

Matter 7 Hearing Statement – Business & Land Management

Our ref 50303/19/JG/JCx
Date October 2019

Subject **North York Moors National Park Authority Local Plan - Public Examination**
Matter 7 Business & Land Management - Hearing Statement on behalf of Sirius Minerals

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Hearing Statement has been prepared by Lichfields on behalf of Sirius Minerals and responds to questions 7.1, 7.2 and 7.4 set by the Inspector in relation to Matter 7.

2.0 Matters, Issues and Questions

Strategic Policy K

Q 7.1 – Is the policy effective and justified or is it, really, merely a list of aspirations?

2.1 No, the policy is neither effective nor justified in its current wording. To address this, Strategic Policy K should be reworded so that is more prescriptive as to how the Local Plan will seek to promote appropriate new development that will support the rural economy.

2.2 As part of the above, Sirius considers that Strategic Policy K should allow for the establishment or the ongoing support for major development within the National Park, subject to it meeting the requirements of Strategic Policy D. This, in turn, would ensure that Strategic Policy K is effective in recognising the significant economic and social benefits generated by such developments.

Policy B1

Q 7.2 - Is the plan clear enough about what is meant by “small scale” in this context?

2.3 No. To be effective, the term “small scale” should be removed from the policy and rely on the sub-criteria and other policies within the Local Plan to determine the appropriate scale.

2.4 In the context of the above, Sirius contends that Policy B1 should have sufficient flexibility to allow new employment & training development – of an appropriate scale – within the open countryside which may be required to support mineral exploitation. This will ensure that Policy B1 is consistent with the National Park Authority’s objective of diversifying the rural economy and reducing seasonal employment as set out under paragraph 2.30 of the Local Plan and paragraph 83 of the NPPF which states that “*planning policies and decisions should enable...the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses*”.

Q - 7.4 Is it clear, in each case, whether some or all of the criteria must be met?

No. To clarify this, the word 'or' should be added to the sub-criteria under A and B.