

Policy SS1 - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

When considering development proposals the Mineral Planning Authority will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Mineral Planning Authority will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

- any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or
- specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.

Identification of Specific Sites in the Mineral Sites Plan

5.10 Policies for the provision of aggregates, Purbeck Stone and ball clay include an amount of material that will be provided for in order to maintain supply. This provision will be made up of permitted reserves and specific sites identified in the Mineral Sites Plan.

5.11 Specific sites, identified in the Mineral Sites Plan will be shown on an Ordnance Survey map base with the specific site boundaries drawn. Unless otherwise stated within this document, these sites will be preferred for mineral extraction and/or aggregates recycling over other non identified sites and planning applications for development of specific sites are likely to be considered as acceptable. Specific sites will be based on the spatial strategies included in the Minerals Strategy, subject to further assessment of potential impacts.

5.12 Sites will be assessed by the Mineral Planning Authority using the deliverability questions and site selection criteria set out in Appendix 1 of this document. Careful site selection is a key issue for sustainable development - the need for the extraction of mineral must be assessed against impacts on the environment and the local community. The criteria have been developed through consultation as a means of measuring the potential impacts of each site in a consistent manner and will be used as a tool to carry out the sustainability appraisal process. The 25 criteria cover a range of potential impacts, including, for example, landscape, air quality, economic development and impacts on settlements.