates the potential for impact on biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage. Mitigation at a project level may reduce some of these concerns.

The assumption has been made that if Option A is progressed it will eliminate coal extraction within the Tees Valley due to the fact there is no suitable resources to use. To this extent it will not have any relationship with the majority of objectives.

### **Issue 8 – Potash**

#### **Most Sustainable – Option A & B**

The appraisal did not conclude with a clear preferred option. Both scored equally well and could be progressed for different reasons although if a precautionary approach is adopted then Option A would be favoured as it does not seek to extent the extraction of Potash which has potential to negatively impact on biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage within Redcar and Cleveland. That said, project level mitigation may be able to reduce impacts.

Option B was however deemed to be a better use of natural resources and likely to increase economic production in the long term.

### **Issue 9 – Other Minerals**

This is an open ended request for further baseline information or suggestions as to what other minerals may be extracted from the Tees Valley. The issue has no clear spatial connotations.

### **Issue 10 – Safeguarding mineral deposits**

#### **Most Sustainable – Option A**

The appraisal showed that both options scored very similarly. The assumption was made that strict safeguarding (Option A) would lead to future extractions. To this extent Option A scored significantly well against making best use of natural resources (Objective 3). Both options scored negatively against biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage objectives given that they are both likely to lead to new development - Option B in short term as new uses are found for historically safeguarded sites and Option A in the long term for extraction purposes. These relationships were deemed to be project specific and could be addressed through mitigation.

### **Issue 11 – Waste Hierarchy**

This is an open ended request for suggestions of how spatial planning policies can drive the management of waste up the waste hierarchy.

### **Issue 12 – Facilities for specific materials**

This is an open ended request for further baseline information or suggestions as to what other materials need treatment facilities in the Tees Valley.

### **Issue 13 – Provision of waste management facilities**

#### **Most Sustainable – Option A & D**

All Options scored significantly well against a number of Sustainability Objectives such as moving up the waste hierarchy and economic growth. Notwithstanding this, Option A was identified as being the most sustainable option. Option D could also be considered if the 'combination' approach included clusters within traditional industrial areas.

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It must be noted that a number of assumptions were made during the appraisal of these strategic options. They included that the proposed management facilities shall not significantly reduce air quality through their operation themselves and that transboundary materials movement, in particular waste imports into the Tees Valley remain at the baseline level and are not dependant on clustering approaches.

Options B and C scored potentially negatively with landscape, biodiversity and impact on the historic environment objectives as all locations / types of installations have potential to have negative impacts that can only be assessed on at a project level. The assumption has been made that all of the options will seek to develop on PDL as a priority and therefore impact on this landscape, biodiversity and resources may be kept to a minimum. It is a recommendation of this appraisal that explicit reference is made to the preferential use of brownfield / previously developed land.

Furthermore, appraisal against objective 14 also noted that any option that is progressed should clearly state that rail and port infrastructure should be fully utilised.

#### **Issue 14 – Allocation of sites**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option B**

The appraisal showed that Option B is marginally more sustainable than Option A given that it provides a greater certainty for communities on what facilities shall be located in specific locations, potentially affecting their lives. It ensures the public have opportunity to input to the wide array of consultation opportunities that exists when allocating sites through a strong plan led and prescriptive system. Notwithstanding this, Option A also scored relatively positively given that a flexible approach can adapt with changing locale, biodiversity and technology to ensure the most appropriate facility is progressed at any specific locations.

#### **Issue 15 – Land for waste developments**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option A**

Options A – C all scored well with Option A being appraised to be the most sustainable. Option A is deemed to give the highest degree of certainty for the community, Authorities and industry by carefully locating sites based on detailed criteria and location specific considerations. Option D has been discounted as it has appraised negatively against the majority of the SA objectives.

#### **Issue 16 – Land for waste developments**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option A**

All Options scored significantly well against a number of Sustainability Objectives such as moving up the waste hierarchy, economic growth and making best use of resources. Notwithstanding this, Options B and C scored a high number of uncertain relationships with some of the more detailed / specific criteria questions, for example in terms of impacts on transport, climate change and landscape which would need to be addressed at allocation or project level.

It was evident that in the short term Option A is the most sustainable as it will make use of existing infrastructure, supporting industries and environmental considerations are already likely to have been addressed. That said, on a cumulative level, and if new facilities are developed in an sustainable manner, then Options B & C too have the potential to become the favoured options.

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It is considered that any preferred Option should specifically seek to make maximum use of road / port facilities. New facilities in particular should demonstrate high sustainability credentials in terms of design, construction and maintenance. The assumption has been made that all of the options will seek to develop on PDL as a priority and therefore impact on landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage may be kept to a minimum.

#### **Issue 17 – Development control policies**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option C**

This issue is more of a procedural matter than a spatial option. Notwithstanding this, the appraisal has shown that Option C provides the highest degree of environmental and social protection in the climate of the Tees Valley.

#### **Issue 18 – Assessing benefits**

This is an open ended request question seeking what positive impacts of proposals should be assessed when considering applications.

#### **Issue 19 – Sustainable transport**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option B**

It is acknowledged that this is a relatively procedural matter and not necessarily spatial. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that MWDPD specific policies on transport (Option B) is likely to provide the most sustainable outcome and serve the minerals and waste industry in the Tees Valley most appropriately.

#### **Issue 20 – Reclamation**

##### **Most Sustainable – Option B**

The appraisal has shown that Option B is the most sustainable option given that it allows flexibility to establish the most appropriate restoration activity for the specific site / locale. It was noted that a specific activities such as woodland planting or habitat creation would have significantly positive relationships with certain objectives but the success of such a venture is wholly reliant on locational / site characteristics which implies B is the most suitable option.

#### **Issue 21 – Waste Audits**

This is a procedural question posed to the consultation group rather than a spatial option and cannot be assessed through the SA Framework.

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## 4. Comments on this Report

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This report is for the use of the JMWDPD Key Stakeholders Group. The findings of this report will be summarised and published in the Final SA Report for public consultation in February / March 2008. In the meantime we would welcome any comments you have on this report and any wider sustainability led issues.

Please provide comments to:

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# Appendix A

## Appraisal Matrix

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